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# Relocate dump yards from Pallikaranai: Court tells TN

L R Shankar



**‘Take Steps To Declare It A Ramsar Site’**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Highlighting the importance of protecting the Pallikaranai marshland, the Madras high court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to take effective steps to declare the waterbody a Ramsar site.

Justice N Kirubakaran has also directed the state to declare the area as a protected wetland under the Wetlands Act and explore the feasibility of declaring the area as a bird sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act. (Justice Kirubakaran retired on August 19, but a copy of the order is available now).

The other directions issued by the court include relocation of Perungudi and Alandur dump yards to an alternative site and prevent any disposal of municipal solid waste into the marsh land.

The court has also ordered survey of encroachments, unauthorised settlements and their immediate relocation followed by eviction whichever is feasible for the state.

The authorities must also identify and cancel pattas obtained illegally for the areas falling under the marsh land, the judge said.

Directing prohibition of any sort of non-forestry activity in Pallikaranai marsh, the court has ordered the state to reclaim unutilised lands allotted to government industries and institutions in the area.

“Relocate all institutions, individuals and industries who have been allotted any land identified as forming part of the Pallikaranai marsh,” the court said.

Besides directing the authorities to organise awareness programmes for people living around the marsh to enlighten them the importance of the land, the court wanted the state to form a committee for preservation of Pallikaranai.

This apart, the court has also directed the authorities to complete the fencing work around the marsh land and remove blocks obstructing free flow of water into the marsh land.

**MUCH NEGLECTED:** The court directed the state to declare Pallikaranai marsh as a protected wetland under the Wetlands Act

News Item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 24th September 2021

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