

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

Original Application No. 43 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Dr. Balaji Thangavel, Chennai.

Applicant

Versus

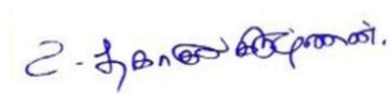
The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District and Ors.

Respondent(s)

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Through
U. Gokulakrishnan
Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 13.07.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI
O.A. NO. 43 of 2024 (SZ)**

Dr.Balaji Thangavel
No. 3/75, T.S.Baliah Garden,
Nedungundram,
Vandalur Via,
Chennai-600 127
Contact Number: 7299997777 & Email ID: balajethangavel@gmail.com

....Applicant

VS.

1. The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District,
Collectorate, GST Road,
Chengalpattu-603001
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Maraimalai Adigalar Street,
Maraimalai Nagar,
Chengalpattu - 603 209
3. The Municipal Commissioner,
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation,
No. 28, Muthuranga Mudali Street,
Tambaram West,
Chennai-600 0045
4. The District Forest Officer,
Chennai Forest Division,
7th Floor, Panagal Maaligai,
Saidapet, Chennai-600015
5. The President Nedungundram Village Panchayat,
Kattangolathur Union,
Nedungundram,
Chennai-600 127

....Respondents


**DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
CHENNAI - 600 015.**

**Status Report filed by the 4th Respondent, District Forest Officer,
Chennai Division, Chennai**

I, V. A. Saravanan, Son of Ayyankutty, aged about 57 years, presently working as the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai-600006, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I respectfully submit that I am the 4th Respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case based on official records. I am duly authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. I submit that the Vandalur Reserve Forest under the Tambaram Range falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the Chennai Forest Division, covering a total extent of 1172.01 hectares, including the Arignar Anna Zoological Park. The area referred to by the petitioner lies along the northern boundary of the Vandalur Reserve Forest, near Perungalathur, extending towards Sadhanandhapuram, Alapakkam, and Nedunkundram villages.
3. I submit that the Vandalur Reserve Forest is rich in biodiversity, supporting diverse flora and fauna. In the area referred to, a road runs partly along and within the forest boundary from Cairn No. 1 to 4, covering a distance of approximately 1.2 km from Perungalathur via Sadhanandhapuram, Alapakkam, and Nedunkundram. It is submitted that local residents using this road tend to dump household waste along the edges of the road abutting the forest boundary due to the absence of proper waste disposal facilities.
4. I further submit that due to the absence of natural predators in the Reserve Forest, there has been an increase in the population of spotted deer, which are frequently sighted in the said area. The said stretch also serves as a movement corridor for spotted deer, which cross the road and move towards Selaiyur Lake via the Air Force Station, Tambaram, before returning to the forest.
5. I submit that, in compliance with the directions of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, the Forest Department has proposed the following measures to prevent wild animals from accessing and being affected by the waste dumped in the said area.
6. It is submitted that the construction of a compound wall along the Reserve Forest boundary adjacent to the Eastern Bypass Road (covering

the said 1.2 km stretch near Perungalathur) would serve as a permanent solution to prevent wild animals from crossing the boundary and feeding on waste dumped by local residents.

7. It is submitted that the State Highways Department has obtained approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the diversion of 0.95472 hectares of forest land in the Vandalur Reserve Forest for the Eastern Bypass Road project. The Forest Department had directed the Highways Department to construct a compound wall for a length of 385 running meters along the diverted forest boundary. The said construction has been completed, and it is observed that in this stretch, no wild animal crossings onto the highway are occurring.
8. It is further submitted that the State Highways Department has sought approval for diversion of 4.468 hectares of forest land for the formation of the Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted Stage-I (in-principle) approval subject to certain conditions. Final approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be granted upon submission and acceptance of the compliance report. At present, the compliance report is pending submission by the State Highways Department.
9. It is submitted that the State Highways Department proposes to construct the remaining compound wall for a length of 815 running meters along the forest boundary affected by the Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road project. Upon completion, this will significantly prevent wild animal crossings onto the adjoining highways and protect the forest ecosystem from anthropogenic disturbances.
10. It is submitted that while the construction of the compound wall will substantially reduce animal movement across the boundary, a long-term and permanent solution requires proper solid waste management. Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to direct Respondent No.1 to identify and allocate suitable land for the scientific segregation, processing, and disposal of solid waste generated within the jurisdictions of Respondent Nos. 3 and 5.

Date: 10.04.2026


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
 CHENNAI - 600 015.

VERIFICATION

I, V. A. Saravanan, District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief, based on official records and field verification. I further state that no part of this affidavit is false and that no material particulars have been concealed therefrom.

Date: 10.04.2026


DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
CHENNAI FOREST DIVISION
CHENNAI - 600 015.

DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER
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CHENNAI - 600 015