

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI  
Original Application No.186 of 2025 (SZ)  
[Earlier OA No. 371 of 2025 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
Based on the News Item titled "Tannery  
waste pollutes Palar River near Marapattu  
residents demand action" appearing in the  
New Indian Express dated 18.07.2025.

With

1. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Represented by Member Secretary,  
76, Mount Salai,  
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032 and 3 Ors

...Respondents

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

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**Report submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ by the First Respondent - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 186 of 2025 (SZ) [Earlier OA No. 371 of 2025 (PB)] taken as a Suo Motu based on the News Item titled "Tannery waste pollutes Palar river near Marapattu residents demand action" appearing in The New Indian Express dated 18.07.2025 against The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Represented by Member Secretary and Others.**

A. The OA No.186 of 2025,SZ was taken up by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ on 23.09.2025 which was transferred from NGT,PB, New Delhi and directed the respondents to file their reports. To comply the Hon'ble Order, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, S.Malarvizhi, Daughter of Thiru.Subburam, submits the report on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent.

B. The OA No.371 of 2025(PB) was registered as Suo Motu on 28.7.2025 by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, based on a news item published in 'The New Indian Express' dated 18.07.2025 titled as "Tannery waste pollutes Palar River near Marappatu, residents demand action". Thereafter, it has been transferred to Hon'ble NGT, SZ and OA No.371 of 2025(PB) was renumbered as Original Application No.186 of 2025 (SZ) by the Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai. The news item indicates violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

D. The River Palar originates at Nandi Hills in Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka state and flows 93 kilometres in Karnataka, 33 kilometres in Andhra Pradesh and 222 kilometres in Tamil Nadu before reaching its confluence into the Bay of Bengal at Vayalur in Kancheepuram District. The Palar River enters Tirupathur District near Thimmampettai village, runs through Vaniyambadi,

Ambur Town and ends at Madhanur covering a distance of 55 km in Tirupathur District before its entry in to Vellore District.

E. During rainy seasons foaming has been noticed at the Marapattu village bridge in Palar River near Vaniyambadi town. During regular inspections it was observed that a smooth linear flow without any foaming was noticed at the upstream side of Marapattu bridge. However, dense foaming was noticed sometimes (during heavy rainfall) at the downstream side of the Marappattu bridge). The Surface water flows under the bridge with a drop height of more than 1.5 m at the downstream side was noticed. The surface water carrying all the sewage & sullage generated from Vaniyambadi Municipality and Udayendiram Town Panchayat containing Phosphate, surfactants etc., causes foaming. Both local bodes have not yet provided Sewage treatment plant and the untreated sewage of 7 MLD (approximately) is being directly discharged into Palar river. This foaming issue prevails for the past few years only during the monsoon season.

F. TNPCB has issued the following directions vide proc dated: 06.08.2025 under section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended to both the Vaniyambadi Municipality and Udayendiram Town Panchayat:

“to take effective measures to establish a full fledged sewage treatment plant immediately and utilize the same for effective treatment of sewage generated from the household of Vaniyambadi Municipality and Udayendiram Town Panchayat and ensure no untreated sewage is discharged into River Plar and other Water Bodies”.

G. The upstream side of Marapattu village M/s.Vanitec Common Effluent Treatment Plant(CETP) & 133 member units are located within the areas of Vaniyambadi municipality and Udayendiram Town panchayat.

H. On 17<sup>th</sup> of July, foaming occurred at Palar River near Marapattu village, Vaniyambadi and the site was immediately inspected by the officials of TNPCB and water samples were collected at CETP Pump house (PSA) at Chinna Palar, Girisamudram, Marapattu Bridge and sent to Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Vellore for analysis.

I. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) was measured using Hand held TDS meter and was found to be 770 mg/L at Marapattu Bridge, 490 mg/L at CETP Pump house (PSA) at Chinna Palar, 870 mg/L at Girisamudram. It was also noticed that no discharge of effluent from the units adjacent to Palar River was noticed.

J. Foaming occurs only at the downstream side of the Marapattu village bridge in Palar River. The following might be the reasons for foaming in Marapattu bridge:

- A. The phosphates and anionic surfactants present in the domestic wastewater (sewage), sullage and dumped municipal solid wastes in river water may create persistent foams that reduces dissolved oxygen levels. These Surfactants reduce the surface tension of water, creating persistent foaming and reducing the exchange of oxygen between the water and the atmosphere.
- B. The surface water flow falls at a drop height of more than 1.5 m at Marapattu bridge which creates turbulence and causes reduction in surface tension of water and air gets entrapped in bubbles resulting in foaming formation.
- C. The Filamentous bacteria present produce biosurfactants that can cause dense, stable foam layers to form on the surface of treatment basins, which can be difficult to collapse. Increases the foam generation especially during night hours.

K. Regard to the above, following actions are taken by the TNPCB:

- a) All the member tannery units and M/s. Vanitec Ltd, CETP located along the Palar River stretch in Vaniyambadi (Upstream side of Marapattu) are inspected periodically and if there are any violations noticed, directions for the closure and power supply disconnection are issued to the erring industries.
- b) During the year 2025, TNPC Board has issued closure directions and disconnection of power supply to 09 tanneries in Vaniyambadi and Ambur for certain violations including discharge of effluents.
- c) In order to ascertain the reason for foaming TNPC Board, Corporate office, Chennai decided to conduct a study through reputed institutions like Anna university-Chennai, IIT-Chennai, IIT-Bangalore, IISC-Bangalore to identify the reason for frequent foaming at Marapattu village bridge with recommendations to control the foaming.
- d) TNPCB has chosen Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to conduct the study for assessing the causes of Foaming in the Palar River (between Amabalur to Marapattu and Marapattu to Somalapuram Stretch) and also to furnish recommendations to control foaming.
- e) The TNPCB has issued work orders dated:11.09.2025 for Stretch 1 (between Amabalur to Marapattu Stretch) and Stretch 2 (between Marapattu to Somalapuram) of the Palar River to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the duration of the study is 4 months (3 months for the study and 1 month for the report submission).
- f) The Board is in the process of finalizing the agreement and releasing the payment to the IISC Bangalore and the work will be commenced shortly by the IISC Bangalore.
- g) In order to strengthen the monitoring of water bodies and river course, to identify any illegal discharge by the CETPs and tanneries TNPC Board has Flying Squad Office with headquarters at Vellore covering

Ranipet, Tirupathur, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai districts as its jurisdiction.

- h) The tanneries and CETP in Vaniyambadi and Ambur area are being regularly monitored by the officials of District Environmental Engineer, Vaniyambadi and Environmental Engineer (Flying squad), Vellore.

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

  
07/05/2026  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER (C1/C2)  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
CHENNAI-600 032.

THESE INTERMEDIARIES SONT UNITEES  
A UN SEUL ET MEME GROUPE  
CONSTITUE EN UN SEUL ET MEME  
ETABLISSEMENT

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

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.....Applicant.

Vs

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Represented by Member Secretary and Others.

... Respondents

**Report submitted by the Third Respondent -**  
**TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL**  
**BOARD**

Date of filing :07.05.2026

Date of hearing :29.04.2026



Thiru. S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate for 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent: TNPCB.

