



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 26.11.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA,
CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ARUL MURUGAN

W.P.No.40875 of 2025

&

W.M.P.No.45816 of 2025

People for Cattle in India (PFCI)

Represented by its Founder

G. Arun Prasanna

No. 8/22, Ragaviah Road

T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. State of Tamil Nadu

Additional Chief Secretary to the Government

Environment, Climate Change, and Forests Department

Secretariat, Chennai - 600009.

2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)

Forest Headquarters Building

Guindy-Velachery Main Road

Near Kannikapuram Checkpost

Guindy, Chennai 600032.

3. Chief Wildlife Warden

Forest Headquarters Building

Guindy-Velachery Main Road

Near Kannikapuram Checkpost

Guindy, Chennai 600032



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden

Forest and Environment Department
Government of Uttrakhand
Uttarakhand Secretariat
4 Subhash Road, Dehradun – 248001.

5. Director

Project Elephant
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

6. Additional Chief Secretary to the Government

Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai
Thousand Lights West
Nungambakkam, Chennai
Tamil Nadu – 600034.

7. The Commissioner

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai
Thousand Lights West Nungambakkam
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600034

8. Executive Officer

Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arul Tharum
Gandhimathi Amman Thirukovil
Tirunelveli Nagaram
Tirunelveli - 627 006.

.. Respondents

Prayer : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of Mandamus forbearing the Respondents from taking any further steps to transport a baby elephant from the custody of the 4th respondent or any other person to the Nellaiyappar Temple, Tirunelveli.



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

WEB COPY

For Petitioner : Mr.M.S.Seshadri

For Respondents : Mr.P.S.Raman
Advocate General
Assisted by
Mr.T.Seenivasan
Special Government Pleader (Forest)
for Respondents 1 to 3 &
Mr.NRR.Arun Natarajan
Special Government Pleader (HR&CE)
for Respondents 6 & 7

Mr.V.Chandrasekaran
Senior Panel Counsel
for Respondent-5

Mr.V.Srikanth
For Mr.E.Ganesh
for Respondent-8

ORDER

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

Though reply has not been filed by respondents, learned Advocate-General, upon instruction, would submit that though a requisition was sent by the State of Tamil Nadu to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand, till date no response has been received. He would submit that unless permission in terms of the provisions of



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

law is granted by competent authority, there is no question of baby elephant being transported to the State of Tamil Nadu. According to him, this petition, at this stage, is pre-mature.

2. Learned counsel for petitioner would submit that the application which has been submitted is for importing baby elephant from the State of Uttarakhand to the State of Tamil Nadu and that if any permission is granted to bring her and keep in temple, it would be bad in law in view of the fact that it's very natural habitat is being disturbed.

3. After hearing learned counsel for parties, we find that no permission has been granted for transfer of any baby elephant from the State of Uttarakhand to the State of Tamil Nadu under any order passed by competent authority. Therefore, in our opinion, petition, at this stage, is pre-mature.

4. In case any such permission is granted by the Chief Wild Life Warden of State of Uttarakhand allowing transfer of any elephant from the State of Uttarakhand to the State of Tamil Nadu,



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

it will be open to petitioner to take remedial measures by approaching appropriate forum.

5. Petition is dismissed as pre-mature. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the interim application is also dismissed.

(MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA, CJ) (G.ARUL MURUGAN,J)
26.11.2025

Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No

kpl

To

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government
Environment, Climate Change, and Forests Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600009.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)
Forest Headquarters Building
Guindy-Velachery Main Road
Near Kannikapuram Checkpost
Guindy, Chennai 600032.
3. Chief Wildlife Warden
Forest Headquarters Building
Guindy-Velachery Main Road
Near Kannikapuram Checkpost
Guindy, Chennai 600032



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Uttarakhand
Uttarakhand Secretariat
4 Subhash Road, Dehradun – 248001.
5. Director
Project Elephant
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.
6. Additional Chief Secretary to the Government
Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai
Thousand Lights West
Nungambakkam, Chennai
Tamil Nadu – 600034.
7. The Commissioner
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai
Thousand Lights West Nungambakkam
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600034

-



WEB COPY



W.P.No.40875 of 2025

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
G.ARUL MURUGAN,J.

(kpl)

W.P.No.40875 of 2025

26.11.2025