



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 19.12.2025

WEB COPY

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N. SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

W.P.No.27356 of 2019,
W.M.P.Nos.23020 & 23022 of 2025,
W.M.P.No.37000 of 2024,
W.M.P.No.38951 of 2025

W.P.No.27356 of 2019

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 76 Others

Respondent(s)

WMP NO. 23020 of 2025

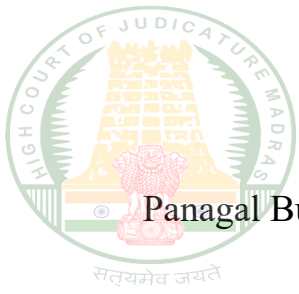
Mr. S.Muralidharan
S/o.Mr.P.Sivalingam, 2A, 3rd Main Road, Kottur Gardens, Chennai-600 085

Petitioner(s)

Vs

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Forests,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, No.1 Jeenis Road,

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W.P.No.27356 of 2019

Panagal Buildings, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015 and 65 Others

Respondent(s)

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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)

WMP NO. 37000 of 2024

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 64 Others

Respondent(s)

WMP NO. 38951 of 2025

S.Muralidharan

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)

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W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :

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

For Respondent(s): 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.Muhilan

Additional Public Prosecutor for the Special Investigation Team (SIT)

Amici Curiae

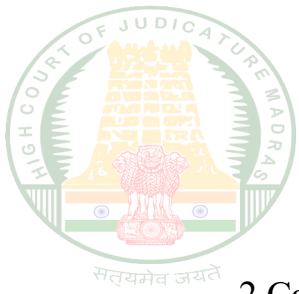
1. Mr.C.Mohan, Advocate
2. Mr.T.Mohan, Senior Advocate
3. Mr.M.Santhanaraman, Advocate
4. Mr.Rahul Balaji, Advocate

ORDER

Marudhamalai Murugan Temple & Anuvavi Subramaniyar Temple :

Today, the proposed site is demonstrated by producing maps. In this regard, learned *Amici Curiae*, Mr.T.Mohan and Mr.M.Santhanaraman, shall inspect the proposed place in the presence of Mr.N.R.R.Arun Natarajan, learned Special Government Pleader (HR & CE) and Dr.T.Seenivasan, learned Special Government Pleader, and a report be filed before us on the next hearing date.

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2.Call on 23.01.2026.

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Usage of Speed Boats/Mechanised Boats :

3.Today, the learned Additional Advocate General appears and a status report is filed. From that, it can be seen that, petrol Outboard Motor Boats (OBMs) are being used. Learned Additional Advocate General also submits that he has also got other particulars which are not placed in the status report. But one thing is clear that, high speed motorised boats are being used. Some of the boats are called jet boats, speed bikes, etc. The plying of the said boats causes huge noise pollution and it is common knowledge that the entire area smells of petrol and the combustion materials. The entire lake is surrounded by forest and it is the boundary of Mukurthi National Park which is one of the prestigious National Parks in the whole world. Therefore, the Tourism Department shall forthwith consider the same with due sensitivity and let a status report be filed on the next date of hearing.

4.Call on 23.01.2026.



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5. With reference to Ivory tracking as well as destruction, two written communications are placed on record by the learned Special Government Pleader based on the written instructions submitted to him. With reference to the missing ivory, the details are given and it is stated that efforts are being taken to trace out the same. The same is taken on record.

6. With reference to destruction, it is decided that destruction shall be done through Incinerator as identified by the Department which is located in Gummudipoondi, which is a private facility. With reference to each and every piece of ivory, the following details shall be necessarily maintained :

- (a) Picture
- (b) Videography
- (c) Measurement of height, circumference and other properties and weight
- (d) A sample of each and every piece, so that DNA can be tested if necessary
- (e) The sample should be accompanied with the information as to the particulars of the case in which it was seized, etc.

7. If the said particulars are already available, then the same shall be maintained. If any of the above is not available, it can additionally be made. All



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these details shall be tabulated and submitted before us, by way of a status report
on the next date of hearing.

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8.Call on 23.01.2026.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
19.12.2025

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To

- 1.The Principal Secretary,
Department of Forests And Environment,
St. George Fort, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Forest Head Quarters,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road,
Velachery, Chennai – 600 032.
- 3.The District Collector,
The Nilgiris, Ooty,
The Nilgiris District.
- 4.The District Collector,
Coimbatore.
- 5.The District Forest Officer,
Kodaikanal, Dindigul District.
- 6.The Assistant Director of Rural Development,
Coimbatore.



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7.The Commissioner,
Department of Geology and Mining,
Thiru.Vi.Ka.Industrial Estate, Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai-600 002

8.Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

9.The Superintending Engineer (Coimbatore North),
Tamilnadu Generation and Distribution Limited (TANGEDCO),
Tatabad, Coimbatore.

10.The Principal Secretary/Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032

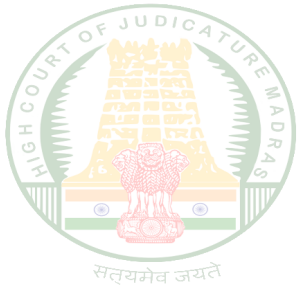
11.The Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation
Wallajah Road, Chennai – 600 002.

12.The Director,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
No.119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam High Road,
Chennai – 600 034.

13.The Special Government Pleader (Forests),
Madras High Court, High Court Campus,
Chennai 600 104.

14.The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
Anaikatty (Post),
Coimbatore – 641 108.

15.The Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.



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

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