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W.P.No.15120 of 2019 & W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18..07..2025

CORAM

**THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY**

**W.P.No.15120 of 2019
&
W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019,
W.M.P.Nos.8422 of 2024 & 31696 of 2023**

W.P.No.15120 of 2019 & W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019:

G.Subramania Koushik
S/o.R.Gopal Iyer, No.47, Vijaya Nagar
Place Road, Near Rose Garden,
Ooty, The Nilgiris District 643001.

.....Petitioner

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.



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

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

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

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

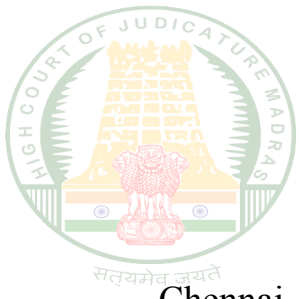
7.The Field Director,
Mudumalai Tiger Reserve,
Mount Stuart Hill, Ooty,
The Nilgiris District.

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

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

(R9 SUO MOTU IMPEADED 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,



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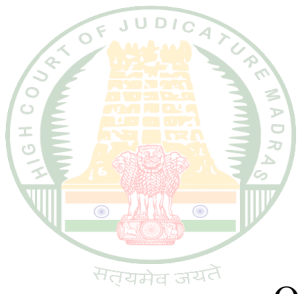
Chennai - 600009.

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

12.Shantha Thiagarajan,
Late Shri.D.Thiagarajan,
No.201-B, THIAGS Missionary Hill,
Udhagamandalam,
The Nilgiris 643002.
(R12 IMPEADED 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



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per per Order dated 19.03.2024 in W.P.No.15120/2019 by
NSKJ & 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 04.11.2024 in W.P.No.15120/2019 by NSKJ & DBCJ)

16.Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Rep. by its Chairman,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai 600032.

[R.16 impleaded suo motu as per the order of this court dated
27.06.2025 made in W.P.No.15120 of 2019 and
W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019]

..... Respondents

For Petitioner	: Mr.T.V.Suresh Kumar M/s Genicon & Associates
For Respondent(s)	: Dr.T.Seenivasan Special Government Pleader for RR1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 Mrs.A.Sri Jeyanthi for R4 Mr.R.Srinivas, Senior Counsel for Mr.K.Madhan for R12 Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, SPC for R15 Mr.B.N.Suchindran, Standing Counsel for TNPCB for R16 Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, Standing Counsel for Southern Railway



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Amicus Curiae

Mr.T.Mohan, Senior Counsel
Mr.M.Santhanaraman, Advocate
: Mr.C.Mohan, Advocate
and
Mr.Rahul Balaji, Advocate

ORDER

WESTERN GHATS FOREST PROTECTION:

(A) BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS/PET BOTTLES

(W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019 in W.P.No.15120 of 2019 & W.P.No.15120 of 2019)

With reference to single-use plastic products, a status report has been filed by the learned Special Government Pleader on behalf of the District Collector, The Nilgiris District.

2. In paragraph No.2 of the status report, the various No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) required from different authorities have been listed. The same is recorded.

3. It is stated in the status report that, with regard to the usage of single-use

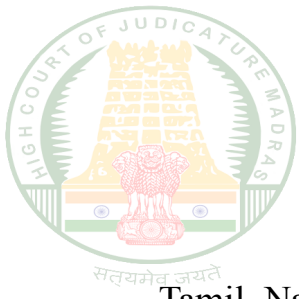


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PET water bottles at a dog show, a show cause notice has already been issued and a fine has been imposed. It is further stated that the District Administration has issued directions to ensure that due care is exercised while granting prior permission for such events.

4. With regard to the other directions that have been issued, today, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has filed its status report, wherein it is stated that although single-use plastic bags and other single-use materials originally included in Government Order G.O.(Ms) No. 84, Environment and Forests (EC.2) Department, dated 25.06.2018, were withdrawn, the Government has now issued G.O.(Ms) No. 104, Environment, Climate Change and Forest (EC.2) Department, dated 23.06.2025, reintroducing a ban on such single-use throwaway plastic materials, including those used in packaging. Certain categories of non-woven bags have also been brought within the ambit of the ban by virtue of the said Government Order. It is further stated that the said G.O. designates TNPCB as the authority to conduct periodical inspections.

5. In addition, the status report states that a total of 261 units engaged in unauthorized manufacture of single-use plastic products have been closed, and the



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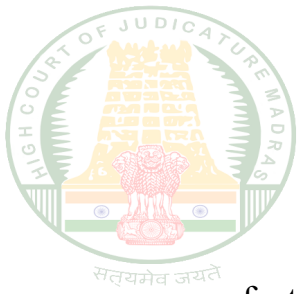
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Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) has been directed to disconnect the power supply to those units. The Pollution Control Board is directed to file a detailed report identifying each such unit, so that further course of action can be decided by this Court.

6. A tabular column has also been furnished in the status report, indicating the seizure of banned materials across 13 Districts. Although the column provides data on the quantity seized, further details such as the date of seizure, whether the operation was conducted solely by TNPCB or in conjunction with local bodies, and the manner of disposal of the seized 636.11 tons of plastic material shall also be placed on record. These details shall be furnished in the form of an additional status report and submitted on the next date of hearing.

7. Furthermore, the TNPCB is directed to place on record the details of periodical inspections, if any, that have been conducted, along with the actions currently being taken in respect of violations.

8. It is made clear that under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the TNPCB is the designated authority responsible for approving the waste management plans proposed by the respective



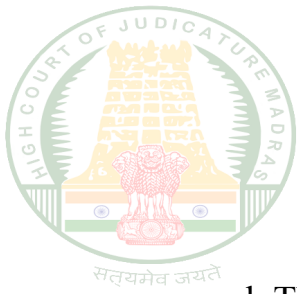
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manufacturers. Accordingly, the TNPCB shall coordinate and work in tandem with other agencies. This Court has already directed the District Administration(s) to convene meetings with such manufacturers and upon such intimation, the concerned officials of the TNPCB shall participate in the meetings. All authorities are expected to coordinate and commence the implementation of the directions issued by this Court in order dated 08.04.2025 in W.M.P. No. 15112 of 2019 and W.P. No. 15120 of 2019.

9. The District Collectors of The Nilgiris and Dindigul Districts are directed to file comprehensive status reports addressing each and every direction issued by this Court and the steps taken in furtherance thereof.

10. With reference to the calling of the report from PSG Hospitals, a private hospital in Coimbatore, it is stated that now only an official mail has been sent to them. It is once again made clear that the hospital authority may supply the information even redacting the patient details and inquiry by this court is nothing relating to the particular patient or the treatment given to the patient, but only to the effect that whether the single use plastic products may be a cause of concern with reference to the health issues also which have to be taken up generally in that



regard. Therefore, bearing this in mind the report shall be furnished by the hospital authority in response to the mail from the State authorities.

11. Mr. T. Mohan, learned Senior Counsel, who appears in this matter as one of the *Amicus Curiae*, may also write to the hospital authorities concerned at PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore, and obtain a copy of the report, with patient information and treatment details appropriately redacted.

Call on 01.08.2025

NILGIRIS MOUNTAIN RAILWAY/SOUTHERN RAILWAY:

12. Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, learned standing counsel for the railways is present.

13. The Southern Railway or the Nilgiris Mountain Railway, as the case may be, is directed to file a status report detailing the steps taken towards the implementation of the ban on single-use plastic products and PET bottles at the railway stations in the Mettupalayam–Udhagamandalam (Ooty) section. The report shall also include details regarding the disposal of plastic waste at the railway stations situated between Mettupalayam and Udhagamandalam, as well as the collection and disposal of littered plastic waste along the railway tracks in that



14. The report of the Railways shall also suggest the feasibility of introducing alternative items, such as canisters or other sustainable options, in place of single-use plastic bottles and materials.

Call on 01.08.2025.

(B) Water ATMs:

15. With reference to water ATMs, it is mentioned that 58 such units are currently in frequent use. Action is being taken to inspect all water ATMs, and 38 of them, which are under repair or beyond maintenance, are proposed to be scrapped.

16. It is also stated that one of the water ATMs was installed in collaboration with Bisleri Company. The same is taken on record.

17. The District Administration, The Nilgiris, shall forthwith coordinate with the State Bank of India and other banks and institutions operating in The Nilgiris District, who are willing to install and maintain RO plants. This is to ensure that the general public and tourists are provided with free, safe, and reliable drinking water. The District Administration shall facilitate and proceed with this initiative



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without delay.

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Call on 01.08.2025.

(B) VERTICAL CUTTING

(W.M.P.No.31696 of 2023)

Due to paucity of time, this matter could not be taken up for hearing. The Registry is directed to list this matter on 01.08.2025.

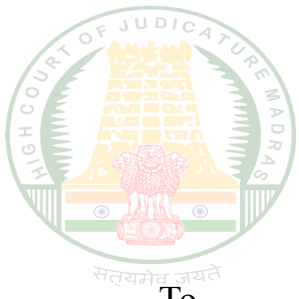
(C) E-PASS / CARRYING CAPACITY

(W.M.P.No.8422 of 2024 in W.P.No.15120 of 2019)

Due to paucity of time, this matter could not be taken up for hearing. The Registry is directed to list this matter on 01.08.2025.

(N.S.K., J.) (D.B.C., J.)
18..07..2025

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



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

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

13.The Additional Chief Secretary,
Department Of Tourism, Culture And Religious Endowments
Department, Government Of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat,
Fort St.George, Chennai.600 009.

14.The Secretary To The Ministry Of
Road Transport And Highways, Transport Bhawan, No.1,
Parliament Street, New Delhi.110 001.

15.The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600032.

Copy to

1.The Chief General Manager, Local Head Officer, State Bank of India,
College Road, Chennai 600 006.



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N.SATHISH KUMAR, J.
AND
D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

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&
W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019,
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