



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.07.2026

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.P.No.28266 of 2022,

W.M.P.Nos.42082, 42113, 42114, 42115 & 42116 of 2024,

W.M.P.No.30612 of 2025 in Rev.Aplw.(SR) No.68395 of 2025,

W.M.P.No.31591 of 2023,

W.P.No.12439 of 2026

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.P.No.28266 of 2022

Dr.R.Karpagam

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

1.Assistant Director,
Department Of Geology And Mining,

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... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.42082 of 2024

M.Siva

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

S.Muralidharan (p-in-p) and 65 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.42113 of 2024

M.Siva

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

S.Muralidharan (p-in-p) and 65 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.42114 of 2024

M.Siva

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

S.Muralidharan (p-in-p) and 65 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.42115 of 2024

M.Siva

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

S.Muralidharan (p-in-p) and 65 Others

... Respondent(s)



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W.M.P.No.42116 of 2024

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M.Siva

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

S.Muralidharan (p-in-p) and 65 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.30612 of 2025

The Additional Superintendent of Police,
Vigilance and Anti-Corruption,
Coimbatore.

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

Dr.R.Karpagam and 4 Others

... Respondent(s)

Rev.Aplw.SR.No.68395 of 2025

The Additional Superintendent of Police,
Vigilance and Anti-Corruption,
Coimbatore.

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

Dr.R.Karpagam and 4 Others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.31591 of 2023

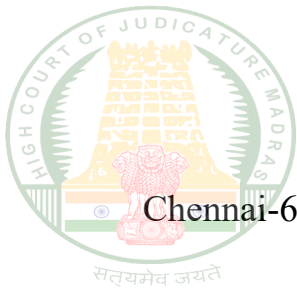
S.Muralidharan

... 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,

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Chennai-600 015 and 7 Others

W.P.No.27356 of 2019

... Respondent(s)

W.P.No.12439 of 2026

WEB COPY

S.Preethi

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Tamil Nadu Forest Department,
Forest Head Quarters Building,
Near Kannikapuram Checkpost,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road,
Guindy, Chennai – 32 and 4 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)

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



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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.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)

W.P.No.28266 of 2022

For Petitioner : Mr.SP.Chockalingam
For Respondent(s): Mr.B.N.Suchindran
Standing Counsel for RR2 and 3 (TNPCB)
Mr.P.V.Balasubramaniam,
Additional Advocate General,
assisted by Mr.K.Surendar,
Government Pleader and
Mr.G.Abraham Prabhu, Government Counsel
for R4

W.P.No.12439 of 2026

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Jayaprakash
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 to 4



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Amici Curiae

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

ORDER

Elephant Corridor – Segur plateau :

Today, a memo is filed by Mr.T.Mohan, learned *Amicus Curiae*, with reference to W.P.No.27356 of 2019, etc. It is stated that this Bench had passed detailed orders in a batch of matters in *W.P.No.23536 of 2024 & batch* and the same has been confirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by order dated 20.07.2026 in *S.L.P.(C) No.32019 of 2025, etc.* While so confirming the order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had also issued further directions which are required to be monitored by this Court. The learned *Amicus Curiae* has enlisted necessary aspects to be carried out and monitored as Item Nos.1 to 7 in the memo.

2.A copy of the memo and a copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is served on the learned Government Counsel appearing for the respondents. The learned Government Counsel is requested to come up with their response.

3.Call on 07.08.2026.

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Investigation by Special Investigation Team (SIT) :

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4.Today, a status report is filed on behalf of the Special Investigation Team (SIT). It is stated in Para No.1 that the investigation with reference to 10 cases relating to brick kiln, in all cases, investigation has been completed and final report is filed on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.6, Coimbatore, and the learned Magistrate No.1, Coimbatore, and the final reports have been taken on file and the particulars of the cases have also been given. With reference to the 8 cases relating to the illegal mining of earth, it is stated that the investigation is proceeding and is in advance stage and if two more months' time is given, the investigation will be completed and final reports will be filed.

5.As submitted, let investigation be proceeded with and carried on as quickly as possible and let final reports be filed and a status report be filed before this Court on 18.09.2026.

6.It is brought to our notice that the officer heading Special Investigation Team (SIT) is now transferred and posted as Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Wing, Western Zone, Chennai. Be that as it may. Since substantial investigation has been made under her leadership, let her continue to be the Head of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and complete the investigation



and file final reports. Due orders relating to giving her additional charge, as the case may be, can be passed by the appropriate authority in that regard.

7.Call on 18.09.2026.

Illegal quarrying :

8.Learned Government Counsel seeks further time to place on record as to the further developments. Since the other matter relating to solid waste management is posted next week, call this matter also on 31.07.2026.

Illegal Mining of Earth and Minerals and Elephant Protection :

9.Learned Government Counsel seeks further time to place on record as to the further developments. Call on 07.08.2026.

Delay condonation application :

(W.M.P.No.30612 of 2025 in Rev.Aplw.(SR) No.68395 of 2025 in W.P.No.28266 of 2022)

10.Call on 18.09.2026.

Removal of *Prosopis Juliflora* in Thadagam Valley :

11.Call on 31.07.2026.



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Removal of Elephant Protection Trench (EPT) – W.P.No.12439 of 2026 :

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12.Learned Government Counsel takes notice for the respondents and seeks time to file a status report/counter in this regard. Call on 21.08.2026.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
24.07.2026

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



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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 Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.

15.The Commissioner,
Tiruppur Municipal Corporation,
Tiruppur.



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Copy to :

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The Director General of Police,
Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai,
Mylapore,
Chennai – 600 004.



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

mkn

W.P.No.27356 of 2019

24.07.2026