

“Raw sewage let into lakes in Pallavaram”

THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022

Nx + dt 24/8

*OA 17/2020
OA 128/2020*

Raw sewage let into lakes in Pallavaram

Despite NGT Orders, Lake Restoration A Far Cry

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Chennai: In violation of directions of the National Green Tribunal, the Tambaram corporation is pumping out sewage into a canal connecting the Putheri and Keelkattalai lakes in Pallavaram.

Only two weeks ago, the NGT's southern bench had directed the corporation to restore the lakes by plugging sewage inflow and removing encroachments. The corporation is yet to act on it.

Raw sewage was seen gushing into the canal from a pipeline on Monday, polluting the lake. The 62 acre Keelkattalai lake and 10 acre Putheri lake, which are major water sources for the region, are also polluted with water hyacinth. This apart, the two lakes are also encroached by constructions.

Civic activist David Manohar said the corporation has given scant regard to the tribunal's direction and continue to brazenly let out sewage into the canal leading to the lake.

“The lakes are the main water source for this neighbourhood. Erring officials must be summoned. Let the NGT summon the corporation officials and civil society groups together in the next hearing. We will explain all issues plaguing the waterbody



OUT IN THE OPEN: Sewage being let out into a canal leading to Putheri and Keelkattalai lakes

and the inaction on the part of civic body officials in restoring the lake,” said Manohar.

The erstwhile Pallavaram municipality, which has now been merged with the Tambaram corporation, had spent nearly ₹40 lakh to restore the lake. But in reality, nothing has improved as sewage continues to be let into the lake, apart from a mounds of garbage that's routinely transferred into the lake.

The NGT had also raised concerns about private water tankers letting sewage into the lake and had urged the corporation to monitor movements on the Radial Road. Little has been done on this front too, residents said.



Activist V Santhanam of Pallavaram said civic authorities have been slow to implement the directions of NGT. “Northeast monsoon is arriving in a few months and the lake is not yet restored, The surrounding areas stand at the risk of getting flooded,” he said.

When TOI shared details of the issue with Tambaram corporation commissioner M Elangovan, he said he would look into the issue.

CHENNAI: In violation of directions of the National Green Tribunal, the Tambaram corporation is pumping out sewage into a canal connecting the Putheri and Keelkattalai lakes in Pallavaram. Only two weeks ago, the NGT's southern bench had directed the corporation to restore the lakes by plugging sewage inflow and removing encroachments. The corporation is yet to act on it. Raw sewage was seen gushing into the canal from a pipeline on Monday, polluting the lake. The 62 acre Keelkattalai lake and 10 acre Putheri lake, which are major water sources for the region, are also polluted with water hyacinth. This apart, the two lakes are also encroached by constructions.

Civic activist David Manohar said the corporation has given scant regard to the tribunal's direction and continue to brazenly let out sewage into the canal leading to the lake. "The lakes are the main water source for this neighbourhood. Erring officials must be summoned. Let the NGT summon the corporation officials and civil society groups together in the next hearing. We will explain all issues plaguing the waterbody and the inaction on the part of civic body officials in restoring the lake," said Manohar. The erstwhile Pallavaram municipality, which has now been merged with the Tambaram corporation, had spent nearly 40 lakh to restore the lake. But in reality, nothing has improved as sewage continues to be let into the lake, apart from a mounds of garbage that's routinely transferred into the lake. The NGT had also raised concerns about private water tankers letting sewage into the lake and had urged the corporation to monitor movements on the Radial Road. Little has been done on this front too, residents said. Activist V Santhanam of Pallavaram said civic authorities have been slow to implement the directions of NGT. "Northeast monsoon is arriving in a few months and the lake is not yet restored, The surrounding areas stand at the risk of getting flooded," he said. When TOI shared details of the issue with Tambaram corporation commissioner M Elangovan, he said he would look into the issue.