

W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.02.2026

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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.No.37000 of 2024, W.M.P.No.24518 of 2025
W.P.(Crl.) No.934 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)

W.M.P.No.37000 of 2024

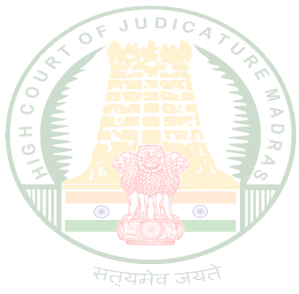
S.Muralidharan

... 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 64 Others

... Respondent(s)



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

W.M.P.No.24518 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 65 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.P.(Crl.) No.934 of 2025

G.Gokila and 5 others

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

The District Collector,
O/o. The District Collector – Tiruppur,
Tiruppur – 641 004 and 7 others

... Respondent(s)

W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :

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



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

Mr.K.M.D.Muhilan

Additional Public Prosecutor for the Special Investigation Team (SIT)

Dr.C.E.Pratap, Government Advocate (Crl. Side) for R3 to R8 in W.P.(Crl.)

No.934 of 2025

Amici Curiae

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

ORDER

Usage of Speed Boats/Mechanised Boats :

With reference to the usage of speed boats in Pykara Lake, today, a status report is filed on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. It is admitted that petrol Outboard Motor Boats are being used for boating operations. It is further stated that Pykara attracts tourists mainly due to high speed boating activities, such as speed boats and jet ski boats. It is further stated that, all of a sudden stoppage would cause disappointment among tourists. It is further asserted that these Outboard Motor Boats do not cause noise pollution and there is absolutely no oil leakage.

2.But, any person visiting the area will hear the noise of the boats atleast from 2 to 3 km and it causes shrill and high decibel noise in the entire area which is a pristine environment and an abode for lot of birds. Besides, its impact on the



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

upper water reserve such as Pykara, only from which, the lower reserves and the other lakes gets supply, has to be seen. This apart, the area is surrounded by thick reserve forests and is the border to the Mukurthi National Park, which is one of the highly eco-sensitive grasslands and home to several flora and fauna. Therefore, we hereby request the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, to depute an Expert. The Expert shall visit the Pykara Lake during the weekends and busy days when boating is continuously going on and

(a) he can observe the decibel and the noise that is generated by those boats by using appropriate technical methods and submit his report giving opinion as to its impact on the birds and other wildlife, including the aquatic life;

(b) he can also draw samples from the water and also the sledge from the bottom surface and test it through appropriate Lab for its contaminants; and

(c) he can also place on record his personal experience as to whether or not the entire area smells of oil while boating.

Let the report be placed before this Court, so that further orders can be issued.

3. When persons visit environmentally pristine areas like Ooty, that too, a place like Pykara, near the Mukurthi National Park, the focus is on observing the



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

nature and enjoying its beauty. It is sad that it is mentioned that they are mainly attracted by high speed boating activities such as speed boats and jet ski boats.

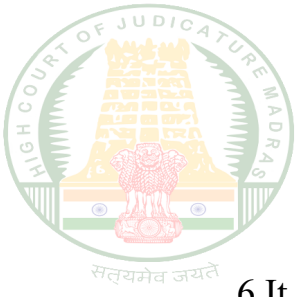
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Anthropocentrism at its ugly best, as if Nilgiris is exclusively meant for the pleasure of tourists. The activity is very inappropriate to the pristine environment and the purpose of the tourists visiting there. There are many number of water bodies in the plains which are not eco-sensitive and which are not surrounded by forests and flora and fauna, where these tourist attractions can be developed by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. However, they cannot do that on the nerve-centre of the only limited left out space of biodiversity.

4.Parallely, the officials from the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Institute, Udthagamandalam, shall also send technicians and collect samples of water of Pykara Lake on days where tourism is at its peak and test the water for its contaminants and file a report. The samples from the soil/sledge beneath the water body, along with sediments, can also be collected and tested for its contaminants/presence of oil ingredients.

5.Registry is directed to communicate a copy of this order to the District Judge, Udthagamandalam, The Nilgiris District, with a direction to serve a copy of this order to the Director, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Institute, Udthagamandalam.

Page 5 of 10



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

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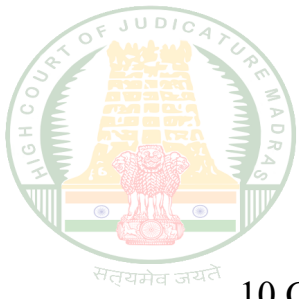
6.It is made clear that the Tourism Corporation, Forest Department and the local authorities shall provide such assistance and give such permissions for the Expert(s) to make such visits and conduct such tests.

7.Let the reports by both the Institutions be placed on record, so that appropriate orders can be passed. Call on 13.03.2026.

G-Square :

8.Inspite of repeated notices and though earlier notice was served on the 76th respondent, none appears. As far as 77th respondent is concerned, the notice has returned unserved. Today, it is represented that, as far as 76th respondent is concerned, from the official website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the address is now shown as ***G-Square Realtors Private Limited, Flat No.14, Third Floor, Harrington Apartment No.98, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031.*** As far as the 77th respondent is concerned, their address is shown as ***Rakindo Kovai Township Private Limited, Flat No.1A, Shaki Krishna Apartment, 5/1 3/1 First Main Road, CIT Colony, Chennai – 600 004.***

9.Let notice through Court and private notice be taken to the fresh addresses of respondents 76 and 77, once again, returnable by 13.03.2026.



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

10.Call on 13.03.2026.

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Solid Waste Management in Tiruppur District :

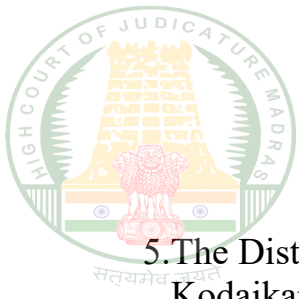
11.Since it is mentioned that the very same subject matter is being dealt with the Hon'ble First Bench of this Court in a Public Interest Litigation in W.P.No.37431 of 2025, call this matter on 13.03.2026.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
13.02.2026

mkn

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.



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

5.The District Forest Officer,
Kodaikanal, Dindigul District.

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6.The Assistant Director of Rural Development,
Coimbatore.

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 Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.

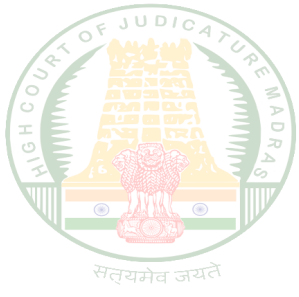


W.P.No.27356 of 2019

Copy to :

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1. The District Judge,
Udhagamandalam,
The Nilgiris District. | with a direction to serve a copy of this order
| to the Director, Central Soil and Water Conservation
| Research, Demonstration and Training Institute,
| Udhagamandalam
2. The Director,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
Anaikatty (Post),
Coimbatore – 641 108.



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W.P.No.27356 of 2019

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W.P.No.27356 of 2019

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