



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.03.2026

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CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

[Through Video Conferencing]

**W.P.No.27356 of 2019 &
W.M.P.Nos.35572 & 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)

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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.M.P.No.35572 of 2024

Mr. S.Muralidharan
S/o Mr.P.Sivalingam, 2A, 3rd Main Road, Kottur
Gardens, Chennai 600085

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)



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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)

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

No.934 of 2025

Mr.Abhisheik Murthy, Standing Counsel for R2 in W.P.(Crl.)No.934 of 2025

Mr.K.Surender for R76 (G Square)

Mr.G.Gokul for R77

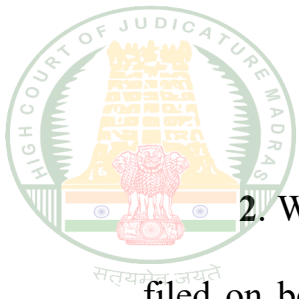
Amici Curiae

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

ORDER

(A) Usage of Speed Boats / Mechanised Boats :

This matter relates to the use of speed boats and mechanised boats in Pykara Lake, Udhagamandalam.



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2. When the matter was considered on the last occasion, a status report was filed on behalf of the respondents. This Court took note of the fact that Pykara Lake forms one of the uppermost reserves of the Nilgiris Biosphere, serving as a storage of pristine water and bordering the Mukurthi National Park. The area forms part of a highly eco-sensitive grassland ecosystem and is home to several species of flora and fauna.

3. The serenity of the area and the habitat of such flora and fauna appear to be seriously disturbed by the use of high-speed boats. The operation of such boats creates noise beyond tolerable levels and also results in possible leakage of petrol and diesel. It is reported that the water of the lake smells of petrol and diesel, apart from the emissions resulting from combustion. Such activities have the potential to seriously disturb the fragile ecological balance of the area.

4. When the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation was confronted through this petition as to why such activities should not be stopped, the Corporation sought to justify the same by filing a status report suggesting that nothing was amiss with the lake. It was even submitted that tourists are attracted to the place mainly on account of the Jet Ski boats. This Court had already observed that such a stand is purely anthropocentric. However, in order to afford an opportunity to the Corporation, this Court directed that an inspection be carried out

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by experts, including collection of samples of the water and silt, as well as scientific observation of the area.

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5. In spite of the said order, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation does not appear to have taken any steps to have the expert inspection carried out. Further, today also there is no representation on behalf of the Corporation before this Court.

6. Under these circumstances, the inspection as directed in the earlier order dated 13.02.2026 shall be carried out.

7. The Registry shall despatch a copy of this order to the learned District Judge, Udhamandalam, Nilgiris District, who shall ensure service of the same on the Director, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Institute, Udhamandalam, for the purpose of carrying out the task. Another copy shall also be despatched to the learned Principal District Judge, Coimbatore, for service on the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore.

8. Both the learned Judges are requested to direct the appropriate personnel to serve the notice at the earliest. The notice shall also contain copies of the earlier

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orders passed by this Court. The Registry is directed to despatch this order along with the earlier orders so that the scope of the request made to the above authorities, namely, the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, to depute an Expert, and the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research, Demonstration and Training Institute, Udthagamandalam, is clearly understood. The learned *Amici Curiae* may also forward copies independently.

9. The inspection shall be conducted at the earliest and a report shall be filed before this Court.

10. In the meanwhile, there shall be an order of interim injunction restraining the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation from operating any motorised boats run on petrol or diesel in Pykara Lake.

11. Call this matter on **17.04.2026**.

(B) Steel Wire Rope Fencing (Buffer Zone):-

Today, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the State Government seeks further time, stating that the project was implemented as a pilot project to be replicated in other stretches.



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2. Let a report be filed on behalf of the District Forest Officer at the earliest.

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3. Call this matter on **27.03.2026**.

(C) G-Square:-

Service is complete. Mr.K.Surender, learned counsel, has entered appearance on behalf of the 76th respondent / G-Square Realtors Private Limited and Mr.G.Gokul, learned counsel, has entered appearance on behalf of the 77th respondent / Rakindo Kovai Township Private Limited.

2. The learned counsels submit that they will place on record their stand with reference to the land in question by filing a written affidavit. It is further submitted that no activities are proposed within the buffer zone.

3. Let the affidavit be filed before this Court.

4. Call on **27.03.2026**.

(D) Solid Waste Management in Tiruppur District:-

When the matter came up for hearing, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the State submitted that, pursuant to the directions of the learned Single

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Judge in the connected matter, steps are being taken. It is further submitted that dumping at the quarry in question is no longer taking place. A temporary dumping yard has been established and the authorities are in the process of creating further facilities for the proper treatment and disposal of solid waste.

2. Let further steps be taken in that regard and a status report indicating the steps taken be filed before this Court.

3. Call this matter on **05.06.2026**.

[N.S.K., J.] [D.B.C., J.]
13.03.2026

smn2

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.



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4.The District Collector,
Coimbatore.

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

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.



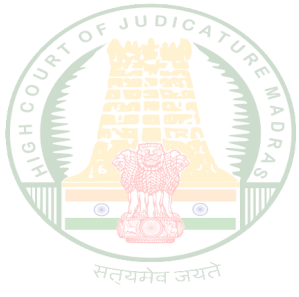
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14. The Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.

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Copy to :

1. The District Judge,
Udhagamandalam,
The Nilgiris District. | with a direction to serve a copy of this order along with
| earlier order dated 13.02.2026 to the Director,
| Central Soil and Water Conservation Research
| Demonstration and Training Institute,
| Udhagamandalam.
2. The Principal District Judge | with a direction to serve a copy of this order along
Coimbatore. | with earlier order dated 13.02.2026 to the the Salim
| Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
| Coimbatore.
3. The Director,
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
Anaikatty (Post),
Coimbatore – 641 108.
4. The Director,
Central Soil and Water Conservation Research,
Demonstration and Training Institute,
Udhagamandalam.



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

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