



W.P.No.27356 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 21.08.2026

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CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N. SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAJASEKAR

W.P.No.27356 of 2019,
W.M.P.No.23020 of 2025, W.M.P.No.23022 of 2025,
W.M.P.Nos.23023 & 24519 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 80 Others

Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.23020 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)

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W.M.P.No.23022 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.23023 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.24519 of 2025

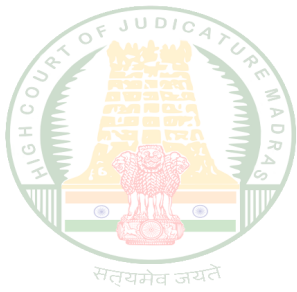
S.Muralidharan

... 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)



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W.P.No.27356 of 2019 :

For Petitioner :

Mr.Muralidharan (P-IN-P)

For Respondent(s):

Mr.K.Surendar,
Special 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

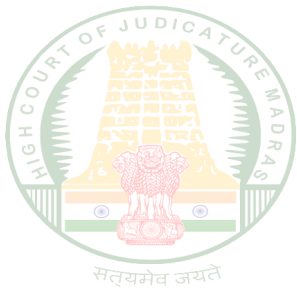
Mr.K.S.Punithan,
Standing Counsel for R74 (TTDC)

Mr.R.Bharanidaran
Standing Counsel for R75 (HR & CE)

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

Mr.D.Ferdinand for R78 (Coimbatore Corporation)

Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, Standing Counsel for Railways



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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

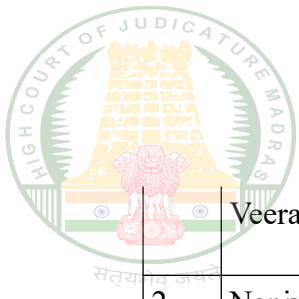
ORDER

Illegal Resorts at Anaikatti Area/Elephant Protection :

Pursuant to the earlier directions issued by this Court dated 31.10.2025 and 12.12.2025, a letter addressed to the learned Government Pleader is placed before us by the learned Special Government Pleader, wherein, it is indicated that a joint field inspection was conducted by the Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the District Collector along with the Forest Range Officer, Tahsildar, Coimbatore (North) and the Block Development Officer, Periyanaickenpalayam, in respect of the private resorts functioning in the villages, namely, No.24 Veerapandi Village Panchayat and No.22 Nanjundapuram Village Panchayat.

2.Out of the ten resorts functioning in the area, only the following two resorts have proper planning permission :

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Village Panchayat</i>	<i>Name of Resort</i>	<i>Extent in Sq.ft.</i>	<i>DTCP Approval No.</i>	<i>Approval of Panchayat Administration</i>
1	No.24	My Village Eco	67262	DTCP/Reg113C/	ROC No.3/2026-



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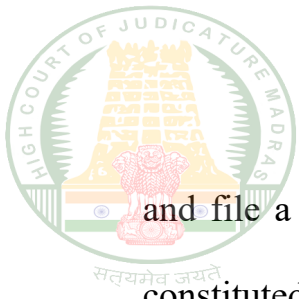
	Veerapandi	Tourist Resort		731/2022	2027, dated 01.07.2026
2	Nanjundapuram	Darza Resorts	24288	47/2013-14 17, 18, 19, 53, 54, 55/201415, 4, 5, 6/2015-16 10, 11/2022-23	ROC No.33/2026- 2027, dated 01.07.2026

Whereas the remaining eight resorts, as under, do not have any planning permission :

Sl. No.	Name of the Village Panchayat	Name of Resort	Extent in Sq.ft.
1	No.24 Veerapandi	SR Jungle Resort	4.97.39 Hc
2	No.24 Veerapandi	Corniche Inn	0.50.60 Hc
3	No.24 Veerapandi	Dolphins Resort and Restaurant	0.94.0 Hc
4	No.24 Veerapandi	K.K.Selfie Point	1.85.10 Hc
5	No.24 Veerapandi	Farm Retreat	2.38.83 Hc
6	No.24 Veerapandi	Fire Fly Resort	1.08.5 Hc
7	No.24 Veerapandi	Bharath Holidays Resort	3.49.0 Hc
8	No.24 Veerapandi	Gmax Resort and Restaurant	3.52.5 Hc

Even the said two resorts obtained such permission only on 01.07.2026, i.e., during the previous month. As far as the other eight resorts identified by the Committee constituted by this Court are concerned, they do not have any proper planning permission or other requisite licences or permissions.

3.In such view of the matter, the District Collector, Coimbatore, is directed to forthwith close the remaining eight resorts identified by the Committee, which do not have planning permission, requisite licences or other statutory approvals,



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and file a report before this Court on the next date of hearing. The Committee constituted by this Court is directed to conduct a further field inspection and ascertain whether any other resorts are functioning in the said area. If any other resorts are found to be functioning without the requisite permissions or approvals, appropriate action shall be taken against such establishments in accordance with the directions already issued by this Court.

4.The District Collector, Coimbatore, is also directed to verify the approvals granted by the Panchayat Administration in respect of the aforesaid two resorts on 01.07.2026, vide ROC No.3/2026-2027 and ROC No.33/2026-2027. If, upon verification, it is found that there is any violation or irregularity in granting such approvals, the same shall be specifically reported to this Court on the next date of hearing.

5.Call on 18.09.2026.

Banning of Night Traffic on SH-164 :

6.Learned Special Government Pleader seeks time to file a status report in this regard. Call on 18.09.2026.



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Marudhamalai Murugan Temple & Anuvavi Subramaniyar Temple :

7.As regards Marudhamalai Murugan Temple, it is submitted by the learned Senior Counsel that they are in the process of exploring the possibility of identifying any such place which would not be harmful for the environment. For filing a detailed report in this regard, call on 09.10.2026. Till such time, status *quo* shall be maintained.

8.As regards Anuvavi Subramaniyar Temple, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Temple would submit that, as of now, there is no progress with regard to cable car. In such view of the matter, call on 09.10.2026. Till such time, status *quo* shall be maintained.

(N.S.K., J.) (K.R.S., J.)
21.08.2026

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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.



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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

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.



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13. The Special Government Pleader (Forests),
Madras High Court, High Court Campus,
Chennai 600 104.

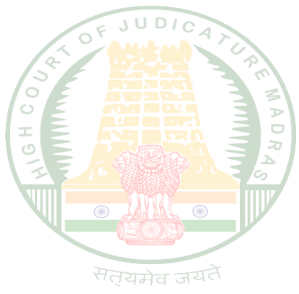
14. The Commissioner,
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,
Coimbatore.

15. The Commissioner,
Tiruppur Municipal Corporation,
Tiruppur.

16. The Secretary to Government,
Forests and Wildlife,
Government Secretariat,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala 695001.

17. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden,
O/o. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden,
II floor, Vanalakshmi, Forest Headquarters,
Vazhuthacaud, Thycaud P O,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala 695014.

18. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO),
Divisional Forest Office,
Palakkad Forest Division,
Olavacode PO, Palakkad,
Kerala 678002.



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AND
K. RAJASEKAR. J.

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