

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**  
**Original Application No. 189 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Thadayam Babu, Virudhachalam

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Water Resource Department  
Chennai and ors

...Respondent(s)

**INDEX**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1	01.08.2024	Status Report Filed by 1 <sup>st</sup> Respondent-WRD, Virudhachalam	1-4
3		Annexure- Photograph	5-6

**(Note:** The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



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

**DATE: 02.09.2024**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE CHENNAI

O.A.No.189 of 2024

In the Matter of :  
Thadayam Babu

----- Applicant

Versus

1. WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT,  
Public Welfare Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Through the Chief Engineer,  
P.W.D. Estate, Chepauk,  
Chennai-600 005.
2. TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
Through the Chairman,  
76, Mount Salai,  
Guindy, Chennai-600 032  
P.W.D. Estate, Chepauk,  
Chennai-600 005.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, CUDDALORE DISTRICT  
First Floor, New Collectorate Building,  
Collecorate, Manjakuppam,  
Cuddalore 607 001.
4. THE COMMISSIONER,  
Virudhachalam Municipality,  
31/16, Ayyanar Koil St,  
Across Manimutharu River,  
Virudhachalam 606 001.

----- Respondents

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 1<sup>st</sup> RESPONDENT**


I S.Arunagiri S/O K.Shanmugam aged: 56 presently discharging my duties as Executive Engineer, WRD., Vellar Basin Division, Vridhachalam Cuddalore District, files the report as.

1. The applicant Thiru. Thadayam Babu files at the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal seeking removal of grave damage that has been caused to the "Manimuktha River" of Vridhachalam Taluk near "Viruthagireeshwarar Temple".
2. It is respectfully submitted that the Executive Engineer, WRD., Vellar Basin Division, Vridhachalam has submitted the report on 01.08.2024 as follows:

3. The Manimuktha River, which flows through the Viruthachalam region of Cuddalore District and specifically alongside the Viruthagireeshwarar Temple, is regarded as a sacred river. Each year, pilgrims from various parts of Tamil Nadu visit the temple to take a holy dip in the Manimuktha River.
4. In response to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's Order for O.A. No. 189 of 2024 (SZ) dated 21.06.2024, this report presents the action taken regarding the illegal discharge of sewage and trade effluents into the Manimuktha River.
5. In this regard, the Virudhachalam Municipality has certified that the construction of decentralized wastewater treatment plants at 17 locations under the PMKKY Scheme 2019-2020, with an estimated cost of Rs.80.00 lakhs, is 70% complete as of 09.02.2021.
6. Additionally, a petition from Thiru Thadayam Babu concerning illegal discharge was received on 17.11.2022. In response, the Water Resources Department (WRD) addressed the Municipal Commissioner in Letter No. F 06/AE (V)/2022 dated 28.11.2022.
7. A field survey was conducted with the District Collector and Municipal officials during the Masi Maha festival at the Manimuktha River in Virudhachalam town, which revealed stagnant water in the Salem National Highway area due to the bridge's base being higher than the riverbed. Immediate action was taken, and a canal measuring 20m x 1.5m x 1.2m was constructed to channel wastewater away from the river along its right bank on 08.02.2024.
8. The Municipality is working to ensure that decentralized wastewater is directed to a distance of 1km to avoid direct discharge into the Manimuktha River.
9. The Water Resources Department has completed the reconstruction of the damaged bathing ghat on the right bank of the Manimuktha River in front of the Virudhagireeshwarar Temple, on the right bank. During this process, debris from the river was removed and cleaned using a Poclain, and the Municipality was instructed to monitor and prevent the dumping of garbage and solid waste.

10. The Municipality has been continuously reminded about the illegal discharge of sewage and trade effluents into the Manimuktha River. Responses to petitions received through newspaper cuttings were issued on 23.04.2024 and 20.05.2024.
11. According to the Municipality's report, the decentralized wastewater treatment plants at 17 locations, funded by the DMFT, include components such as a screen chamber, grid chamber, vertical filter, and gravel filter to remove garbage and other solid waste. Additionally, there is no underground sewer system. Under the IUDM 2023 project, the construction of a faecal sludge treatment plant at an estimated cost of Rs.4.25 lakhs is currently underway.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this status report and Action Taken Report on file and pass such further other orders which it deems fit to the case and thus render justice.

  
Executive Engineer, WRD.,  
Vellar Basin Division  
Virthachalam.

## VERIFICATION

1. I S.Arunagiri S/O K.Shanmugam aged: 56, presently discharging my duties as Executive Engineer, WRD., Vellar Basin Division, Vridhachalam Cuddalore District, Solemnly affirm that the contents of this Report are true to the best of my knowledge based on the records and I have not suppressed any facts.

  
Executive Engineer, WRD.,  
Vellar Basin Division  
Virthachalam.

**BATHING GHAT IN FRONT OF THE VIRUDHAGIREESHWARAR TEMPLE**



