

**THE HIMACHAL PRADESH HINDU PUBLIC RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND
CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2007**

(AS ASSENTED TO BY THE GOVERNOR ON 31ST MAY, 2007)

AN

ACT

Further to amend the Himachal Pradesh Hindu Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1984 (Act No 18 of 1984).

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh in the Fifty-eight Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title. 1. This Act may be called the Himachal Pradesh Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act, 2007.

Amendment of section 2. 2 In section 2 of the Himachal Pradesh Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act, 2007.

(a) For clause (f), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :-

“(f) “Hindu public religious institution” means a math, temple, smadh, smadhi, dera and endowment attached thereto or a specified endowment, established with a religious object for a public purpose and includes, -

(i) All property movable or immovable belonging to or given or endowed for worship in, maintenance or improvement of, additions to, a math, temple, smadh, smadhi or dera for the performance of any service of charity connected therewith :

(ii) The idols installed in the math, temple, smadh, smadhi or dera, cloths, ornaments and things, for decoration etc.; and

(iii) Religious institution under the direct control of the State Government; but does not include such private religious math, temple, smadh, smadhi or dera, in which the public are not interested:

Provided that any offering, whether in kind or in cash, made by any pilgrim or by any other person in any Himachal Pradesh Public Religious Institutions shall be deemed to be the property of such religious institution;” ; and

(b) For clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :-

- “(i) “pujari” includes a panda or a person appointed by the Commissioner for performing puja or other rituals, other than hereditary trustees holding office as trustee;”.

**Amendment
of section 3.**

3. In section 3 of the principal Act, -

- (a) After sub-section (I), the following sub- section shall be inserted, namely :-

“(1-A) The Principal Secretary of Secretary (Language, Arts and Culture) to the State Government shall be the Chief Commissioner (Temple).” and

- (b) In sub-section (3), at the end, for the sign “.”, the words, brackets and sign “and the Recruitment and Promotion Rules and other conditions of service of the temple trusts employees shall be such as may be notified by the Chief Commissioner (Temple),” shall be substituted.

**Amendment
of section 5.**

4. in section 5 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely :-

- “(3) Subject to section 20, the Commissioner may constitute a Managing Committee of the trustees for superintendence and control of the temple, if deems proper.

- (4) The recruitment, purchase of vehicle or new construction work in any temple, shall be subject to the prior approval of the Chief Commissioner (Temple).

- (5) The Commissioner shall exercise the financial powers up to fifty thousand rupees in each Scheme, and the Schemes involving expenditure exceeding fifty thousand rupees, shall be approved by the Chief Commissioner (Temple) and such Schemes shall be forwarded by the Director, Department of Language and Culture, Himachal Pradesh to the Chief Commissioner (Temple):

Provided that the maximum limit fixed under this sub section shall not apply in release of salaries or honorarium of the staff of the temple, trusts, committees or other institution under the control of trusts or committees.”

**Amendment
of section
18.**

5 . In section 18 of the principal Act, after sub- section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :-

- “(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Commissioner shall appoint not exceeding twenty trustees including official, non- official, hereditary and non-hereditary

trustees which shall constitute the trust.

- (6) The quorum of the meeting of the trust shall be two third of the total number of trustees.”-

**Amendment
of section
22.**

6. In section 22 of the principal Act, after sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :-

“(6) The annual budget including audit and accounts statement shall be placed before the Management Committee for its approval.”.

**Amendment
of section
23.**

7. In section 23 of the principal Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :-

“(4) The internal audit of the temple trusts shall be conducted by the section Officer (SAS) of the Language & Culture Department.”.