



W.P.No.15120 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 31.07.2026

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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.No.8422 of 2024

W.P.No.15120 of 2019

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs.

1. The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat,
Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009 and 33 others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai 600 009 and 30 others

... Respondent(s)



W.P.No.15120 of 2019

W.M.P.No.8422 of 2024

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

1.The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai 600 009 and 15 others

... Respondent(s)

W.P.No.15120 of 2019

For Petitioner :

Mr.T.V.Suresh Kumar
M/s. Genicon & Associates

For Respondent(s):

Mr.P.V.Balasubramaniam,
Additional Advocate General,
assisted by Mr.K.Surendar,
Special Government Pleader and
Mr.G.Abraham Prabhu, Additional Government Pleader
for RR1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 30

Mrs.A.Sri Jeyanthi for R4

Mr.R.Srinivas,
Senior Counsel for Mr.K.Madhan for R12

Mr.ARL.Sundaresan,
Additional Solicitor General of India
assisted by Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, Senior Panel Counsel
for RR15, 28, 29, 32

Mr.B.N.Suchindran,
Standing Counsel for TNPCB for R16

Mr.Madhan Babu for R17

Mr.R.S.Diwaagar, M/s.Vivrti Law for R18 and R20

Mr.G.Kalyan Jhabakh
for M/s.Surana and Surana for R19

Mr.G.Prabhu for R21

Mr.R.Sathish Kumar for R22



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Ms.Vanitha Bharghava for R23
Mr.Thriyambak J. Kannan for R24
Mr.Vinod Kumar for M/s.J.Sagav Associates for R25
Mr.Arun C.Mohan for R26
Mr.S.Arunkumar for R27
R31 - Mr.S.Muralidharan (P-I-P)
Mr.Arun Karthik Mohan for R33
Mr.V.Ramesh
for Mr.R.Ashwanth for R34
Mr.K.Sathishkumar,
Standing Counsel for TASMACH
Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, Standing Counsel for Railways

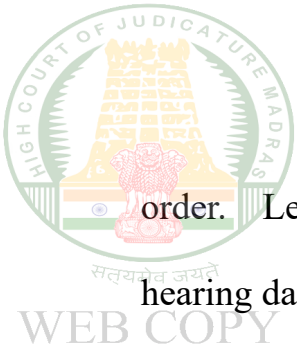
Amici Curiae

1. Mr.C.Mohan, Advocate
2. Mr.T.Mohan, Senior Advocate
3. Mr.M.Santhanaraman, Advocate
4. Mr.Rahul Balaji, Advocate

ORDER

FSSAI :

With reference to implementation of our order relating to publishing of the information in the PET bottles relating to the content of microplastics, the learned Additional Solicitor General of India would submit that they have already filed a Review Application and they will move the same. The learned counsel appearing for the PET Packaging Association for Clean Environment (PACE) would also submit that they have already filed W.M.P.No.32965 of 2026 to recall our earlier



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order. Let both the applications be placed before us for hearing on the next hearing date.

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2.In the interregnum, the Inputs of the Scientific Panel on Packaging is placed on record and the learned Additional Solicitor General of India would submit that, from the inputs, no other alternative is identified and measures are suggested to restrict the littering of PET bottles. We have gone through the said inputs. Let the entire report of the Scientific Panel, including the Minutes, if any, be filed before this Court in order to pass further directions.

3.Call on 14.08.2026.

Uphill movement in Kalhatti Ghat Road & Uncontrolled Jeep Safari in Mudumalai Buffer Zone :

4.With reference to uphill movement of tourist vehicles in Kalhatti Ghat road, today, status reports are filed by both the District Collector and the Conservator of Forests and Field Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

5.As far as the report of the District Collector is concerned, it must be seen that, even before this Court passed an order, the ban was already in force and even as per the then existing guidelines, the vehicular movement of tourist vehicles downwards in the Kalhatti Road was not permitted and only uphill movement was

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permitted. The District Collector, therefore, shall collect the details of the number of accidents that had happened from the year 2021 onwards in the said route and file an additional report.

6.Our earlier direction to the Forest Department was also to file a report about their observations of the wildlife movement, etc., as to how it was during the course of the traffic and how it was when the ban is in force. Nothing is mentioned in the status report filed by the Forest Department in that regard. Let that report, as directed earlier, shall also be filed on 28.08.2026.

7.With reference to uncontrolled jeep safari in Mudumalai Buffer Zone, the status report details about three different routes used by the safari operators. It is submitted that, out of 180 vehicles, pursuant to the orders of this Court, when they verified, the credentials in respect of 40 vehicles were not there and therefore, those vehicles will not be permitted to operate the jeep safari. With reference to the balance 140, let a detailed list be filed indicating the names of the operators and as to whether they are local residents/tribals of the area or outsiders. Let the list be filed before this Court on 28.08.2026.

8.Call the matters on 28.08.2026. Meanwhile, the interim order granted earlier in that regard in both the issues, shall stand extended till 28.08.2026.



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E-Pass and Traffic Arrangements :

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9. With reference to e-pass, more specifically with the direction for synchronization and integration of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras with the other data in the e-pass entry, a status report is filed by the District Collector, The Nilgiris. It encloses a communication from the analysis of the data given by the existing ANPR technology. The entire report suggests that the existing ANPR Camera is not giving the accurate information. Another report with reference to ANPR Performance Analysis and Technology Comparison is also given, in which, it is suggested that the entire capturing of data be run on a hybrid basis by using FASTag for the cars, etc., while to continue to use the ANPR Cameras for the two wheelers, etc. Further, it is also suggested for deployment of more capable and advanced AI enabled ANPR Cameras and other technological improvements. The cost is also discussed.

10. Considering the nature of cost and the proposals contained, it will be open for the District Administration to improve the system by replacing cameras, employing other technologies such as FASTag, etc., and making the entire thing hybrid and at the end of the day, there must be synchronization of the e-pass data with that of the technological data collected, for any person to verify whether the vehicles which are entering carry the e-pass and also to collect meta data such as



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the number of vehicles, etc., for the purpose of the experts to carry on the study.

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11. We have already directed the unification of e-pass and the other systems relating to collection of green tags, etc. The same will ease the entry of the vehicles and the collection of green tags by the District Administration will also improve and augment the corpus of the Revenue. Therefore, while implementing the solutions as advocated by the District Administration with reference to going for a FASTag hybrid system and improvement of ANPR Cameras, simultaneously, a proposal shall be taken up by the Government by involving the appropriate Expert to study and to come up with the long term solution, where the vehicles should move hassle free while all the data with reference to capturing of number plate, whether they have e-pass and also automatic detection of green tag shall all take place seamlessly.

12. It is submitted by the learned *Amici Curiae* that the MoRTH is implementing such seamless movements with reference to various toll roads in National Highways, etc., Technological assistance from them can also be obtained and the Government of Tamil Nadu is therefore directed to undertake a study and come up with the appropriate/latest technological solution available for the aspect. In the meanwhile, as proposed by the District Administration, they can carry out the improvements and go for hybrid system so that the implementation of the e-

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pass is also effective and data is also available for the experts to study.

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13.Call on 28.08.2026 for filing further status report.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
31.07.2026

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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 – 643 001.
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.



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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 – 643 001.
9. The Commissioner,
Kodaikanal Municipality,
Kodaikanal,
Dindigul District.
10. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Transports Department,
Secretariat,
Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
11. The Transport Commissioner,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Commissionerate of Transport and Road Safety,
Ezhilagam, PWD Estate,
Chepauk, Triplicane, Chennai – 600 005.
12. The Principal Secretary,
Department of Municipal Administration,
Urban and Water Supply, Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.



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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. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Represented by its Chairman,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.
16. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers
Federation Limited, (AAVIN),
AAVIN ILLAM, TCMPF Ltd.,
3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingar Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
17. The Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 003.
18. The Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran
Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
19. The Secretary to Government,
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
20. The Chairperson,
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
3rd and 4th Floor, FDA Bhawan,
Kotla Road near Bal Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 002.



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N. SATHISH KUMAR. J.

AND

D. BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY. J.

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