

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 134 of 2021

Thiru. Solomon Raja ,
Chrompet,
Chennai

...Applicant

Vs

The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District,
Chengalpattu & others.

...Respondents

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Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB
Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.**

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Vs

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Chengalpattu & others.

...Respondents

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 2ND RESPONDENT
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani , D/o. Jesu Rajan , Christian, aged about 56 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and I am filing this Report on behalf of the 2nd Respondent Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case as per records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the applicant filed this application No.134 of 2021 before this Hon'ble NGT (SZ) with the following prayer:

" i. directing the 3rd respondent to completely close the new drainage channel and to properly maintain and to operate the old existing channel as per DTCP plan bearing No.139/1973 that passess through 12th, 13th, 14th cross street and reaching the Veeraraghavan Lake without deviating the channel at the 13th cross street.

ii. direct the 3rd respondent to obviate from mixing of water and other organic and inorganic substances polluting the water, land and air into the strom water channel.

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iii. with a further direction to the 3rd respondent permanently refraining them from carrying out any construction on the diverted channel without the prior approval of the State Board”.

3. It is respectfully submitted that, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in its order dated 28.06.2021 directed inter alia that:

“Para 7: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is directed to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found.

Para 8: They are directed to ascertain as to whether any illegal discharge of sewage and sullage water is being done into the storm water drain which ultimately reaches the Veeraraghavan Lake. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is also directed to conduct the water analysis of the drain as well as the lake to find out as to whether there is any discharge of untreated sewage into the lake and the drain respectively and if there is any contamination caused on account of the same the remedial measures to be taken for the purpose of rectifying the same.

Para 9: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board(TNPCB) is also directed to submit an action taken report, if there is any violation found including the assessment of environmental compensation, if any as directed by this Tribunal in several other matters of this nature”.

4. It is respectfully submitted that in pursuance to the said NGT order, the Veeraraghavan lake and the vicinity of the said lake was inspected by the officials of DEE, TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar and Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat on 20.08.2021 and the following were observed:

i. The Veeraraghavan lake is situated in Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat, Thiruneermalai Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Chengalpattu District and it is surrounded by residences of New Colony and Mummoorthy Nagar of Pallavaram Municipality in the Eastern side, residences of

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Lakshmiipuram Eri karai street of Thiruneermlai Town panchayat in the Western side, residences of Periyar Street of Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat in the Northern side and residences of Thirumal Nagar, Selliamman Nagar, Durga Nagar of Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat in the Southern side.

ii. The said lake is fed by the rain water through storm water drain from the residential areas located in the eastern, northern and southern sides and there is no inflow from any other water bodies in the upstream. The overflow of the Veeraraghavan lake leads to Thiruneermalai Periya Eri.

iii. The Pallavaram Municipality has provided Underground Sewerage system and the same is functioning in all areas of the Municipalities since 2018 with the installation of sewer line, pumping line, lifting and pumping stations at 18 locations and the sewage is transported to CMWSSB premises at Perungudi, treated in the STP operated and maintained by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).

iv. The Pallavaram Municipality has provided storm water drain in the area in question to drain the rain water from the 12th cross street, 13th cross street, 13th cross street Extension and 14th cross street of New Colony and Mummoothy Nagar leading to Veeraraghavan lake .

v. Even though the said areas were provided with underground sewer for the collection of sewage and sullage , it was noticed during the time of inspection that the said storm water drains were found carrying sewage/sullage generated from the above said area of Pallavaram Municipality leading to the said lake from the eastern side.

vi. Further, the sewage and sullage generated from Durga Nagar, Selliamman Nagar, Thirumal Nagar and Periyar street of Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat area also found discharged into the said lake from the northern and southern sides.

vii. The lake was found covered with water hyacinths indicating the contamination of the lake water with sewage.

viii. There is no industrial establishment in the above said area in question.

5. It is further submitted that a news was flashed in Deccan Chronicle daily dated 20.08.2021 under the caption "Locals to take up Veeraraghavan lake revival

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with NGT in Chennai” regarding illegal discharge of sewage from residences into Veeraraghavan lake polluting the same.

6. It is respectfully submitted that, water samples from the storm water drain in the Mummoorthy Nagar carrying sewage and sullage leading to the Lake and from the lake were collected during the time of inspection as directed by the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) and sent to TNPCB Laboratory for analysis.

Photographs taken during the time of inspection on 20.08.2021



View of Veeraraghavan Lake



Storm water drain in New Colony 13th cross street leading to the Veeraraghavan Lake



Storm water drain in Mummoorthy nagar leading to the Veeraraghavan Lake



Storm water drain in new colony 14th cross street leading to the Veeraraghavan Lake

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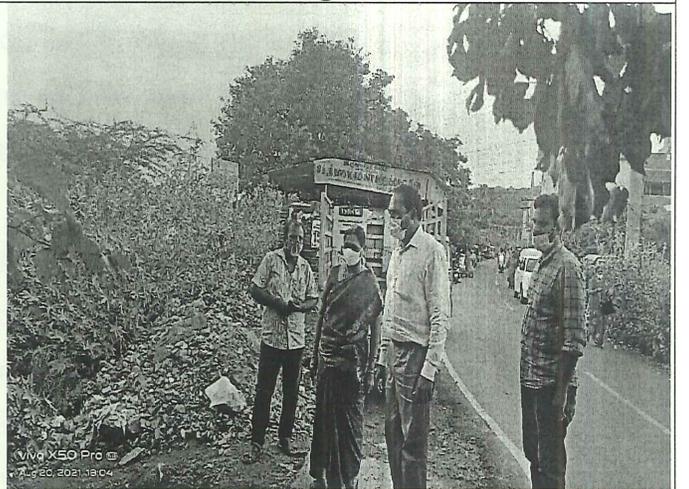
Storm water drain in Periyar street leading to Veeraraghavan Lake



Storm water drain in Durga nagar leading to Veeraraghavan Lake



Over flow of Veeraraghavan Lake leading to Periya Eri of Thiruneermalai



Inspection by the officials of TNPCB and Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat in the area in question

7. It is respectfully submitted that the TNPC Board issued directions vide proceeding dated 15.09.2021 under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended to the Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality to comply with the following conditions within three months:

- i. The Pallavaram Municipality shall identify and plug the discharge of sewage and sullage generated from their local body area into the storm water drains leading to Veeraraghavan lake so as to prevent pollution of the same.
- ii. The Pallavaram Municipality and Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat shall jointly take steps to remove water hyacinths in the Veeraraghavan lake.
- iii. The Pallavaram Municipality shall complete the underground sewerage system for the unsewered area and ensure that the untreated sewage presently let into nearby land and water bodies shall be stopped and ensure 100 % treatment of sewage.

J. for [Signature]
20/10/2021

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- iv. The local body is liable to pay Environmental Compensation as per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(NGT), Principal Bench order dt. 02.07.2020 in O.A.No. 606 of 2018 for non-compliance of the above directions.

8. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board had already issued directions to the Executive Officer, Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat vide Proc. dt. 18.06.2021 to comply with the following conditions within three months, interalia that:

- i. The Town Panchayat shall complete the underground sewerage system for the unsewered area and to ensure that the untreated sewage presently let into nearby land and water bodies shall be stopped and to ensure 100 % treatment of sewage.
- ii. The Town Panchayat shall expedite the process of sewer connection, construction, completion and commissioning of under construction STPs so as to bring them into operation
- iii. The Town Panchayat shall furnish time bound plan of action and show the progress made in the construction of proposed STPs so as to bring them into operation.
- iv. The Town Panchayat shall comply with the above directions within the time period specified therein. Otherwise Board shall impose Environmental Compensation as per CPCB guidelines.

Further, the TNPC Board again issued directions vide proceeding dated 15.09.2021 under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended to the Executive Officer, Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat to comply with the following conditions within three months:

- i. The Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat shall identify and plug the discharge of sewage and sullage generated from their local body area into the storm water drains leading to Veeraraghvan lake so as to prevent pollution of the same.
- ii. The Pallavaram Municipality and Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat shall jointly take steps to remove water hyacinths in the Veeraraghavan lake.

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- iii. The Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat shall comply with the directions issued to the Town Panchayat vide TNPCB Proc. dt. 18.06.2021
- iv. The local body is liable to pay Environmental Compensation as per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(NGT), Principal Bench order dt. 02.07.2020 in O.A.No. 606 of 2018 for non-compliance of the above directions.

9. It is respectfully submitted that the water samples collected from storm water drain in Mummoorthy Nagar leading to Veeraraghavan Lake and in Veeraraghavan Lake on 20/08/2021 were sent to TNPCB laboratory for analysis for the pollutant parameters such as pH, TSS, TDS, DO, BOD, COD, Heavy metals, Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform to assess the quality of water in the said water body and the report of analysis is tabulated below.

Statement showing the value of the Physico chemical parameters analysed

Sl. No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection		Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing
			Storm water drain in Mummoorthy nagar leading to Veeraraghavan Lake	Veeraraghavan Lake	
1	pH @ 25oC	No.	6.97	7.38	6.5-8.5
2	Total Suspended Solids @ 105oC	mg/L	13	26	
3	Total Dissolved Solids @ 180oC	mg/L	1038	1155	
4	BOD @ 27oC	mg/L	9	13	3mg/l or less
5	COD	mg/L	112	152	
6	Copper as Cu	mg/L	<0.033	<0.033	
7	Zinc as Zn	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	
8	Cadmium as Cd	mg/L	<0.013	<0.013	
9	Lead as Pb	mg/L	<0.07	<0.07	
10	Nickel as Ni	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	
11	Total Chromium Cr	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	
12	Hexavalent Chromium Cr+6	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	

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13	D.O	mg/L	6.3	6.2	5mg/l or more
14	Total Coliform	MPN /100 ml	790	1100	500 or less.
15	Faecal Coliform	MPN /100 ml	78	170	

The Report of analysis of the water samples collected from the said water body reveals that the parameters BOD and Total Coliform exceeds the standards of Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

J. Josephine Sahayrani
20/10/2024

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

BEFORE ME

VERIFICATION

I, J. Josephine Sahayrani, D/o. Jesu Rajan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

J. Josephine Sahayrani
20/10/2024

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE
RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru. Sai Sathyjith
Advocate, Chennai.

Date: 22.10.2021

Date of Hearing: 22.11.2021

