

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
MA NO 07 of 2024
IN
Original Application No. 55 of 2020 (SZ)**

In the matter of:

Pattabiraman. V

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Secretary to Govt. of TamilNadu
Public Works Department

...Respondent(s)

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	10.07.2025	Report filed by the 3 rd Respondent- The Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department.	1-7
2	26.06.2025	Annexure 1- Minutes of the meeting convened under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government for Misc Application 07 of 2024(SZ) in Original Application no 55 of 2020(SZ).	8-11

(Note: The page numbers are at the right bottom corner of every page)



Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:12.07.2025

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE**

**M.A. 7 of 2024
in O.A. 55 of 2020**

In the matter of
Pattabhiraman. V

Vs

The Secretary to the Government
and others

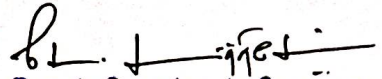
..... Respondents

STATUS REPORT REGARDING POTHERI LAKE

I, the undersigned, submit this Status Report before this Hon'ble Tribunal in compliance with the directions issued in the above matter and respectfully submit the following for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal:

The Original Application No.55 of 2022 was Suo Motu registered by the NGT, SZ on the basis of Chennai Express News paper report, dated 03.03.2020 under the caption "Back to the Brink" The report had alleged that though huge amount has been spent by the Government for rejuvenating the Putheri Lake in Pallavaram, due to the negligence and lapses on the part of the local bodies, there was no maintenance for the lakes, leading to large growth of water hyacinth affecting the flow of the water and also reducing the oxygen level in the water.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, disposed of the above Original Application No.55 of 2020 (SZ) by its order dated 18th July 2022 with several observations and directions.


Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

Now, one Thiru.V.Pattabiraman of Nandambakkam Kudiyuruppu of Kancheepuram district has filed Miscellaneous Application (M.A.No.07 of 2024) before the NGT, SZ under section 26 and 28 of the NGT Act, 2010 alleging non-compliance of the orders in O.A. No. 55 of 2020 (SZ) dated 18.07.2022.

The Hon'ble NGT, SZ in its Order dated 20.01.2025 in the said M.A.No.07 of 2024 has inter-alia directed as follows:

The directions issued in our order dated 18.07.2022 in O.A.No.55 of 2020 (SZ) must be complied with by the authorities concerned. In particular, the direction specified in clause (viii) of Para (33) of the Judgment is to be complied with by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

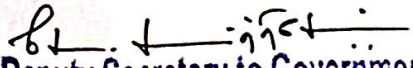
In compliance of the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the Chief Secretary to Government held a meeting to review the compliance status of directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal in OA No. 55 of 2020 and Misc Application.07 of 2024, in which senior officials from various stakeholder departments participated. Inter-alia, the following are the record of the discussions held during the meeting:

I. Instructions to the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation:

(a) Completion of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP):

The ongoing UGSS Works and STP project at Anankaputhur shall be completed within August, 2025 without further delay.

The Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, must ensure that 100% of households in the project area are connected to the sewer network upon completion of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) project in Tambaram.


Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

The Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has to ensure timely completion of STP and provision of 100% House Service Connections.

(b) Prevention of illegal dumping of waste in Potheri Lake:

Strict measures have to be enforced to prevent the illegal dumping of solid and liquid waste in and around Potheri Lake (TNPCB also). Appropriate fines should be imposed on violators under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, besides taking legal action. Sullage Tankers should be monitored to prevent illegal decanting of sewerage.

(c) Surveillance Infrastructure:

The functional status of CCTV cameras installed around the lake periphery and live feeds from these cameras shall be integrated with the Police Department and the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation for continuous monitoring.


Legal action has to be taken against the violators of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Liquid Waste Management Rules.

The sanctity of lake must be preserved. Restoration works shall be aimed at achieving good ecological condition.

(d) Regulation of Sewage Lorries:

The Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and water Supply Department and the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (TCMC), should ensure that:

- All sewage/sludge transport lorries are equipped with GPS tracking systems.
- Decanting of sludge is permitted only at designated STPs/FSTPs


Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

- In the event of any violation, the license of the concerned violator shall be cancelled, and heavy penalties shall be imposed as per applicable statutory provisions.
- Geo Fencing of Vehicles shall be continued and the movement of Sullage vehicles monitored closely.

(e) Lake Management Committee involving local RWAs from such committee:

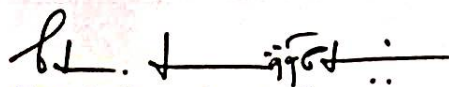
The Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, in coordination with the District Collector, Chengalpattu district, should form Lake Management Committee by encouraging the active involvement of the local Resident Welfare Associations. They should be made responsible for the prevention of encroachments/SW/LW/Sullage and for promotion of Greening activities.

(f) Walking/Cycling Track:

Walking/Cycling Track must be paved for the use of general public around the lake. It would serve the twin purpose of creating a recreational space and protection of the endangered water body. The expertise of the Green Tamil Nadu Mission could also be utilised in the rejuvenation of the water body.

(g) Colour coding of Sullage Vehicles:

Colour coding must be done for sullage Vehicles to identify such vehicles, apart from fixing GPS tracking systems in them. It should be ensured that sullage vehicles which do not adopt the colour coding systems are not issued Fitness Certificate. The Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply department shall take up this issue with the Transport Department/Transport Commissioner.



Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

(h) Overall Review:

- Tambaram Corporation Commissioner has to monitor the works taken up by CMDA and ensure that there is no delay in the rejuvenation and beautification work. If there is any undue delay in this case, it should be brought to the notice of Chief Secretary to Government.
- Works relating to rejuvenation and beautification of all the other 26 lakes within corporation limits have to be taken up simultaneously. CSR funds may be mobilised for this purpose.
- Lake maintenance guidelines must be displayed in the website of the Directorate of Municipal Administration.

II. Instructions to the Revenue Department


The Chengalpattu District Administration must survey encroachments in all water bodies within the district and submit report to the Government.

The District Collector, Chengalpattu, in coordination with the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, should monitor continuously to ensure that the lake is free from any form of encroachment.

The District Collector, Chengalpattu, in coordination with the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, should involve Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations for creating more awareness about the importance of lake protection and to create a vigil over the violators.

III. Instructions to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board:

- The quality of water has to be checked (BOD,COD,pH) and the safety of aquatic life in the lake has to be ensured. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has to monitor the tannery units in the Nagalkeni area to


 Deputy Secretary to Government
 Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
 Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

ensure that (1) Effluent water is disposed of according to environmental norms and (2) the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) functions effectively and complies with all regulatory standards.

- Bio-remedies like the use of vetiver (*chrysopogon zizanioides*) may be adopted in Potheri lake, as is done by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, in Ukkadam Big Tank (Periyakulam), as a natural solution to combat water pollution. The expertise of **Siruthuli** mission, could be optimally used in this regard.

IV. Instructions to the Chennai Metropolitan Development Agency:

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has to complete the rejuvenation of Potheri Lake at the earliest. Once the lake development is completed by the CMDA, it should be formally handed over to Tambaram City Municipal Corporation which would be responsible for its Operation and Maintenance (O&M) henceforth.

V. Instructions to the DMA

The Director of Municipal Administration must prepare a draft guidelines by including all the points discussed in the meeting regarding maintenance of waterbodies and submit it to the Principal Secretary to Government, MAWS Department for finalisation. The guidelines shall provide for inviting, donors/partners in maintenance of waterbodies. These guidelines, on finalisation, have to be published in the websites of urban local bodies.

VI. General Instructions:

The Chief Secretary directed all relevant departments and agencies to strictly adhere to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. He emphasized the need for coordinated action to ensure environmental protection, particularly in and around Potheri Lake.




Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

In view of the foregoing facts and the ongoing comprehensive measures undertaken by the Government to prevent sewage contamination and rehabilitate the Potheri Lake, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the above facts on record and pass such orders as may be deemed fit, including closure of the present application in the interest of justice.

VERIFICATION

I, S.Karthikeyan, S/o M.Somasundaram, presently working as Deputy Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, do hereby verify that the contents of the above status report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am duly authorized to file this report on behalf of the Principal Secretary to Government, MA & WS Department.

**Signed and Verified at Chennai
on this the 10th day of July, 2025.**


**Deputy Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.**

Respondent No.3

**Principal Secretary to Government
Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department
Government of Tamil Nadu**

Minutes of the meeting convened under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government on 26.06.2025 at 12.30 p.m. to review the compliance status of directions issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in OA No. 55 of 2020 & Misc Application.07 of 2024 filed by Thiru.V.Pattabiraman, Nandambakkam Kudiyiruppu S.O, Kancheepuram

In Chair:

Thiru. N. Muruganandam, I.A.S.,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu.

Officials Present:

1. Thiru D. Karthikeyan I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.
2. Thiru J Jayakanthan, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Government,
Water Resources Department.
3. Thiru.P. Madhu Sudhan Reddy, I.A.S,
Director of Municipal Administration.
4. Thiru.S. Balachander I.A.S.,
Commissioner,
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.
5. Thiru.M.Ganesh Kumar,
District Revenue Officer,
Chengalpattu district.

and higher officials from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply department welcomed the Chief Secretary to Government and officials to the review meeting and briefly outlined the case details and the orders of the Hon'ble Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone dated 18.07.2022 in O.A.No.55 of 2020.

Following this, the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation made a detailed presentation on the important directions of the National Green Tribunal (SZ) in the instant case and the status of compliance.

The Directions given by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone and its Compliance status were reviewed by the Chief Secretary to Government. The Chief Secretary to Government issued several directions/instructions to the stakeholders during the meeting, as follows:-

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The ongoing UGSS Works and STP project at Anankaputhur shall be completed within August, 2025 without further delay.

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VI. General Instructions: -

The Chief Secretary directed all relevant departments and agencies to strictly adhere to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. He emphasized the need for coordinated action to ensure environmental protection, particularly in and around Potheri Lake.

Water samples should be taken from the water bodies for proper testing once in 15 days/1 month and based on such tests, necessary remedial measures have to be undertaken.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Director of Municipal Administration to the Chair and other Officials.

D.KARTHIKEYAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// TRUE COPY //


SECTION OFFICER 30.6.2025