



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 07.08.2026

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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.35572 of 2024, W.M.P.No.24518 of 2025,
W.M.P.No.38951 of 2025, W.M.P.No.14511 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.M.P.No.35572 of 2024

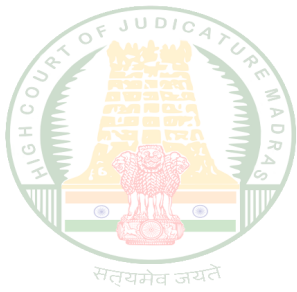
S.Muralidharan

... 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 65 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.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)

W.M.P.No.14511 of 2026

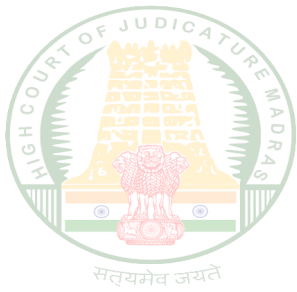
S.Muralidharan

... 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 77 Others

... Respondent(s)



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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,
Special Government Pleader,
Mr.Mohammed Fayaz Ali,
Special Government Pleader and
Mr.G.Abraham Prabhu, Additional Government Pleader
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

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)

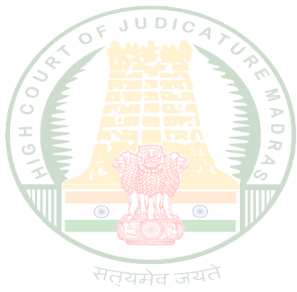
Mr.V.Jayaprakash Narayanan for RR 69 to 73

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.Ferdinand for R78 (Coimbatore Corporation)



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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 :

With reference to the memo filed by the learned *Amici Curiae* as to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *S.LP.(C) No.32019 of 2025*, etc., dated 20.07.2026, the learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Mr.K.Surendar, learned Special Government Pleader, would submit that they have conducted initial meeting with the appropriate officials and further particulars as to the handing over of Revenue lands to the Forest Department, identifying and initiating the acquisition proceedings, steps to be taken to comply with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court including removal of the encroachments as well as commercial buildings in the area which falls within the ambit of corridor, etc., will be placed on record after further decisions.

2.In order to report further developments by way of status report, call on 11.09.2026.



Steel Wire Rope Fencing (Buffer Zone) :

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3. With reference to bio-fencing, it is stated that a study is undertaken to identify the particular species which will not be an invasive. Let the same be undertaken and appropriate decision be taken with regard to bio-fencing.

4. As far as the Habitat Improvement and Fodder Development is concerned, the following is placed on record and the same is recorded :

“2. Habitat Improvement and Fodder Development:

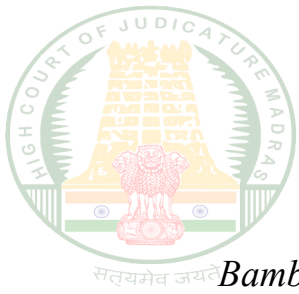
a) It is respectfully submitted that habitat improvement measures are being implemented simultaneously to address the ecological drivers of human-wildlife conflict. Broadly, forage resources for herbivorous wildlife comprise:

** Grazing species, consisting predominantly of ground vegetation;*

and

** Browsing species, comprising shrubs and tree species whose foliage is consumed by wildlife, particularly elephants.*

b) It is respectfully submitted that while grazing resources are seasonally available, strengthening browsing resources through enrichment planting in degraded forest areas contributes to improved habitat quality and enhances the availability of natural forage within forest ecosystems. Such interventions are expected to encourage wildlife, particularly elephants, to utilise forest habitats more effectively, thereby reducing their tendency to move towards adjoining agricultural fields and human habitations.



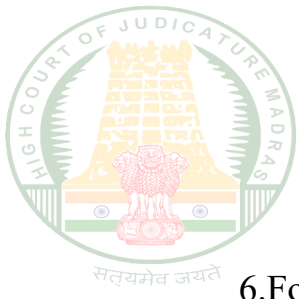
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c) Accordingly, 15,000 seedlings, including White Teak,

Bamboo, Vilan and other suitable native species, have already been raised and planted over 150 hectares of degraded forest area in Bolampatti Range during 2023-24 under the NABARD scheme. Maintenance operations are presently under progress to ensure successful establishment of the plantations and long-term improvement of wildlife habitat and fodder availability.

d) The above measures are expected to strengthen the effectiveness of the steel wire rope fencing through integration with ecologically appropriate bio-fencing and scientifically planned habitat improvement, thereby contributing towards long-term mitigation of human-elephant conflict.”

5. With reference to the meeting of the Steering Committee which has already been constituted as per G.O.Ms.No.109, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, it is made clear that the same has to be conducted periodically. It could be seen that the meeting has not been conducted for a long time. Let the next meeting be conducted at the earliest. It must be seen that appropriate Experts have been included in the said Committee so as to make a comprehensive review with reference to the invasives and their removal in the forests of Tamil Nadu. The Committee constituted by this Court has already submitted a report and the said report shall also be taken note of in the next meeting to be conducted by the Committee for further course of action.



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6.For filing further status report in this regard, call on 11.09.2026.

G-Square :

7.The learned Additional Advocate General would submit that they require some more time to make their stand in writing with reference to the township as to whether it falls within Buffer Zone and whether it is permissible, etc..

8.Call on 14.08.2026.

Destruction of Ivory :

9.With reference to destruction of ivory, it is submitted by the learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Mr.Mohammed Fayaz Ali, learned Special Government Pleader, and the learned *Amici Curiae* that the samples are going to be destructed this Sunday, i.e., 09.08.2026, as per the directions given in the earlier order and that they will report the result in the next hearing.

10.With reference to taking stock of the ivory available with the Forest Department in their various godowns and offices, etc., throughout the State of Tamil Nadu, the learned Additional Advocate General would submit that, already, the process has begun and would further submit that if four weeks' time is granted,



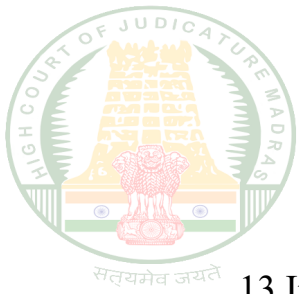
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they will compile the data and present it before this Court. We have already granted time, but since a request is made, we are granting further time. It is made clear that the entire exercise should be completed and the data should be filed before this Court within the next hearing date. Needless to mention, the data which is required is both with reference to what is recovered from the poachers and is otherwise available with the Department on account of death on natural cause and other forms of recovery, etc.

11.Call on 11.09.2026.

Restoration and maintenance of Singanallur Lake :

12.With reference to the matter relating to the restoration and maintenance of Singanallur Lake, Mr.Muralidharan, Party-in-Person, would file some documents, whereunder, it could be seen that a tender has been floated by the Government of Tamil Nadu for formation of earthen road from Vellalore Main Road to Trichy Main Road in Ward No.61 East Zone. The photographs produced before us shows that a pucca road is being laid by using heavy machineries. The Revenue records show that the road passes through the lands in S.Nos.459/2, 460 and New SF Nos.43, 44, 45 and 46 which are all described as 'Vaikal' (canal) in the Revenue records. Therefore, such a kind of activity cannot be carried out.



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13.In reply thereof, the learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Mr.K.Surendar, learned Special Government Pleader, would submit that, in the context of encroachment removal and other questions, the very same issue is also being considered in a writ petition in W.P.No.20160 of 2026 and already, an order of injunction is also granted in the said writ petition. In view thereof, let there be an interim order in this matter also directing the respondents not to proceed further with the laying of the road or any further developmental activities.

14.Considering the nature of activity carried on, it requires physical inspection, as it may also require a restoration. In view thereof, we appoint Mr.S.J.Mohamed Sathik, Advocate (MS No.1243/2015) as Advocate Commissioner to carry out the following directions :

The Advocate Commissioner shall visit the site, more specifically S.Nos.459/2 and 460 of AK-Singanallur Ward, Block No.3 and the entire Singanallur lake area and find out

- (1) the nature of work undertaken in the name of formation of earthen road;
- (2) the nature of the fishing and other developmental activities including de-silting that are carried on in the Singanallur lake;
- (3) the existing physical features of the lake and the area surrounding the lake, specifically with reference to the migratory birds, encroachment, if any, and



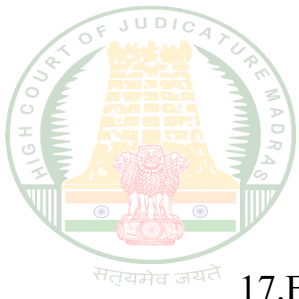
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all the developmental activities that are being carried on, both from the side of the Government and by the private individuals in the lake area and any other area classified as waterbody and abutting the areas thereby;

(4) whether any sewage is let out in the lake and file a detailed report.

15.If the Advocate Commissioner deems fit, on the spot, if he finds the earth is in the nature of sludge or water is contaminated, he can also take samples and the authority shall cooperate in sending the same to the laboratory for testing the same. It is open to the Advocate Commissioner to draw rough sketches, take photographs and videographs and file a detailed report with reference to the same.

16.The authorities shall also provide the Advocate Commissioner with the previous records as to the nature of vegetation that was being made in the area. The Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, shall also furnish all records as to the earlier work that were undertaken by the Corporation and also through the NGOs, more specifically M/s.Cube. The Corporation and its authorities shall render all necessary assistance to the Advocate Commissioner.



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17.For filing a detailed report by the Advocate Commissioner, call on
18.09.2026.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
07.08.2026

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.
- 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

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

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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.

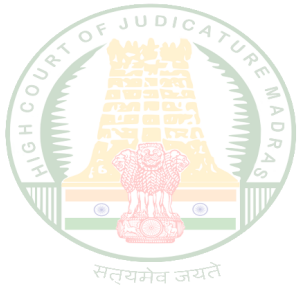
14.The Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.

15.The Commissioner,
Tiruppur Municipal Corporation,
Tiruppur.

Copy to :

Mr.S.J.Mohamed Sathik,
Advocate (MS No.1243/2015),
J Block No.3,
Kottur Garden, Kotturpuram,
Chennai – 600 085. (Mobile No.95515 24194)

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D. BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY. J.

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