

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 51 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU

Based on the news item in Dinamalar

Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt: 05.02.2024,

“Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat

To ecosystems and livelihoods”.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Water Resources Department,

Rep. by its Secretary, Chennai and Others.

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

Date: 01.07.2024

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
(THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE)
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.51 OF 2024(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO-MOTU
based on the news Item in Dinamalar
Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt:
05.02.2024, "Beaches becoming garbage
islands pose a threat to ecosystems
and livelihoods".

And

Water Resources Department,
Rep.by its Secretary,Chennai and Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS

I, G.R Radhakrishna, son of Govindarajulu Ramalingam, aged above 51 years, officiating as Executive Engineer in the Water Resources Department and having my office at the PWD Campus, Chepauk, Chennai - 5, do solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I humbly submit that I am presently working as Executive Engineer in the Water Resources Department, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai and hence I am acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the available records. I am filing this counter affidavit on behalf of Water Resources Department.

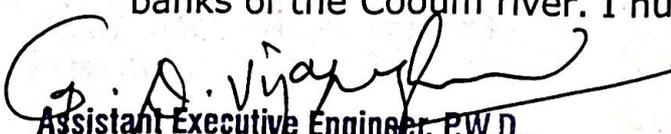
2. I humbly submit that when the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern zone; took up the said case for suo-moto hearing on 20.02.2024


Assistant Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,
Cooum Basin Sub Division, W.R.D.,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.


Executive Engineer, P.W.D., W.R.D.,
Araniyar Basin Division, Chennai - 5.

notice was ordered to the Water Resource Department along with a copy of the relevant newspaper report.

3. I humbly submit that the Hon'ble Tribunal has SUO-MOTU entertained this Original Application No.51 of 2024(SZ) based upon the news item published in Dinamalar Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt: 05.02.2024, titled as "Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods".
4. I humbly submit that I deny the averment made with respect to Para 2 of the order stating that as per the Newspaper report, Kasimedu, a prominent fishing area looks like a garbage island due to plastic waste, wood waste, thermocol etc., The Hon'ble Tribunal by relying upon the news article having come to an erroneous conclusion that various types of garbage being dumped in the coastal areas of Chennai would risk the coastal environment and disrupt Marine life and Marine Resources has initiated the SUO-MOTU application.
5. I humbly submit that the river bund of the Cooum river stretch runs from Napier bridge to Padikuppam causeway near koyambedu which originates in a village in Kadambathur union in Tiruvallur district situated at about 70 kms from Chennai, all though starting its main course at Sattarai village around 65 kms from Chennai.
6. I humbly submit that the said news article written by one Mr. Nanjil P. Ravi, president of All India fisherman association states that thermocol boxes of fish sold in the fish markets are broken and thrown on the banks of the Cooum river. I humbly submit that the Respondent herein


Assistant Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,
Cooum Basin Sub Division, W.R.D.,

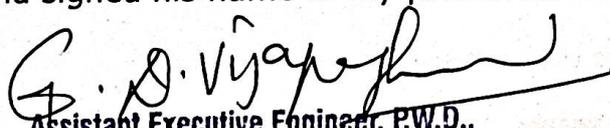

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., W.R.D.,
Araniyar Basin Division, Chennai - 5.

denies the averments made in para 3 of the order. It is submitted that there are neither fish markets nor thermocol fish boxes as averred by Mr.Nanjil.P.Ravi, President of All India Fishermen Association and photocopies of the same have been annexed for kind perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

7. I humbly submit that the Newspaper article in Dinamalar dated: 05.02.2024 titled as "Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods" has been published based on false facts without analyzing or inspecting the said stretch.

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this status report filed on behalf of the Water Resource Department, record the same and 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 the case and thus render justice.

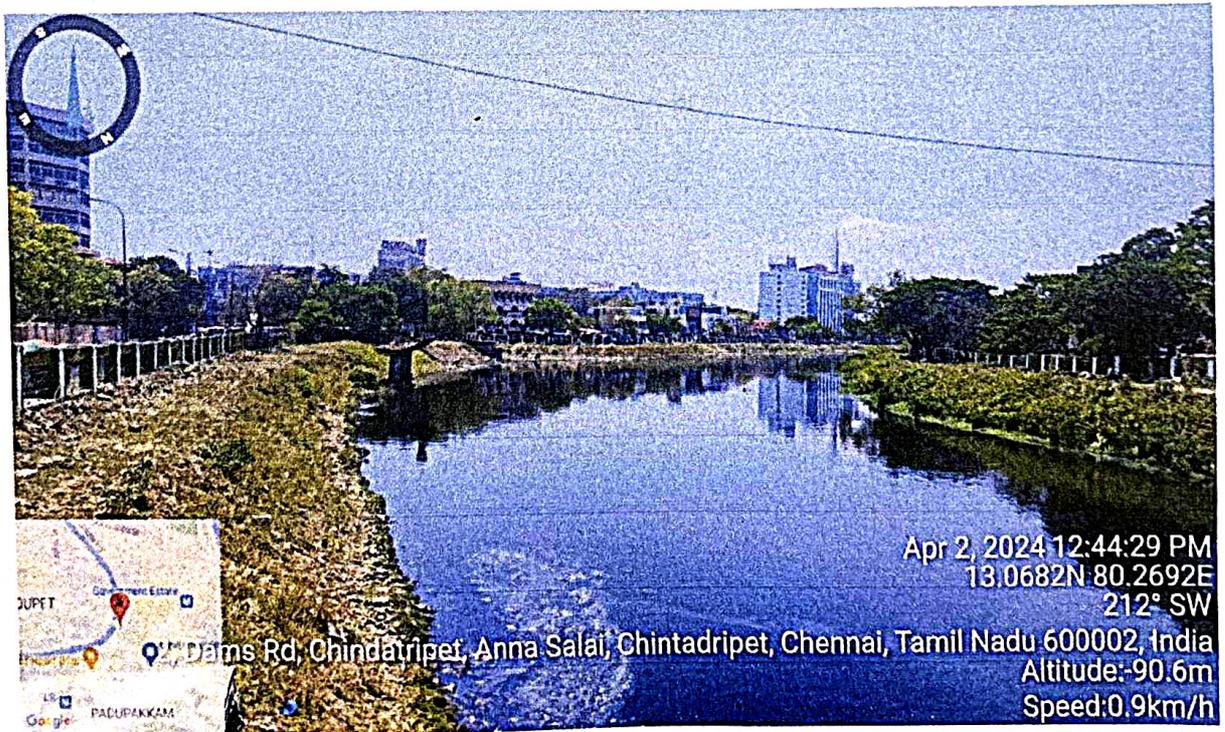
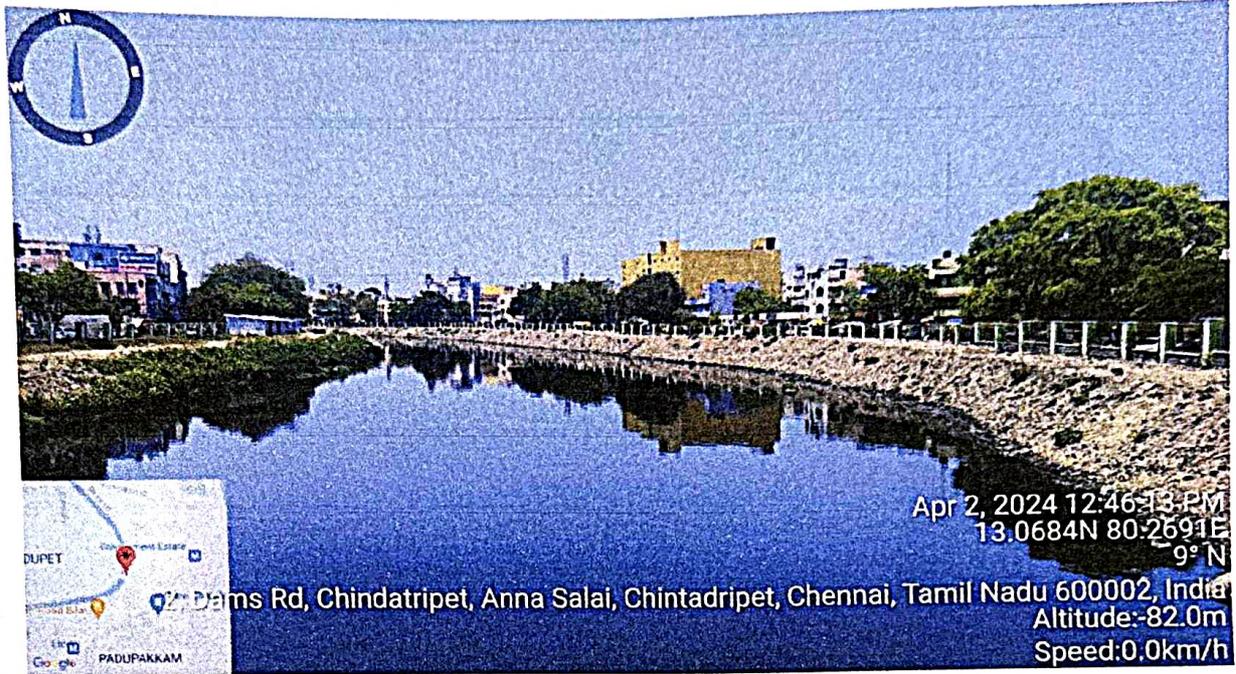
Solemnly affirmed at Chennai
on this the 1st day of July, 2024
and signed his name in my presence.


Assistant Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,
Cooum Basin Sub Division, W.R.D.,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

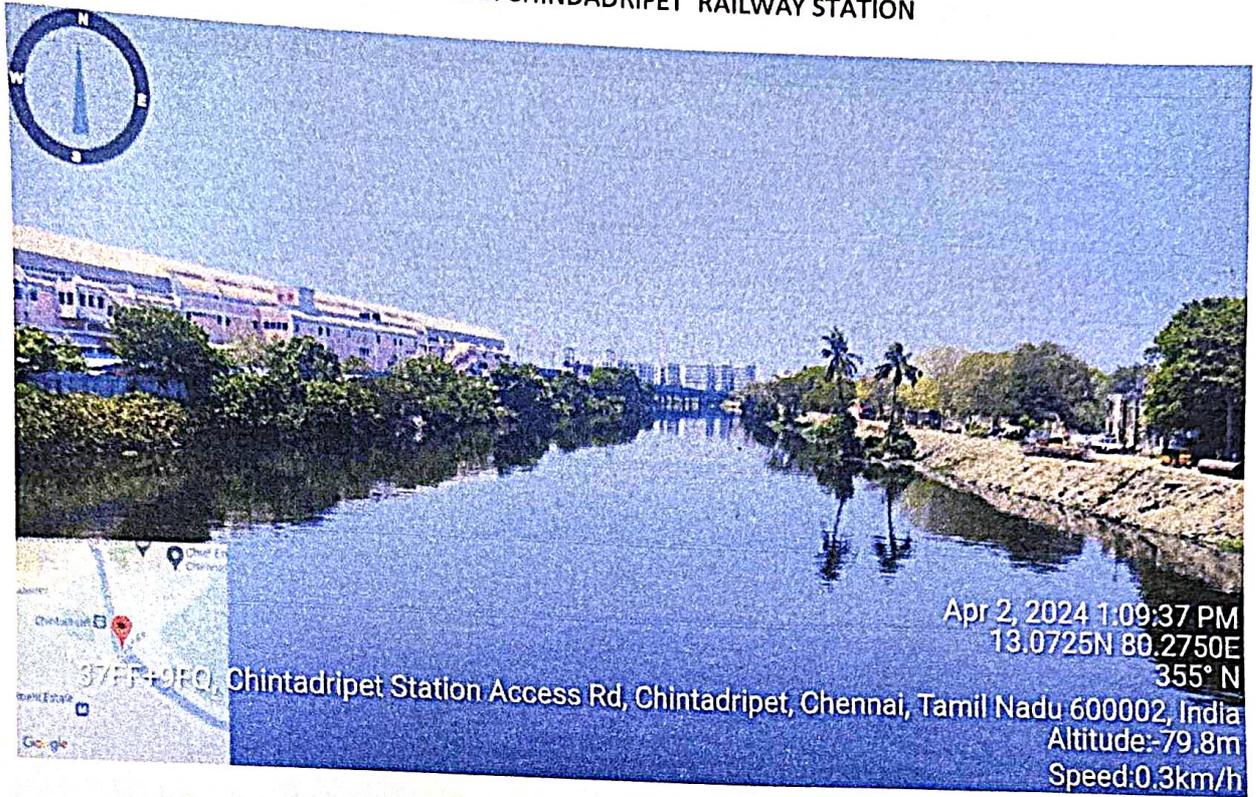
Advocate : Chennai


Executive Engineer, P.W.D., W.R.D.,
Araniyar Basin Division, Chennai - 5.

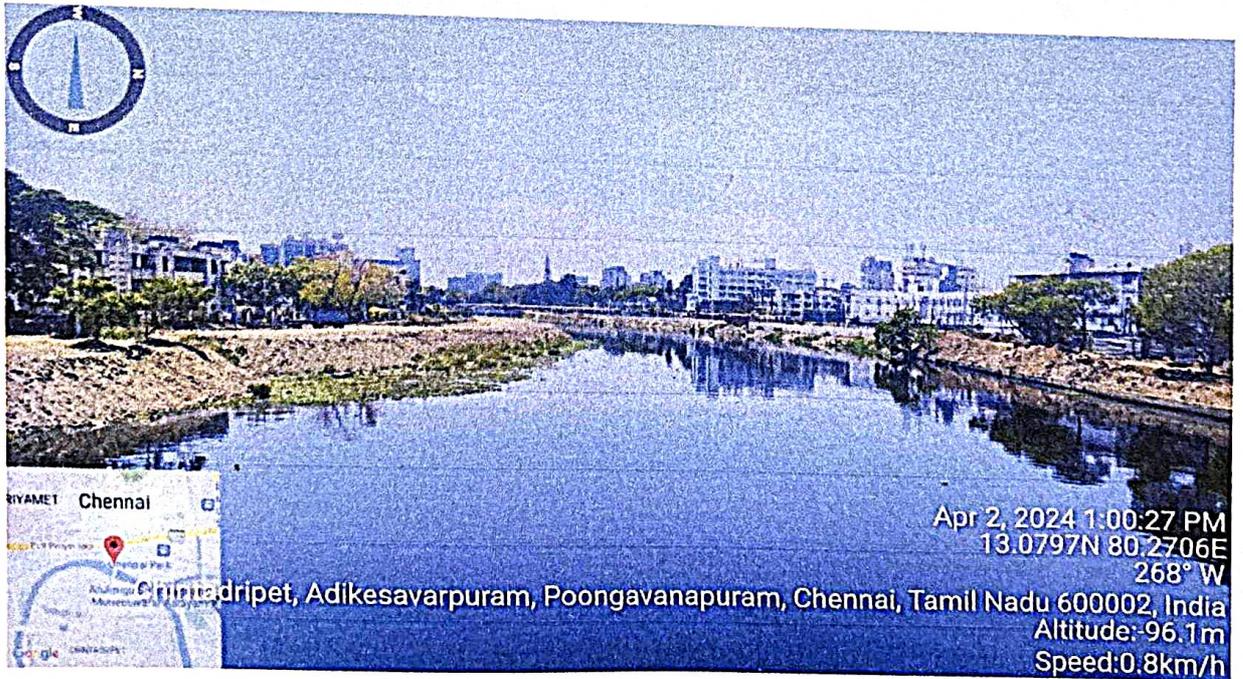
COOUM RIVER NEAR CHINDADRIPET



COOUM RIVER NEAR CHINDAD RIPET RAILWAY STATION



COOUM RIVER NEAR CHINDAD RIPET



COOUM RIVER AT CHINDAD RIPET NEAR MADRAS MEDICAL COLLEGE

