



W.P.No.7432 of 2020

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 11.09.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA,  
CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ARUL MURUGAN

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Jeevathma Kaingariya Trust  
A Registered Trust (vide No.853 of 2004)  
Rep. by its Managing Trustee Sri M.V.Ramani  
Old No.52, New No.18 Subramanian Street  
West Mambalam, Chennai-8.

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. The State of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Chief Secretary to Government  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Secretary to Government  
Home Department, Secretariat,  
Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.
3. The Secretary to Government  
Health Department  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai – 600 009.
4. The Commissioner  
Corporation of Chennai  
Rippon Buildings, Chennai – 600 003.



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5. The Director General of Police  
Santhome, Chennai – 600 028.
6. The Inspector General of Police  
Southern Railway  
Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
7. The Commissioner of Police  
Office of the Commissioner of Police  
Vepery, Chennai – 600 007.
8. The State Crime Records Bureau  
Having its Office at  
No.95, Greenways Road  
MRC Nagar, Raja Annamalai Puram  
Chennai 600 028.

.. Respondents

[R8 impleaded vide order dated 04.02.2021]

Prayer : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of Declaration declaring that the unclaimed/ unidentified human dead bodies lying in Mortuaries of various Government Hospitals within the territorial jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court shall be cremated in the crematoriums established by Chennai Corporation at free of cost.

For Petitioner : No appearance

For Respondents : Mr.A.Edwin Prabakar  
State Government Pleader for R1 & R2

Ms.M.Sneha, Standing Counsel for R3

Mr.A.Arun Babu  
Standing Counsel for R4

Mr.R.Muniyapparaj  
Additional Public Prosecutor for R5 to R8



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**ORDER**  
(Order of the Court was made by  
the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

None for petitioner.

2. This public interest litigation, filed on the allegation that unclaimed/unidentified human dead bodies are lying without proper cremation, seeks issuance of direction for making necessary arrangements for disposal of those dead bodies, by way of cremation in the crematoriums and for necessary arrangements at the cost of the State.

3. The status report and the mechanism, which has been developed by respondent, are placed on record by way of counter affidavit, which shows that there is, in place, a mechanism to deal with disposal of unclaimed and unidentified dead bodies, depending upon whether it is a medical case or a medico legal case. The status report further lays down the procedure to be followed before disposal of a dead body which remains unclaimed/unidentified. It



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also indicates that under the existing system, some of the dead bodies, upon applications made by government and private medical colleges, are also allotted to them.

4. What has been stated in the detailed affidavit filed by respondents reflects that a detailed mechanism is in place towards disposal of unidentified and unclaimed dead bodies. In our opinion, no directions are required to be issued.

5. Petition is closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

(MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA, CJ) (G.ARUL MURUGAN,J)  
11.09.2025

Index : Yes/No  
Neutral Citation : Yes/No

kpl

To

1. The Chief Secretary to Government  
Secretariat, Fort St.George  
Chennai-600 009.



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2. The Secretary to Government  
Home Department, Secretariat,  
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THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE  
AND  
G.ARUL MURUGAN,J.

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