



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.07.2026

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CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

W.P.(MD).Nos.16485 of 2015, 14699 of 2015
& W.P.No.3075 of 2017

Vaiko, General Secretary,
Marumalarchi Dravida Munetra Kalagam (MDMK),
No.12, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Salai, Egmore,
Chennai – 600 008.

... Petitioner
in W.P.(MD) No.16485 of 2015

M.Patturajan

... Petitioner
in W.P.(MD) No.14699 of 2015

Sharath.P.Nair

... Petitioner
in W.P.No.3075 of 2017

Vs.

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009 and 743 others .

... Respondents
in W.P.(MD) No.16485 of 2015

1.The Commissioner,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation,
Anna Maligai, Madurai and 3 others

... Respondents
in W.P.(MD) No.14699 of 2015

1.The Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009 and 21 others

... Respondents
in W.P.No.3075 of 2017



W.P.(MD) No.16485 of 2015:

For Petitioner :

Mr.Vaiko
Party-in-Person

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 RR 1 -16, 18 -655, 665 – 673, 737 and 738
Mr.S.M.Ananthamurugan for R17
Mr.R.Karthikeyan for R38
Mr.M.Govindan
for RR 380 – 382, 384 – 394, 506 -518, 481 – 488, 541 –
551, 594 – 605, 323 – 341, 625 – 643, 513, 608, 260 –
272, 395, 398, 342 – 359, 400, 489 – 492 and 396
Mr.Perumbulavil Radhakrishnan for R741
Mr.G.Gomathi Sankar for R742
Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, Standing Counsel for Railways
for RR656-662
Mr.K.H.M.Afzal for R744
Mr.N.R.R.Arun Natarajan,
Special Government Pleader (HR & CE)
for RR674 – 712

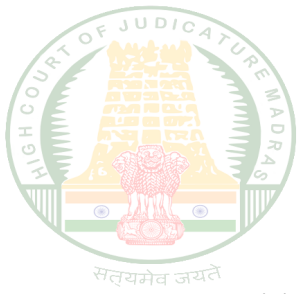
W.P.(MD) No.14699 of 2015

For Petitioner :

Ms.B.Asha

For Respondent(s):

Mr.B.Saravanan,
Additional Advocate General
for RR1 - 4



W.P. No.3075 of 2017

For Petitioner :

Mr.J.M.Hassanulbazari

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 - 22

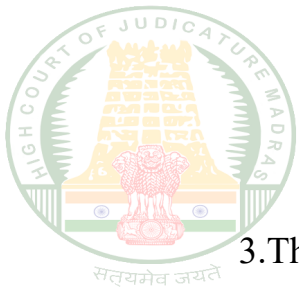
Amici Curiae:

- 1.Mr.T.Mohan, Senior Counsel*
- 2.Mr.M.Santhanaraman*
- 3.Mr.Chevanan Mohan*
- 4.Mr.Rahul Balaji*

ORDER

This matter relates to removal of *prosopis juliflora*.

2.The learned petitioner/party-in-person has filed a memo depicting as to how the work has been taken on a voluntary basis by himself and others assisting him and the photographs of the places in which the *prosopis juliflora* has been removed is also placed on record. The learned party-in-person would submit that, while the Government is yet to swing into action in full force, they, on voluntary basis, have removed in many places including Aandipatti Village, Theni District, Thiruneermalai, Chengalpattu District, Mattamalai Village, Sattur, Virudhunagar District, Coimbatore North and Thiruporur, Chengalpattu District.



3.The work done categorically demonstrates as to how the entire landscape of Tamil Nadu will look like after this invasive species is removed. The same can be taken as inspiration by anyone else and if any individual or organisation or institution wants to volunteer themselves, they should be encouraged to follow the footsteps of the party-in-person and remove in the respective areas after due permission. We also direct that, if any such individual, institution or NGO volunteers themselves for this purpose, the only thing that has to be seen is that no other trees except *prosopis juliflora* is removed and for this purpose, there is no necessity to value the trees. If any voluntary organisation undertakes to remove the trees and leave the cut trees there itself, it is for the Government authorities to take further control over the uprooted trees, its removal and cleaning the area, etc. Permission can be given to anyone and everyone, as that will also save the cost of the Government and expedite the entire process. So long as no native species is taken away, except *prosopis juliflora*, permission should be granted then and there as expeditiously as possible, not exceeding 24 hours.

4.As far as the progress in general, Mr.B.Saravanan, learned Additional Advocate General, would place on record that, in the District of Pudukottai, as far as the lands belonging to the Government are concerned, now 90% has been removed. This demonstrates that, if the officials and the local authorities are interested and coordinate with the Hon'ble retired Judges appointed by this Court



and with the other authorities concerned, it is very much possible that, in no time, this *prosopis juliflora* can be completely eradicated throughout the State and Tamil Nadu can be declared as “*prosopis* free”. When it is possible in one or two Districts, it only shows the apathy in other Districts.

5.Secondly, it is also brought to our notice by the Hon’ble Retired Judges appointed by this Court for the purpose (Hon’ble Mr. Justice A.Selvam) that, in many Districts, the District Collectors have flagged the issue of funds. In this regard, after hearing the detailed arguments on all sides, we deem it fit to appoint the Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, as a Nodal Officer for the entire State to coordinate with the Hon’ble retired Judges appointed for the purpose and the field level officials and others in this regard. Therefore, the Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, is appointed as Nodal Officer for the State for the purpose of removal of *prosopis juliflora*. We request the presence of the State Nodal Officer before this Court on the next date of hearing, so as to interact with him for his ideas and also to come up with solutions that will expedite the implementation of the directions issued by us on 18.03.2026.

6.It must be seen that the direction No.(v) of the order dated 18.03.2026, which requires the District Collectors to immediately gather information from all concerned about the infestation in their respective areas and instruct all the



officials concerned to issue advertisements, should be carried out by all the District Collectors. The Nodal Officers shall also come with proposals as to how the initial funding can be made. It is also desirable that a State level meeting of the Nodal Officers along with the Hon'ble retired Judges and the learned *Amici Curiae* and the District Collectors be held in this regard, so that the entire process can be kick started and continued on a smooth basis.

7. Further, we had already made observations with reference to initial and regular remuneration for the Hon'ble retired Judges/supervisors and due orders in this regard can also be passed by the Government.

8. With reference to Pudukottai and other Districts where good progress is shown, the District Collectors can also consult the Forest Department with reference to planting of native trees in the places wherever desirable and the said work can also start, as monsoon ensues.

9. Call on 31.07.2026.

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

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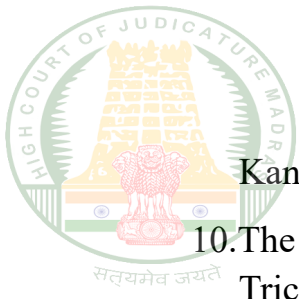


Note :

Registry is directed to communicate the copy of this order to all the District Collectors with a direction to the District Collectors to communicate the same to the Tahsildars and BDOs in their respective jurisdiction; and for the remaining official respondents, let the order copy be sent separately.

To

- 1.The Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
- 2.The Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
- 3.The Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public Works Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
- 4.The District Collector,
Madurai District, Madurai.
- 5.The District Collector,
Sivagangai District, Sivagangai.
- 6.The District Collector,
Dindigul District, Dindigul.
- 7.The District Collector,
Theni District, Theni.
- 8.The District Collector,
Ramanathapuram District,
Ramanathapuram.
- 9.The District Collector,
Kanyakumari District,



Kanyakumari.

10. The District Collector,
Trichy District, Trichy.

11. The District Collector,
Pudukkottai District, Pudukkottai.

12. The District Collector,
Thanjavur District, Thanjavur.

13. The District Collector,
Karur District, Karur.

14. The District Collector,
Virudhunagar District, Virudhunagar.

15. The District Collector,
Tuticorin District, Tuticorin.

16. The District Collector,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli.

17. The District Collector,
Erode District, Erode.

18. The District Collector,
Thiruppur District, Thiruppur.

19. The District Collector,
Coimbatore District, Coimbatore.

20. The District Collector,
Nilgiris District, Ooty.

21. The District Collector,
Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri.

22. The District Collector,
Dharmapuri District, Dharmapuri.

23. The District Collector,
Salem District, Salem.

24. The District Collector,
Namakkal District, Namakkal.



25. The District Collector,
Perambalur District, Perambalur.

26. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District, Ariyalur.

27. The District Collector,
Thiruvarur District, Thiruvarur.

28. The District Collector,
Nagapattinam District, Nagapattinam.

29. The District Collector,
Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.

30. The District Collector,
Villupuram District, Villupuram.

31. The District Collector,
Vellore District, Vellore.

32. The District Collector,
Kanjipuram District, Kanjipuram.

33. The District Collector,
Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur.

34. The District Collector,
Chennai District, Chennai.

35. The District Collector,
Thiruvannamalai District,
Thiruvannamalai.

36. The Chairman,
National Highways Authority of India,
G-5 and 6, Sector-10, Dwarka,
New Delhi – 110 075.

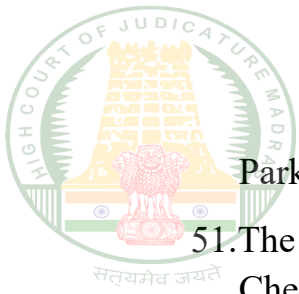
37. The Chairman,
Port of Chennai, No. 1, Rajaji Salai,
Chennai – 600 001.

38. The Joint Chief Engineer (General),
Public Works Department, Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.



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39. The Joint Chief Engineer (Irrigation),
PWD Superintending Engineer (Procurement Cell),
Iamwaram Project, Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.
40. The Joint Chief Engineer (Plan Formulation),
PWD, W.R.O.,
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.
41. The Joint Chief Engineer (Operation & Maintenance),
PWD, W.R.O.,
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.
42. The Joint Chief Engineer (Design, Research and Construction Support),
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.
43. The Joint Chief Engineer (State Ground & Surface Water Resources Data
Centre),
Taramani, Chennai – 600 113.
44. The Deputy Chief Engineer,
Chennai Region, Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005.
45. The Deputy Chief Engineer,
Tiruchi Region, Pudukkottai Road,
P.B. No. 803, Subramaniapuram, Trichy – 620 020.
46. The Deputy Chief Engineer,
Pollachi Region, Town Hall,
Coimbatore – 641 001.
47. The Deputy Chief Engineer,
Madurai Region,
Thallakulam, Madurai – 625 002.
48. The Joint Director,
Institute for Water Studies,
Taramani, Chennai – 600 113.
49. The Director, Irrigation Management,
Training Institute, Thuvakudi, Trichy – 620 015.
50. The General Manager, Southern Railways,
General Manager Office, General Branch,
1st Floor, NGO Main Building, Southern Railway,



Park Town, Chennai – 600 003.

51. The Divisional Railway Manager,
Chennai Division, Divisional Railway Manager Office,
DRM Complex, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai – 600 003.

52. The Divisional Railway Manager,
Trichy Division, Divisional Railway Manager Office,
DRM Complex, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli – 620 001.

53. The Divisional Railway Manager,
Madurai Division, Divisional Railway Manager Office,
DRM Complex, Southern Railway, Madurai – 625 016.

54. The Divisional Railway Manager,
Salem Division, Divisional Railway Manager Office,
DRM Complex, Southern Railway, Salem – 600 005.

55. The Divisional Railway Manager,
Trivandrum Division, DRM (Genl), DRM Complex,
Southern Railway, Thycaud, Trivandrum – 649 914.

56. The General Manager,
Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai – 600 038.

57. The General Manager,
Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli,
Tiruchirappalli – 620 016, Tamil Nadu, India.

58. The General Manager,
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited,
Trichy – 620 014.

59. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Highways & Minor Ports Department, Fort St. George,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

60. The Project Director,
Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project – II,
No. 171, Kesavaperumalpuram,
Greenways Road, Raja Annamalaipuram,
Chennai – 600 028.

61. The Director General (I.C.),



Highway Department Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

62. The Chief Engineer (H),

National Highways, Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

63. The Chief Engineer (H), Projects,

Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

64. The Chief Engineer (H), NABARD & Rural Road,

Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

65. The Chief Engineer (H), Planning, Designs and Investigation,

Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

66. The Director,

Highways Research Station,
76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

67. The Chief Engineer (H), Metro,

Integrated Chief Engineers' Office,
HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

68. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Chennai, Chennai District.

69. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Chennai, Chennai District.

70. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Vellore, Thiruvallur District.

71. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Thiruvallur, Thiruvallur District.

72. The Assistant Commissioner,



HR & CE Department,
Kancheepuram, Kancheepuram District.

73. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Vellore, Vellore District.

74. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Salem, Salem District.

75. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri District and Krishnagiri District.

76. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Salem, Salem District.

77. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Namakkal, Namakkal District.

78. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Coimbatore, Coimbatore District.

79. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Coimbatore, Coimbatore District and Nilgiris District.

80. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Erode, Erode District.

81. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Tiruppur, Tiruppur District.

82. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Thanjavur, Thanjavur District.

83. The Assistant Commissioner,



HR & CE Department,
Thanjavur, Thanjavur District.

84. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Nagapattinam, Nagapattinam District (except Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai and
Tharangambadi Taluks).

85. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Thiruvallur, Thiruvallur District.

86. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Mayiladuthurai.

87. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Kumbakonam–Thiruvidadaimaruthur, Kumbakonam Taluk, Thanjavur
District, and Mayiladuthurai, Sirkali and Tharangambadi Taluks in
Nagapattinam District.

88. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Villupuram, Cuddalore District.

89. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Cuddalore, Cuddalore District.

90. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department,
Villupuram, Villupuram District.

91. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvannamalai District.

92. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruchirappalli District.

93. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruchirappalli District.

94. The Assistant Commissioner,



HR & CE Department, Ariyalur, Perambalur District and Ariyalur District.

95. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai District.

96. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Karur, Karur District.

97. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Madurai, Madurai District.

98. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Madurai, Madurai District.

99. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Dindigul, Dindigul District.

100. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Sivagangai, Sivagangai District.

101. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Virudhunagar, Virudhunagar District.

102. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Paramakudi, Sivagangai District and Ramanathapuram District.

103. The Joint Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.

104. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.

105. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Thoothukudi, Thoothukudi District.

106. The Assistant Commissioner,

HR & CE Department, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District.

107. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,

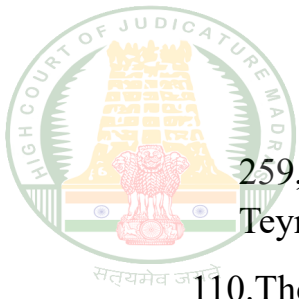
No. 1, Jeenis Salai, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.

108. The Conservator of Forests,

Chennai Circle, 259, Anna Salai,

DMS Compound, III Floor, Teynampet, Chennai – 600 006.

109. The Wildlife Warden,



259, Anna Salai, DMS Compound, IV Floor,
Teynampet, Chennai – 600 006.

110. The Forest Utilisation Officer,

259, Anna Salai, DMS Compound, III Floor,
Teynampet, Chennai – 600 006.

111. The Assistant Conservator of Forests,

Forest Protection Squad,
259, Anna Salai, DMS Compound, III Floor,
Teynampet, Chennai – 600 006.

112. The Chairman,

Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited,
30, Gandhimandapam Road, Kotturpuram,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 085.

113. The Director,

Arignar Anna Zoological Park,
Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

114. The Guindy National Park Range,

Guindy, Chennai – 600 025.

115. The Special Government Pleader (Forest Cases),

High Court, Chennai – 600 014.

116. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Research),

State Forest Research Institute,
Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

117. The Conservator of Forests (Research),

State Forest Research Institute Campus,
Kolappakkam (Via), Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

118. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Research),

State Forest Institute Campus,
Kolappam (Via), Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

119. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Extension),

State Forest Institute Campus,
Kolappam (Via), Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

120. The Deputy Conservator of Forests,



State Forest Institute,
Kolappam (Via), Vandalur, Chennai – 600 048.

121. The Principal Secretary to the Government,
Highways & Minor Ports Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai – 600 009.

122. The Deputy Chairman,
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust,
Tuticorin – 600 004.

123. The Chairman,
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust,
Tuticorin – 600 004.

124. The Regional Executive Director,
South Region, Chennai Airport, Chennai.

125. The Airport Director,
Trichy Airport, Trichy.

126. The Airport Director,
Madurai Airport, Madurai.

127. The Airport Director,
Tuticorin Airport, Tuticorin.

128. The Airport Director,
Coimbatore Airport, Coimbatore.

129. The Airport Director,
Omalur Airport, Salem.

130. The Chief General Manager/OIC,
NABARD Bank,
No. 48, Nungambakkam High Road, Ambal Nagar,
Anna Salai, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 034.

131. The Special Director General (SR),
Central Public Works Department,
1st Floor, G Wing, Rajaji Bhavan,
3rd Avenue, Besant Nagar, Chennai.

132. The Defence Estate Officer,
Madras Circle,



No. 306, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai – 600 018.

133. The Naval Port Office,
Port Complex, Rajaji Salai,
Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

134. The Commissioner,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation,
Anna Maligai, Madurai.

135. The Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Thallakulam, Madurai.

136. The Office of the Principal
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Southern Region, Madurai.

Copy to :

The Secretary,
Revenue Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.



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AND

D. BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY. J.

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