

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 85 of 2024(SZ)**

**Earlier O.A. No. 68 of 2024 (PB)**

Tribunal on its own Motion SUO MOTU

Based on the News Item in Express News

Service dt. 28-12-2023 titled, "Salt – Pan

Encroachments in rivers causes flood–

Vilathikulam residents"

– Applicant – Suo Motu

–Vs–

1. The Secretary

Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board

2. The Additional Secretary/Principal Secretary,

Environment Department.

3. The District Collector,

Thoothukudi District, Thoothukudi ....

Respondents

**STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE 3<sup>rd</sup> RESPONDENT/THE  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR**

I, K. Elambahavath son of Thiru. Kanthasamy, aged 42 years, working as District Collector Thoothukudi District, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:–

1) I humbly submit that I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the available records and I submit this status report before the Hon'ble Green Tribunal.

2) It is submitted that Survey No. 7 of Periyasampuram Village of Vilathikulam Taluk at an extent of 37.96.0 Hectare of land is classified as Kallar Odai i.e., a water body land. There were some encroachments in the above survey number and identified as Salt Pans even on the year of 1998 and then district administration was kept the above lands in the Prohibition Register as per Proceedings Roc. No. E5/14272/1999 dated 12-07-1999 of the District Collector.

3) It is submitted that in 'Melmanthai' Village of Vilathikulam Taluk in Survey No. 295 at an extent of 10.05.5 hectares of land is also classified at Kallar Odai poramboke and the same was encroached by some private people by unauthorized salt pan on March, 2022. After that the district administration took stern action against the said private people by lodging criminal complaints and registered FIR in crime no.78/2022 and crime no. 41/2022 at Soorangudi Police Station of Vilathikulam Taluk and by subsequent to that the encroachments were removed.

4) It is submitted that in Vaippar-I Village, Survey No. 989 with an extent of 457.15.50 hec. of lands are classified as disforest in the Village 'A' register and the said land has not classified as Odai in the revenue records. It is submitted that in the above land at an extent of 412.87.66 hec. out of the total land of 457.15.50 hec. was handed over to SIPCOT by G.O.(MS) No. 293 dated 28-06-2022. The remaining land at an extent of 44.27.84 hec. under lease and the legal process is undergoing to cancel the said lease. It is pertinent to point out that the said lessees have filed Writ Petitions before the Hon'ble Madras High Court, Madurai Bench as against the actions of cancellation process and are pending before the Court.

5) It is submitted that necessary action is taken by District Administration to evict the encroachments frequently and instructed to

PWD (WRD) Dept., to monitor carefully vide Vilathikulam taluk Office Letter No. A1/1536/2022 dated 07-04-2022.

6) It is further submitted that this Hon'ble Green Tribunal in its Judgment dated 03-01-2025 directed that the mentioned above survey numbers, being classified as water bodies, shall be kept free of encroachments at all times. In compliance the order, the District Administration continuously monitoring to prevent encroachments at water bodies and there are no fixed or permanent encroachments at present.

7) It is further more submitted that all necessary preventive measures have been taken to protect said water body lands from encroachments. The matter is being closely monitored in co-ordination with relevant departments.

8) It is humbly submitted that the District Administration is hereby ensure that the mentioned survey numbers are kept free of encroachment for all times to come.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Sothern Zone may be pleased to accept this Status Report affidavit and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the circumstance of the case and thus render justice.

*Digitally signed by*  
ELAMBAHAVATH K  
19-04-2025  
District Collector  
Thoothukudi.

Place: Thoothukudi  
Date: 19-04-2025

Signed by  
Elambahavath K  
Date: 19-04-2025 15:06:16

**VERIFICATION**

I, K.Elambahavath, S/o. Kanthasamy, aged 42 years discharging my duties as District Collector, Thoothukudi district solemnly affirm that the contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge based on the records and I have not suppressed any facts.

*Digitally signed by*  
ELAMBAHAVATH K  
19-04-2025

**District Collector**  
**Thoothukudi.**

REPORT FILED BY THE STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU



DATE 26.06.2025



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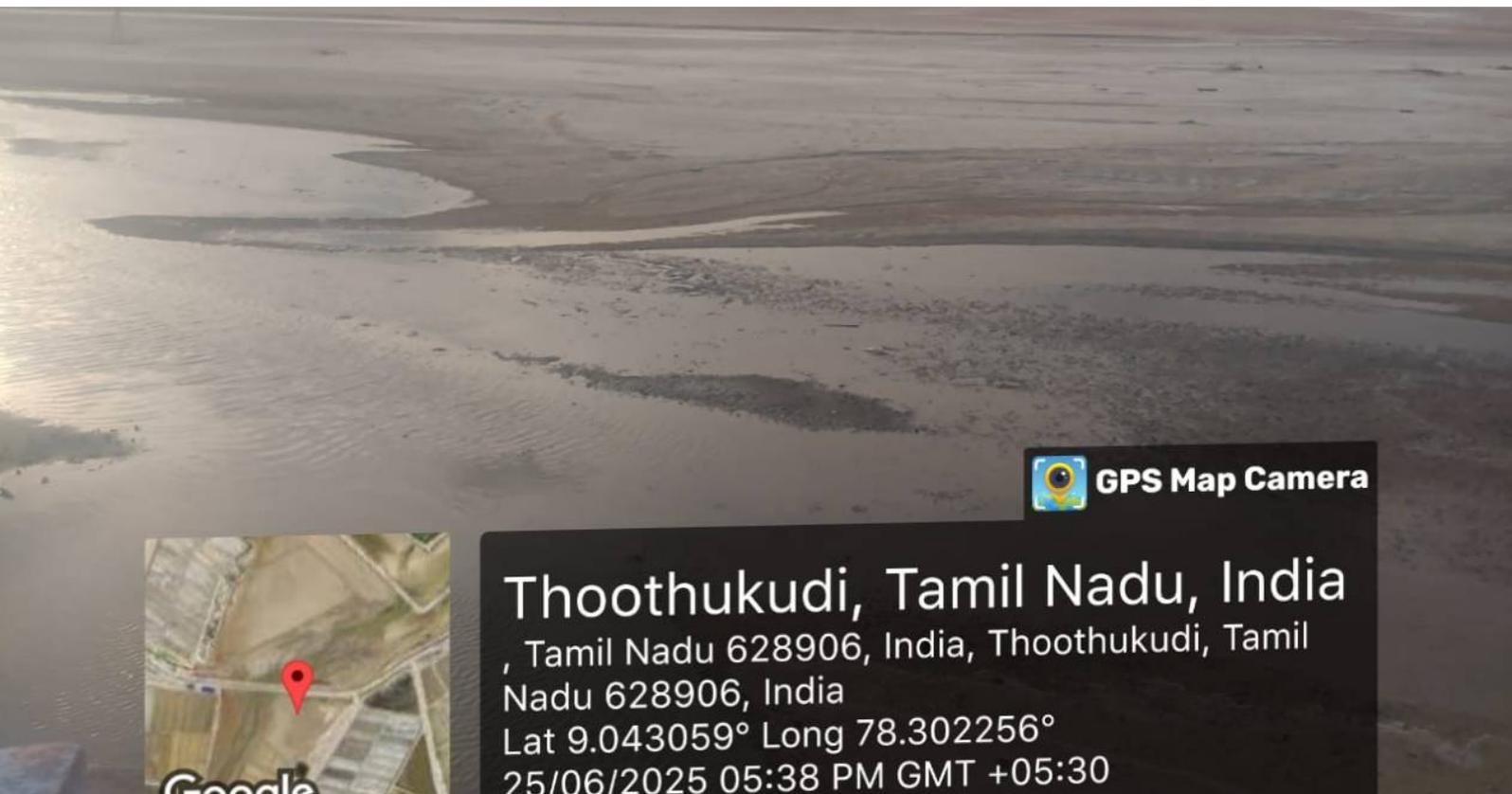


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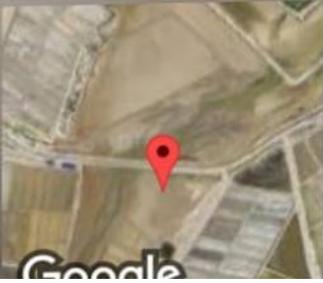
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