

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 30 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Mallai Water Bodies Protection &
Preservation Association,
Mahabalipuram.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India,
Represented by its Secretary to Government,
MOEF, New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:19.09.2025

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 30 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mallai Water Bodies Protection & Preservation Association,
Represented by its Secretary,
Mr.V.Kittu,
Having office at
No.80, Annal Ambedkar Street,
Mahabalipuram – 603 104.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

1. Union of India

Represented by its Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment, Government of India,
Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi – 110003.
E-mail: mefcc@gov.in | Ph: 011-20819220

2. National Highways Authority of India

Represented by its Project Director,
No. D P 34, Sri Towers, South Phase, 3rd Floor,
Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600032.
E-mail: fistinhai.org | Ph: +91-11-25074100

3. The Collector of Chengalpattu District

District Collector Office,
Grand Southern Trunk Road,

DISTRICT COLLECTOR
CHENGALPATTU


DISTRICT COLLECTOR (3/11)
CHENGALPATTU

Chengalpattu, Venbakkam,

Tamil Nadu – 603111.

E-mail: coilr-cpt@nic.in | Ph: 044-27427412

4. The Project Director, NHAI

No. 41/8A, 2/285, 2nd Floor,
Velachery–Tambaram Main Road,
Santhoshapuram, Medavakkam,
Chengalpattu District – 600073.

E-mail: pluchengalpattu@inhal.org | Ph: +91-44-22780159

5. State of Tamil Nadu

Represented by its Secretary,

Public Works Department,

PWD Estate, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600005.

E-mail: cs@tn.gov.in | Ph: 044-25671555

6. Water Resources Department

Represented by the Chief Engineer,

Chennai Region,

PWD Estate, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600005.

E-mail: wrdsec@tn.gov.in | Ph: 044-25671644

7. Mamallapuram Town Panchayat

Represented by its Chairman,

JSCV+7RS, Tirukkalukkundram Road,

Fisherman Colony, Mahabalipuram, Salavankuppam,


DISTRICT COLLECTOR
CHENGALPATTU

(4/11)

Tamil Nadu – 603104.

E-mail: calmamallapuram2@gmail.com | Ph: 044-27442223

8. JSR Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd.

Represented by its Managing Director,

26VV+7VM, Vijaya Raghava Road,

Drivers Colony, T. Nagar,

Chennai – 600017.

E-mail: adrnin@jszinfraa.com | Ph: +91 44 28152840

... Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
CHENGALPATTU

I, D. Sneha, I.A.S, presently serving as District Collector, Chengalpattu, having office at District Collector's Campus, Chengalpattu, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows :-

1. It is humbly submitted before the Hon'ble Tribunal that I am currently discharging my duties as the 3rd Respondent, District Collector of Chengalpattu, filing this status report based on the facts and circumstances of the case and based on the available records placed before me.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the Mallai Water Bodies Protection & Preservation Association (Represented by its Secretary, Mr.V.Kittu) has filed this Original Application No.30


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of 2025 (SZ) before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai seeking the following reliefs:-

"a. To direct the Respondent Authorities to restore all the water bodies adjacent to East Coast Road at Chengalpattu district and more specifically the Sollaipoigai water body (Pond) situated at the north-western side of the East Coast Road at Mahabalipuram Township, Chengalpet district, Thirukazhakundram Taluk.

b. To direct the Respondent Authorities to re-align the East Coast Road or lay the road by constructing a bridge over all the water bodies situated at Chengalpet district while constructing the East Coast Road.

c. To pass such further or other Orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal deems fit and necessary given the facts and circumstances of the given case and thus render justice."

3. It is respectfully submitted that when the above matter came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 27.06.2025 and the following order was passed:

"a. The reports of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) are filed.

b. The learned counsel appearing for the applicant would state that there was a natural spring in existence in the water body which is now closed by the NHAI for their project.


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However, the same was not pleaded in the application and it is mentioned for the first time today.

c. While looking at the facts, it appears that a portion of the water body has been utilised by the NHAI for the construction of the bridge.

d. The request of the applicant is for the lake to be deepened so as to restore the affected area to its original capacity.

e. In this regard, we direct the District Collector - Chengalpattu to examine these aspects and file a report with reference to the earlier proceedings of the District Collector - Kancheepuram dated 18.06.2019.

f. Post the matter on 28.07.2025 under the caption "For Admission".

4. It is submitted that pursuant to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the District Collector, Chengalpattu instructed (i) the Sub Collector, Chengalpattu, (ii) the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Chengalpattu, (iii) the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Araniyar Basin, Chepauk, and (iv) the Mamallapuram Municipal Commissioner to take necessary action and submit reports, vide this office letter R.C.No.5487/2025/L1, dated 25.07.2025.

5. It is further submitted that, pursuant thereto, the Sub Collector, Chengalpattu, vide Letter No. Na.Ka.No.2668/2025/A2, dated 21.08.2025, reported that the subject land is recorded in the UDR "A" Register as Survey No.124 and classified as "Government Poromboke - Poigai Pond" to an extent of 2.54


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hectares, and continues to stand recorded as a freshwater pond. The same classification is also reflected in the Adangal records, notwithstanding the subsequent subdivision into S.Nos.124/1 (2.37 ha) and 124/2 (0.17 ha). This classification as a freshwater pond has also been reiterated in the reports of the Commissioner, Mamallapuram Municipality (Na.Ka.No.262/2025/A1, dated 03.09.2025) and the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department (Letter dated 17.09.2025).

6. It is further submitted that, from the reports of the Sub Collector, the Commissioner and the Executive Engineer, it is confirmed that the water body originally existed as a single unit with five natural sub-springs, feeding adjoining patta lands through five sluices, and also contained a landing ghat for drawing water. However, during the construction and later widening of the East Coast Road (ECR), portions of the pond were excavated/filled, without culverts or bridges, leading to the destruction of the main spring and covering of the remaining four springs. Consequently, with the disconnection of electricity connections used for pumping water, the water source diminished and agriculture came to a halt. The public have also expressed apprehension, recorded in the Tahsildar's report, that depletion of this freshwater source may cause adjoining lands between the Bay of Bengal and Buckingham Canal to turn saline.


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7. It is submitted that, as per the proceedings of the District Collector / Chairman, District Rural Development Agency, Kancheepuram, dated 18.06.2019, permission had been granted to *Mallai Neer Nilai Paadhukappu* and *Meetpor Sangam* for carrying out desilting and restoration works in Solaipoigai Lake (Survey No.124, extent 2.54 hectares) and Vannan Kuttai (Survey No.81, extent 2.10.5 hectares), covering a total length of 825 metres, at an estimated cost of ₹2,69,45,152/-. The permission was issued subject to the condition that the works be completed within two months. However, during inspection dated:24.08.2021, it was observed that the said organizations had not fully completed the desilting and restoration works, and sluices and bunds remained in a deteriorated condition.
8. It is further submitted that, from the reports of the Commissioner, Mamallapuram Municipality, the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, and also through direct enquiry with the public, it stands confirmed that during the 44th Chess Olympiad (2022-23) the water body (Pond) was again taken up for restoration, including desilting, strengthening of bunds, and planting of palmyra trees, at an estimated cost of ₹95 lakhs under the Capital Grant Fund. While these works were carried out under the recommendation of the Water Resources Department with approval of the District Collector, the public enquiry revealed that, at present, the water body (Pond) is overgrown with lily and lotus plants, has become polluted, but continues to be recognised as a freshwater water body (Pond).


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9. It is further submitted that the Commissioner, Mamallapuram Municipality, in its report, has detailed the specific works carried out, namely: (i) removal of bushes and Seemai Karuvelam trees, (ii) dewatering of contaminated water, (iii) desilting of the water body (Pond), (iv) regulation and strengthening of the bed and side slopes of the bank, (v) construction of a 235-metre retaining wall, (vi) provision of revetment blocks on the western bund to prevent soil erosion, (vii) construction of inlet and outlet channels for rainwater inflow and surplus discharge, and (viii) provision of steps on the water body (Pond) bund.
10. It is further submitted that, based on the reports of the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department and the Commissioner, Mamallapuram Municipality, although partial restoration has been carried out, the revetment blocks have been provided only on the western side, and the eastern side (where natural springs are located) remains unprotected. Field inspection on 24.08.2021 by the Executive Engineer had also observed incomplete desilting, closed sluices, and bund collapse. Subsequently, during the Olympiad, further desilting and restoration were carried out by the Municipality.
11. It is further submitted that it has been uniformly opined by the Sub Collector, Chengalpattu, the Commissioner, Mamallapuram Municipality, and Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department that for complete restoration of the lake, deepening of the water-spread area and full desilting are necessary to retrieve the original storage capacity. The


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Executive Engineer has estimated that deepening the lake up to 1.60 metres from the existing bed level would restore its capacity, at an estimated cost of ₹77.00 lakhs, and suggested that funds be allocated for this in the forthcoming financial year.

In view of the foregoing submissions, I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the facts stated herein and pass such further or other orders as may be deemed fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

Solemnly affirmed at Chengalpattu
on this 18th day of September 2025
and signed in my presence.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR
CHENGALPATTU
Before me