Supreme Court Upholds Cancellation of Patta on TN Water Body

The Supreme Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to allot alternative sites to 20 flat owners before demolishing apartments built on a water body in Tiruvallur district.

A judicial ruling on the legality of issuing ryotwari pattas over classified government water bodies and wetland encroachments.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Supreme Court bench comprising Justices S.V.N. Bhatti and N.V. Anjaria delivered the verdict in October 2026.
- The court upheld the cancellation of a ryotwari patta granted over a recorded government water body in Tiruvallur district.
- The Tamil Nadu government was ordered to allot a suitable alternative site to the affected 20 flat owners within six months.
- Demolition of the apartments is mandated to take place only after the allotment of the alternative site to the flat owners.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

A ryotwari patta is an official revenue document certifying an individual cultivator's right to occupy and pay land tax directly to the government.

Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life, which includes the right to housing and shelter as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

Article 48A of the Constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy directs the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.

The Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act was enacted to prevent encroachment and protect water bodies in the state.

Tiruvallur district, where the disputed land is located, is a major administrative district in northern Tamil Nadu formed in 1997.

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Supreme Court upheld the cancellation of patta over a water body in Tiruvallur district, directing alternative sites for 20 flat owners.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for questions concerning environmental protection, water body conservation, and land revenue administration in Tamil Nadu.

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