

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI
Original Application No. 1 of 2024**

Tribunal on its own motion SuoMotu
based on the news item published in
Dinamalar E – Edition dated 01.01.2024
under the caption “**SEWAGE MIXED
IN THEPPAKULAM IS FEARED TO
BE A HEALTH HAZARD**”

AND

1. The District Collector,
Sivagangai District,
Tamil Nadu – 630 562.
2. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Rep.by its Member Secretary,
No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 600 003.
3. The Commissioner
Sivagangai Municipality,
Tamil Nadu – 630 562.

...Respondents

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**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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...RESPONDENTS

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE SECOND RESPONDENT
– TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, aged about 59 years having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorised to file this Report on behalf of the second Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case as per office records.
2. It is respectfully submitted that on 2.1.2024, the Hon'ble Tribunal registered a case as a SUO MOTU based on the news item published in Dinamalar, Edition dated 01.01.2024 under the caption “**Sewage mixed in Theppakulam is feared to be a health hazard**” and issued notice to the respondents and directed to file their respective reports after making a spot inspection. In this regard, the report is submitted as below.

Keshini
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 003

3. It is respectfully submitted that Sivagangai Theppakulam was inspected on 24.01.2024 by the District Environmental Engineer and the Assistant Engineer, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, along with the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality, Town Planning officer and Junior Engineer, Sivagangai Municipality. During inspection, the following observations are as follows:
- a. The Theppakulam is situated in Sivagangai town, near the Sivan Kovil, surrounded by the Velunachiyar Memorial Building, a school, and a road, with residences nearby.
 - b. The water source for Sivagangai Theppakulam comes from surplus rainwater collected from Chettioorani and Sathapparoorani via channels.
 - c. The overflow from the Theppakulam flows through a channel that leads to Kathadikanmai.
 - d. The Theppakulam was filled with water during the inspection.
 - e. It was observed that sewage from the residences in the 11th Ward of Raja Sathira Street, Sivagangai, was being discharged into the Sathapparoorani channel, which connects to the Theppakulam.
 - f. Bushes and grasses were found growing at the junction of the Chettioorani and Sathapparoorani channels, located at 11th Ward, but no sewage discharge was noted in the Chettioorani channel.
 - g. No industrial discharge was observed in the channels.
 - h. The school, Velunachiyar Memorial Building, and commercial establishments around the Theppakulam were inspected, and no sewage discharge into the Theppakulam was found from these areas.
 - i. Bathing activity was observed in the Theppakulam.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality has reported that the municipality consists of 27 wards. Among these, 21 wards were connected with Under Ground Sewerage System which is linked with Sewage Treatment Plant, and the remaining 6 wards are only partially connected to the Under Ground Sewerage System and the work to complete the connections is currently in progress.

5. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality has reported that 11th ward of Raja athira street, Sivagangai and remaining uncovered area will be connected with Under Ground Sewerage System. After completion of works, the discharge of the sewage into Theppakulam through Sathapparoorani channel will be prevented ensuring improved waste management and protection of the water body.
6. It is submitted that the Sivagangai Municipality has established Sewage Treatment Plant in Muthupatti Village, Sivagangai Taluk with a capacity to treat 4.9 million liters per day (MLD). At present, Sewage Treatment Plant is treating 3.5 MLD of sewage. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, instructed vide letter Dated: 24.01.2024, to the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality to take necessary action to prevent the disposal of sewage into Sivagangai Theppakulam and expedite the completion of the remaining uncovered wards in the Under Ground Sewerage System.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the Board filed its report before the Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai. The Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 10.05.2024 directed as below:

“For filing the further report of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to report whether the UGSS is complete pursuant to the earlier report filed in January 2024 and the matter posted to 05.07.2024”

1. It is respectfully submitted that in compliance to the order's of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Sivagangai Theppakulam and surrounding area were subsequently inspected on 26.06.2024 by District Environmental Engineer along with Assistant Environmental Engineer, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, along with the officials of Sivagangai Municipality. During the inspection, the following observations were made;
2. The theppakulam was filled with water.
3. Bathing and washing of cloth were observed in the Theppakulam.
4. Bushes & grasses were removed at the junction of chettioorani channel & Sathapparoorani channel located at 11th ward of Raja sathira street, Sivagangai.
5. No sewage discharge was found in Theppakulam.

6. It was noticed that sewage from some residence of 11th ward of Raja sathira street and residences of Karunyanagar, Sivagangai were discharged into sathapparoorani channel which leads to theppakulam.
7. The Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality in their letter dt:25/06/2024 stated that household connection of 10,650 Nos. is under progress in Under Ground Sewerage System in Sivagangai Town and same will be completed as early. Copy of the letter is enclosed herewith.
8. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality was requested to take necessary action to connect the residency of 11th ward of Raja Sathira Street and Karunyanagar by Under Ground Sewerage System so as to prevent the discharge of sewage into Sivagangai theppakulam and complete the uncovered wards in the Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) as earlier vide this office letter dated 26.06.2024.
9. It is respectfully submitted that water samples collected on 12.08.2024 at Sivagangai Theppakulam were analysed and compared with the Designated Best Use of Water Class C standards prescribed by CPCB and notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 is given below:

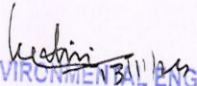
Location	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	Fecal Coliforms (MPN/100ml)
Sivagangai Theppakulam padithurai near vinayagar kovil	7.64	12.7	5.3	540
Sivagangai Theppakulam near chettioorani & Sathappaorani	-	6.5	-	5.5
Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection (class C)	between 6 and 9	4 mg/L or more	3mg/L or less	-

The analysis revealed that the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) at the Theppakulam exceeds the Class C standard, and the presence of foecal coliforms indicates sewage contamination in the water body, confirming sewage intrusion. (Report of Analysis is enclosed as Annexure - I).

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

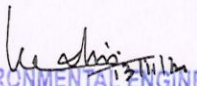
10. Further, it is submitted that on 18.09.2024 DEE, Sivangangai sent a letter to the Commissioner, Sivagangai Municipality to take necessary action to prevent the discharge of sewage into the Sivagangai Theppakulam and to complete the uncovered wards in the Under Ground Sewage System (UGSS) (enclosed as Annexure – II).

Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to pass an order or 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.


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

VERIFICATION

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, having office at No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, do hereby submit that the above contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief through records.


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



TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Madurai

(E Mail: aelmdu@tnpcb.gov.in, Phone No:0452 2489497)

ROA No.978/AEL/TNPCB/MDU/2024-25, Dated: 28.08.2024

1.	Name and address of the sender	The District Environmental Engineer Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Sivagangai
2.	Dated and Time of collection	12.08.2024, 04:30` pm
3.	Date and Time of receipt at Lab.	13.08.2024, 11:00 am
4.	Condition of Seal, Fastening	Unsealed, Unfastened
5.	Nature and Number of Samples	01 Number Water Sample

DEE Code No.	Bottle No.	Lab code No.	Point of Collection	Whether Untreated/Treated
DEESVG240117	985 , 1250	0923	SVG Theppakulam padithurai near vinayagar kovil	-

Test Report

Sl. No	PARAMETER	TEST METHOD	Unit	Test Samples Code Nos.
				Lab code no: 0923
				Bottle No: 985 , 1250
				DEESVG240117
1.	Conductivity	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 2510 B	µmhos/cm	932
2.	pH @ 25° C	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500 H ⁺	--	7.64
3.	Total Suspended Solids @105° C	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 2540 D	mg/L	20
4.	Total Dissolved Solids @180° C	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 2540 C	mg/L	512
5.	BOD for 3 days @ 27° C	IS 3025:(Part 44) 1993	mg/L	5.3
6.	Fecal Coliform	APHA 23rd Edt 2017, Part No. 9221-B	MPN/100ml	540
7.	Dissolved Oxygen	APHA 23rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500 – O C	mg/L	12.7

Note: 1. Results relate only to the items tested samples.

2. The reports shall not be reproduced except in fully approval of the laboratory can provide assurance that parts of a reports are not take out of context.

Authorized Signatory

S.V. Jayalalitha
28/8/2024
Deputy Chief Scientific Officer,
AEL, TNPCB, Madurai.



TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Madurai

(E Mail: aelmdu@tnpcb.gov.in, Phone No:0452 2489497)

ROA No.978/AEL/TNPCB/MDU/2024-25, Dated: 28.08.2024

1.	Name and address of the sender	The District Environmental Engineer Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Sivagangai
2.	Dated and Time of collection	12.08.2024, 04:15 pm
3.	Date and Time of receipt at Lab.	13.08.2024, 11:00 am
4.	Condition of Seal, Fastening	Unsealed, Unfastened
5.	Nature and Number of Samples	01 Number Water Sample

Bottle No.	Lab code No.	Point of Collection	Whether Untreated/Treated
964 & 963	0922	SVG Theppakulam near Chettioorani & Sathappa oorani	Surface water

Test Report

Sl. No	PARAMETER	TEST METHOD	Unit	Test Samples Code Nos.
				Lab code No: 922
				Bottle No: 964 , 963
1.	Fecal Coliform	APHA 23rd Edt 2017, Part No. 9221-B	MPN/100ml	5.5
2.	Dissolved Oxygen	APHA 23rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500 - O C	mg/L	6.5

- Note: 1. Results relate only to the items tested samples.
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Authorized Signatory

S.V. Jayaluktha
28/8/2024
Deputy Chief Scientific Officer,
AEL, TNPCB, Madurai.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Plastic Pollution Free
Tamilnadu

From

To

Er. S. Pandiarajan, M. Tech.,
District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Collectorate Complex,
Sivagangai - 630 562.

The Commissioner,
Sivagangai Municipality,
Sivagangai Municipality Office,
Thondi Road,
Sivagangai District – 630 561

Lr.No. NGT/Complaint/DEE/TNPCB/SVG/2024 dated 18.09.2024

Sir,

Sub: TNPCB - O/o DEE - SVG – Before the National Green Tribunal Application No. 01 of 2024 (S2) by Suo Motu based on the news item published in Dinamalar, E-Edition dated 01.01.2024 under the caption “Sewage mixed in Theppakulam is feared to be a health hazard” – Report of Analysis of Theppakulam water sample - Requested to take necessary action - Reg.

Ref: 1. Before the National Green Tribunal Application No. 01 of 2024 (SZ) by Suo Motu
2. Hon'ble NGT (SZ) order dated 10.05.2024 in O.A. No. 01/2024
3. Your letter Na.Ka.No.163/2021/H1 Dated 25.06.2024
4. Lr.No. 02024/Complaint/DEE/TNPCB/SVG/2024 dated 26.06.2024
5. ROA of Water Samples Collected from Sivagangai Theppakulam on 12/08/2024 (Copy enclosed)

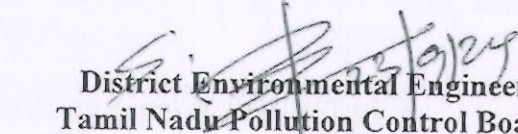
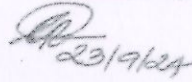
I invite your kind attention to the reference cited, water samples were collected on 12.08.2024 at Sivagangai Theppakulam and result of analysis of collected samples were compared with Designated Best Use of water class C standards prescribed by CPCB and notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 is given below:

Location	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	Fecal Coliforms (MPN/100ml)
Sivagangai Theppakulam padithurai near vinayagar kovil	7.64	12.7	5.3	540
Sivagangai Theppakulam near chettioorani & Sathappoorani	-	6.5	-	5.5
Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection (class C)	between 6 and 9	4 mg/L or more	3mg/L or less	-

The report of analysis reveals that Biological Oxygen Demand is more than the standards prescribed in Designated Best Use of water class C by CPCB and found that presence of Fecal Coliforms which indicates that sewage intrusion is there in the Theppakulam. (Report of Analysis is enclosed herewith).

In this regard, it is requested to take necessary action to prevent discharge of sewage into Sivagangai theppakulam and complete the uncovered wards in the Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS).

The receipt of the letter shall be acknowledged.


District Environmental Engineer
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Sivagangai


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

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...Respondents

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

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

Date: 13.11.2024

Date of hearing on: 14.11.2024