

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 43 of 2024(SZ)

In the matter of:

Dr. Balaji Thangavel,

Chennai

...Applicant

Versus

The District Collector,

Chengalpattu and others

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

Date: 15.03.2024

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

O.A. NO. 43 of 2024(SZ)

Dr.Balaji Thangavel

No. 3/75, T.S. Baliah Garden,

Nedungundram,

Vandalur Via,

Chennai – 600 127

Contact Number: 7299997777 & Email ID: balajethangavel@gmail.com

... Applicant

VS.

1. The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District,
Collectorate, GST Road,
Chengalpattu – 603 001
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Maraimalai Adigalar Street,
Maraimalai Nagar, Chengalpattu – 603 209
3. The Municipal Commissioner,
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation,
No. 28, Muthuranga Mudali Street,
Tambaram West, Chennai – 600 0045
4. The District Forest Officer,
Chennai Division, DMS Complex,
Teynampet, Chennai-600006
5. The President
Nedungundram Village Panchayat,
Kattangolathur Union, Nedungundram
Chennai – 600 127

...Respondents


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
CHENNAI - 600 006.

**Counter Affidavit filed by the 4th Respondent (ie) District Forest Officer,
Chennai Division, Chennai.**

I, V.A. Saravanan, Son of Ayyankutty aged about 55 years working as the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai-06 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. It is humbly submitted that I am the 4th respondent herein and such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case circumstances of the case on the basis of official records and as such authorized and component to swear this counter affidavit.
2. The answering respondent humbly submits that the Vandalur Reserve Forest of Tambaram Range comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Chennai Forest Division which extends over an area of 1172.01ha. in total including Arignar Anna Zoological Park. The area mentioned by the petitioner is the Northern boundary of the Vandalur Reserve Forest which lies near Perungalathur travel towards Sadhanadapuram, Alapakkam, Nedukundram villages.
3. It is humbly submitted that Vandalur Reserve Forest possess diverse flora and fauna in abundance. In the mentioned area, a road passes along and inside the boundary of Vandalur Reserve Forest from cairn no. 1 to 4 over a distance of 1.2Km from Perungalathur via Sadhanandhapuram, Alapakkam and Nedunkundram. In this stretch, the nearby local people who make use of the road, throw their household wastes at the edges of road (ie) boundary of the Reserve Forest due to lack of waste disposal bins.
4. It is humbly submitted that the following steps are taken by the Forest Department to restrict the garbage dumping, they are as follows:
 - a. Informed concerned municipality and corporation through letter to provide garbage bins to Nedukundram, Alapakkam and

Sadhanandhapuram villages and to make arrangements to clean the existing garbages.

- b. Awareness cum notice board has been erected by the forest department.
 - c. Cleaning camps have been conducted with the help of College students, NGOs and IT professionals often.
 - d. Booked offences more than 30 no of cases under Tamil Nadu Forest Act. 1882 during 2023 in the above said area.
 - e. With Antipoaching watchers and the help of municipality janitors, the household wastes were cleared in a weekly manner.
5. It is humbly submitted that in other hand, lack of carnivores in the reserve forest, the population of spotted deers have been increased and spotted regularly in this area. It is also submitted that the above said area comes under the corridor of the spotted deers which starts from reserve forest do cross the road, travel to selaiyur lake via Airforce, Tambaram and then return back to the reserve forest.
6. It is humbly submitted that the National highways have proposed in the above said forest area over 4.5ha. (ie. in the same Perugalathur 1.2Km stretch) for formation of Eastern bypass road under Forest Conservation Act 1980. Once the formation of the Eastern Bypass is completed, construction of compound wall will be executed in order to protect the flora and fauna of the Reserve Forest from anthropogenic pressures similar to the other areas of the Reserve Forest.
7. It is humbly submitted that through booking offences and conducting awareness campaigns will not resolve this problem unless every local people aware the impact of waste disposal near forests. So, I request the Hon'ble chairperson and his companion members to direct respondent to

direct the Respondent No.1 to allot proper site for the segregation and disposal of solid waste that are being generated in the limits of Respondent Nos. 3 & 5.

Date: 14.03.2024


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
CHENNAI - 600 006.

VERIFICATION

I, V.A.Saravanan, District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct on the basis of ground truth, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 14.03.2024


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
CHENNAI - 600 006.