



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 03.07.2026

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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.24518 of 2025, W.M.P.No.37000 of 2024,
W.M.P.No.31591 of 2023

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 77 Others

Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.37000 of 2024

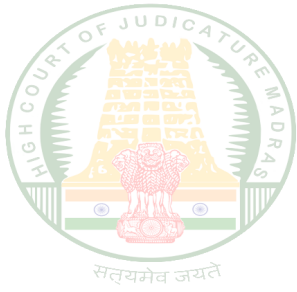
S.Muralidharan

... 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.M.P.No.31591 of 2023

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 7 Others

... Respondent(s)

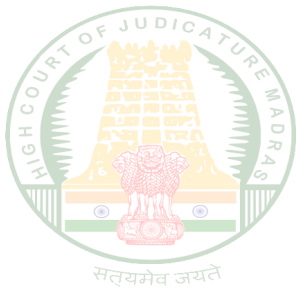
W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :

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

For Respondent(s): Mr.P.V.Balasubramaniam,
Additional Advocate General,
assisted by Mr.K.Surendar,
Government Pleader and
Mr.G.Abraham Prabhu, Government Counsel
for RR1, 3 & 5

R2 – Deleted vide Court order dated 09.01.2021 in
W.M.P.No.4685 of 2021 in W.P.No.27356 of 2019

Mr.B.N.Suchindran,
Standing Counsel for R4 (TNPCB)



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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 RR9 to 11, 16 to 45

RR 12 to 15 - No Appearance

Mr.N.Muralikumaran,
Senior Counsel for M/s.MCGAN Law Firm
for RR 46 to 49

Mr.L.Palanimuthu for RR 50 to 64

Mr.M.Purushothaman for RR 65 & 66

Mr.Ramasamy Meiyappan for R67

R68 – Returned unserved (Insufficient Address)

Mr.V.Jayaprakash Narayanan for RR 69 to 73

Mr.P.V.Balasubramaniam,
Additional Advocate General,
assisted by Mr.K.S.Punithan,
Standing Counsel for R74 (TTDC)

Mr.N.R.R.Arun Natarajan,
Standing Counsel for R75 (HR & CE)

Mr.Harishankar for Mr.G.Gokul for R76 & R77

Mr.D.Ferdinard for R78 (Coimbatore Corporation)

Amici Curiae

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

ORDER

Notification of Elephant Corridors :

With reference to the notification of elephant corridors, the learned
Additional Advocate General made submissions pointing out to the status report

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filed today.



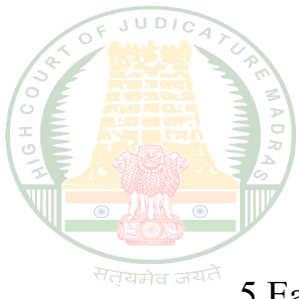
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2.The stages in which the work relating to notification of corridors with reference to each of the 41 corridors, are given in the status report. It is also seen that some of the corridors are proposed to be dropped. With reference thereto, the learned *Amici Curiae* and the party-in-person, who is the petitioner herein, had objections. Let the response be filed in respect of those items.

3.With reference to the other corridors, it is seen that, for some of the proposals, the same is in the final stage of notification. Then, without any further loss of time, notifications can be made. With reference to some of the other corridors, various stages in which the works are in, are given. Let the work be done as per the time limit proposed by the respondents themselves.

4.It is made clear that this matter of notifying the corridors is pending for the long time. The writ petition itself is filed in the year 2019 after finalisation of the issue by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. This cannot brook any further delay. Every day delay will only add the cost and difficulty to the State as well. Needless to mention about the developments which take place in between. Therefore, as early as possible, the notification should be made.



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5.Earlier G.O.(D) No.42, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5)

Department, dated 05.03.2026, was filed before this Court, whereby, it was stated that final report on three corridors is finalised to recognise them as “corridors” and further process to notify them is under progress. It is further stated that 12 corridors are finalised by the Committee and the report is under preparation. The present status report is filed in continuation of the same. The same three corridors are lying without notification. Similarly, much progress is also not shown with reference to the other corridors. Let the works be expedited and whatever the corridors which have been finalised, let the notifications be issued and placed on record. Let a further status report as to the progress from today until the next date of hearing be placed on record by way of a status report.

6.Call on 31.07.2026.

G-Square :

7.Mr.P.Muralidharan, party-in-person, has filed the rejoinder and it is also served. Let a set of papers also be served on the learned Government Counsel and the learned Additional Advocate General is directed to take instructions in this regard with reference to the permissible development of the township, etc., The earlier orders that are passed by this Court in this regard, can be taken note of.

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The learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Company, namely G-Square Realtors Private Limited, seeks further time to get ready and argue the matter.

8.Call on 31.07.2026. Interim order earlier granted by this Court in this regard, shall continue until further orders.

Sound and 3-D Light Shows at waterbodies :

9.With reference to the sound and lights shows in Ooty and Yercaud lakes, a counter affidavit is filed on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. In this regard, the learned Additional Advocate General to file a counter on behalf of the Government indicating as to in whose control, the waterbody is vested. Let the affidavit be filed before us.

10.Call on 31.07.2026.

Removal of Solar Panels in Ukkadam and Valankulam Lakes :

11.By an order dated 12.12.2025, we had passed detailed orders relating to the Ukkadam and Valankulam Lakes. In this regard, it is brought to our notice that, even though it was represented that use of speed boats/motor boats and sound and light shows have been stopped, subsequently also, it was continuing. In that regard, we had earlier directed the learned counsel for the Coimbatore Municipal



Corporation to file a status report. Today also, the same is not filed. One more opportunity is granted. Let a status report be filed in this regard.

12.Call on 31.07.2026.

Removal of *Prosopis Juliflora* in Thadagam Valley :

13.With reference to removal of *prosopis juliflora* in Thadagam Valley, we had already said that the same will also be removed along with the directions that are generally given with regard to removal of *prosopis juliflora* throughout the State. In this regard, we note that the works to remove *prosopis juliflora* has started. It must be noted that the kind of work that is undertaken by both the Hon'ble Judges involve full time work, visiting each and every place and also they incur expenses in this regard. We deem it fit to direct the Government to pay a Honorarium to both the Hon'ble Judges. The quantum can be fixed by the Government itself. But we certainly feel that a monthly Honararium to both the Hon'ble Judges supervising the operations should fixed and paid on monthly basis.

14.It is also further brought to our notice that there are some difficulties for the District Collectors to kick start the process, as they are in lack of initial funding. As the work progresses, the price of the wood that is sold will come to the kitty and the project would fund itself. But it needs initial funding. Therefore,



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the Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests

Department, State of Tamil Nadu, shall ensure initial funding to all the District Collectors and the Circulars can also be issued to use the available funding, if any, such as the Green Fund of the District, etc. Further, the auction process by the various Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu can also kick start at the same time.

15.The learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Railways is also directed to place on record the steps so far taken by the Railways for the removal.

16.The Government shall also ensure issue of such press releases, local publication in every village in the form of tom-tom, etc., requesting the private persons in whose lands the *prosopis juliflora* is there, to remove voluntarily on their own before moving to the next stage.

17.Call this matter for filing a detailed status report on 24.07.2026.

18.The learned Additional Advocate General mentioned before this Court that a writ petition in W.P.No.27042 of 2025 has been filed before the learned Single Judge with regard to removal of *prosopis juliflora* and interim orders have also been passed and hence, prays for listing of the matter before this Bench.

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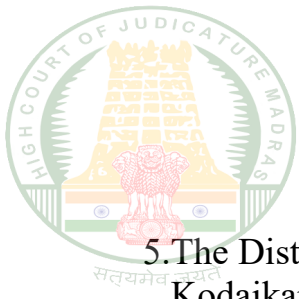
Since this Bench has seized of the matter relating to removal of *prosopis juliflora* throughout the State, in *W.P.(MD).No.16485 of 2015, etc., batch*, where we have passed a detailed order, dated 18.03.2026, which is a continuous mandamus, the writ petition in W.P.No.27042 of 2025 has to be tagged along with the batch. Therefore, Registry is directed to tag W.P.No.27042 of 2025 along with *W.P.(MD).No.16485 of 2015, etc., batch*, and post the same before this Bench on 10.07.2026, after getting necessary orders from the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
03.07.2026

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To

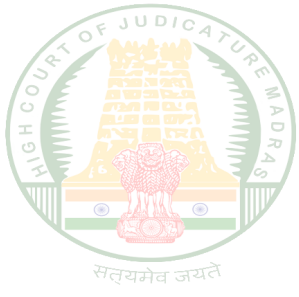
- 1.The Principal Secretary,
Department of Forests And Environment,
St. George Fort, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Forest Head Quarters,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road,
Velachery, Chennai – 600 032.
- 3.The District Collector,
The Nilgiris, Ooty,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



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



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AND
D. BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY. J.

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