

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 593 of 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on The News Item Titled "Delhi
Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why Our
Metros are Going Under" Appearing In The
Times Of India (Kolkata) Dated 13.11.2025".

....Applicants

Vs-

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)
through Member Secretary,
Central Ground Water Authority,
Ministry of Jal Shakti,
CSMRS Campus, Ol of plame Marg,
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi – 110016 and 7 others.

.....Respondents.

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Mrs. Poornima Krishna, Advocate

Counsel for Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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And

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...Respondents

**REPORT FILED BY THE 6TH REPONDENT-
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I,M. Somasundaram,Son of Thiru.S. Muthukumarasamy, aged about 45years,
having office at Second Floor, 950/1, Poonamallee High Road, Arumbakkam,
Chennai-600 106, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. I submit that I am working as the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu
Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am filing this report and as such I am
well acquainted with the facts of the case from the office records.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal
Zone has registered a SUO MOTU based on the News Item Titled "Delhi
Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why Our Metros are Going Under" Appearing In
The Times Of India (Kolkata) Dated 13.11.2025".


27/5/26
District Environmental Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board
Chennai District.

4. It is respectfully submitted that, as per the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (PB), New Delhi, the report is submitted by the 6th respondent herein.
5. It is respectfully submitted that the news article relates to satellite data of 2015-2023 shows India's five mega-cities are subsiding by over 5cm a year in some areas. Researchers warn that without stricter groundwater control and urban planning; thousands of buildings could face serious structural damage. The news item highlights a news study published in Nature Sustainability by researchers from Virginia, The United Nations University and other international institutes finds that nearly 878 sqkms of land across five Indian megacities-Delhi Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai is subsiding. Using satellite radar data captured between 2015 and 2023 indicates such subsidence. On account of such subsidence structural damage could happen. It also indicates that 1.9 million people roughly the population of Chandigarh are living in areas where ground is subsiding faster. The news item also highlights 05 big factors that affect the land stability which include (1) ground water over use, (2) urban weight on account of vertical load on soft sediments, (3) erratic monsoon which resulted in reduction in aquifer recharge and (4) population growth which is 0.9% annually has direct impact on increased used of ground water and (5) weak regulations which resulted in poor -post constructions safety check under old building codes. Some of the preventive measures that news items suggest include holistic preventive approach such as regulation of groundwater extraction, large-scale rain water harvesting and aquifer recharge, integration of satellite monitoring in buildings and zoning codes, restriction on construction in floodplains. Delhi's Dwarka Case demonstrates that such measures can stabilize or reverse ground movement when sustained over time. The above news item raises serious concerns with regard to the safety of people and structures on


District Environmental Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board
Chennai District.

account of over drawl of groundwater which has serious long-term effects and lack of recharge.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the regulation of ground water extraction does not comes under the purview of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
7. It is respectfully submit that the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) is providing fresh water supply and collecting the sewage for treatment and safe disposal from the domestic and industrial zone in the entire Chennai Metropolitan Area. Also, the Tamil Nadu Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre in Tharamani, Chennai is a key agency responsible for managing and regulating water resources. It offers services such as geophysical surveys for drilling wells, water quality testing, and providing water-related data to farmers, researchers, and institutions. The agency also issues No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for groundwater extraction for various uses, including packaged drinking water and industrial purposes. The Centre is operating under the state's Water Resources Department.
8. It is respectfully submitted that the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Water Resources Department (WRD-PWD), Tamil Nadu, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) are the competent and responsible authority for ground water extraction.
9. It is respectfully submitted that the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) are the competent authorities for the construction of multi-storey buildings, land use zone categorization in the entire Chennai Metropolitan Area.


District Environmental Officer
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board
Chennai District.

Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) may be pleased to pass such order 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.


22/5/26
District Environmental Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board
Chennai District.

VERIFICATION

I, M. Somasundaram, Son of Thiru.S. Muthukumarasamy, working as the District Environment Engineer, having office at No. 950/1, Poonamalle High Road, Arumbakkam, Chennai 600 106, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.


22/5/26
District Environmental Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board
Chennai District.




M. SARAVANAN, B.Sc., B.L.,
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
No.29, 2nd Cross Street, Sankar Nagar
Pammal, Chennai - 600 075.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI**

Original Application No.593 of 2025 (PB)

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
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.....Applicant.

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through Member Secretary,
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New Delhi – 110016 and 7 others.

...Respondents

**Report submitted by the Sixth Respondent –
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Date of filing : 27.05.2026

Date of hearing : 29.05.2026

**Mrs. Poornima Krishna, Advocate
Counsel for Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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Suo Motu based on the news item titled
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Vs

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Through Member Secretary,
Ministry of Jal Sakthi, New Delhi & ors.

...Respondents

VAKALATNAMA

I, **M. Saravanakumar, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-600032**, Petitioner(s) / Appellant(s) / 6th Respondent(s) in the above Petition do hereby appoint and retain **Ms. Purnima Krishna**, Advocate on Record, for the State of Tamil Nadu, National Green Tribunal, New Delhi to act and appear for me in the above Petition and on my behalf to conduct and prosecute (or defend) the same and all proceedings that may be taken in respect of any application connected with the same or any decree or order passed therein including proceeding in taxation and application for Review, to file and obtain return of documents, and to deposit and receive money on my/our behalf in the said Petition and in applications for Review and to represent me/us and to take all necessary steps on our behalf in the above matter. I agree to all act done by the aforesaid Advocate in pursuance of this authority.

Dated this the 27 day of May, 2026.

ACCEPTED AND IDENTIFIED

Purnima

M. Saravanakumar
26/5/26
MEMBER SECRETARY
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.
Petitioner (s) / Appellant(s)
Respondent (s) /Caveator (s)

MEMO OF APPEARANCE

To
The National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Please enter my appearance in the above mentioned Petition/Appeal/Reference Review/Suit made on behalf of the Petitioner(s) / Appellant(s) / 6th Respondent(s) / Plaintiff(s)/ Defendant(s)

Chennai.
Dated:27.05.2026.

Yours faithfully

Purnima
Advocate for the Petitioner(s)/
Respondent(s)/Appellant(s)



M. Saravanakumar
M. SARAVANAN, B.Sc., B.L.,
ADVOCATE & NOTARY PUBLIC
No.29, 2nd Cross Street, Sankar Nagar
Pammal, Chennai - 600 075.