



WEB COPY

WMP NO. 2 019



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

WP NO. 27356 OF 2019

& WMP NOS.23020 & 23022 of 2025

Mr. S.Muralidharan

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

Petitioner(s)

Vs

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 and 67 Others

Respondent(s)

WMP NO. 23020 of 2025

Mr. S.Muralidharan

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

Petitioner(s)

Vs

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 and 65 Others

Respondent(s)

WMP NO. 23022 of 2025

Mr. S.Muralidharan

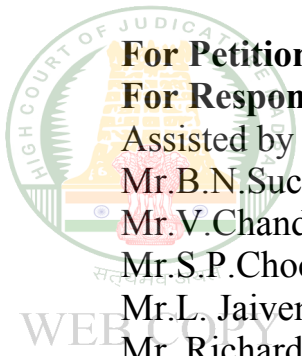
S/o.Mr.P.Sivalingam, 2A, 3rd Main Road, Kottur Gardens, Chennai-600 085 Petitioner(s)

Vs

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 and 65 Others Respondent(s)



For Petitioner(s): Mr.Muralidharan (P-IN-P)

For Respondent(s): Mr.J.Ravindran, Additional Advocate General

Assisted by Dr.T.Seenivasan, Special Government Pleader (Forest), for R1, 3 to 5

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,

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

Mr.K.M.D.Mohilan

Additional Public Prosecutor for the Special Investigation Team (SIT)

Amici Curiae

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

ORDER

Illegal Resorts at Anaikatti Area/Elephant Protection and Banning of Night Traffic on SH-164

With reference to the mushrooming of illegal resorts at Anaikatti area, the learned Special Government Pleader (Forests), today, would place the written communication from the District Forest Officer on record. As per the same, it is mentioned that there is no offending construction within the reserve forests area for the District Forest Officer to take action by himself. It is also further mentioned that this area predominantly comes under No.24-Veerapandi Village. This apart, this areas will also fall within any other revenue villages namely Nanjunadapuram and Chinna Tadagam. It is also placed on record that as per the



G.O.Ms.No.49, Housing and Urban Development (UD2.2) Department dated 24



the

said village comes within the HACA authority also. Similarly, after the recommendation of

Dr.K.Kasturirangan Commission, already the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

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Change has issued notification in S.O.3072(E), dated 06.07.2022 notifying the village as a ecologically sensitivie area, thereore, there are several activities which are banned and several activites which are subjected to further restrictions within the ecologically sensitive area.

2. In view of the above submissions made, since the DFO himself cannot take action, we deem it fit that all the line departments should carry out a joint inspection to find out (i) Whether there is any use of any property or land as resorts/staying facilities for tourists and other common public (ii) If such resorts are there, whether they are working under the due permissions as since the village comes within the Hill Area Conservation Authority, the concerned owner of the land should have first applied for conversion of land use before such the authority (iii) Whether any activity of these resorts come within the prohibited activity within the ecologically sensitive area (iv) if commercial resorts are run, whether they are run with due licenses after taking due permissions from other development control authorities. Each and every suspected illegal resorts/staying facilities shall be inspected by the committee and report be submitted before the Court.



3. We appoint a Committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector ^{Coimbatore} consisting of District Forest Officer, Block Development Officer who is the executive authority and the Tahsildar of the concerned Taluk who shall conduct the inspection and

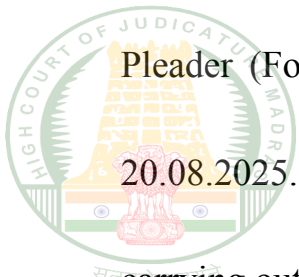
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report before the Chairman periodically. Let the inspection be carried out and a report be submitted before this Court by 28.11.2025.

4. With reference to the enforcement of the night ban in SH-164, as a first resort, we are of the view that the speed control/calming measures/protective measures can be undertaken in the four kilometers stretch running through Tadagam reserve forests in Coimbatore Forests Division. The appropriate measures which include speed breakers at regular intervals, warning sign boards and imposition of speed limits while crossing the area and warning to the vehicles to use low beam during night time can first be implemented and the efficacy also can be checked before implementing any night ban. The appropriate authority namely the State Highways shall implement the same and take such steps to erect such scientific barriers as being erected in other ghat roads like Ooty-Coonor road between specific span of length so that the speed be regulated and appropriate warning sign boards etc., be erected.

5. Let further status report in this regard be filed before this Court on 28.11.2025.

6. With reference to the notification of the elephant corridor, the learned Special Government



Pleader (Forests) would place on record the Government Order in G.O.(D).]

20.08.2025. By the said Government Order, the Government has prescribed timeline for

carrying out various components in identifying the elephant corridors along with components,

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the time line, the remarks and the current status are all categorically mentioned in the Government Order. As per the same, by October, they should have completed the joint inspection and meeting with the committee etc., and preparation of draft report should be over by October 2025 and in the months of November and December public hearings are slated and the reports will be finalised by January and the draft report will be submitted to the Government by February and the Government will thereafter, examine and plan report and pass order. In that regard, whether the time-lines are being adhered to and the works done so far can be placed before this Court by way of status report.

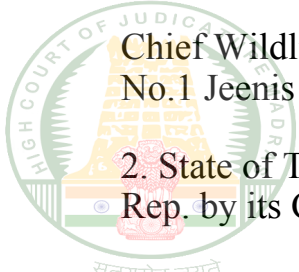
7. Call on 28.11.2025.

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

dhk

To

1. 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. State of Tamil Nadu

Rep. by its Chief Secretary, Fort St.George, Chennai- 600 009.

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,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

7. 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)