

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 94 of 2023

Satheesh

...Applicant

v.

Gudalur Municipality and Ors.

...Respondents

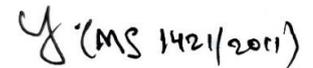
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Dated at Chennai on this 21st day of July, 2025

 (MS 1421/2021)

Counsel for Applicant

No more waste dumping by Somayampalayam panchayat at Marudhamalai foothills; area to be fenced

Updated - May 20, 2025 02:41 pm IST - COIMBATORE



WILSON THOMAS



Waste from the dump yard of Somayampalayam panchayat at Marudhamalai foothills being cleared on May 19, 2025 | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

The waste materials dumped by the Somayampalayam panchayat at Marudhamalai foothills near Coimbatore were cleared on Monday, following the instructions of District Collector Pavankumar G. Giriappanavar. The Collector said the area would be fenced soon to prevent further dumping of waste.

“The area was fully cleaned and the garbage was removed. The cleaned area was topped with soil. The removed waste will be handled by the Coimbatore Corporation,” the Collector said.

The action came a day after *The Hindu* highlighted potential impacts of the operation of the dump yard on wildlife, especially on elephants, as the dumping site is abutting forest boundary and traditionally used transit paths of the pachyderms.

According to the Collector, the panchayat has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the civic body and the place will not be used for dumping waste from now on.

“I have given instructions to the Assistant Director of Rural Development (Village Panchayats) and the Corporation Commissioner. They are coordinating with respect to handling sanitation aspects. There will not be any further sanitation related issues there,” said the Collector.

He said the issue was brought to the attention of the district administration a month ago. However, dumping of waste continued, even on Sunday.

After the continued dumping came to Collector’s attention, he discussed the issue with the District Forest Officer and Assistant Director of Rural Development (Village Panchayats).

Since the merger of Somayampalayam village panchayat with the Corporation had not been completed, the panchayat would bear the cost of its waste handed by the Corporation, added the Collector.

Published - May 19, 2025 10:00 pm IST



Tamil Nadu

Elephant found pregnant during post-mortem; plastic waste in gut stuns officials in Coimbatore

One of the veterinarians admitted that they were unaware of the pregnancy despite having assessed the elephant's health.



A post-mortem carried out on the mother elephant on Wednesday morning revealed that the animal was pregnant. (Photo | Express)

S Senthil Kumar

Updated on: 21 May 2025, 2:38 pm · 3 min read

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COIMBATORE: In a dramatic turn of events, a post-mortem carried out on the mother elephant on Wednesday morning revealed that the animal was pregnant. A

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team of veterinarians also found a 12- to 16-month-old male foetus at Maruthamalai foothill near Coimbatore.

The gestation period for a female elephant is 21 to 22 months. One of the veterinarians admitted that they were unaware of the pregnancy despite having assessed the elephant's health. They discovered it only during the post-mortem.

The elephant could have died due to the failure of internal organs like the liver and heart, which may have occurred a few months ago. That is believed to be the reason the animal fell sick near the forest boundary at Maruthamalai foothill. The foetus will be sent to the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) in Chennai.

In yet another shocking revelation for animal lovers, a few plastic bags were also found in the intestines of the mother elephant. This clearly indicates that the animal had browsed leftover food at the dump yard where waste from Somayampalayam Panchayat had been dumped for more than five years.

A video of the mother elephant browsing in the dump yard is also circulating on social media. Despite the dumping of garbage posing a significant threat to wild animals, especially elephants, whose population has increased in the last five years, only on Monday (May 19) did the

Panchayat stop dumping waste, based on a direction from Coimbatore District Collector G. Giriyappanavar.

According to sources, despite four experienced veterinarians, who had worked in tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu and a forest division, assessing the elephant's health for four days, they could not determine the pregnancy.

The elephant had been fixed in a sling and lifted using a crane on Sunday (May 18), a day after it fell sick in a lateral recumbent position at Maruthamalai foothill. It was given hydrotherapy on Tuesday.

It was heartbreaking to see the calf elephant trying to wake up its mother on Saturday evening. A video of this moment also went viral on social media.

N. Sadiq Ali, Founder of Wildlife and Nature Conservation (WNCT) Trust, said, "It is sad that the veterinary team did not notice the animal and concentrated only on improving animal health.

It is time to provide the latest gadgets to the veterinary team to assess the animal's health, as well as keep an all-equipped ambulance facility at the spot wherever the elephants fall ill at the earliest.

In this regard, the state government should allot funds for the veterinary

team, and that would be helpful for saving the animals in distress.”

“Two years ago, we petitioned the then-district collector to take steps to order the local bodies to manage their waste as per the solid waste management rules since wild animals are moving in several areas across Coimbatore district,” said Sadiq Ali.

“In 2022 itself, we had noticed masks, plastic bags and sanitary napkins, etc., in elephant dung at Maruthamalai Hill Road. Despite appeals to close the dump yard, the Panchayat had continued, resulting in the loss of the precious lives of the mother and the calf elephant. We are happy that currently, the Panchayat is in the process of filling soil over the dumped waste. The animals would be happy if the Panchayat stopped dumping the waste again,” said P. Shanmugasundaram, Secretary of the Coimbatore Wildlife Conservation Trust (CWCT).

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plastic waste

Preganant elephant