



WEB COPY

W.P.No. 15120 of 2019



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

**DATED: 20-06-2025**

CORAM

**THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. SATHISH KUMAR**

**AND**

**THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY**

**W.P. No. 15120 of 2019**

**and W.M.P.Nos.8422 of 2024, 16969 of 2025 & 14765 of 2025**

G.Subramania Koushik

S/o.R.Gopal Iyer, No.47, Vijaya Nagar

Place Road, Near Rose Garden, Ooty,

The Nilgiris District 643001.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary  
to Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Environment and Forest Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St.George, chennai 600  
009.

2.The District Collector,  
The Nilgiris District, Collectorate,  
Ooty 643001.

3.The Commissioner,  
Udhagamandalam Municipality, Ooty,  
The Nilgiris District.

4.The Commissioner,  
Coonoor Municipality, Coonoor,  
The Nilgiris District.



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5.The Commissioner,  
Gudalur Municipality, Gudalur, The  
Nilgiris District.

6.The Commissioner,  
Kotagiri Town Panchayath, Kotagiri,  
The Nilgiris District.

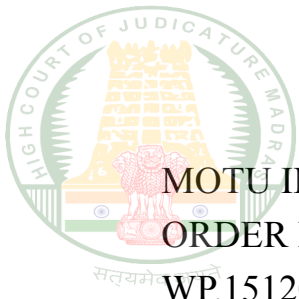
7.The Field Director,  
Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Mount  
Stuart Hill, Ooty, The Nilgiris.

8.The District Forest Officer,  
The Nilgiris District, Mount Stuart Hill,  
Ooty -643001.

9.The Commissioner,  
Kodaikanal Municipality, Kodaikanal,  
Dindigul District. (R9 SUO MOTU  
IMPLEADED VIDE ORDER DT  
12.02.2021 MADE IN WP.15120/2019  
BY NSKJ)

10.The Principal Secretary To  
Government,  
Transports Department, Secretariat,  
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600009.

11.The Transport Commissioner,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Commissionerate of Transport and  
Road Safety, Ezhilagam, PWD Estate,  
Chepauk, Triplicane, Chennai -  
600005.(R10 AND R11 ARE SUO



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MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER  
ORDER DATED 24.11.2022 IN  
WP.15120/2019 BY NSKJ AND DBCJ)

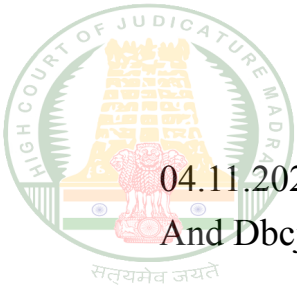
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12. Shantha Thiagarajan,  
Late Shri.D.Thiagarajan, No.201-B,  
THIAGS Missionary Hill,  
Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris  
643002. (R12 IMPLEADED VIDE  
ORDER DT 16.03.2023 MADE IN  
WMP.8577/2023 IN WP.15120/2019  
BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

13. The Principal Secretary,  
Department Of Municipal  
Administration, Urban And Water  
Supply, Government Of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai.600 009.

14. The Additional Chief Secretary,  
Department Of Tourism, Culture And  
Religious Endowments Department,  
Government Of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai.600 009. (r13 And R14 Are Suo  
Motu Impleaded As Per Order Dated  
19.03.2024 In Wp.15120/2019 By Nskj  
And Dbcj)

15. The Secretary To The Ministry Of  
Road Transport And Highways,  
Transport Bhawan, No.1, Parliament  
Street, New Delhi.110 001. (r15- Suo  
Motu Impleaded As Per Order Dated



W.P.No. 15120 of 2019



04.11.2024 In Wp.15120/2019 By Nskj  
And Dbcj)

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Respondent(s)

**WMP No. 8422 of 2024 and 14765 of 2025**

1. G.Subramania Koushik  
S/o.R.Gopal Iyer, No.47, Vijaya Nagar  
Place Road, Near Rose Garden, Ooty,  
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Petitioner(s)

Vs

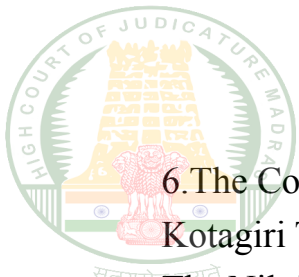
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The Nilgiris District.

4.The Commissioner,  
Coonoor Municipality, Coonoor, The  
Nilgiris District.

5.The Commissioner,  
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6.The Commissioner,  
Kotagiri Town Panchayath, Kotagiri,  
The Nilgiris District.

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9.The Commissioner,  
Kodaikanal Municipality, Kodaikanal,  
Dindigul District.

10.The Principal Secretary To  
Government,  
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Fort St. George, Chennai - 600009.

11.The Transport Commissioner,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Commissionerate of Transport and  
Road Safety, Ezhilagam, PWD Estate,  
Chepauk, Triplicane, Chennai - 600005.

12.Shantha Thiagarajan,  
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643002.

13.The Principal Secretary,  
Department Of Municipal



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14.The Additional Chief Secretary,  
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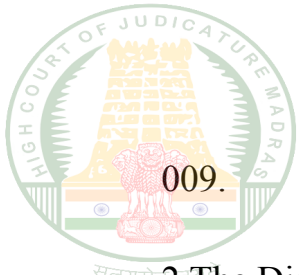
**WMP.No.16969 of 2025**

The Tamil Nadu Hotel Association  
Rep by its Secretary Mr.R.Srinivasan  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Montieth Mansion  
27 Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008

... Petitioner

**VS**

1. The Principal Secretary  
to Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Environment and Forest Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St.George, chennai 600



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2.The District Collector,  
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8.The District Forest Officer,  
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9.The Commissioner,  
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10.The Principal Secretary To  
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Fort St. George, Chennai - 600009.

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And Dbcj)

**WP No. 15120 of 2019 and WMP No. 8422 of 2024 and 14765 of 2025**

For Petitioner(s): Mr.T.V.Suresh Kumar  
M/s Genicon & Associates  
For Respondent(s): Dr.T.Seenivasan  
Spl.GP for R1 to 3, 5 to 11, 13  
and 14  
Mrs.A.Sri Jeyanthi For R4  
Mr.K.Madhan for R12  
Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, SPC  
for R15  
M/s.T.Mohan, Senior Counsel  
and  
Mr.M.Santhanaraman  
Amicus Curiae  
Mr.C.Mohan, Amicus Curiae  
Mr.Rahul Balaji, Amicus Curiae

**WMP No. 16969 of 2025**

For Petitioner(s): Mr.R.Vishnu  
For Respondent(s): Mr.T.V.Suresh Kumar for R1  
M/s Genicon & Associates  
Dr.T.Seenivasan  
Spl.GP for RR2 to 4, 6 to 12, 14



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& 15

Mrs.A.Sri Jeyanthi For R5

Mr.K.Madhan for R13

Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, SPC

for R16

M/s.T.Mohan, Senior Counsel

and

Mr.M.Santhanaraman

Amicus Curiae

Mr.C.Mohan, Amicus Curiae

Mr.Rahul Balaji, Amicus Curiae

### **ORDER**

#### **Issue relating to e-pass/carrying capacity**

Status report is filed indicating the nature of the works undertaken by the experts appointed by the Government to assess the carrying capacity.

2. We are of the view that a detailed reply has to be filed by the amici curiae in this regard and the copy may be furnished well in advance to the other side. Experts heading the panel shall also be present before this Court physically or virtually on the next hearing date.



3. Post on 27.06.2025. In the meanwhile, the learned Special Government

Pleader shall get instructions as to the appointment of the nodal officers in both

the districts to assist the experts.

4. With reference to the current status of the hop on and hop off services and also identification of EV charging infrastructure is concerned, the learned Special Government Pleader seeks time to place on record the further developments.

5. Call on 04.07.2025.

Issue relating to road safety and boom barriers

6. Status report has been filed by the District Collector, Nilgris, wherein, it is stated that automated boom barriers integrated with FASTag systems have been successfully installed and made operational at all major checkpoints namely Kallar, Kunjappanai, Ndugani and Melgudalur. Further, with respect of remaining 12 checkpoints in the district, official correspondences have been



addressed to the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL)

seeking their technical and logistical support for the integration of FASTag-

based access control systems.

7. In this regard, we request M/s.S.R.Sumathi, the learned counsel for the National Highways Authority of India to look into this issue convey to the appropriate authorities and ensure that the orders are passed as early as possible.

8. Furthermore, to enhance surveillance and public safety, CCTV monitoring systems have been installed at major entry points and checkpoints across the Nilgiris district. We also appreciate the action taken by the District Collector, Nilgiris in installing these facilities at Nilgiris and at the same speed installations be completed in respect of the remaining checkpoints.

9. As far as the Kodaikanal is concerned, status report has been filed by the District Collector, Dindigul, wherein, it is stated that FASTag integration at Kattakamanpatti checkpoint, civil work has been completed and the same will



commence on 31.07.2025. As far as the other road entering Kodaikanal, the

District Collector, Dindigul shall take similar steps and file a report on the next

hearing date.

10. As far as the directions of this Court to close down the illegal hotels, cottage accommodations, resorts, home-stay operating with the Nilgris District is concerned, it is stated by the District Collector, Nilgris that a District Level Committee has been constituted pursuant to the order of this Court for the purpose of identification, verification and date collection of such establishments. With the active participation of the local hotel associations, Committee meeting was conducted on 07.05.2025 to collect preliminary data. Hence, we direct the Committee constituted by the District Collector, Niglriss to collect data and make spot inspection of the building and take action as per the earlier directions of this Court.

11. Similarly, the District Collector, Dindigul filed a status report indicating that the Committee has been constituted in pursuant to the order of



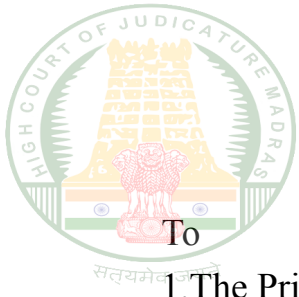
this Court dated 24.04.2025. The committee has inspected the hotels/lodges on daily basis and checked whether the building plan approval and trade license have been obtained from the municipality, whether the home stay permission has been obtained from the Tourism Department and Building license has been obtained from the Revenue Department. If the Committee finds any illegal home stays/resorts being run, the same shall be closed as per the earlier directions of this Court.

12. Post on 18.07.2025.

(N.S.K., J.) (D.B.C., J.)

20-06-2025

dhk



To

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to Government of Tamil Nadu, Environment and Forest  
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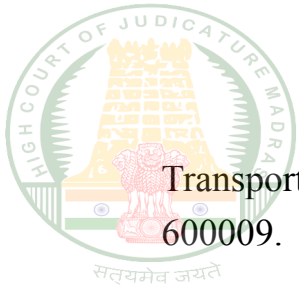
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**20-06-2025**