

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI  
Original Application No.116 of 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Times of India' Newspaper, dated: 28.05.2025, "**Residents blame Metro water for polluted lake; officials cite encroachments**".

....Applicant

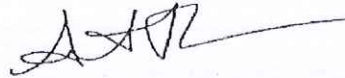
With

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply  
And Sewerage Board,  
Chennai and Others.

....Respondents

**INDEX**

S.No	Description	Page No.
1.	Report filed on behalf of the Second Respondent – Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.	1 - 5



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



**Report submitted by the Second Respondent - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 116 of 2025, taken as a Suo Motu by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ based on the news item in 'The Times of India' Newspaper, dt: 28.05.2025, "Residents blame Metrowater for polluted lake; officials cite encroachments".**

A. The OA No.116 of 2025, SZ was registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ on 05.06.2025, which was transferred from NGT, PB and directed the respondents to file their reports. To comply the Order of Hon'ble Tribunal, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, S.Vasuki, Daughter of Thiru. P.k.Somasundaram submits the report on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent.

B. A Suo Motu was taken up by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi on 05.06.2025, based on a news item published in 'The Times of India' Newspaper, dt: 28.05.2025, "**Residents blame Metrowater for polluted lake; officials cite encroachments**" and registered as Original Application No.298 of 2025 (PB). The news article relates to a polluted lake near Perumal Koil Street of the Velachery 100-foot road in Chennai, which has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and is now covered with algae, sewage, and filth. The Hon'ble Tribunal has impleaded the following authorities as respondents:

1. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, through its Managing Director, Chennai.
2. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary,
3. The Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai.

4. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai.

and transferred the OA to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai for further action.

C. The OA No.298 of 2025 (PB) was renumbered as Original Application No.116 of 2025 (SZ) by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai. On 28.10.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal, SZ, has implead the Water Resources Department as respondent No.5 and directed the respondents to file their respective replies/reports.

D. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board enforces the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 as per Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988, no person shall without the previous consent of the state Board shall establish any industry, operation or process, or any treatment and disposal system or an extension or addition there to, which is likely to discharge sewage or trade effluent into a stream or well or sewer or on land or bring into use any new or altered outlets for the discharge of sewage or bring into make any new discharge of sewage.

E. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board enforces the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987, as per Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1988, no person shall, without the previous consent of the state Board, establish or operate an industrial plant in air pollution control area. The entire area within the state of Tamil Nadu has been declared as air pollution control area with effect on and from the 1st day of October 1983.

F. Earlier, in connection to the NGT (SZ) OA No.02 of 2020 & OA No. 102 of 2021, the Velachery lake was inspected by the officials of TNPCB, Chennai (S)

on 11.09.2024 and 7 nos. of sewage outfalls into the Velachery lake were identified. (Most of the sewage outfalls were storm water drain mixed with domestic sewage. No sewer line provision was noticed for the encroachment areas on the bund of the Velachery lake) The ROA of samples collected revealed the presence of sewage. The consolidated ROA of samples is submitted as follows:

Parameters	Location of samples collected							TNPCB Bathing quality Standards
	Lat: 12.987281 N Long: 80.218207E	Lat: 12.988932 N Long: 80.215044E	Lat: 12.98957N Long: 80.209326E	Lat: 12.988742N Long: 80.20629E	Lat: 12.988626N Long: 80.204936E	Lat: 12.986766N Long: 80.219554E	Lat: 12.987065N Long: 80.218809E	
pH	7.18	7.12	7.02	7.07	7.23	6.91	7.09	6.5 – 8.5
TSS	84	146	92	32	28	42	50	-
BOD	16	5	28	6	9	9	17	3 mg/l
COD	120	80	312	88	128	128	136	-
Total Nitrogen	22.72	12.52	24.69	7.02	8.84	58.25	47.51	-
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	9.52	2.8	10.08	BDL	2.8	29.12	22.4	-
Faecal Coli form	1267	141	1274	689.6	242.4	396	2318	100 (desirable) 500 (Maximum permissible)
Total Coli form	5298	2841	5012	2938	2260	2733	6893	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)

G. A letter Dt: 28.10.2024 was addressed to the Zonal Officer -13 of Greater Chennai Corporation and to the Area Engineer -XIII, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply (CMWSSB) for taking necessary action at their end regarding the mixing of domestic sewage into the storm water drain, sewage outfall into Velachery Lake and non-provision of sewer line in the encroachment's areas of Velachery Lake, at the earliest.

H. A letter Dt: 05.11.2025 in connection to present application in OA No.116 of 2025 was addressed to the Zonal Officer -13 of Greater Chennai Corporation and to the Area Engineer -XIII, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply (CMWSSB) for taking necessary action at the earliest at their end. The Velachery Lake was inspected on 28.11.2025 and it was observed that the already identified said 7 nos. of sewage outfalls into the Velachery lake remains unchanged. (Most of the sewage outfalls were storm water drain mixed with domestic sewage. No sewer line provision was noticed for the encroachment areas on the bund of the Velachery lake). Hence, again samples were collected from the said 7 nos. of sewage outfalls and sent to the AEL, TNPCB laboratory for analysis and the ROA of samples are awaited.

I. It is respectfully submitted that the desilting & monitoring of encroachment of Water bodies comes under the purview of Water Resource Department/ Public Works Department and removal of encroachment of Water bodies comes under the purview of Revenue Department, Water Resource Department/ Public Works Department and Greater Chennai Corporation. Further, it is submitted that the control of breeding of mosquitoes comes under the purview of Greater Chennai Corporation, provision and maintenance of sewer line comes under the purview of CMWSSB and provision and maintenance of storm water Drain leading to water bodies comes under the purview of Greater Chennai Corporation.

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Dated at Chennai, on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

*S. V. S. 8.5.26*  
**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
CHENNAI - 600 032.**



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Vs

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply  
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Chennai and Others.

...Respondents

**Report filed on behalf of the Second  
Respondent – Tamil Nadu Pollution Control  
Board.**

Date of filing : 08.05.2026

Date of hearing : 15.06.2026

Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent: TNPCB

