

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

**Original Application No.292 of 2024 (SZ)  
[Earlier O.A. No.1185 of 2024 (PB)]**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the news item published in  
The Hindustan Times, dated: 07-09-2024,  
under the caption "Greenpeace research  
shows Air Pollution levels skyrocketing in  
Bengaluru, other South Indian cities : Report".

And

MoEF & CC, Through its Secretary,  
New Delhi and Ors.

.....Respondents.

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**Advocate  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**



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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE SIXTH RESPONDENT**  
**- TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, Shankara Subramanian, S/o. Thiru P.T.Arasu, aged about 60 years, having office at No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

2. I submit that I am working as the Deputy Director Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 600 032 and I am filing this report on behalf of the Sixth Respondent, TNPCB and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has taken the O.A No.1185 of 2024 has initiated Suo Motu proceeding based on the news appeared in the Hindustan Times dated:07.09.2024 titled "Greenpeace research shows air pollution levels skyrocketing in Bengaluru other South Indian Cities Report" and passed on order dt:26.07.2024 ad directed as follows:

*"Para 3. The news item highlights that the study covered ten major cities in South India: Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Mangaluru, Amravati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru,*

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*Mysuru and Puducherry. The article states that annual average PM2.5 levels in cities like Mangaluru, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Kochi, Amaravati and Chennai were six to seven times higher than WHO recommended limits. Similarly, PM10 levels in Bengaluru, Puducherry and Mysuru surpassed WHO guidelines by four to five times. Specifically in Bengaluru, PM2.5 levels were five to six times above WHO annual standards, while PM10 levels were 3 to 4.5 times higher throughout the year. PM10 levels exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in multiple months.*

*4. Furthermore, the news item also highlights severe health risks associated with these pollution levels. It cites a recent Lancet report linking short-term exposure to PM2.5 with increased mortality risk, even at levels lower than current Indian standards”.*

and the OA was transferred to the NGT, (SZ), Chennai for further action.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the OA No.1185 of 2024 (PB) has been renumbered as Original Application No.292 of 2024 (SZ) and on 26.11.2024, the OA was taken by the Hon'ble NGT, (SZ), Chennai.
5. It is respectfully submitted that the work carried out by the Chennai Corporation and the status of air quality is as follows:

**I. Source wise Actions taken in Chennai city to reduce the air pollution**

**Vehicle sector.**

- a. The Greater Chennai Corporation has taken following initiative to reduce traffic congestion and the reduction of air pollution.
- b. The Chennai Corporation's Council adopted a progressive non-motorized policy in October 2014 to make walking and cycling its priority. To reduce pedestrian -vehicle conflict, pollution and traffic congestion, GCC has implemented a total of 13 km of

  
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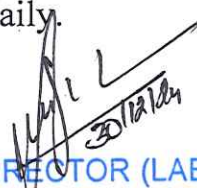
Non- motorized road networks in various places across the city. GCC has installed Intelligent Transport System in 5 traffic intersection out of 150 place of traffic intersection to avoid traffic congestion.

- c. The Greater Chennai Corporation has implemented Multilayer Car parking at an extent of 43,500 sq.ft under Smart City Mission 2018 Fund at Thanikachalam Road which has 2 Basements +G +5 Floors with 513 Nos. of 2 wheelers & 222 Nos. of 4 wheelers parking facility. The Greater Chennai Corporation has completed a dedicated cycle lane project of 17 Km stretch.
- d. There are 23193 CNG, 43849 Electric BOV, 2984 LPG, 2184 Pure EV and 42 NG vehicle are registered in the Chennai City till November,2024  
(Ref:<https://vahan.parivahan.gov.in/vahan4dashboard>)
- e. The Chennai Metro Rail project (CMRL) covered a length of 44.46 km network in the Phase – I project of and consists of two corridors i.e. Corridor-1 – From Washermenpet to Airport (22.942 Km), Corridor-2 – From Chennai Central to St. Thomas Mount (21.518 km). The Corridor 1 and Corridor 2 of Phase 1 project consist of 32 stations which are under operation. CMRL operating the Phase I extension project and covers a length of 8.88 Km with eight stations. The Phase II of Chennai metro is planned with a network length of 118.9 km with 128 stations.

## II. Road Dust

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has taken up the following actions to reduce road dust.

- a. Greater Chennai Corporation have undertaken a project for widening the footpaths from 5 feet to 10 feet of 179.06Km.
- b. 5207km of the road is end to end paved out of the 5688.56 km of the road within the ULB limit
- c. 1320km of the road is cleaned using the 53 mechanical sweepers daily.
- d. 1.94 sq.km of green cover is developed in the city area.

  
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### III. Construction Activities

- a. GCC has allotted 15 Designated locations to dump Construction and demolition waste.
- b. GCC is processing 495 TPD of C&D waste out of 769TPD generated in the city (Zone 1 to 8 at the designated processing facility site -Kodungaiyur @250MT for zone 9 to 15 - Perungudi @245 MT).
- c. Bye law framed [https://www.chennai.corporation.gov.in/images/swm\\_g.o.pdf](https://www.chennai.corporation.gov.in/images/swm_g.o.pdf) for segregation of construction and demolition waste and provide a network of decentralized C&D waste segregation and collection sites across the city

### IV. Waste and Biomass

- a. Regular collection and control of municipal solid wastes are done for 6150MT per day
- b. 265 locations for wet and dry waste processing- Provided with organic waste compost machines, decentralization of processing of Waste, dry waste collection centers.
- c. 1250TPD waste is processed out of 6150 TPD waste generated in the city.
- d. 45554 tonns of legacy waste is remediated out of 200000 till Sept 2024.
- e. Out of the 187 cremation sites, 32 sites use LPG and 3 site electricity.

### V. Industries

- a. TNPCB is regularly inspecting the industries as per the TNPCB Guidelines in the Chennai U.A and taking actions are taking against if any violations there.
- b. Random auditing being conducted in Red Category Highly Polluting industries (15 Nos) and Red Large industries regularly. OCEMS provided in stacks are connected to Care Air Centre of TNPCB and CPCB (17 category of industries) servers.

  
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- c. 40 numbers of air polluting industries which has installed the APC measures were regularly monitored by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- d. In the Madras Fertilizer Limited Urea Plant, for the production of Ammonia previously the unit was using only naphtha as fuel and raw material. As a part of cleaner production technology, the unit is using natural gas for production.

**VI. Status of Air Quality of Chennai from 2021-2021, 2022-2023, 2023-2024**

- a. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board monitors air quality in major cities and industrial clusters at 85 stations in the State of Tamil Nadu under National Ambient Air Quality Programme (NAMP), out of which **eight manual** ambient air quality monitoring stations are in Chennai as given below.

Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Chennai		
S. No.	Station location	Land use zone / area
1	Adyar	Residential
2	Anna Nagar	Residential
3	Kilpauk	Commercial (Traffic intersection)
4	Kathivakkam	Industrial
5	Manali	Industrial
6	Nungambakkam	Commercial (Traffic intersection)
7	Thiruvottiyur	Industrial
8	T.Nagar	Commercial (Traffic intersection)

- b. PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter less than 10 microns), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns) and gaseous pollutants such as Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and Nitrogen dioxides (NO<sub>2</sub>) are monitored from the above stations.
- c. The annual average values recorded from April 2023 to March 2024 under NAMP reveals that PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> was well within the **annual standards** (PM<sub>10</sub> =60 µg/m<sup>3</sup> & PM<sub>2.5</sub> = 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) of National

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Ambient Air Quality Standards. Whereas the WHO recommended 2005 air quality guideline is  $PM_{10} = 20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  &  $PM_{2.5} = 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (annual).

Chennai	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (In $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM <sub>10</sub> (In $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
2021 - 2022	25	50
2022 - 2023	28	58
2023 - 2024	25	56

- d. Additionally, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) has been installed by the TNPCB in 34 locations at various Districts of Tamil Nadu to monitor the ambient air quality on real time continuous basis in major cities and industrial clusters. Out of which five stations are in Chennai (viz.) Koyambedu, Royapuram, Perungudi, Kodungaiyur and Manali. Further, CPCB has installed 3 CAAQMS at Manali, Alandur and Velachery.

Therefore, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

*[Signature]*  
30/12/24  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)  
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Chennai-600 032.

#### VERIFICATION

I, Shankara Subramanian, S/o. Thiru P.T.Arasu, working as Deputy Director Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

*[Signature]*  
20/12/24  
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NADU POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD.**

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

**Date:02.01.2025**

**Date of Hearing on:03.03.2025**

