



WEB COPY



*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs*

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 27..06..2025

CORAM :

**THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR
AND
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY**

**W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
and
W.M.P.Nos.13292, 13294, 36994 & 37000 of 2024
and
W.M.P.Nos.35572, 42082, 42113 to 42116 of 2024
in W.P.No.27356 of 2019**

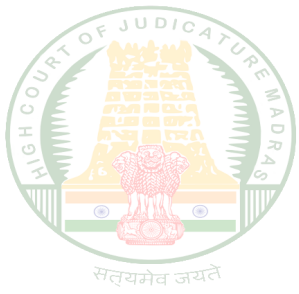
W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :-

**MR. S.MURALIDHARAN,
S/o.Mr.P.Sivalingam,
2A, 3rd Main Road, Kottur Gardens, Chennai-600 085**

.....Petitioner

Versus

**1.THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND
CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN,**



*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs*

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Department Of Forests,
Govt. Of Tamil Nadu,
No.1 Jeenis Road, Panagal Buildings,
Saidapet, Chennai-600 015

2.STATE OF TAMIL NADU

Rep. By Its Chief Secretary,
Fort St.George, Chennai- 600 009.

(R2 DELETED VIDE ORDER DT 09/06/2021 MADE IN WMP.4685/2021 IN
WP.27356/2019 BY CJ & SKRJ)

3.DISTRICT COLLECTOR,

Coimbatore District,
Gopalpuram, Coimbatore-6410108

4.PRINCIPAL SECRETARY / CHAIRMAN

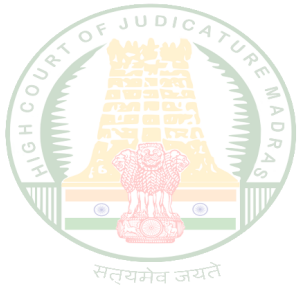
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai- 600 032

5.THE COMMISSIONER,

Department Of Geology And Mining Thiru.Vi.Ka.Industrial Estate, Alandur
Road, Guindy, Chennai-600 002

6.GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

Ministry Of Environment,
Forest And Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,



*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

7.SURYAKUMAR.K,
S/o. Krishnan,
No. 4/15 Perumal Kovil Street,
Otteri, Vandalur, Chennai - 600048.

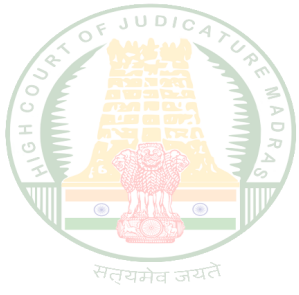
(R7 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 16.09.2022 MADE IN
WMP.23968/2022 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

8.THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (COIMBATORE NORTH),
Tamilnadu Generation And Distribution Limited (TANGEDCO), Tatabad,
Coimbatore.

(R8 SUO MOTU IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 19.01.2023 MADE IN
WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ & DBCJ)

9.P.SUBRAMANIAN,
S/o. R.N.Palanisamy,
4/502, Ramanathapuram,
Chinnathadagam Post,
Coimbatore-641108.

10.R.SUBBULAKSHMI,
W/o. Ramalingam,
4/24, Kalappanaickenpalyaam,
Somayampalayam Post,
Coimbatore-641108.



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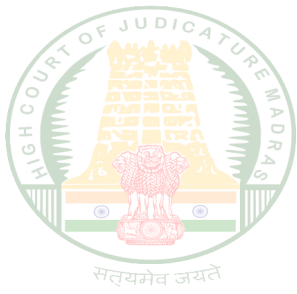
11.N.K.CHANDRAMOHAN,
S/o.N.C.Kandasamy,
6/242, 22, Nanjundapuram,
Chinnathadagam Post,
Coimbatore-641108.

12.M.RAVI,
S/o.L.Maruthappan,
6/11-22, Nanjundapuram,
Chinnathadagam Post,
Coimbatore-641 108.

13.S.CHANDRAPRABHA,
W/o.T.V.Selvaraj,
3/220, Anaikatti Main Road,
Thaneerpandal Sri Balaji Garden,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore-641 108.

14.C.N.MUTHUKUMAR,
S/o. U.Nanjundagowder,
2/402-A, 24, Veerapamndipudhur Road,
Chinnathadagam Post,
Coimbatore-641 108.

15.R.RAJAMANI,
S/o.Rangasamy,
1/18, Palanigowder Colony,
N.G.G.O Colony,
Coimbatore-641 022.



*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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(R9 TO R15 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 01.12.2023 MADE IN
WMP.9090/2021 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

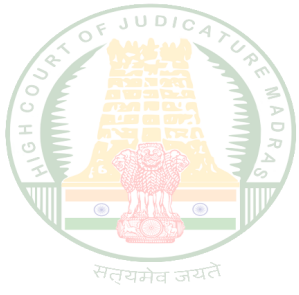
16.C.ARUNKUMAR,
S/o.Chandrasekaran,
No.43, Mosuvanna Street,
Erode 638001.

17.V. SAMPATHKUMAR,
S/o Velumani,
6, Anbal Nagar,
MKP Colony, Ganapathy Post,
Coimbatore North-641006.

18.D. RAMYA,
W/o. Divakar,
29/4, Sri Suryodaya Apartment,
Sriram Nagar,
Chollampudur Main Road.

19.K. DEVIKA,
W/o M. Karunakaran,
2/5, Ramasamy Pillai Street,
Vadavalli Post,
Coimbatore 641041.

20.M. SURESH KUMAR,
S/o Mayilsamy,
3/214, Anaikatty Main Road,
Thagadampudhur,
Chinnathadagam,



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Coimbatore-641108.

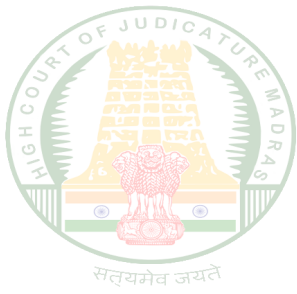
21.R. SUBRAMANIYAM,
S/o Ramukutty,
4/1, KRS Kalvai, Kallapanaickanpalayam,
Somaiyampalayam,
Coimbatore, Coimbatore South- 641039.

22.S. PARASURAMAN,
S/o Somappan,
1/247, Main Road,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore 641108.

23.T. VELLINGIRI,
S/o. Thirumoorthi,
1/1H, Anna Street,
Vadavalli,
Coimbatore 641041.

24.S. ARIVUCHELVAN,
S/o. S. Sivalingam,
S.F.No.539/1, Periya Thadagam Rroad,
Chinna Thadagam Post,
Cimbatore- 641108.

25.E. KRISHNA VENI,
W/o ErrattaiMuthu,
2/398, KanthappaGonderaThottam,
Chinnathadagam, Coimbatore 641108.



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26.D. KANAGARAJ,
S/o. Dasappagowdar,
2/100, Mariyammankovil Street,
Chinnathadagam, Coimbatore 641108 .

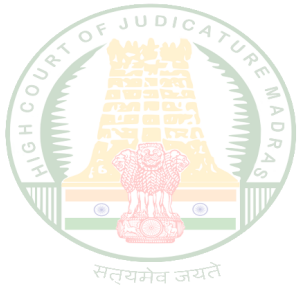
27.P. SENTHIL,
S/o. Periyabalan,
8/25, Seigulli, Tholampalayam,
Gopani R.F., Coimbatore 641113.

28.R. PALANISAMY,
S/o, Rangasamy,
4/85 North Street,
Thadagam, Coimbatore 641108.

29.P. KUMAR,
S/o.Palanisamy,
2/38, MariammaKoil Street,
Chinnathadagam, Coimbatore 641108.

30.S. SARAVANAKUMAR,
S/o. Subbramaniyan,
2/117, MariyammanKoil Street,
Chinnathadagam, Coimbatore- 641108.

31.K.S. RAJKUMAR,
S/o Selvaraj,
8/22, R.S. Nagar,
Kavundampalayam,
Coimbatore North-641030.



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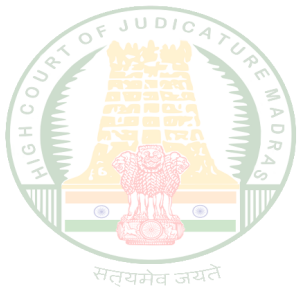
32.M. MADHANKUMAR,
S/o. Marudhappan,
2/39, MariyammanKoil Street,
Chinnathadam,
Coimbatore-641108.

33.R. KRISHNASWAMY,
S/o. Raja Chettiyar,
Work Shop Stop,
AneriKutty Main Road,
ChinnaThadagam,
Coimbatore 641108.

34.S. KARTHIK
S/o. Rajappan,
3/81, 24 Veerapandipudur,
24, Veerapandi Post,
Veerapandi,
Veerapandithadagam,
Coimbatore 641108.

35.G. KRISHNAMOORTHY,
S/o. Gopalan,
159/8, Thadagam Road,
Edaiyarpalayam,
Coimbatore North,
Coimbatore-641025.

36.D. SARAVANAKUMAR,
S/o. Duraisamy,
6/129, Dhaliyur,



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Pannimadai,
Coimbatore-641017.

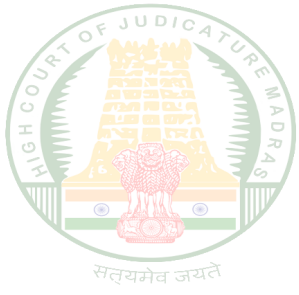
37.P. RAMASUPPU,
S/o Pothiraj,
No.5/381/V1, Vivekanandhar Street,
Kanuvai, Somaiyampalayam,
Coimbatore-641108.

38.K.R. RAMAKRISHNAN,
S/o. Ramasamy,
4/4B, Murugan Nagar,
Coimbatore North,
Kavundampalayam,
Coimbatore- 641030.

39.V. KAMPALIYAPPAN
S/o. Venkatraman,
3/220-G, Balaji Garden Thaneer Panthal,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore North,
Coimbatore-641108.

40. A. SELVARAJ,
S/o. Ayyasamy,
15/32A, Kondanurpudhur,
24VeerapandiAnaikatty North,
Coimbatore-641108.

41.M. PONNUSAMY,
S/o. MarappaGounder,



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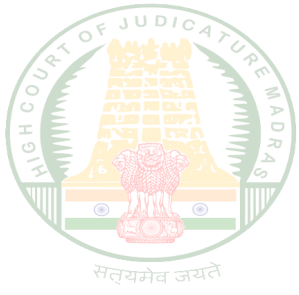
4/244, North Street,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore- 641108.

42.R. KRISHNASWAMY,
S/o. Ramanna Udayar,
New No.42, Shiva Nagar,
Opp. TVS Nagar,
Edaiyarpalayam,
Coimbatore-641025.

43. R. THANGARAJ,
S/o Rangasamy,
No.2/468-9, Thiruvalluvar Nagar,
Somaiyanur,
Nanjundapuram-thadagam,
Coimbatore-641108.

44.C. VIJAYAKUMAR,
C/o. Chinnasamy,
95, Kumaran Avenue,
NGGO Colony, MTP Road,
Coimbatore North-641017.

45.G. KANNAPIRAN,
S/o Gopal,
1593C, Thadagam Road,
Vellandipalayam,
Coimbatore North-641025.



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(R16 TO R45 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 01.12.2023 MADE IN
WMP.10794/2021 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

46.N.PALANISWAMY,
S/o. R.Narayanaswamy,
No. 2/1A, Vinayagar Koil Veedhi,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore-641108.

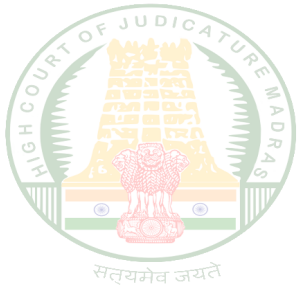
47.T.N.VELUSWAMY,
S/o. R.Narayanaswamy,
No. 2/1, Vinayagar Koil Veedhi,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore-641108.

48.SOUNDARAVADIVU,
W/o. S.Anandan,
4/17, North Street,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore -641108.

49.R.KARTHIK,
S/o. R. Rajappan,
3/81, 24 Veerapandi Pudhur,
Chinnathadagam,
Coimbatore -641108.

(R46 TO R49 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 01.12.2023 MADE IN
WMP.30994/2022 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

50.M/S. SPS TERRA BRICKS (SPS BRICKS),
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, T.ANANDHI,



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs

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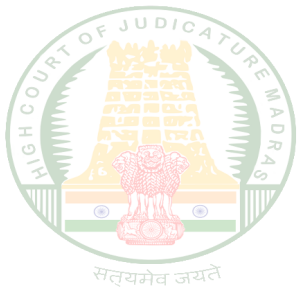
S.F. NO. 253/2B, MADHAMPATTI VILLAGE,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 010.

51.M/S. KRS KALAVAI (KRS BRICKS),
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR , M.LAKSHMI,
S.F. NO. 29/1B3, KUPAIPALAYAM,
THONDAMUTHUR,
PERUR TALUK,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 109.

52.M/S. SPB BRICKS,
S.F. NO.692/1C, 693/1,
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR,
P.BOOPATHY, VANDIKKARANUR,
THONDAMUTHUR,
PERUR TALUK,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 109.

53.M/S. VMS BRICKS,
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, M.SIVAKUMAR,
SF. NO. 655 & 653/6B, VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

54.M/S VMV BRICKS,
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, V.M.VELUCHAMY,
S.F. NO. 605/1, VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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55.M/S. VG BRICKS

REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, L.KARTHI,
S.F. NO. 706/1D, VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

56.M/S. MPS BRICKS,

REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR,
P.SELVARAJ,
S.F. NO. 711, 713,
VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

57.M/S. SUN BRICKS,

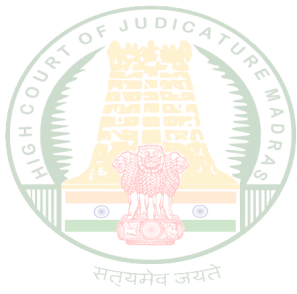
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, S.C.VENKATASAMY,
S.F. NO. 849/2 , VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
ALANTHURAI VILLAGE,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

58.M/S. VKM BRICKS,

S.F. NO. 604/1, REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, SANKAR GANESH,
VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

59.M/S. SVT BRICKS

REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, M.RATHINASAMY,
S.F NO. 44/2 , KUPAIPALAYAM,
THONDAMUTHUR,
PERUR TALUK,



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs

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COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 109

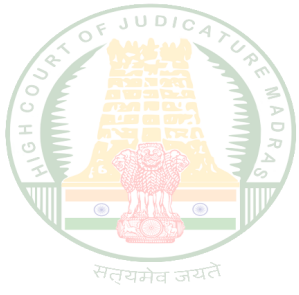
60.M/S. KSR BRICKSR BRICKS NATTTUSENGALSOOLAI (KSR
BRICKS),
REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR , K.T.RAMASAMY,
S.F. NO. 390/1 & 390/2, THENKARAI,
PERUR TALUK,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 109

61.M/S. BST BRICKS,
SF NO. 468/1E, REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR ,
T.ARUMUGAM,
MOLAPALAYAM,
POOLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

62.M/S. TATA BRICKS ,
S.F. NO. 185/1C1, REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR ,
M.RANGASAMY, VANDIKKARANUR,
THONDAMUTHUR, PERUR TALUK,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 109.

63.M/S. AVB BRICKS,
S.F.NO.650/2, REP. BY ITS PROPRIETOR, NAGARAJ,
VADIVELAMPALAYAM,
POCLUVAPATTI PANCHAYAT,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT 641 101.

(R50 TO R63 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 01.12.2023 MADE IN
WMP.25158/2023 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs

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64.M/S.K.S.S. BRICKS,
Rep By Its Proprietor Mr.Ganesh,
S.F. NO. 450/1A, Karamadai,
Perur Taluk, Coimbatore District- 641 101.

(R64 IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DT 01.12.2023 MADE IN
WMP.26838/2023 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ, DBCJ)

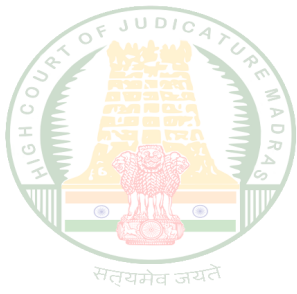
65.V.LOGANATHAN,
S/O.VEERACHAMY,
4/356, NALLURVAYALPATHY TRIBAL VILLAGE,
NALLUR VAYAL POST,
MATHUVARAYAPURAM,
COIMBATORE 641 114.

66.M.SIVA,
S/O.LATE V.MANI,
NO.168, KARUPPARAYAN KOVIL STREET,
PULIYAKULAM,
COIMBATORE 641 045.

(R65 AND R66 ARE IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 20.09.2024 IN
WMP.30346/2024 IN WP.27356/2019 BY NSKJ AND DBCJ)

67.MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI MATH,
S.F.NOS.360 & 371, ETC.,
ETTIMADAI VILLAGE,
MADHUKKARAI TALUK,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

68.MR.P.VIJAYKUMAR,



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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AGRO-FORESTRY, MUSHROOM CULTIVATION,
VERMICOMPOST & APICULTURE,
S.F.NO.3/1, ETTIMADAI VILLAGE,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

[RR67 AND 68 impleaded suo motu as per order of this court dated
27.06.2025 made in W.P.No.27356 of 2019]

..... Respondents

W.P.No.28266 Of 2022 :-

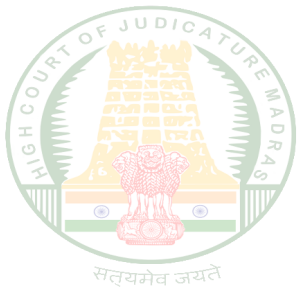
DR.R.KARPAGAM
W/O. S. RAMALINGAM,
80/44, ANSARI STREET,
RAMNAGAR, COIMBATORE.

.... Petitioner

Versus

1.ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
Department Of Geology And Mining,
Coimbatore District,
Coimbatore,
Coimbatore - 641018.

2. DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Coimbatore North,
No. 5, Ramasamy Nagar,
Kavundampalayam,



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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Coimbatore-641030.

3.DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Coimbatore South,
Plot No. E55A, SIDCO Industrial Estate Kurichi,
Pollachi Main Road,
Coimbatore-641021.

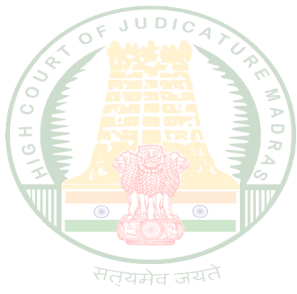
4.DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
Coimbatore District,
Gopalapuram,
Coimbatore - 6410108.

.... Respondents

Prayer in W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :- Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, pleased to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the 1st respondent to secure the 16 elephant corridors in the state of Tamil Nadu with the support of the other respondents.

(Prayer amended vide order, dated 16.09.2022 made in W.M.P.No.23966 of 2022 in W.P.No.27356 of 2019)

Prayer in W.P.No.28266 of 2022 :- Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, pleased to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing all the respondents herein to shut down the illegal brick kilns operating in Coimbatore District.



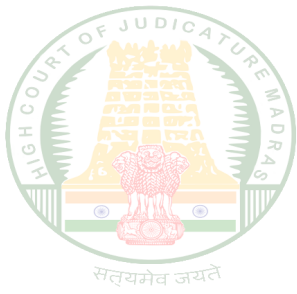
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*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs*

IN W.P.No.27356 of 2019

- For Petitioner : Mr.S.Muralidharan,
Party-in-person
- For Respondents : Mr.J.Ravindran, Additional Advocate General
Assisted by Dr.T.Seenivasan,
Special Government Pleader (Forest),
for R1, 3 to 5
- : R2 deleted vide order, dated 09.01.2021
made in W.M.P.No.4685 of 2021 in
W.P.No.27356 of 2019
- : Mr.B.N.Suchindran,
Standing Counsel for R4
- : Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, Senior Panel Counsel,
for R6
- : Mr.S.P.Chockalingam, for R7
- : Mr.L. Jaivenkatesh, Standing Counsel for R8
- : Mr. Richardson Wilson, for R 9 to 11, 16 to
45
- : RR - 12 to 15 - No Appearance
- : Mr.N.Muralikumaran, Senior Counsel,



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*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs*

for M/s.MCGAN Law Firm, for R 46 to 49

: Mr.L.Palanimuthu, for RR - 50 to 64

: Mr.M.Purushothaman, for R 65 and 66

In W.P.No.28266 of 2022:

For Petitioner : Mr.S.P.Chockalingam

For Respondents : Mr.J.Ravindran,
Additional Advocate General,
Assisted by Dr.T.Seenivasan,
Special Government Pleader for RR1 & 4

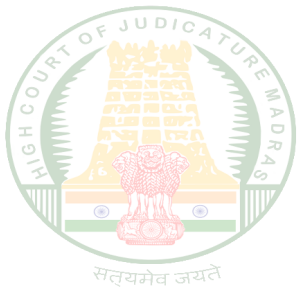
: Mr.B.N.Suchindran,
Standing Counsel for RR2 & 3

In W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 & W.P.No.28266 of 2022: : Mr.K.M.D.Mohilan,
Additional Public Prosecutor for the Special
Investigation Team (SIT)

Amici Curiae in both Writ Petitions

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

COMMON ORDER



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*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
& connected WMPs*

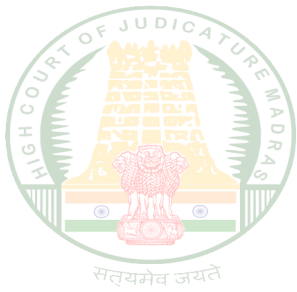
This court heard both sides.

(A) INVESTIGATION BY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM

(W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022)

2. Mr. K.M.D. Muhilan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), on instructions, submitted that pursuant to the constitution of the SIT by the orders of this Court, the investigation is progressing in the right direction.

3. Mr. K.M.D. Muhilan, however, submitted that since some of the accused persons reside outside the jurisdiction of the Coimbatore District Police, it would facilitate smoother progress of the investigation if the Special Investigation Team (SIT), as constituted by this Court, is placed under the administrative control of the Crime Branch–Criminal Investigation Department (CBCID). Such an arrangement, he submitted, would enable the SIT to carry out the investigation more effectively.



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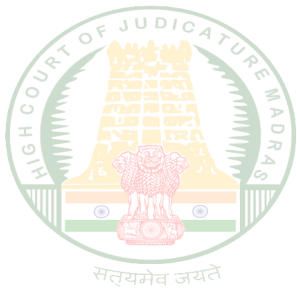
4. Acceding to the request made by Mr. K.M.D. Muhilan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, this Court directs that the Special Investigation Team (SIT), as constituted by the orders of this Court, shall be placed under the establishment of the CBCID solely for the purpose of availing infrastructural and logistical support, so as to facilitate the smooth progress of the investigation. However, it is made clear that the SIT shall carry out the investigation independently and shall not be under the administrative control of the CBCID in respect of the conduct of the investigation.

5. The status report filed on behalf of the SIT regarding the investigation so far done by them is taken on record.

Call this matter on 25.07.2025.

**(B) STEEL WIRE ROPE FENCING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS
ISSUES RELATING TO ELEPHANT PROTECTION**

(W.M.P.No.35572 of 2024, W.M.P.Nos.42082, 42113, 42114,
42115 & 42116 of 2024 in W.P.No.27356 of 2019)



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This court on 25.04.2025 passed the following orders in the above said miscellaneous petitions:

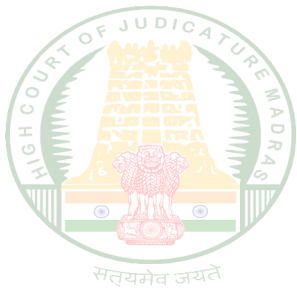
“It is brought to the notice of this Court that the Poluvampatti reserve forest area, Coimbatore, was protected with fencing and works have been started. The information printed in the newspaper is placed before this Court.

2. Though several opportunity has been granted to file counter, no counter is forthcoming from the respondent – Forest Department.

3. The learned Special Government Pleader seeks short time to file counter.

4. As a last chance for filing counter, post the matter on 20.06.2025. Till such time, status quo shall be maintained.”

2. Mr. K.M.D. Muhilan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, seeks time to file counter affidavit in W.M.P.No.42115 of 2025. Dr.T.Seenivasan, learned Special Government Pleader seeks further time to file counter affidavit on behalf of Forest Department in the other miscellaneous petition.



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3. Call W.M.P.No.35572 of 2024, W.M.P.Nos.42082, 42113, 42114, 42115 & 42116 of 2024 in W.P.No.27356 of 2019 on 25.07.2025. The *status quo* granted by this court, by order dated on 24.05.2025 in W.M.P.No.35572 of 2024, in respect of steel-wire fencing, shall continue to remain in force until then.

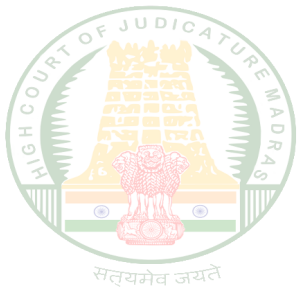
(C) ILLEGAL MINING OF EARTH AND MINERALS

AND ELEPHANT PROTECTION

(W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022)

With reference to the other directions issued by this Court by order dated 08.01.2025, a status report has been filed today.

2. With reference to the directions contained in paragraph 61 regarding the levy of appropriate fines, the status report states that out of 270 cases, penalties have already been imposed in 100 cases to the tune of Rs. 26.76 crore.



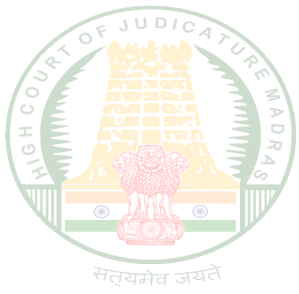
*W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022
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3. As regards the remaining cases where penalties have not yet been imposed, a further status report shall be filed indicating the current status along with details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for passing appropriate orders.

4. As far as the cases in which penalty orders have already been passed are concerned, a further status report shall be filed detailing the actions initiated under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890, and other available modes of recovery for the collection of the penalty amounts.

5. With respect to the directions relating to seeking expert advice from 'The Energy and Resources Institute' (TERI), the status report indicates that TERI has already been consulted and will be engaged to conduct a mitigation study, in accordance with the scope outlined by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) in its letter dated 25.02.2025. Further developments in this regard shall be placed before this Court by way of a status report.



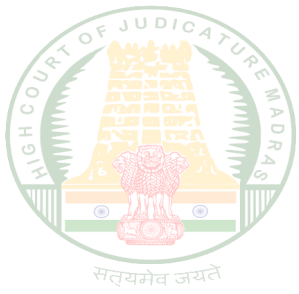
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6. As far as the directions issued to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) are concerned, it is stated that the strengthening exercise and related works have already been completed. Taking note of the work carried out thus far, as detailed in the tabular column in paragraph 13 of the status report, the same is recorded.

7. As far as the directions issued to both the Commissioner of Geology and Mining and the District Collector, with reference to the conduct of a preliminary enquiry and the fixation of responsibility on the officer(s), if any, found complicit in the matter are concerned, the status report is silent on that aspect. Accordingly, the action taken in this regard shall be explained in the next status report to be filed before this Court

8. As far as the directions issued to the Deputy Inspector General of Police are concerned, it is stated that the officers in question have since been transferred. However, no specific response has been provided as to whether there was any lapse on their part. A status report shall be filed in this regard.



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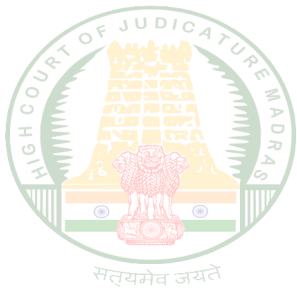
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9. With reference to illegal bridges that are built and the illegal roads which are laid, let position be ascertained and expeditious steps be taken to obliterate them and status report be filed.

10. As regards various trenches and pits wherever it is so dangerous to the lives of wildlife, the same shall be levelled and a report be filed.

11. With reference to the installation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled surveillance cameras, it is stated that quotation(s) has/have already been obtained and the matter is presently pending with the Commissioner of Geology and Mining for sanction of funds. Further developments in this regard shall be placed before this Court. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining is directed to sanction the required funds as expeditiously as possible and not to facilitate illegal transport of mines, minerals and earth any further.

12. With reference to the development of a comprehensive AI-enabled surveillance system with the assistance of experts, including those from Anna University, it is noted that the status report is silent on this aspect. Therefore,



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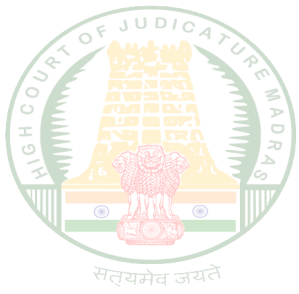
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steps shall be taken in that direction, and a status report detailing the progress of such development shall be filed before this Court.

13. With regard to the creation of a website and mobile application, it is submitted that a private agency has already been engaged for the purpose. The concerned authority is directed to ensure that the work is completed, and both the website and the mobile application are developed and brought into use at the earliest.

14. Insofar as the toll-free telephone number is concerned, it is stated that a toll-free number has already been publicized. It appears, however, that the number currently in use belongs to the Mines Department. In addition to the toll-free number, a separate mobile number (preferably with WhatsApp facility) shall also be put in place to enable the public to forward complaints, if any, regarding illegal mining and transportation of illegally mined minerals, including earth, directly to the SIT.

15. As regards the issue of electric fencing over a stretch of 2 km allegedly disturbing the movement of elephants, the status report states that



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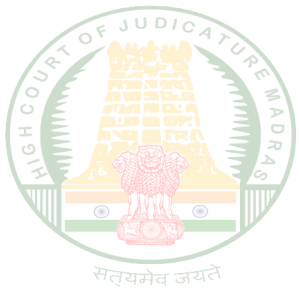
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permission was granted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) with certain conditions to a private institution, namely, Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Coimbatore, in S.F. Nos. 360 and 371 of Ettimadai Village, Madhukkarai Taluk, Coimbatore District. One of the conditions imposed requires that a buffer zone of 150 meters be maintained along the boundary of the Reserve Forest to ensure free movement of wildlife, particularly elephants.

16. In order to ascertain whether any of the conditions have been violated, and since no decision can be taken without affording an opportunity of hearing to the said private institution, **Mata Amritanandamayi Math, S.F. Nos. 360 & 371, Ettimadai Village, Madhukkarai Taluk, Coimbatore District, is *suo motu* impleaded as the 67th respondent in W.P. No. 27356 of 2019.**

17. The Registry is directed to carry out the necessary amendment and issue notice to the 67th respondent, returnable by 25.07.2025.

18. Similarly, with reference to another development taking place at the 'zero' meter boundary of the Reserve Forests in Arivoli Nagar, at the



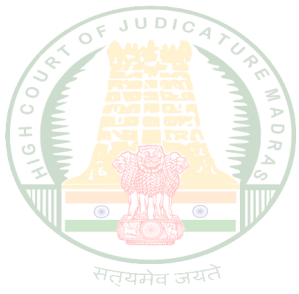
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intersection of three villages and situated within the crucial 'Rajakesari Big Elephant Corridor', this Court is of the view that no decision can be taken without affording an opportunity of hearing to the person concerned. Accordingly, **this Court finds it fit and necessary to *suo motu* implead Mr. P. Vijaykumar, Agro-Forestry, Mushroom Cultivation, Vermicompost & Apiculture, S.F. No. 3/1, Ettimadai Village, Coimbatore District, as the 68th respondent in W.P. No. 27356 of 2019.**

19. The Registry is directed to carry out the necessary amendment and issue notice to the 68th respondent, returnable by 25.07.2025

20. With reference to the areas that are in the process of being notified or proposed to be notified as Elephant Corridors, the stand of the Government shall also be placed on record in the status report to be filed on the next date of hearing. It is made clear that there would be no justification in permitting any new developments in such areas when there is an imminent possibility of the lands being notified as Elephant Corridors. Accordingly, the status report shall also address this aspect.



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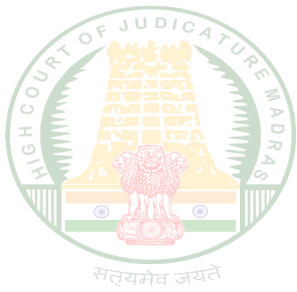
21. The status report shall also indicate whether there are any fresh proposals for assignment of land in the vicinity of the Reserve Forests, particularly within the prohibited belt areas of 40.2 meters and 60.4 meters in width, as well as within the designated buffer zones and conservancy areas, as per the applicable Government Orders – G.O.Ms.No.679, Rev. dated 15.03.1939, G.O.Ms.No.2769, Rev. dated 11.12.1942, G.O.Ms.No.3316, Rev.dated 05.09.1958 and G.O.1798, Rev. (Spl.) dated 09.10.2020.

22. It is needless to state that this Court has already issued a specific direction to the authorities concerned to come up with a time-line for notifying the proposed Elephant Corridors. A status report shall be filed on this aspect as well.

23. Call this matter on 25.07.2025. The authorities concerned shall file a comprehensive, issue-wise status report, addressing the directions issued by this court hereinabove, on or before the said date.

(N.S.K., J.)

(D.B.C., J.)



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NOTE: The Registry is directed to carry out necessary amendment in
W.P.No.27356 of 2019

kmk/mkn

To

1.THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND
Chief Wildlife Warden, Department Of Forests, Govt. Of Tamil Nadu, No.1
Jeenis Road, Panagal Buildings, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015

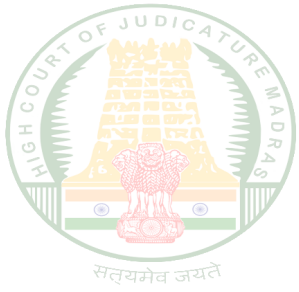
2.THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU,
Fort St.George, Chennai- 600 009.

3.THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR
Coimbatore District, Gopalpuram, Coimbatore-6410108

4.THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY / CHAIRMAN
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032

5. THE COMMISSIONER
Department Of Geology And Mining Thiru.Vi.Ka.Industrial Estate, Alandur
Road, Guindy, Chennai-600 002

6.THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
Forest And Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110 003



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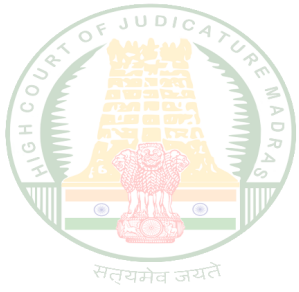
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7.THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (COIMBATORE NORTH),
Tamilnadu Generation And Distribution Limited (TANGEDCO),
Tatabad, Coimbatore.

8 THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
AND CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN,
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS,
GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU,
NO.1 JEENIS ROAD, PANAGAL BUILDINGS,
SAIDAPET, CHENNAI-600 015.

9.THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINING,
COIMBATORE DISTRICT,
COIMBATORE COLLECTORATE,
COIMBATORE – 641018.

10.THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
Department Of Geology And Mining,
Coimbatore District,
Coimbatore-641018.



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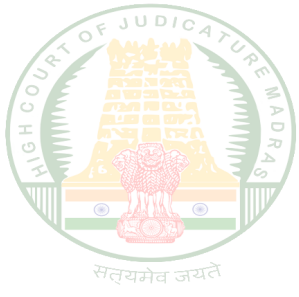
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11.THE DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Coimbatore North,
No. 5, Ramasamy Nagar,
Kavundampalayam,
Coimbatore-641030.

12.DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Coimbatore South, Plot No. E55A, SIDCO Industrial Estate Kurichi,
Pollachi Main Road,
Coimbatore-641021.

Copy To

1. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI.
2. THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, CBCID,
TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI.
- 3.THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, COIMBATORE.
- 4.TMT.G.NAGAJOTHI, I.P.S., SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE,
STATE CRIME RECORDS BUREAU, CHENNAI.
- 5.THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF MADRAS.
- 6.DR.T.SEENIVASAN, THE SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER
(FOREST), MADRAS HIGH COURT, CHENNAI.



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

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