



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 19-08-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR

WP No. 12878 of 2026

and

WMP Nos.14077, 14078 & 14132 of 2026

Govindasamy

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The District Collector
Cum Inspector of Panchayat, Krishnagiri
District, Krishnagiri.
- 2.The Revenue Divisional Officer,
and Sub Divisional Executive Magistrate,
Krishnagiri Revenue Division, Krishnagiri.
- 3.The Commissioner / Block Development
Officer,
Village Panchayat, Krishnagiri Panchayat
Union, Krishnagiri, Krishangiri District
- 4.The Special Officer
Kooliyum village Panchayat,
Krisnagiri Panchayat Union,
Koolium Post, Krishangiri District.

Respondent(s)

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, for issuance of Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records of the impugned order dated 16.03.2026 made in Na.Ka.No.3628/2025/A3 passed by the 3rd respondent and quash the same, consequently direct the Respondents 3 and 4 to permit the petitioner to do with the fishing activities in the Kooliyum Lake as per the confirmation of rights of the petitioner dated 09.03.2026.



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For Petitioner(s): Mr.M.R.Jothimanian

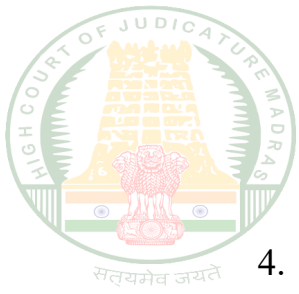
For Respondent(s): Mr.C.Prabakaran
Special Government Pleader
for R1 and R2
Mr.S.Gunasekaran
for R3 and R4

ORDER

The petitioner challenges the communication dated 16.03.2026 issued by the 3rd respondent, cancelling the licence granted to the petitioner to carry out fishing activities in Kooliyam Lake, Kolliyum Village Panchayat, Krishnagiri Panchayat Union, Krishnagiri District.

2. The 3rd respondent issued a public notice dated 09.03.2026 inviting applications for grant of fishing rights. The petitioner, along with others, submitted an application and was declared the successful bidder. After payment of the requisite amount, the petitioner was granted a licence to carry out fishing activities for the period from March to June 2026. However, the 3rd respondent subsequently issued the impugned communication dated 16.03.2026 cancelling the licence.

3. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the materials available on record.



4. The reason stated in the impugned communication for cancelling the petitioner's licence is that the Model Code of Conduct came into force on 15.03.2026 in view of the Assembly Elections, 2026. However, the public notice inviting applications was issued on 09.03.2026, much before the Model Code of Conduct came into force. Therefore, the reason stated for cancelling the licence is unsustainable. The cancellation is also arbitrary and violative of the principles of natural justice, as the petitioner was not given an opportunity before the licence was cancelled.

5. The respondent has filed a counter affidavit stating that the licence was cancelled due to a law and order problem in the area. It is settled law that an order must stand or fall on the reasons stated in the order itself and the reasons cannot subsequently be supplemented by way of a counter affidavit. Therefore, the contention of the 3rd respondent that the licence was cancelled due to a law and order problem cannot be accepted. The petitioner was originally granted the licence for a period of four months, from March to June 2026. Since that period has already expired, the petitioner is entitled to an alternative period of four months to carry out the fishing activities.

6. Accordingly, this writ petition is allowed and the impugned



communication dated 16.03.2026 issued by the 3rd respondent is set aside.

Consequently, the licence granted to the petitioner shall remain valid for the period from 01.09.2026 to 31.12.2026. The 3rd respondent shall not obstruct the petitioner from carrying out fishing activities during the said period. However, the petitioner shall strictly comply with all the terms and conditions of the licence. In the event of any violation, the 3rd respondent is at liberty to take action in accordance with law. No costs. Consequently, the connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

19-08-2026

Jd

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

1. The District Collector
Cum Inspector of Panchayat, Krishnagiri District,
Krishnagiri.
2. The Revenue Divisional officer.
and Sub Divisional Executive Magistrate,
Krishnagiri Revenue Division, Krishnagiri.
3. The Commissioner / Block Development Officer,
Village Panchayat, Krishnagiri Panchayat Union,
Krishnagiri, Krishnagiri District
4. The Special officer
Kooliyum village Panchayat,
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HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR J.
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