

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ) AT CHENNAI
Original Application No. 91 of 2023 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item published in 'The News Indian Express', Chennai E- edition dated 30.06.2023, Road being laid inside marshland in Perumbakkam.

...APPLICANT

-Vs-

- 1. The Member Secretary,**
Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority
Thalamuthu Natarajan Building,
No. 1, Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai – 600008
- 2. District Collector,**
Chengalpattu,
Collectorate, GST Road,
Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu.
- 3. Additional Chief Secretary,**
Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor,
Saidapet, Chennai.


CHIEF PLANNER
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
No.1, GANDHI IRWIN ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600008.

**4. Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
Panagal Maligai,
Saidapet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

...Respondents

**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 1st RESPONDENT
(CMDA)**

I, N.Ravikumar, Chief Planner, son of Thiru N.Krishnaiah, Hindu, aged about 56 years, having an office at No.1, Gandhi-Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008, do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows:

1. I am the Chief Planner of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the 1st Respondent herein. As such, I know the facts of the case as borne out from records.

2. I submit that the present Original Application pertains to the Suo Motu matter taken up by this Hon'ble Tribunal based on the news item mentioning an approach road being laid on the wetland in Perumbakkam marshland.

3. I submit that the Hon'ble Tribunal on 31.07.2024, passed the below orders:



**CHIEF PLANNER
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600008.**

“1. Though even as early as in August 2023, the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (Respondent No.4) has filed its affidavit through the Member Secretary, the other respondents have not yet filed their counter, taking note of the same.

2. The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, after inspection, found that the area in question is a marshland and the said road lies within the zone of influence and adjoining to the boundary of the Ramsar site i.e. Pallikaranai Marshland Reserve Forest. The said area is a patta land belonging to M/s. Casagrand Builders as per the claim made by the Site Engineer. The pathway has been developed by the builders through mobilizing the construction materials within the marshland ecosystem.

3. It is stated further that the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) was informed about the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. No.10821 of 2017 which dealt with encroachments and fragmentation of the wetlands in Pallikaranai Marshland. The CMDA has informed that since the Pallikaranai Marshland has been designated as a Ramsar site on 08.04.2022, the activity of laying a road adjoining the Ramsar site may adversely affect the hydrological, ecological and socio-economic parameters of the wetland.



**CHIEF PLANNER
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
No.1, GANDHI IRWIN ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600008.**

- 4. In this regard, we only direct the CMDA to coordinate with the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority before granting any building approval, even if it is a patta land.**
- 5. Let the CMDA file an additional report in this regard.**
6. The learned Senior Advocate appearing for the 5th Respondent seeks time to file a counter.
7. Post the matter on 20.08.2024."

4.I submit that CMDA in the Second Master Plan (SMP) 2026 for Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has demarcated the Pallikaranai swamp area in the land use map and sofar no Planning Permission Applications were entertained by CMDA in the land demarcated as Pallikaranai Swamp Area.

5.While so, I submit that the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority has declared the Pallikaranai Swamp Area as a Ramsar site in July 2022. However, it is submitted that consequent to the declaration, CMDA has not received any communication from the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority giving the details of the boundary and the Sy.nos of the Ramasar site, in order to incorporate the boundaries to the Ramsar site and to earmark the influence zone for Pallikaranai swamp area in the Master Plan for Chennai Metropolitan Area.



**CHIEF PLANNER
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DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
No.1, GANDHI IRWIN ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600008.**

6.It is submitted that in the absence of the details of the survey numbers covered under the Ramsar site and the width of the influence zone around the Pallikaranai Swamp Area along with the guidelines for permitting developments, CMDA will not be in a position to effect any changes in the Master Plan.

7.It is submitted that as CMDA is in the process of preparation of ***Third Master Plan (TMP) for Chennai Metropolitan Area (2027-2046)***, ***and action will be taken to incorporate appropriate guidelines and influence zone around Pallikaranai Swamp Area in consultation with the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority.*** In this regard, a meeting was already convened between Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority, and Tamil Nadu Forest Department on 01.04.2024 to discuss the Ramsar site issues. I submit that subsequently based on the meeting, the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority has shared the shape file presenting the boundaries of the Pallikaranai Ramsar site, in which the Survey Number and Sub-division details of the Ramsar site/Marsh Land and the influence zone of the same were not provided.

8.I submit that therefore, CMDA has requested the TNSWA to share the list of Survey Numbers and Sub-division details of Ramsar sites and


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Marshlands with its influence zones within the Chennai Metropolitan Area along with approved guidelines for permitting developments in such sites supported by suitable maps for incorporating the same in the Master Plan for Chennai Metropolitan Area vide Letter No. C1/2574/2024, dated 08.08.2024 (Copy enclosed). I further submit that in pursuance to our communications with TNSWA, the requested details are yet to be received from them.

9. I submit that in this regard, it was discussed with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, TNSWA on 13.08.2024, and noted that TNSWA is in the process of consolidating Survey Numbers and Subdivision details of the Pallikarnai Marsh land/ Ramsar site along with ownership details (Private/Govt) and assured to share the same with CMDA once it is ready. **It is submitted that once the requested details are received from TNSWA, CMDA will proceed to incorporate the same in the Master Plan and follow the restrictions insisted for the Marshland/ Ramsar site.**



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It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to consider the submissions of this Respondent and thus, render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on
this the day of August, 2024
and signed in my presence.


**CHIEF PLANNER
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
No.1, BEFORE ME ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600008.**
ADVOCATE: CHENNAI 7/14

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL SOUTH ZONE AT CHENNAI**

O.A. NO. 91 of 2023

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the news item published in 'The
News Indian Express', Chennai E- edition
dated 30.06.2023, Road being laid inside
marshland in Perumbakkam

... SUO MOTO taken matter

Verses

**1. The Member Secretary, Chennai
Metropolitan Development Authority & 3
Others**

... Respondents

**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORT FILED BY
THE 1st RESPONDENT (CMDA)**

P. VEENA SURESH

Standing Counsel
Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority

Counsel for 1st Respondent
98412 34454