



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 21.08.2026

WEB COPY

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAJASEKAR

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.K.Surendar,
Special Government Pleader
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.R.Bharanidaran
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.K.Surendar,
Special Government Pleader
for RR1 - 22



WEB COPY



Amici Curiae:

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

ORDER

Removal of *prosopis juliflora* throughout the State :

By our earlier order dated 31.07.2026, this Court had directed that a meeting be convened by the State level Nodal Officer/Secretary to Government, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, along with the District Collectors and the two Hon'ble Judge Commissioners appointed by this Court.

2.A status report has been filed today stating that the said meeting was convened on 12.08.2026 pursuant to the directions of this Court. It is also stated that the Chief Secretary had also convened a meeting on the previous day. According to the status report, the Chief Secretary has stated that the Personal Assistant (General) to the District Collector may be designated to maintain close coordination with the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners appointed by this Court and to ensure that the directions relating to the removal programme are effectively communicated and followed up at the field level. However, in Para No.13 of the status report filed today, it is stated that during the said meeting conducted on 12.08.2026, though there was a discussion regarding the allocation of funds to



each district for the efficient and expeditious removal of seemai karuvelam trees, the Secretary to Government, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, has stated that, after conducting the initial survey and identification of the trees by the District Collectors, the respective District Collectors shall submit proposals indicating their requirement of funds to the concerned Heads of Departments. Therefore, it was decided in the meeting that, after the proposals are submitted by all the District Collectors, the requisite funds would be allocated and a timeline for completion of the entire process would be fixed by the first week of September 2026.

3. On perusing the status report, we are of the view that the same is once again a delaying tactics, which is normally adopted by officials at the Secretary level. We have indicated, not once but on several occasions, from the very inception, that there is no necessity for conducting any further survey or specific survey in this regard, since *prosopis juliflora* has spread throughout the State, including water bodies, other Government lands and private lands. By various earlier orders, we have consistently directed the authorities to remove *prosopis juliflora* wherever it has spread. Therefore, conducting yet another survey and identification exercise is nothing but a further delaying process.

4. Hitherto, despite several directions issued by us, none of the orders has been implemented in its true spirit. Now, it is stated that, only after the proposals



are submitted by the District Collectors, the funds would be processed and a timeline would be fixed in the first week of September 2026. Even the status report does not indicate that any definite or immediate steps would be taken by the Government in this regard.

5.It is brought to our notice that, during the meeting, it is surfaced that sufficient funds are available throughout the State under the Mineral Funds, which are under the control of the District Collectors of the respective districts. The Mineral Funds have been created specifically for the restoration and rectification of the damage already caused to the ecology and environment. It is also stated that sufficient funds are already available in the respective accounts under Mineral Funds.

6.One of the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners, Hon'ble Mr.Justice A.Selvam, has also informed this Court that, after visiting various districts, it has been assessed that a minimum amount of Rs.5 Crores, at the initial stage, is required to be released by each district for carrying out the removal process. Therefore, we are of the view that an initial amount of Rs.5 Crores can be released from the Mineral Fund of each district by the respective District Collectors.

7.It is to be noted that we had also indicated that public auction should be conducted simultaneously. There are several persons who have come forward to



voluntarily remove the invasive species. In such cases, no additional expenditure would be required on the part of the Government. In fact, the Government will generate revenue through such a process. However, the very commencement of the process alone appears to be difficult. In some of the Districts visited by the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners, removal has already been carried out, whereas in several other districts, the process has not yet commenced.

8. Therefore, we direct the District Collectors of each district to forthwith release an initial sum of Rs.5,00,00,000/- (Rupees Five Crores only) from the Tamil Nadu Mineral Fund of their respective districts for the purpose of removal of *prosopis juliflora*. The process of removal shall commence, in the first instance, from the water bodies.

9. We make it clear that, if this direction also is not implemented and appropriate orders are not passed, we will have no other option except to initiate appropriate contempt proceedings against the officials concerned.

10. It is also stated in Para No.10 of the status report that each District Collector shall nominate the Personal Assistant (General) to the District Collector of the respective District as the designated Nodal Officer to coordinate with the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners. However, today, one of the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Bharathidasan, is also present virtually



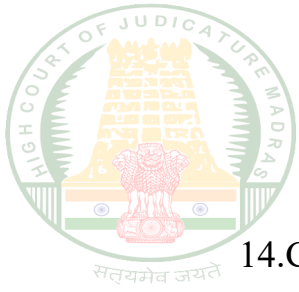
before this Court. He would submit that, after the meeting was conducted on 12.08.2026, no one has contacted him thereafter. He further submits that no designated Nodal Officer has been appointed by the District Collectors and that no process has been initiated on the side of the Revenue.

11. Therefore, the District Collectors of each District shall ensure that the Personal Assistant (General) to the District Collector of each District coordinates with the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners on a daily basis in this regard and carry out the instructions that may be issued by the Hon'ble Judge Commissioners from time to time.

12. For filing a status report in this regard, post the matter on 18.09.2026.

Memo filed by Mr. Panneerselvam, Advocate :

13. With reference to the memo filed by Mr. Panneerselvam, Advocate, the learned Special Government Pleader would submit that, since the application was not submitted by Mr. Panneerselvam, Advocate, in time, the tender process has been finalised, in response to which, Mr. Panneerselvam would submit that, in the tender process, no one has participated since the bid amount was too high. Whereas, the learned Special Government Pleader would submit that, if an application is filed within 24 hours after tender notification, the same will be processed as per law, to which suggestion, Mr. Panneerselvam has acceded to.



14.Call on 18.09.2026.

WEB COPY

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

mkn

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.

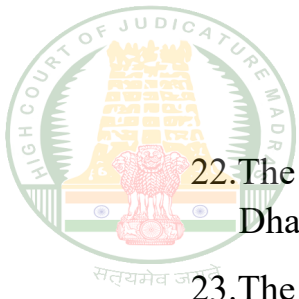
17.The District Collector,
Erode District, Erode.

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.

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,

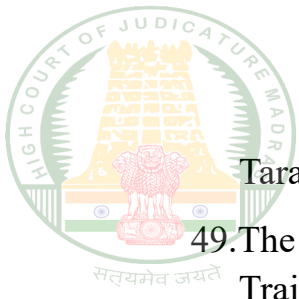
Pollachi Region, Town Hall,
Coimbatore – 641 001.

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.



WEB COPY

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.

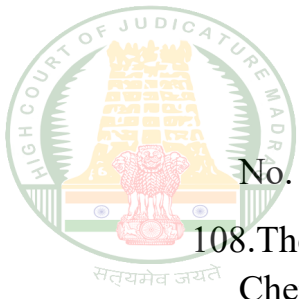
103. The Joint Commissioner,
HR & CE Department, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.

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.

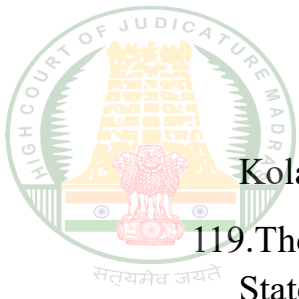
117. The Conservator of Forests (Research),

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.



WEB COPY

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.

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



WEB COPY



N. SATHISH KUMAR, J.
AND
K. RAJASEKAR, J.

mkn

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

21.08.2026