

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE AT  
CHENNAI MEMORANDUM OF APPLICATION  
(Under section 14 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)  
APPLICATION NO.42 of 2017**

M. Vetri Selvan  
Advocate.  
No.1-P, Pandu Klix Plaza  
330/160, Thambu Chetty Street  
Chennai - 600 001

...Applicant

-Vs-

1. Union of India represented by,  
Secretary to Government,  
Ministry of Environment and Forest,  
Paryavaran Bhavan,  
CGO complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003.
2. State of Tamil Nadu represented by,  
The Secretary to Government,  
Department of Environment and Forests,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai-600 009.
3. State of Tamil Nadu represented by,  
The Secretary to Government,  
Housing and Urban Development Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 600 009.
4. The Member Secretary,  
Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board,  
76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai - 600 032.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Panagal Building,  
Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.
6. The District Collector,  
Coimbatore District, Coimbatore.
7. Hill Area Conservation Authority  
Coimbatore South Circle  
Coimbatore.
8. The Conservator of Forests,  
Coimbatore Circle,  
Trichy Road,  
Coimbatore - 641 018.

  
DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER  
COIMBATORE

  
District Collector  
Coimbatore

9. The District Forest Officer,  
Coimbatore Division,  
Trichy Road, Coimbatore - 641018.

10. District Environment Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
J.Kapila Towers,  
266, Mettupalayam Road,  
Coimbatore - 641043.

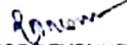
11. The Secretary,  
ISHA Foundation,  
15, Govindasamy Naidu Layout,  
Singanallur,  
Coimbatore - 641005.

.....Respondents

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 6<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT, DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE**

I, K.Rajamani, IAS, son of Thiru.Kuppanna Gounder, aged 56 years, employed as District Collector, Coimbatore, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

The Mahashivarathri Festival is celebrated on a grand scale in a places of worship like Perur Patteeswarar temple, Velliangiri Aandavar temple and Isha Foundation. Large number of devotees gather to celebrate and receive the blessings of Lord Shiva. Facilitating the devotees visiting these temples/places is a combined effort of a Local Administration and the respective temple / organization. Both the Local Administration and the respective Organizations have been working jointly to manage the festive efficiently. In this regard, every year before the Maha Shivaratri festival, a meeting has been organized in the District Collector's office to plan on the measures to be taken for the festival. Officials from various departments viz. Police, Fire and Rescue Services department, Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board will attend the meeting along with representatives of the respective organization and details of the same was submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. During the last hearing on 05.10.2020, the Hon'ble Tribunal in its order stated the status report submitted does not show that there is no proper monitoring system to ascertain as to whether all statutory rules are strictly followed and instructed to come up with a detailed report and also a future course of action to be taken for monitoring such functions.

  
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District Collector  
Coimbatore 2/6

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Therefore, it is submitted that the following are mechanisms followed by the state authority and District administration during the large scale religious functions like Maha Shivaratri festival.

**Nature of Mechanism adopted by the State authorities while such large scale functions are being organized by the religious institutions.**

**(Maintain and implement the Environmental Laws)**

MahaShivarathri Festival is being celebrated on a grand scale in the premises of Isha Foundation every year. This festival is celebrated near the foothills of Vellingiri Hills in Western Ghats, Poondi hamlet of Semmedu Village, Perur Taluk, Coimbatore. During this festival, many thousands of people gather on Maha Shivarathri day.

In my earlier affidavit, arrangements made for regulating and monitoring the Festival, were detailed.

Maha Shivarathri Festival organised by Isha Foundation is a preplanned event held for a definite period of time at a particular location. Any public event begins as a concept being proposed by any individual or organization. Firstly, a pre-event planning is done in which various issues were discussed like when or where the event will be held, type of event, number of audience interested, duration of the event etc. This planning was done at the local level with officers of all line departments like Police, Public Health, Revenue, Local Body, Fire, Electricity Board and Pollution Control Board.

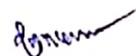
To manage this event, the organizing authorities had set up various facilities for the attendees like temporary roads, toilets, hospital and ambulance facilities, fire stations, water and sewerage facilities, etc.

There are various factors which have been affected by the gathering of masses which are enlisted as follows:

- (1) Water Supply and Quality
- (2) Public Health
- (3) Sanitation
- (4) Waste Water Management
- (5) Noise Pollution
- (6) Air Pollution

**Water supply and Quality:**

Water is required for survival. It's the most important duty of an organizing committee to provide safe and portable drinking water.

  
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COIMBATORE

  
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COIMBATORE

The organisers were instructed to ensure that the water supplied should be uniform and the constant supply should be enhanced by laying proper pipelines carrying drinking water from permanent Supplies. The pressure should be sufficient enough to meet the required demands at all outlet points. Water should be readily accessible at all food premises, toilets, fire fighting, first aid posts and all the other required area.

The recycled water should be used for cleaning, gardening, washing, flushing etc. The recycled water can also be used for fire fighting, dust suppression and even sometimes for luxuries activities like spraying fans, coolers etc.

#### **Public health:**

Public health is the most significant area of concern.

The organisers through Private and Public partnership had executed ways to create a clean environment for the mass event like regular fogging for pest control, cleaning of stagnant water pits to control the breeding of mosquitoes and flies.

Temporary hospitals (Medical Booths) and basic health centers were setup with qualified doctors and nurses to take proper care of the patients, the medicines and other important equipments for the treatments were available. First Aid Kits were made available across seating areas for immediate medical attention. An ambulance facility was also provided in case of emergency.

#### **Sanitation:**

Sanitation facilities through temporary toilets in sufficient numbers were provided to ensure effective and clean sanitation facility.

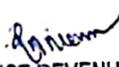
The organizers were instructed to collect waste generated at source through placing individual dustbins in the program venue, pathways, parking areas. They were instructed to ensure availability of adequate number of sweepers and waste disposal units to cover the entire event area. Containers or garbage bins should be placed in large open areas as approximately 4 per 100 sq mtrs.

The waste was segregated into 7 categories (Recyclable Plastic, Non-recyclable Plastic, Water Bottles, Paper, Areca nut plate, Food and Cardboard).

It is inferred that Food and Areca Nut plate waste were used by the organization for manure preparation for use in their farms and gardens. Plastic and other wastes were given to waste collection agents for recycling and disposal.

#### **Noise Pollution:**

The organisers were instructed by the Pollution Control Board to monitor the effect of the

  
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event on the Noise Pollution levels in the area. There are no complaints from the public living and will ensure to have a close monitor of the same in future.

#### **Air Pollution:**

Air borne pollution was the important issue taken into consideration. The organisers were instructed by the Pollution Control Board to monitor the effect of the event on the Air Pollution levels in the area and to control smoke and dust emanating from the area during the festival.

The transfer or movement of crowd, vehicles etc., leads to generation of dust. Even in high wind areas, there is dust all around. Dust particles adversely affect the workforce health and can interfere with the food and water quality.

The local body has done application of gravel to the dirty road surfaces, sealing of unpaved roads. The organisers have reduced dust by maintaining vegetation around.

#### **Impact of the event on the Reserved Forests, Wild Animals etc.**

The organisers, Police and Forest Department Officials were instructed to regulate the crowd and vehicles and ensure that

- The wildlife near the Festival venue is not interfered in any manner.
- To make way for the intervening wildlife during vehicular or people movement.
- The peaceful habitation of the wildlife is not disturbed during the arrangement for the event and also after the event is over.

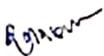
#### **Detailed action plan for monitoring such things in future, to avoid complaints**

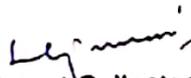
Maha Shivarathri festival portrays itself as it is arranged for the belief and traditions in the area. With the religious sentiments, and faith of thousands of people encasing the event, the Festival itself is a binder of different people across the Country. The effects of Festival had grown significantly over the past few years, its ability to draw the mass all around the country and also from outside the country has grown significantly.

In the presence of proper planning, a successful event can be guaranteed. Many modern techniques like CCTV, GPS, advanced water treatment units etc., may be put to use in future. With proper planning and environment awareness among attendees, overall effects on environment due to conductance of Maha Shivathri may be controlled.

It is very essential to establish excellent coordination and communication system between different organizing groups. A proper understanding, planning, timely risk assessment and proper resource utilization can make any event a successful and ECO\_FRIENDLY one.

It is submitted that The Maha Shivaratri Festival is properly regulated, monitored every year and will ensure to continue by following the above procedures to maintain the Eco friendly environment.

  
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Therefore, I humbly pray before this Hon'ble Tribunal to consider this report and pass such further or any other orders that may be deemed fit and proper according to the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

*Hej...* 016  
District Collector  
Coimbatore  
Before me

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this Date  
28<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2020 and signed his  
name in my presence.

*Donovan*  
DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER  
COIMBATORE



## OA 42 of 2017 Status Report of District Collector Coimbatore



Add label



**SpecialGP Forest** 22:16

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Respected officer,

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal we are herewith filing the Status Report of the 6th Respondent, the District Collector Coimbatore.

The hearing is tomorrow i.e., 29.10.2020 and listed as item 13. Kindly place these documents before the members of the Tribunal.

Dear Sir,

Please find the attachment.

Regards

Spl.Government Pleader (Forests)  
 High Court, Madras

