

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE**

**Original Application No. 23 of 2024 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based  
on the news item in The Indian Express Dt  
03-11-2023 titled "Tamil Nadu activists  
Allege drinking water supplied from  
Madambakkam lake in Tambaram  
contaminated with sewage, civic body  
disagrees"**

**Vs**

**Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Through its Member Secretary  
Chennai and Ors**


**... Respondents**

**TYPED SET OF PAPERS**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>PAGE No</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>04.04.2026</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 3<sup>rd</sup> RESPONDENT</b>	<b>1</b>

**Certified that the contents of the typed set are true copies of their originals**

**Dated at Chennai on this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April , 2026.**

  
**Counsel for 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent.**

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SOUTHERN ZONE**

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**REPORT FILED BY THE 3rd RESPONDENT**

I, Balachander, son of Srinivasan, Hindu aged about 36years,  
Working as Commissioner, Tambaram Corporation, Tambaram, do hereby  
solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Commissioner of the Tambaram corporation. The  
Tambaram Municipality, the 3rd respondent herein and well conversant  
with the facts set out hereunder from the connected files.

2. It is submitted that I have perused the orders of this Hon'ble  
Tribunal dated 10.03.2026 and submit my report as follows:



COMMISSIONER  
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation

## **A. Inspection of the Area around Madambakkam Lake**

The area of Madambakkam Lake and its surroundings was inspected on various occasions and finally on 02.04.2026 in the presence of officials from the Water Resources Department (WRD), Revenue Department, representatives of the Associations, and the representative of the 8th Respondent. The inspection was carried out with the assistance of the Town Planning Officer, Assistant Executive Engineer, and other officials.

### **1. Buffer Zone Compliance**

- i. During the inspection, it was observed that the buffer zone for Madambakkam Lake, as prescribed by CMDA in the layout approval, is 3 meters. However, the developer / 8th Respondent has provided a minimum buffer of 7.2 meters perpendicular to the lake boundary in both layouts.
- ii. As per the approved layout, a setback space of at least 3 meters without any construction was mandated. The promoter has provided more than the required extent, thereby ensuring enhanced protection to the lake.

### **2. STP Installed by the Promoter and Its Adequacy**

- i) It is submitted that the promoter has furnished details of two Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of capacities 650 KLD and 150 KLD, respectively, proposed to cater to 353 plots (246 + 107 plots) with an estimated population of about 1,400 residents. The projected peak sewage generation is approximately 151 KLD. The combined

  
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Tambaram City Municipal Corporation

designed capacity of the two STPs is thus more than five times the estimated requirement. The proposed technology is MBBR (Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor), which is well-suited for handling variable loads.

ii. It is further submitted that the installed capacity of the two STPs is sufficient to handle the entire sewage generated by the layout residents, with a surplus capacity of at least four times the projected output.

### **3. Prevention of Sewage Discharge into Madambakkam Lake**

i. It is submitted that the surrounding layouts, including those referred to by the interveners in the previous hearings, were inspected over the past few weeks, and it has been verified that the residents therein are not discharging septic waste into surface drains or into the lake

ii. It is submitted that all residential units have been provided with individual septic tanks, and the same are being utilized for the collection and disposal of sewage.

iii. It is submitted that licensed sewage suction tankers have been authorized to de-sludge on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks). A total of 49 such tankers are registered with the TCMC and are integrated with GPS-based tracking and geo-fencing systems to ensure route compliance and prevent unauthorized discharge. The collected septage is mandatorily conveyed and decanted only at designated Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) located at Zone IV – West Tambaram and Anakaputhur, both of which are under the operation and maintenance of CMWSSB. These tankers are currently servicing the areas of Perungalathur, Madambakkam, Chitlapakkam, Sembakkam, Peerkankaranai, and Thiruneermalai, thereby ensuring regulated septage management and preventing any direct discharge into open drains or water bodies



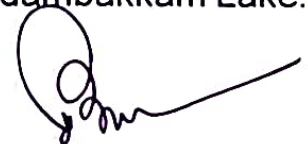
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iv. It is submitted that, during the course of inspections, residents found to be discharging wastewater into open channels were issued notices directing immediate cessation of such discharge. As of date, a total of 51 households in Chandraboss Nagar and Thiruvalluvar Street have been issued notices under the provisions of the Public Health Act, and necessary enforcement action is being pursued

#### **4. Steps Taken for Preservation of Madambakkam Lake**

i) It is submitted that Administrative Sanction has been accorded for the UGSS scheme for the left-out areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 585 Crores vide G.O. Ms. No. 21 dated 04.02.2026. Pursuant thereto, tenders were invited and the last date for submission was initially fixed as 06.03.2026, which was subsequently extended at the instance of the funding agency. Tenders have since been received. However, in view of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct in connection with the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, further processing of the tenders has been kept in abeyance and will be taken up after the withdrawal of the Model Code of Conduct

ii) It is submitted that the cross-drainage arrangements for conveying stormwater runoff from the northern catchment areas are required to traverse the layout of the 8th Respondent. As the said layout has been raised through earth filling, there exists a potential obstruction to the natural drainage gradient, which may result in upstream stagnation. To ensure hydraulic continuity, the 8th Respondent has provided internal stormwater conveyance channels aligned along the street network with appropriate longitudinal gradients. Further, the 8th Respondent has undertaken to construct peripheral interceptor drains along the northern boundary to capture and divert stormwater flows into Madambakkam Lake.



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These measures are designed to maintain the natural drainage regime, ensure adequate hydraulic connectivity, and prevent any alteration to the pre-existing flow pattern into the lake

iii. It is submitted that the stormwater channels running in the North–South direction have already been completed. The construction of the peripheral interceptor drains is yet to be taken up, and necessary directions have been issued to the 8th Respondent / Promoter to execute the same within the stipulated time frame

iv. It is submitted that the lake is vested with the Water Resources Department (WRD). During the inspection, the WRD has informed that necessary measures are being undertaken for the removal of floating vegetation and for desilting of the lake bed, with a view to restoring its storage capacity, preserving its ecological character, and facilitating natural hydrological and biological processes

#### **B. Solid Wastes:**

It is submitted that the areas surrounding Madambakkam Lake, namely ALS Nagar, Malleswari Nagar, Yashwanth Nagar, Shirdi Sai Nagar, First North Avenue, Mohan Nagar, Padmavathy Nagar, Bhuvanewari Nagar, Bakyalakshmi Nagar, Professors Colony, Secretariat Colony, SR Colony, and Paduvancheri, are all covered under the Solid Waste Management system of the Tambaram Corporation. These areas are maintained through regular and systematic clearance of solid waste, with no accumulation observed. Door-to-door collection and transportation of solid waste are carried out on a daily basis through the authorized outsourcing contractor, M/s Ourland Pvt. Limited, ensuring efficient and continuous sanitation management.



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It is submitted that processing of solid waste is carried out at Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) and Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) by the sanitary workers of the Corporation. An end-to-end solid waste management system is being implemented, encompassing source segregation, primary collection, secondary transportation, processing, recycling and reuse, and final disposal at authorized landfill facilities, in compliance with the applicable Solid Waste Management Rules.

It is therefore submitted that all necessary and effective measures have been undertaken by this Respondent to ensure that no sewage is permitted to flow into Madambakkam Lake. Upon completion and full operationalization of the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS), all wastewater, including grey water, will be collected through the sewerage network and treated in accordance with prescribed standards prior to discharge.

**In the above circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the above facts on record and pass such further orders as it may deem fit and proper in O.A. No. 23 of 2023, and thus render justice.**

Solemnly affirmed on  
This the 4th day of  
April 2026 and the  
Deponent herein has  
Affixed his signature  
in my presence



COMMISSIONER  
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation  
before me



Advocate, Chennai.  
**S. RAM SENTHIL KUMAR**  
ADVOCATE, E. No 2522/05  
# D5, 31/15, 1st Main Road,  
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,  
Chennai - 600 020

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ)  
BENCH AT CHENNAI**

**O A.No.23 of 2024 (SZ)**

**REPORT FILED BY THE 3<sup>rd</sup>  
RESPONDENT date 04.04.2026**

**M/S.P.SRINIVAS (828/1994)  
R.PURUSHOTHAMAN (253/2011)  
COUNSEL FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> RESPONDENT.**

**Cell No. 9940118337**