

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 91 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUO MOTU based on the news item published

On “The New Indian Express”, Chennai

E- edition dated 30.06.2023, “ Road being laid

inside marshland in Perumbakkam”.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Director,

DTCP, Tamil Nadu and Others

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY 4th RESPONDENT –

THE TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY

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Through
D. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone

DATE: 31.08.2025

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

Original Application No. 91 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

...Applicant

-Verses-

1.The Director
Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP),
2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor, C&E Market Road, Koyambedu,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

2.District Collector
Chengalpattu Collectorate,
GST Road, Chengalpattu.

3.Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Environment & Climate Change,
No. 1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
Ground Floor, Saidapet,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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

...Respondent(s)


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT/MEMBER SECRETARY, TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY

I, Srinivas R.Reddy, S/o Late T. Ramachandran Reddy, aged about 59 years, working as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (FAC) at Panagal Maligai, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. It is humbly submitted that I am the 4th respondent herein and, as such, am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case based on official records. I am therefore authorized and competent to file this report.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the Perumbakkam-Pallikaranai canal is very important as it is a **storm water drain** feeding into the marshland. This drain which earlier served as a natural stream has now been reduced to the small drainage, thus increasing the vulnerability of flooding due to reduced water holding capacity during heavy rainfall and the maintaining the channel is essential for the inlet and outlet dynamics since the area is highly vulnerable to flooding and this channel can play a critical role in flood mitigation. The channel starts from Perumbakkam lake passes through the following Survey Nos: 264, 265, 266, 283, 284, 285, 286, 471, 472, 473 and feeds into the Pallikaranai Marshland Survey No.535(Copy of the Perumbakkam Village Map as enclosed herewith as Annexure-1).


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

3. It is respectfully submitted that the natural water flow chain has been reduced due to rapid constructions activities, thereby disturbing the hydrological balance. Portions of the land, originally marshland, were subsequently allotted to private individuals for traditional agricultural and grazing purposes owing to the clay-rich soil and seasonal waterlogging conditions. However, over time, the marshland has undergone severe degradation due to unregulated real estate development, road expansion projects, and large-scale dumping of solid waste, all these activities go against the mandate of Article 48A and Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India which is seeking for the protection and improvement of the natural environment and the safeguarding of wetlands.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Hinch Lal Tiwari v. Kamala Devi* [(2001) 6 SCC 496] has categorically held that water bodies such as ponds, tanks, and channels are public trust resources which cannot be alienated for private use. The State and its instrumentalities are duty-bound to protect and restore such natural resources in the interest of the public at large.
5. It is respectfully submitted that, with respect to the zone of influence, the extent varies from one wetland to another; in the case of Pallikaranai Marshland, the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, has undertaken the preparation and upgradation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. The



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revision of the existing IMP is currently under progress. As part of this process, the delineation of the zone of influence will be carried out, and the corresponding prescriptions/regulations for the zone will be included in the revised IMP. The zone of influence will become effective upon approval of the updated IMP.

It is therefore humbly submitted that the above-mentioned fact may be taken into consideration by this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai, and pass necessary orders as it deems fit and thus render justice.


DEPONENT

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

VERIFICATION

I Srinivas R.Reddy, S/o Late T. Ramachandran Reddy the above named deponent do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct on the basis of official record maintained by the Respondent No. 4, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Chennai on this the ^{29th} day of Aug, 2025.

DEPONENT


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15