



*W.P.No.15120 of 2019 & W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019 and
other connected WMPs*

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 31..10..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.No.8422 of 2024,
in
W.P.No.15120 of 2019**

W.P.No.15120 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(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,

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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 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, Chennai -

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



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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, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 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



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M/s.T.Mohan, Senior Counsel
and Mr.M.Santhanaraman
Amici Curiae

Mr.C.Mohan, Amicus Curiae
Mr.Rahul Balaji, Amicus Curiae

ORDER

This court has heard both sides.

(Nilgiris Mountain Railway/Southern Railway)
(WMP.No.15112 of 2019)

With reference to the enforcement of the ban of single use plastics in the Mettupalayam Railway Station and Nilgiris Mountain Railways, Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, learned Railway Standing Counsel would place on record the written communication dated 29.10.2025 and submitted that due instructions have been issued by the concerned Railway Division to the caterers as well as the stall owners in the Mettupalayam Railway Station. They have been strictly instructed not to sell single use plastic bottles and not to use plastic items such as plastic spoons, plastic food containers and plastic carry bags, aluminium-poly covers etc. The communication also specifically encourages them to use



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alternatives, pursuant thereto, already the concerned persons have started using stainless steel tumblers etc., It is also stated that team of officials have also been constituted and they will monitor the strict compliance on ban on plastics and also will monitor the availability and supply of potable water through Water ATMs and RO plants as approved by the Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Salem Division. The same is taken on record.

2. The concerned officials shall ensure that no single use plastics are sold in the premises of the station and awareness among the passengers and these vendors shall also be continuously made and it must be ensured that no single use plastics and other banned items enter the Nilgiris through the railways. The concerned officials shall continuously monitor the same.

Carrying Capacity/E-Pass (W.M.P.No.8422 of 2024)

3. With reference to the fixation of the carrying capacity/E-pass system, it is stated that meeting is now been convened on 04.11.2025 along with Head of all the line departments under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to



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Government. The learned amici curiae are also requested to attend the said meeting along with the learned Additional Advocate General.

4. Call on 21.11.2025.

E-Pass for Valparai

5. With reference to the implementation of E-pass system for Valparai is concerned, status report is filed by Dr.T.Seenivasan, learned Special Government Pleader indicating that the same is in advance stage and they are going to commence from 01.11.2025. The making of the system and the check posts are all complete and due publicity is also given and they will commence the system of E-Pass from 01.11.2025. Mr.M.Santhanaraman, learned amicus curiae would bring to the notice of this Court that similar drop down menus in respect of approved place of State has been developed in respect of Valparai also. Since the system is commencing from 01.11.2025, first let the system commences and we will be issuing further direction in this regard, more, particularly, there must be continuous monitoring and vigil at the entry and exit points. It is stated there are



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about 4 entries to Valparai, due checking round the clock has to be made in respect of all the entries. The further status report shall be also filed with reference to implementation, erection of the checking points/manning of these checkposts etc., and the place of the location of the checkposts also be furnished.

6. Call this matter on 28.11.2025.

(N.S.K., J.) (D.B.C., J.)
31..10..2025

dhk

To

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.

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4.The Commissioner,
Coonoor Municipality, Coonoor,
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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.

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,



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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.



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14. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India,
Represented by its Secretary,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011

15. The Department of Health and Family Welfare Department,
Represented by its Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai – 600 009

16. The Secretary to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways,
Transport Bhawan, No.1, Parliament Street,
New Delhi.110 001.

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



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

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**W.P. No. 15120 of 2019
and connected MPs**

31..10..2025