

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

Original Application No. 40 of 2025

[Earlier O.A No.7 of 2025 (PB)]

Suo Motu based on the news
Item published in The Hindu,
dated 25.12.2025, the title
"Age-old Channels have become
open drains for Discharging raw
sewage in Tiruchi"

Vs

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai - 600 032. & Ors.

...Respondents

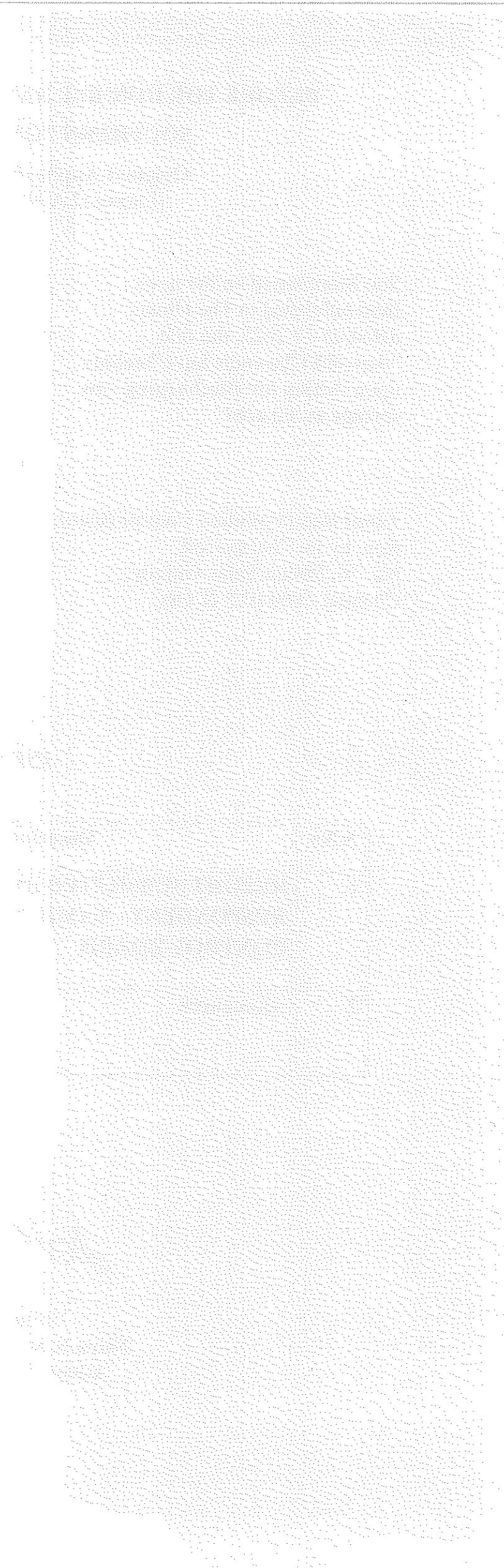
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**Filed by
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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

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Item published in The Hindu,
dated 25.12.2025, the title
"Age-old Channels have become
open drains for Discharging raw
sewage in Tiruchi"

-Vs-

1. The Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation,
Main Office, Tiruchirappalli City Corporation,
Bharathidasan Road, Cantonment,
Tiruchirappalli - 620001
2. The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai,
Guindy, Chennai - 600032
3. The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,
Delhi - 110032
4. Regional Officer, Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone),
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034
5. The District Collector (District Magistrate),
Tiruchirappalli,
District Collector Office,
Tiruchirappalli – 620 001

...Respondents

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND RESPONDENT -
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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

S. Vasuki 4.11.25
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.

2. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 600032 and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the Second Respondent (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the office records.

3. It is respectfully submitted that based on the news item published in The Hindu, dated 25.12.2025, the title "**Age-old Channels have become open drains for Discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi**" the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, PB, New Delhi has taken as a Suo Motu on 20.1.2025 and transferred the O.A No. 7 of 2025, (PB) to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai with the direction to file their response/reply before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the O.A No.7 of 2025, (PB) was renumbered as O.A No.40 of 2025 by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai and on 1.4.2025 directed the respondents to file their reports.

5. It is respectfully submitted that as per the above directions the Second respondent submits the report herein.

6. It is respectfully submitted that a letter has been addressed by the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Trichy on 07.04.2025 to the 1st respondent, Trichy City Municipal Corporation to take immediate action against the discharge of sewage generated from the households and commercial establishments, into the water bodies thereby avoiding the pollution of the water bodies. It was also requested the 1st respondent, Trichy City Corporation to take necessary action to provide adequate underground sewerage system and adequate Sewage Treatment Plants for collecting and treating the sewage generated from the households and commercial establishments present within the limits of Trichy City Corporation vide letter dated 07.04.2025 (**Enclosed as Annexure - I**).

7. It is respectfully submitted that the 1st respondent vide letter dated 09.06.2025 has furnished its reply which are as follows:

- i. The sewage generated from Tennur, Irrattai Vaikkal, and Kottai Vaikkal are being conveyed to the pumping station at Venis Nagar, and further sent to the STP at Panchapur for treatment, thereby the mixing of sewage into River Cauvery is being stopped.

S. Vaze 4.11.25
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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CHENNAI - 600 032.

- ii. Detailed Project Report for conveying the sewage generated from Ward No.17, 18 and 31 in the IrrattaiVaikkal area has been prepared for an estimate of Rs.28.60 Crores and the same is under consideration.
- iii. Under River front development fund, an estimate amount of Rs.26.00 Crores for North River bank and estimate of Rs.24.00 Crores for the South River bank, on Total Rs.50.00 Crores estimate has been prepared for administrative sanction and the same is under consideration.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the officials of the District Environment Engineer, TNPCB, Trichy along with the 1st respondent authorities conducted an inspection on 23.06.2025 near Chettipalan, Beeman Nagar and Thennur RettaiVaykkal and the following observation were made:(Photographs taken during inspection are **enclosed as Annexure II**)

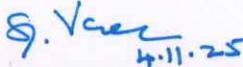
- i. Certain storm water drains/open drains within the Trichy City Corporation limits carry sewage from residential areas and drain into the Uyyakondan Canal.
- ii. The sewage is being disposed into the open drains which further leads to the water body, the Kavery River, where mixing of sewage takes place.
- iii. The 1st respondent authorities have informed that under the "Smart City Scheme" efforts are being taken to connect all black water sources / grey water sources to the underground drainage system. Upon completion, of the Under Ground Drainage System, the discharge of untreated black water / grey water into the water bodies will be arrested.
- iv. Tiruchirappalli City Corporation has a population of 10.45 lakhs, consists of 65 wards, and generates around 115 MLD of sewage
- v. The Trichy City Corporation has established a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 58.64 MLD located at Madurai-Chennai Bypass Road, near Panchapur, Trichy East Taluk, Tiruchirappalli. The plant is currently operational with a valid Consent To Operate (CTO), and an application for renewal of consent for 2025-2026 is pending.
- vi. A 37.0 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant has been established at Keelakalkandarkottai, near Alakumachi Amman Kovil, Thiruverumbur Taluk, Trichy District. Although yet to commence its operations,

Consent to Operate (CTO) has been issued with validity upto 31.03.2026.

- vii. The Trichy City Corporation is currently constructing an additional Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 100 MLD at Panchapur. The Consent to Establish for the proposed facility has been granted and is valid until 31.03.2029.

9. It is further submitted that the recent action taken report by the 1st respondent, received by the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Trichy vide letter dated 02.09.2025, reads as follows:

- i. Action was taken to prevent the discharge of sewage from the Mahatma Gandhi Government Hospital into the Uyyakondan Canal by laying underground sewage pipelines for the length of 1350 meters by spending an amount of Rs.30 lakhs under the Trichy Parliamentary Constituency Fund and Rs.40 lakhs under the Perambalur MP - Local Area Development Scheme.
- ii. Under the AMRUT Under Ground Drainage Scheme – Phase-2, UGD was laid in the areas Kasturi Puram, Raja Colony, Iruthayapuramthoppotheru, Vaykkalmettutheru and there by the discharge of sewage into Uyyakondan Canal was prevented.
- iii. The Sewage inflow into Uyyakondan Canal from following 24 areas such as Aazhvarmedu, Pudureddytheru, Pangalitheru, Ponvizhanagar, Azhvarthoppu 2nd & 3rd streets, Heeber Road, Opposite to Cauvery theatre, Vaykkalmettutheru, Opposite to Nataraj Hotel, NM Pallivasal, Palakkarai ROB west and east, Edatheru north west, South west, North east and south east areas, Mariyam nagar, Thuraisamipuram 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th streets were completely stopped under Smart City- Under Ground Drainage Scheme.
- iv. Under the AMRUT Under Ground Drainage Scheme – Phase-2, UGD was laid in the areas near Ayyappan Kovil in Lawson street, and the areas in package-1 including Thothinagar, Ammakulam, Lakshmi puram, Srinivasanagar, Ganapathy nagar, Kamaraj Nagar and there by the discharge of sewage into Uyyakondan Canal was prevented.


 4.11.25
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
 TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
 CHENNAI - 600 032.

- v. Sewage pumping stations were established at WinNagar(SPS 3), Rajeshwari Nagar (SPS 4), Chidambaram Nagar (SPS 1), Ariyamngalam Mangalam Solid waste dumping site (SPS 2), Keelakalkandar Kottai (SPS 6) and the trial run has been completed. At present 7665 households were connected with this sewage pumping stations and 5MLD has been collected. The collected sewage has been pumped to 37MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant for further treatment. The connectivity for the left-out houses is under progress.
- vi. The left-out areas under AMRUT 2.0(2024-2025) for Under Ground Drainage Systems are now being taken up in phase -IV at an estimated cost of Rs.230.61 Crore. As of now 15.39% of the works has been completed, and the remaining works are under progress.
- vii. Administrative Sanction has been granted for Rs.233.87 crore to establish Sewage Treatment Plant with 100 MLD capacity at Panchappur of Ward 61 under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme. The construction of STP is being carried out and 46% of the works has been completed now. This STP will be completed and brought to public usage on December 2025.
- viii. On completion of the above-mentioned projects, sewage discharge into the Uyyakondan Canal will be completely prevented.

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. V. V. 4.11.25
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, S.Vasuki, Daughter of Thiru. P.K.Somasundaram, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

S. Vasuki 11.25
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

From

Er.S.Sivarajani,M.E.,
District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
25,SIDCO Industrial Estate,
Thuvakudy, Trichy-15

To

The Commissioner,
Trichy City Corporation,
No.58, Bharathidasan Salai,
Cantonment,
Tiruchirappalli – 620 001

Letter No. F. 0541/DEE/TNPCB/TRY/2025 dated: 07/04/2025

Sir,

Sub: DEE-TNPCB-Trichy - Suo motu case vide O.A. No. 07/2025 – Filed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal titled **"Age-old Channels have become open drains for Discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi"** – Reg.

Ref: 1. "Age-old Channels have become open drains for Discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.12.2025 (Copy enclosed).
2. Hon'ble NGT's suo motu case registered vide O.A. No. 07/2025 (Copy enclosed)

With reference to the above, I submit to inform that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has registered a suo motu case vide O.A. No. 07/2025 based on the news published in *The Hindu* news paper on 25.12.2025 with the news item titled

"Age-old Channels have become open drains for discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi"

The Hon'ble NGT has stated that ' *the news item relates to the discharge of sewage into the open drain of Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu posing significant health and environmental risks. As per the article, despite the expansion of the underground sewer network, numerous households and commercial establishments continue to illegally discharge waste into these canals. This practice has resulted in severe pollution, with the Uyyakondan Canal becoming heavily contaminated. The article*

சிவசுவாமிநாதன்
நாள்: 08/04/2025

highlights that in the absence of a proper storm-water drainage network, these open drains serve as the city's primary outlet to carry the rainwater flows to the Cauvery. These drains have been irrigation canals in the past and were handed over to the Corporation for maintenance by the Water Resources Department following rapid urbanisation in recent decades. Most of these canals were more than 20-foot wide, originally but have now drastically shrunk in width. The article further reports that sewage could be seen flowing directly into the canals from pipes put up brazenly at the rear of the houses or small business establishments. Moreover, it is alleged that the flow of sewage poses a health hazard to residents living along the drains. Farmers in the area have reported skin diseases attributed to the use of polluted canal water for irrigation. The situation has been exacerbated by recent heavy rains, causing waterlogging due to clogged drains and highlighting the city's inadequate stormwater drainage system.'

In this regard, necessary action has to be initiated by Trichy City Corporation to immediately stop the discharge of sewage generated from the households and commercial establishments, into the water bodies thereby avoiding the pollution of the waterbodies.

Further, necessary action shall be taken by Trichy City Corporation to provide adequate underground sewerage system and adequate Sewage Treatment Plants for collecting and treating the sewage generated from the house holds and commercial establishments present within the limits of Trichy City Corporation. Details on Action taken shall be furnished to this office, so as to submit the same before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern zone.

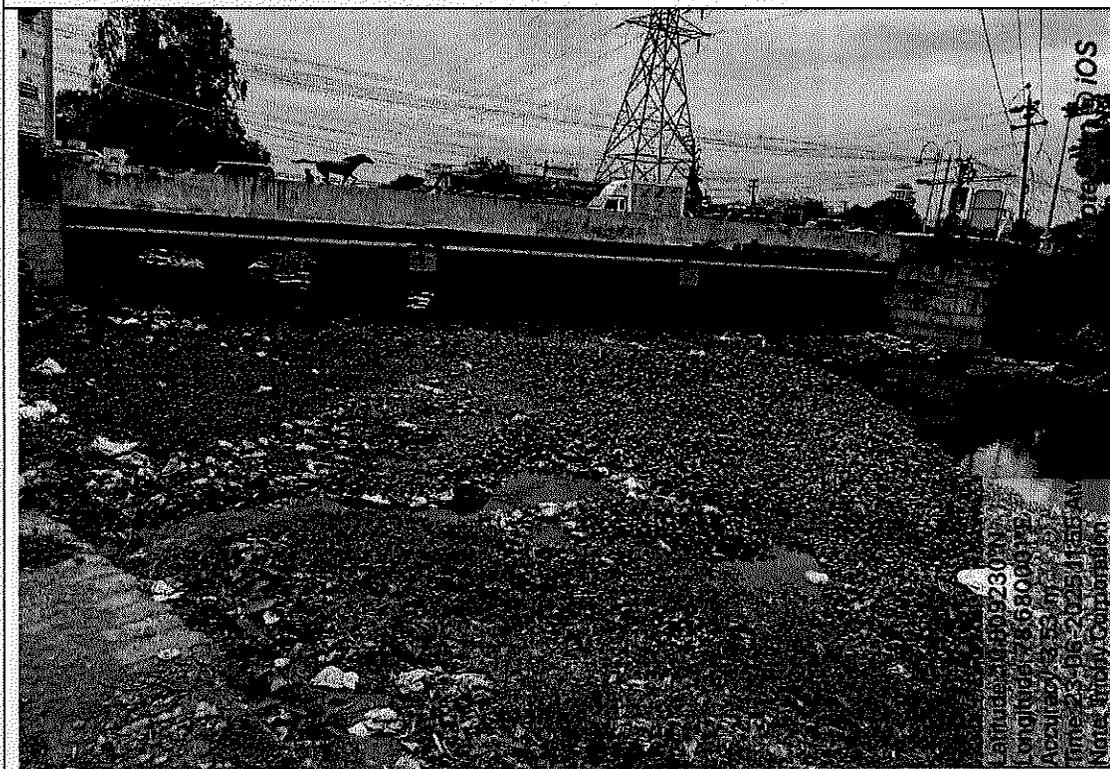
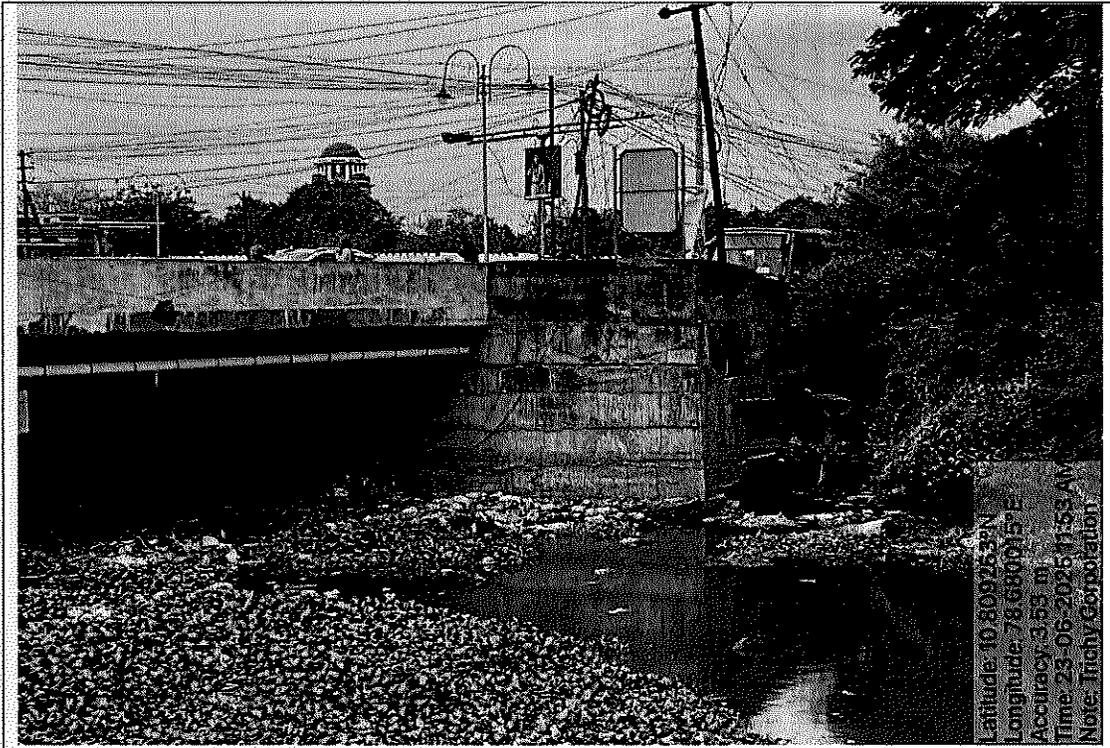
The receipt of this letter may be acknowledged.

Encl: As above.

B. S. S.
07/09/2015

**District Environmental Engineer
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Trichy District**

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING INSPECTION



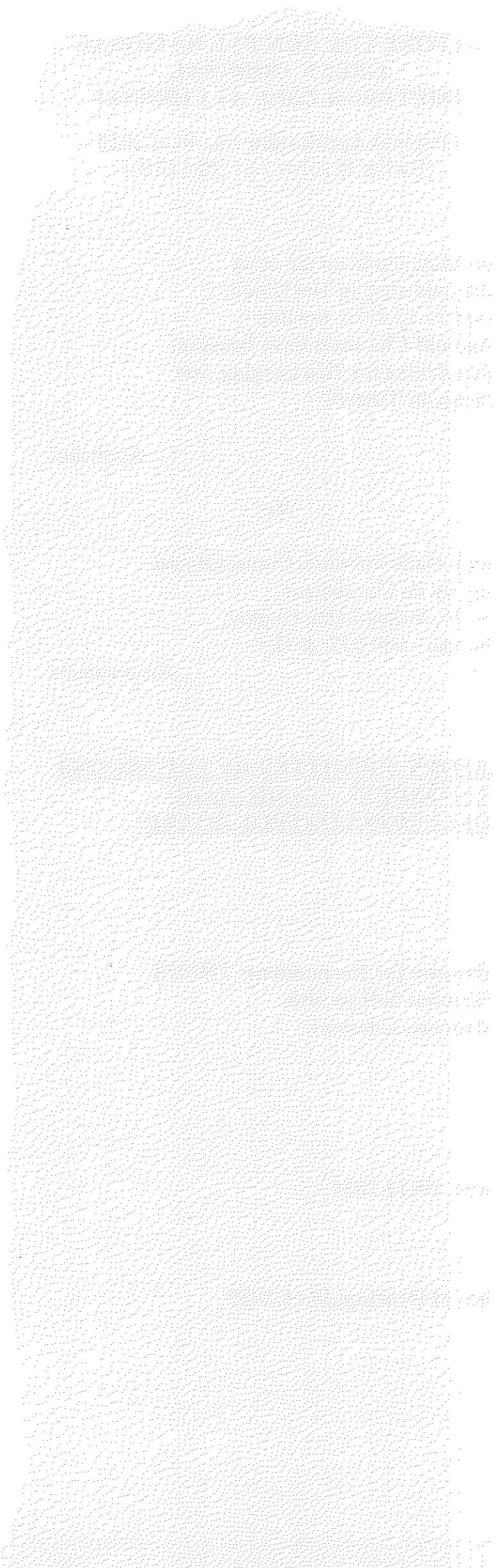
CHETTIPALAM



BEEMAN NAGAR



THENNUR RETTAI VAIKKAL



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**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND
RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

Date: 05.11.2025

Date of Hearing:28.11.2025