

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

Original Application No. 217 of 2025

Tribunal on its own motion SUO
MOTU based on the News Item in New
Indian Express Chennai edition dt
23.10.2025 titled, "Thick layer of froth
blankets 1.5 km of Chennai's southern
coast".

.....Applicant

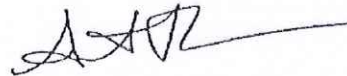
-Vs-

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai and Others.

... Respondents

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

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE 4th RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SZ, CHENNAI IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 217 OF 2025, TAKEN AS A SUO MOTU BY THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL.

On 3.11.2025, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (SZ) has taken as Suo Motu based on the News Item in New Indian Express, Chennai Edition Dated 23.10.2025 Titled "Thick Layer Of Froth Blankets 1.5 Km of Chennai Southern Coast" and directed the respondents to file their respective reports after making a spot inspection and furnish photographs with the details of latitude and longitude.

To comply the above direction of the 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 4th respondents herein.

A.The alleged site was inspected on 22.10.2025 by the officials of DEE, Chennai (South),TNPCB, and followings were observed:

1. During the inspection, white foamy accumulation was observed along the shoreline.
2. It was ascertained that it had been caused by the discharge of organic matter, the turbulence of waves in the low-pressure region, with pollutants carried through storm water drains into the sea following recent rainfall and surplus discharge from the Chembarambakkam Lake through the Adyar River.

3. A local fisherman, who is a volunteer involved in turtle nesting activities, informed that such incidents occur frequently during the onset of the monsoon and usually normalize within 2 to 3 days.
4. It was inferred that the intrusion of organics from the runoff and storm water outfalls leads to foam formation when agitated by tidal waves.
5. It was also noted that the conservators of the Greater Chennai Corporation were engaged in the removal of hyacinth and debris floating from the Adyar River.
6. Water samples have been collected for analysis to ascertain the cause for the foam formation on 22.10.2025.
7. From the Report of Analysis, it is inferred that the shoreline showed signs of slight organic pollution and microbial contamination as indicated by elevated nitrates, BOD & COD along with diluted ions (low TDS & Chlorides compared to seawater). These conditions were likely due to storm water drains, runoff, and possible sewage inflow after recent rainfall.
8. Further, the location was subsequently inspected by the TNPCB officials on 14.11.2025 during which no foam formation observed along the shoreline.
9. No water inflow or unusual turbulence/discharge observed at the site.
10. Again water samples were collected to verify the parameters in the present condition. From the Report of Analysis, it was inferred that the pH is within the normal alkaline range of seawater and high salinity with elevated TDS, chloride, and electrical conductivity values confirming the sea water characteristics. **(Enclosed as Annexure along with Photographs).**

**THE CONSOLIDATED ROA OF THE SAMPLE COLLECTED FROM
SRINIVASAPURAM-PATTINAMBAKKAM BEACH SHORELINE/RAW SEA
WATER**

Sl.No	Parameters	Units	CPCB water quality standards for coastal waters SW-I	ROA of Sea water sample collected on 22/10/2025	ROA of Sea water sample collected on 14/11/2025
1.	pH	-	6.5-8.5	7.33	7.59
2.	TSS @ 105°C	mg/l	-	22	4
3.	Total Dissolved Solids @180°C	mg/l	-	4760	17410
4.	Chlorides as Cl	mg/l	-	2160	15600
5.	Sulphate as SO ₄	mg/l	-	411	3200
6.	Oil & Grease	mg/l	0.1 mg/l	BDL	BDL
7.	BOD (3 days @ 27°C)	mg/l	10	4.8	BDL
8.	COD	mg/l	50	240	16
9.	Dissolved Oxygen	NTU	5.0mg/l or 60% saturation value	3	8.2
10.	Turbidity	mg/l	-	11.8	4
11.	Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR)	-	-	12.5	50
12.	Free Ammonia	mg/l	-	0.8925	0.595
13.	Boron As B	mg/l	-	BDL	BDL
14.	Conductivity	µmhos/cm	-	7790	36700
15.	Total Nitrogen	mg/l	-	4.48	4.48
16.	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	BDL	BDL
17.	Nitrate as N	mg/l	-	13.686	BDL

18.	Total Phosphate as P	mg/l	-	0.064	0.065
19.	Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	-	378	34
20.	Fecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	-	84	BDL

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 4th day of June 2026.

S. Vees
4.6.26
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.



TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

<p>From Dr. M.Dhinakaran, M.E,Ph.D., District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai South @Velacherry, NO.14,first Floor, 2nd main Road, Jagannathapuram, Rajalakshmi Nagar, Velacherry Chennai-42</p>	<p>To The Member Secretary Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032</p>
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Lr. No. DEE/CHS/TNPCB/Complaint/Coast/Foaming /2025, Dt.23/10/2025

Sir,

Sub: Industries- O/o.DEE, TNPCB, CHS-Sea foam forms on Srinivasapuram – Pattinambakkam beach area –News appeared in the Times of India dailies dated 23/10/2025 - Action Taken Report Submitted- Reg

- Ref
1. Message received through social media regarding foam formation along the Marina-Srinivasapuram beach dt 22/10/2025.
 2. Inspection of the site by the TNPCB officials on 22/10/2025
 3. News flashed in the daily news paper-Times of India dated 23/10/2025


With reference to the above, I submit to state that based on the Twitter message received regarding foam formation along the Marina–Srinivasapuram beach, the site was inspected by the officials of TNPCB, O/o.DEE, Chennai South on 22.10.2025 and followings were reported;

- During the inspection, white foamy accumulation was observed along the shoreline.
- It was ascertained that it had been caused by the discharge of organic matter, the turbulence of waves in the low-pressure region, with pollutants carried through storm water drains into the sea following recent rainfall and surplus discharge from the Chembarambakkam Lake through the Adyar River.
- A local fisherman, who is a volunteer involved in turtle nesting activities, informed that such incidents occur frequently during the onset of the monsoon and usually normalize within 2 to 3 days.
- It was inferred that the intrusion of organics from the runoff and storm water outfalls leads to foam formation when agitated by tidal waves.

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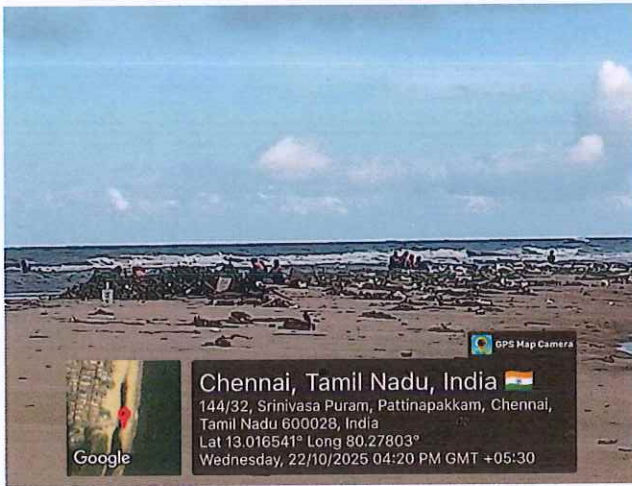
- Water samples have been collected for analysis to ascertain the cause for the foam formation.
- It was also noted that the conservators of the Greater Chennai Corporation were engaged in the removal of hyacinth and debris floating from the Adyar River.

This is submitted for kind information please.

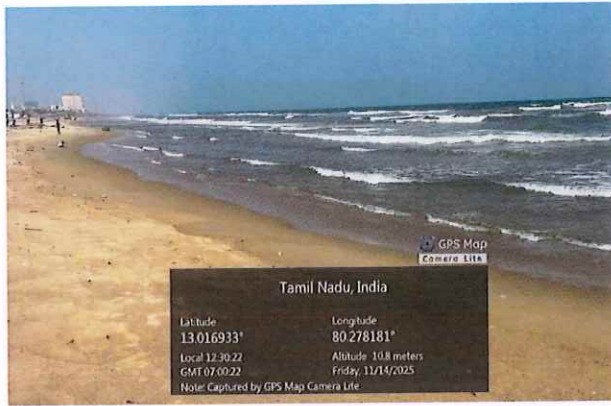

District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai South
25/10/12

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Photos taken during the inspection on 22/10/2025 at the Srinivasapuram – Pattinambakkam beach area



Photos taken during inspection on 14/11/2025 at the Srinivasapuram –Pattinambakkam beach area



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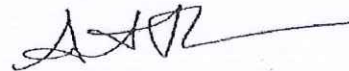
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Report submitted by the Fourth Respondent-
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Date of filing : 08.06.2026

Date of hearing : 19.06.2026



Thiru. S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate for 4th Respondent: TNPCB.

