

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 47 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the news item in The New Indian
Express dt: 05.01.2025 titled, "Dumpyard
plan at megalithic site in Chennai's Perumbakkam
raises ASI's hackles residents, fear".

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY 5TH RESPONDENT-
THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, CHENGALPATTU

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 10.07.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

Original Application No.47 of 2025(SZ)
[Earlier O.A. No.22 of 2025 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the news item in The New Indian
Express dt: 05.01.2025 titled, "Dumpyard
plan at megalithic site in Chennai's
Perumbakkam raises ASI's hackles
residents, fear".

And

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

...Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT FILED BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
CHEGALPATTU

I, D.Sneha, D/o.Mr.K.M.Divakaran, Indian, aged about 32 years, residing at the Collector's bungalow, Chengalpattu, discharging duties as District Collector, Chengalpattu, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-


DISTRICT COLLECTOR
CHEGALPATTU (3/7)

2. I am the 2nd respondent herein and as such I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case from the records made available to me.

3. It is respectfully submitted that this O.A.No.47 of 2025 (SZ) case has been Suo Motu registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.22 of 2025 (PB) based on the news item published in 'The New Indian Express' dated 05.01.2025 titled "Dumpyard plan at megalithic site in Chennai's Perumbakkam raises ASI's hackles residents, fear", which has been transferred to this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.47 of 2025 (SZ).

4. It is respectfully submitted that when the above case came up for hearing on 02.04.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass the following directions:-

"... 2. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal along with a copy of the newspaper report.

3. The learned counsel Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.1 and Ms. Kavia Tamilmozhi representing Dr. D. Shanmuganathan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.5.

4. Post the matter on 02.07.2025. Meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports."

5. Pursuant to the above order of the Tribunal, based on the report of the Block Development Officer (V.P), St.thomas Mount dated 30.05.2025, it is submitted that the Perumbakkam Panchayat falls under the jurisdiction of St. Thomas Mount Block, Chengalpattu District. The Panchayat comprises approximately 24,320 households with an estimated population of around 78,300. Due to rapid urbanization and demographic growth, the generation of solid waste in this area has significantly increased. In response, the Panchayat

administration has implemented a door-to-door waste collection system and carries out regular sanitation measures to maintain public hygiene. At present, approximately 40 tonnes of solid waste are collected daily with the assistance of sanitary workers and solid waste collection vehicles and machinery.

6. However, in the absence of a dedicated dump yard within the Panchayat limits, it became necessary to identify a suitable location for the temporary collection and transfer of household waste. Currently, the collected solid waste is being transported to the dumping yard situated at Kolathur Panchayat, under the jurisdiction of Katankulathur Panchayat Union in Chengalpattu District. For this purpose, a site located at Survey No. 391 was being used on a temporary basis. As this land is situated adjacent to a water body, identifying an alternative location for the temporary storage of waste became imperative. Consequently, a request was submitted by the Block Development Officer, St. Thomas Mount, seeking permission to utilize the land at Survey No. 398/5 for temporary waste collection. However, a communication from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) indicated that the said land falls under its purview, thereby necessitating the cessation of any proposed activity at that site.

7. Following this development, the Tahsildar of Tambaram Taluk was instructed to identify an alternative location. Based on the available land records, parcels of barren land (classified as Meikkalporamboke) in Survey Nos. 424 and 426 were identified as suitable for the intended purpose. A resolution was duly passed by the Perumbakkam Panchayat Council approving the use of this land for the temporary collection and disposal of solid waste. Additionally, a formal proposal was sent to the Tahsildar, Tambaram Taluk, requesting demarcation of the land boundaries.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR
CHENGALPATTU (5/7)

8. Subsequently, the land was cleared of overgrowth, including *Prosopis juliflora* (SeemaiKaruvelam), and a temporary pathway for vehicular access was constructed using debris. However, a notice was later issued by the Archaeological Department indicating that the proposed site lies within a prohibited area under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, due to its proximity to megalithic cists and cairns located in Perumbakkam. In light of this, all activities pertaining to the establishment of a temporary dump yard at the said site were immediately halted. It is respectfully submitted that no solid waste has been dumped or littered on the land situated in Survey Nos. 424 and 426 to date.

9. Further, a joint inspection was conducted on 23.04.2025 with officials representing the Archaeological Survey of India, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, the Revenue Department, and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Following the inspection, the ASI issued directions stating that the proposed site falls within a prohibited zone associated with a megalithic monument, and thus must be excluded from any waste management activity. It was also advised that a suitable alternative site outside protected or prohibited areas be identified. Moreover, the ASI emphasized that any activity within a regulated area must be preceded by obtaining prior approval from the competent authority, including submission of a Detailed Project Report (DPR), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC). The ASI further instructed that the debris used to construct the temporary pathway must be removed and an action taken report, along with photographic evidence, be submitted to the Hon'ble Tribunal and the ASI.

10. In compliance with the above directions, the following actions have been duly undertaken by the Panchayat Administration. No solid waste has been dumped on the identified land in Survey Nos. 424 and 426. No further activity will be carried out without obtaining the necessary permission or NOC from the

செங்கல்பட்டி மாவட்டம்
பஞ்சாயத்து நிர்வாக அலுவலர்
செங்கல்பட்டி


DISTRICT COLLECTOR (6/7)
CHENGALPATTU

competent authority. The debris filled for constructing the pathway have been entirely removed. Geo-tagged photographs depicting the cleared site are enclosed herewith for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

11. It is submitted that the subject matter concerning the proposed dump yard at the archacological sites in Tambaram Taluk, Perumbakkam Village, specifically in Survey Nos. 424 and 426, is already being dealt with in OA No. 16 of 2025 filed by Vigneshwara Homes Private Limited, which is still pending before the Tribunal. The said matter was last heard on 05.06.2025. In the said OA, a status report has already been filed by the District Collector.

The foregoing facts and documents related to the enquiry conducted are submitted for the kind consideration of the Hon'ble Tribunal and for further orders.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai
on this the 9TH day of July 2025
and signed in my presence.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR (7/7)
CHENGALPATTU
Before me

DATE : 09.07.2025



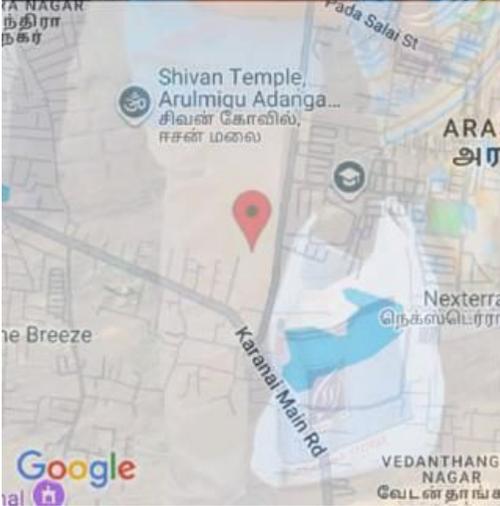
Vs.DX+WBH K004, Bellinari Hillside Phase 2, Nookampalayam, Arasankalari, Sithalapakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600126, India

Chennai
Tamil Nadu
India

34°C
93°F

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V5JX+P75, Sithalapakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600119, India

Chennai
Tamil Nadu
India



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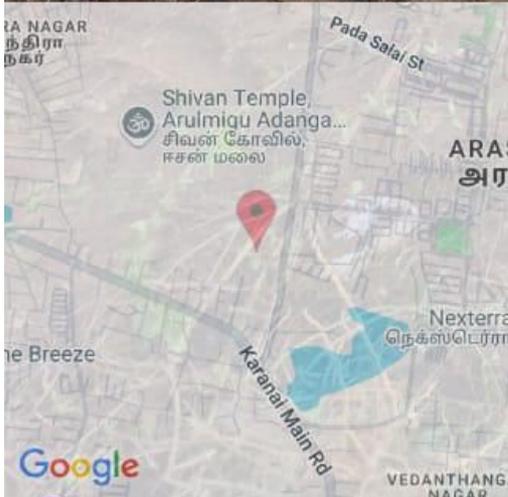
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V5JX+WBH K004, Bollineri Hillside Phase 2, Nookampalayam, Arasankaiaru, Sithalapakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600126, India



Chennai
Tamil Nadu
India

33°C

91°F

2025-05-21(Wed) 06:03(pm)



3, Arasankalani, Sithalapakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600130, India

Chennai
Tamil Nadu
India



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95°F

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