

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 273 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
based on the news item published in  
Dinamalar, Chennai Edition dt. 30.09.2024  
titled, "Exploited Kathiresan Temple Mount;  
Danger awaits the temple".

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Govt.  
of Tamil Nadu, Department of Environment,  
Climate Change and Forests, Chennai and Ors. ...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE 3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT-  
THE DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

**DATE: 11.10.2025**

**Before The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal  
Southern Zone  
Original Application No. 273 of 2024 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item published in Dinamalar, Chennai Edition dated 30.09.2024 titled, "Exploited Kathiresan Temple Mount; Danger awaits the temple"

Applicants(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu Department of Environment Climate Change and Forests, Chennai and Ors.

Respondent(s)

**Report filed by the Director of Geology and Mining**

I Thiru D.Mohan, I.A.S., Son of Thiru M.Dharmarajan, aged about 50 functioning as the Director of Geology and Mining, Chennai - 600 032 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

2) I am the Director of Geology and Mining and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available records. I file this report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in compliance with the orders passed in O.A.No 273 of 2024(SZ) dated 30.06.2025

3) It is submitted that the land in question covers an area of 52.34 hectares and it is classified as Sarkar Poramboke. As per the revenue records, it

  
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has been classified as "Kathiresan Kovil Malai Poramboke." This land is under the jurisdiction of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department and is managed by the Executive Officer of Arulmigu Poovanathasamy Thirukovil, Kovilpatti. The land described as Kathiresan Kovil Malai Poramboke has been duly entered and recorded in the relevant revenue records as New SF No. 1 (Old SF No.548) over an extent of 52.34.0 Hec.

4) It is submitted that, a portion of this land was leased to the Kovilpatti Pasumpon Thevar Charitable Trust for running the Uthandaraman Thevar Poolammal Matriculation School. The HR&CE Department, through Letter Roc. No. 1636/2006.V3 dated 08.02.2008, formalized this agreement for 5.04 acres, while the remaining 7 acres were restored to temple management.

5) It is submitted that subsequent to the news item published in Dinamalar Daily Chennai Edition dated 30.09.2024, the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Kovilpatti conducted extensive field inspection along with Kovilpatti Tahsildar, Firka Revenue Inspector, and Village Administrative Officer on 01.10.2024 to assess the reported activities and land conditions. From the joint inspection it was revealed that illegal gravel extraction had taken place without obtaining necessary permissions from the temple authorities. The Town Sub-Inspector of Survey & Land Records, Kovilpatti in his report dated 09.10.2024 reported that a quantum of 3352.586 cbm of Gravel has been illicitly quarried from Kovilpatti Ward B Block 1 TS No.1.

  
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6) It is submitted that, the Executive Officer of Arulmigu Poovanathasamy Thirukovil lodged a formal complaint, which led to the registration of an FIR (No. 565/2024) at Kovilpatti West Police Station on 08.10.2024 against Pasumpon Thevar Arakattalai as responsible for the unauthorized mining. The case was filed under Sections 303(2) BNS and 21(1) and (4) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Village Administrative Officer also filed a separate complaint that was initially lodged as a Community Service Register entry but later merged into the existing FIR for comprehensive coverage.

7) It is submitted that, two vehicles, one JCB with registration number TN96D6943 and another tipper lorry with registration number TN-52-9006 were seized by the authorities for unauthorized mining activity in the Trust Land.

8) It is submitted that the Assistant Director of Geology and Mining, Thoothukudi in letter Rc No.G.M.11-569-2024 dated 08.10.2024 reported the prevailing rate of seigniorage fee and cost of Gravel to Revenue Divisional Officer Kovilpatti.

9) It is submitted that the Revenue Divisional Officer Kovilpatti in Proc Rc No. dated 25.10.2024 levied penalty amount of Rs. 24,13,854/- (seigniorage fee: Rs. 18,77,44/- + cost of the mineral: Rs. 5,36,414/- + Penalty (10 times SF): Rs.18,77,440/-) to Thiru. Paramasivam, after conducting inquiries on 30.09.2024 and 21.10.2024 and after examining the written statement of Tr. Paramasivam dated 30.09.2024 and 21.10.2024, and the letter received from the

  
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Executive Officer of Arulmigu Poovanathasamy Thirukovil, under Rule 36-A(1) and (3) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959. Aggrieved by the orders of the Revenue Divisional Officer Kovilpatti. dated 25.10.2024, Thiru. Paramasivam preferred an appeal before the District Collector, Thoothukudi under Rule 36-C of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 19598. The appeal is under the consideration of the District Collector, Thoothukudi.

9) It is submitted that necessary actions have been initiated by the District Administration to prevent illegal quarrying and transportation of minerals from Kathiresan Temple Mount. Preventive measures and monitoring are being put in place to avert any recurrence of such unauthorized activities.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai may accept this report and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai  
this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2025  
and signed his name in my  
presence.

  
**DIRECTOR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING**  
**GUINDY, CHENNAI-600 032.**

Before me

  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
**Department of Geology & Mining**  
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