

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

Original Application No. 46 of 2025 (SZ)

[Earlier O.A.No.12 of 2025 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTO based on the News Item Titled " Adyar has 10X fecal coliform than normal and nil dissolved O₂" appearing in DT Next dated 06.01.2025.

With

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Rep by its Member Secretary, No.76,
Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032
and 3 others.

...Respondents.

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DATED AT CHENNAI ON THE 25TH DAY OF JUNE, 2025



COUNSEL FOR 1ST RESPONDENT

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SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

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...Respondents.

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT –
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, S.Vasuki, Daughter of Thiru. P.K.Somasundaram, aged about 56 years, having office at No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer^(i/c), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the first respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available at office.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (PB), on its own motion Suo Motu based on the News Item in DT Next dated: 06.01.2025 titled "Adyar has 10X fecal coliform than normal and nil dissolved O2", the matter relates to alarming levels of pollution in Adyar river in Tamil Nadu rendering the water septic with no dissolved oxygen content near the Adyar Eco-Park.

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Sign with
kalk pl*

Sj. Vasu 23.6.25

**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER (i/c)
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.**

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT, (PB) has implead the following authorities as the respondents and issued notice to file their response/reply before the appropriate Bench of the Tribunal and transferred the OA to the Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai.

“(i) Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB): Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032.

(ii) Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Address: Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

(iii) Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB): Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board, No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai - 600002.

(iv) District Collector (District Magistrate), Chennai: District Collectorate, Singaravelar Maligai, 62, Rajaji Salai, Chennai 600 001”.

4. It is respectfully submitted that as per the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal the first respondent submits the report herein.
5. It is respectfully submitted that a similar case has already been taken up as Suo Motu registered by the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original Application No.821 of 2024(PB) based on the news item published in 'The Hindu' dated 18.06.2024 titled "Fish kill near Adyar ecopark highlights persisting sewage contamination" which has been transferred to the Southern Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.250 of 2024(SZ).
6. It is respectfully submitted that based on the above, the area of Lock Street, Pondicherry Road, Varadapuram, Kotturpuram, Adyar River creek was inspected on 21.06.2024 and during inspection it was observed that the dissolved oxygen level analysed on the spot reveals that the DO was very low in the water and it was ascertained that the fish death may be due to the low dissolved oxygen level.

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 S. Vaer 23.6.25
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER (i/c)
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 CHENNAI-600 032.

7. It is respectfully submitted that the said area of Lock Street, Pondicherry Road, Varadapuram, Kotturpuram, Adyar River was again inspected on 17.10.2024 and during inspection it was found that the sewage from nearby residences were confluence into the adyar river. In this connection, a letter was already addressed to Zonal Officer, Zone 13, Greater Chennai Corporation vide letter dated Lr No: DEE/TNPCB/CHS/Hon'ble NGT 250 of 2024 (SZ) dated 21.06.2024 and a reminder letter vide Lr No: DEE/TNPCB/ CHS/Hon'ble NGT 250 of 2024 (SZ) dated 18.10.2024 to take necessary action to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage from residential areas into the river.
8. It is respectfully submitted that the Report of Analysis of the water samples collected on 21.06.2024 & 17.10.2024 reveals that the parameters BOD, COD, Fecal coliform, Total Nitrogen and total suspended solids were exceeded the standards prescribed by the Board. The exceedance of the parameters indicates that the water was septic in nature, and the intrusion of residential sewage into the Adyar River increases the presence of Fecal Coliform.

**The Consolidated ROA of the sample collected from Adyar River at
Lock Street, Pondichery Road, Kotturpuram**

S.No	Parameters	Units	Standards (Sewage discharge standards for Mega Metropolitan Cities)	ROA of Adyar river water sample collected on 21.06.2024	ROA of Adyar river water sample collected on 17.10.2024
1.	pH	-	5.5-9.0	6.57	7.46
2.	TSS @ 105°C	mg/l	20	124	24
3.	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	-	BDL (DL 1)	Nil
4.	BOD (3 days @ 27°C)	mg/l	10	133	30
5.	COD	mg/l	50	280	136
6.	Total Nitrogen	mg/l	10	23.697	57.748

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7.	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	8.4	12.88
8.	Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	-	1011.2	7500
9.	Fecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	Desirable 100 Permissible-230	241.1	1026

9. It is respectfully submitted that as part of the rejuvenation of Coovum and Adyar River stretches under the supervision of Chennai River Restoration Trust, the Adyar River water samples are being collected every fortnight and sent to Advanced Environmental Laboratory (AEL), TNPCB, Chennai for analysis. The ROA of the sample collected on 03.01.2025 at upstream and downstream of Modular STP located at Kotturpuram is tabulated as follows;

S.No	Parameters	Units	Standards for STPs (Applicable to all mode of disposal) Mega and Metropolitan Cities)	Downstream of Modular STP Sathya Nagar	Downstream of Modular STP Kotturpuram	Upstream of Modular STP Kotturpuram
1.	pH	-	5.5-9.0	7.20	7.01	7.25
2.	TSS @ 105°C	mg/l	20	10	14	12
3.	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	-	2.1	1.7	0.7
4.	BOD (3 days @ 27°C)	mg/l	10	7	8	10
5.	COD	mg/l	50	64	88	72
6.	Total Nitrogen	mg/l	10	20.26	15.13	23.18
7.	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	3.92	4.48	5.04
8.	Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	-	10344	10326	10670
9.	Fecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	Desirable 100 Permissible-230	3811	3724	4120

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The RoA of the samples reveal that the values of BOD, COD, Total Nitrogen and Fecal Coliform have exceeded the standards prescribed by the Board. It indicates that residential sewage is discharged into Adyar river.

10. It is respectfully submitted that a letter was addressed to the Zonal Officer, Zone 13, Greater Chennai Corporation on 17.10.2024 for OA No.250 of 2024 and a letter was again addressed to the Zonal Officer, Zone 13, Greater Chennai Corporation vide Lr No:DEE/TNPCB/CHS/Hon'ble NGT (PB) 12 of 2025 dt 26.02.2025 to furnish the action taken report to prevent the untreated sewage discharge in to Adyar River from the nearby residential areas.
11. It is respectfully submitted that, till date there is no reply has been received so far for the letters addressed to the Zonal Officer, Zone 13, Greater Chennai Corporation vide letters dated. 21.06.2024 and ~~17.10.2024~~ regarding necessary action taken to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage from the residential areas into the Adyar river.

Therefore, it is humbly 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.

S. Vasuki 23.6.25 (i/c)
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
 TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
 CHENNAI-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, S.Vasuki, daughter of Thiru.P.K.Somasundaram, working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby submit that the above contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief through records.

S. Vasuki 23.6.25 (i/c)
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
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RESPONDENT**

COUNSEL FOR THE 1ST RESPONDENT

S. SAI SATHYAJITH