

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 299 of 2013 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 164 of 2014 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 164 of 2015 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 130 of 2016 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Suo Motu (Based on news item in the Hindu
Dated 25.10.2013)

And

The Addl. Chief Secy. to Govt., Environment & Forest
Department and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

P. Edwin Wilson,
Purasaiwalkam, Chennai

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by its Chief Secy.,
Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Jawaharlal Shanmugam,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai

...Applicant(s)

Versus

TNPCB
Represented by its chairman,
Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

S. Muthumeena,

Egmore, Chennai

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Secretary to the Government,
PWD, Secretariat, Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

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Through

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Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 299 of 2013 (SZ)
Original Application No. 164 of 2014 (SZ)
Original Application No. 164 of 2015 (SZ)
Original Application No. 130 of 2016 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion on the
News item reported in the Hindu
Dt. 25.10.2013 about beach at
Adyar Estuary with trash, rubble

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary
Environment & Forests,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai & ors.

..... Respondent(s)

With

P.Edwin Wilson
Purasaiwalkam, Chennai.

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep by its Chief Secretary,
Chennai & ors

.....Respondent(s)

With

Jawaharlal Shanmugam
Thiruvanmiyur

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board & ors

.....Respondent(s)

With

S.Muthumeena
Egmore, Chennai

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The Secretary to the Government,
PWD, Secretariat, Chennai & Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

STATUS OF RIVER RESTORATION PROJECTS IN CHENNAI

We state that in the respect of the Original Application No. 299/2013, 164/2014, 164/2015 & 130/2016 the issue taken up for consideration by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) is the pollution of rivers Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham Canal in and around Chennai in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its Order dated 28.07.2015 directed the Chief Secretary to convene a meeting once in every two months. From thereon, the Chief Secretary have convened bi-monthly meeting to review the progress of the river restoration projects along with the line department and an Affidavit along with the Minutes of the Chief Secretary review meeting would be submitted by CRRT on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu.

Later, the case was taken over by the Principal Bench, New Delhi and new Case (OA 556 to 559/2018) numbers were assigned. As per the Order dated 13.2.2019, the Committee headed by Chief Secretary to meet fortnightly for a period of next three months and thereafter on monthly basis to review the progress in the matter and quarterly report may be furnished to this Tribunal on the progress in the matter by email at ngt.filing@gmail.com. Thereon, the Chief Secretary has been conducting monthly meeting and thus far filed Eighteen Quarterly reports in Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi through email in ngt.filing@gmail.com. Last quarterly report was submitted in September, 2023 and the next quarterly report is due in November, 2023

Progress of Integrated Cooum and Adyar River Eco-Restoration Project and Buckingham Canal Restoration Project.

Restoration of Chennai's major waterways is a top priority for the Government of Tamil Nadu and to this end, river restoration plans of both Cooum and Adyar rivers have been drawn up and are currently under implementation by various line departments such as Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Greater Chennai Corporation, Water Resources Department (WRD), Directorate of Municipal Administration, and Department of Rural Development and Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board. Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust is entrusted with coordinating and monitoring the projects.

INTEGRATED COOUM RIVER ECO-RESTORATION PROJECT

Work on the sub-projects has been initiated by the concerned line departments and are under various stages of progress as detailed below:

1. Water Resources Department (WRD):

- From Chainage 700 m to 9677 m and in northern arm desilting work is completed. In the stretch from Chainage 9677 m to 27336 m, desilting and formation of Baby canal have been completed.
- Within the CRZ stretch i.e., from Cooum river mouth to Napier bridge (Ch.0 m - 700 m), for the continuous opening of river mouth and desilting of the river, CRZ Clearance has been obtained by WRD and construction of training walls is under progress. So far, 85% of work is completed and it is expected to be completed by 31.12.2023.

2. Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC):

i. Removal of Solid Waste:

The removal of accumulated Solid waste from the banks of the Cooum River is completed.

ii. Installation of Booms:

Trash boom systems have been deployed across the river at 8 locations viz., near C-in-C bridge, Periyar Bridge, Choolaimedu, Metha Nagar, near Central Buckingham Canal, behind Madras Medical College, Quaid-e-Millath Bridge and near Napier Bridge.

iii. Fencing:

Under this project, fencing work has been fully completed for an available work front length of 20.54 km.

3. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB):

i. Interceptor and Diversion pipelines:

- Package I (Chintadripet) - 100% works completed.
- Package II (Chetpet) – 100% works completed.
- Package III (Nungambakkam) – 100% works completed.
- Package IV (Metha Nagar) – 100% of works completed.

- Package V (Anna Nagar) – 100% works completed.
- Package VI (Langs Garden Road) - 100% of works completed.
- Package VII (South Cooum River Road) – 100% works completed.
- Package VIII (Aminjikai) – 100% works completed.
- Package IX (NSK Nagar) – Proposal Dropped.
- Package X (Anna Nagar) – 100% works completed

ii. Modular STPs

- For Modular STP (1.0 MLD) near College Road, Chetpet – 100 % works completed.
- For Modular STP (1.2 MLD) at Nungambakkam – 100 % works completed.
- For Modular STP (0.6 MLD) at Maduravoyal - Proposal dropped as the existing sewage pumping station, Mogappair east with decanting facility is located within few hundred meters distance.
- For the 10 MLD STP (TTUF) at Langs Garden – Testing and trial operations commenced on 02.9.2023.

iii. Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS):

- For UGSS Nerkundram, Pipe laying and construction of Sewage Pumping Station works are in progress. 96% of work completed and the remaining works are under progress. It is scheduled to be completed by March 2024.

4. Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA):

- Accumulated solid waste (1,648 MT) along the banks of the river has been removed within Thiruverkadu Municipality limits.
- Fencing have been completed for a length of 8.075 km within Thiruverkadu Municipality. Fencing in the encroached stretch for a length of 965 m will be taken up after the relocation of habitations (i.e. Shanmuga Nagar and Perumal Koil Street, Thiruverkadu) as the cases are pending before the Hon'ble High Court.

5. Commissionerate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CRD):

- The accumulated solid waste (4,582 cu.m) have been removed from the banks of the Cooum river within the DRD areas viz., Senneerkuppam, Adayalampattu and Vanagaram Village Panchayats.
- Fencing works (1.92 km) have been completed in all 3 Village Panchayats viz., Vanagaram, Adayalampattu & Senneerkuppam.

6. Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)

- A total of 14,257 Project Affected Families (PAFs) were identified within the Cooum River boundary under this project. So far, TNUHDB has allotted 13,481 tenements and allotment orders will be issued to resettle remaining PAFs under this project.
- Under ICRERP, 638 tenements are now ready for allotment to resettle the remaining PAFs in Cooum River viz.,
 - Thailavaram Phase II (Maraimalai Nagar) – 2 units,
 - Moolakothalam Phase I (Tondiarpet) – 370 units,
 - Moolakothalam Phase II (Tondiarpet) – 266 units.
 - Manali New Town Phase II – 138 units will be ready in November, 2023.

7. Plantation Works in Cooum River under ICRERP:

The status of riverine plantation works in Cooum River taken up under ICRERP within GCC is detailed below:

Plantation Stretch (Total Saplings)	Total No. of Plants Planted	Status of Work
From Quaid-e-Milleth Bridge to Col. Laws Bridge (S.M. Nagar)	14,500	Completed
From Napier Bridge to Quaid-e-Milleth Bridge (Island Ground)	14,300	Completed
From Thaimoogambigai Dental College campus to Padikuppam Burial Ground	5000	Completed
Mogappair Bridge (Rail Nagar) up to GCC limit	16,000	Completed

ADYAR RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT FROM ORIGIN TO MOUTH

Work on various sub-projects of the Adyar River Restoration Project were initiated by all the line departments in 2018 and are under various stages of progress.

1. Water Resources Department (WRD)

- For the package 1, i.e., from River mouth to Thiru. Vi. Ka Bridge (1963 m), so far, 55% of work completed and it is expected to be completed by February 2024.
- For package 2, i.e., from Thiru. Vi. Ka. bridge to Kotturpuram bridge (2,353 m) - desilting work is completed.
- For package 3, i.e., from Kotturpuram bridge to Saidapet road bridge (2,892) - , desilting work is completed.
- For package 4, i.e., from Saidapet road bridge to Jafferkhanpet road bridge (flood protection wall for a length of 650 m and desilting for a length of 2,498 m) - Works are completed.
- For package 5, i.e., from Jafferkhanpet Road bridge to Manapakkam Check dam (desilting for a length of 3,334 m and flood protection wall for a length of 500 m) - Works are completed.
- For package 6, i.e., from Thiruneermalai to Outer Ring Road (desilting for a length of 3,000 m and flood protection wall for a length of 406 m) - Works are completed.
- For package 7 (maintenance of river mouth for 4 consecutive years) - CRZ Clearance order received from MoEF&CC. Estimate is being prepared and work will be taken up in May / June, 2024

2. Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)

- Under this project, out of a total 24.67 km, fencing work completed for an available work of 14.18 km. New work front identified for 480 m in the relocation sites. Chain link fencing has been completed for 280 m in Chitra Nagar. In remaining 200 m, work is under progress.

- For the trash boom systems which are to be installed at 3 suitable locations across the Adyar River, viz., Kotturpuram Bridge, Maraimalai Adigalar Bridge & Jafferkhanpet Causeway have been completed.
- Regarding the work on beautification of bridges, works have been completed on all the three bridges being maintained by GCC (South Buckingham Canal Bridge near Kotturpuram Railway Station, Thiru. Vi. Ka Bridge and Alandur Bridge) and on one bridge being maintained by State Highways Department i.e., Maraimalai Adigalar Bridge (Saidapet Bridge). All the bridge beautification works have been completed.
- For the Park near Kotturpuram, 100% work is completed.
- Formation of Playground and Urban dense forest at Canal Bank Road – 100% works completed.

3. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB)

i. Interceptor and Diversion Pipelines:

- Package I- Adyar & Kotturpuram – 100% works completed.
- Package III - Nandanam Extension, Turn Bulls Road & Radhakrishnapuram Slum – 100% works completed.
- Package IV – Mambalam Canal - 100% works completed.
- Package V - Guindy & Ekkattuthangal – 100% works completed.
- Package VI – Samiyar Thottam, Jafferkhanpet & MGR Drain – 100% works completed.
- Package VII – 100% works completed.
- Package XI – 100% works completed.

ii. Modular STP:

- Package VIII – 100% works completed.
- Package X – 100 % works completed.
- Package XV – Work commenced on 01.07.2022. So far 72% of work completed and it is expected to be completed by March 2024.

4. Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA)

- Under solid waste removal, 522 MT of garbage have been removed.
- The construction of community toilet in Anakaputhur Municipality is completed and opened to public.
- In Anakaputhur Municipality, out of 1.52 km, work completed for 1.28 km and work is in progress for 240 m. The work is expected to be completed by September 2023.
- In Pammal Municipality, fencing works (0.23 km) has been completed.
- Regarding UGSS for Anakaputhur and Pammal Municipalities – So far 37% of works have been completed on Pammal Municipality. Thus far, 41% of works have been completed in Anakaputhur Municipality. The works are expected to be completed by end of March 2024.
- In Kundrathur Municipality, out of the available work front for 1.2 km fencing has been fully completed.
- In Tambaram Corporation (formerly Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat), out of the available work front of 3.082 km, fencing has been fully completed.
- In Tambaram Corporation (formerly Perungalathur Town Panchayat), out of 5.132 km, work fully completed for 4,782 m and fixing of grill in progress – 350 m. The work is expected to be completed by October 2023.

5. Commissionerate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CRD)

- Under solid waste removal, 8275 MT of accumulated solid waste along the river banks has been removed.
- In Kancheepuram District, out of the available work front of 18.13 km, fencing has been fully completed.
- In Chengalpattu District, out of the available work front of 8.8 km, fencing has been fully completed.

6. Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB):

- Out of a total 9,539 Project Affected Families (PAFs) identified within the Adyar River boundary, so far, 4,743 PAFs were resettled in Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) schemes and remaining tenements to resettle 4,796 PAFs will have to be provided.
- In order to resettle the remaining PAFs, TNUHDB will have to provide 4,796 tenements.
 - **992 units are ready for allotment:**
 - TT Block, Vyasarpadi - 55 units, Thailavaram Ph I Maraimalar Nagar – 217 units & Ph II, Maraimalar Nagar - 32 units, Navalur, Padapai Kancheepuram - 108 units, Annai Anjugam Nagar Ph I, Tambaram - 24 units, Perumbakkam EPIL – 260 units, Semmencherry - 144 units & Perumbakkam Ph V - 256 units & Ph IX – 156 units.
 - **1,916 units by October, 2023:**
 - Kargil Nagar – 1132 units and Perumbakkam Phase IV, VI, VIII – 784 units.
 - **1,916 units by November, 2023:**
 - Perumbakkam Phase III – 513 units and Manali New Town P II – 1,115 units.

DFR FOR RESTORATION OF ADYAR RIVER

During the review, the Principal Secretary, MA&WS Department has informed that a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for the restoration of Adyar River was prepared to effectively restore the Adyar river and emphasized the significance prerequisite to complete the preparatory works before bidding for the project within a specific timeline.

Thereafter, the preparatory works so far carried out in this regard have been presented as detailed below:

- The DFR for the restoration of Adyar River was submitted to Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) for Project Structuring approval. Subsequently, project structuring and the bid documents were approved by TNIDB on 26.07.2023. Based on the in-principle approval given by the

Government on 10.07.2023 and the approval of TNIDB on the project structure and bid document, Tender for fixing the Concessionaire was invited on 27.07.2023, indicating the closing date as 30.11.2023; pre-bid meeting was held on 01.09.2023. 19 bidders including 3 international companies participated. In continuation to pre-bid meeting, site visit was held on 07.09.2023. Bidders have raised around 393 queries for which a meeting was held on 20.09.2023 to finalize the pre-bid queries and addendum if any required. Certain queries which would require amendments for which the TNIDB would be approached and necessary approvals would be obtained from TNIDB and incorporated in the DFR.

- Meantime, the Principal Secretary / Member Secretary, CRRT informed that the Proposal for formation of new company (Chennai Rivers Transformation Company Ltd.) and staff requirement to implement the project is under consideration of Govt.

Restoration of Buckingham Canal & its associated drains and waterways that drains into Cooum & Adyar Rivers

The Government have accorded Administrative Sanction of Rs.1,281.88 cr. for the Restoration of Buckingham Canal & its Drains and Cooum & Adyar Drains vide G.O (D) No. 419, Municipal Administration & Water Supply (MA&WS) Department, dated: 03.12.2020. The steps undertaken to take the project forward is as follows:

- i) WRD stated that the Boundary Demarcation of Buckingham Canal, Mapping of boundary through Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) and preparation of map for 48 km were completed and fixing of Boundary stones in progress and will be completed by 31.10.2023.
- ii) Boundary Demarcation & DGPS survey – Drains falling into Adyar, Cooum and ‘B’ canal:
 WRD: DGPS works completed for Malaipattu Sommangalam drain and work is in progress for Thirumudivakam drain. For all other drains, the work will commence after award of the work.
 GCC: Boundary demarcation & DGPS for 25 associated drains has been completed.

- iii) WRD stated that a preparation of Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REIA) Report for obtaining CRZ Clearance for Buckingham Canal will be submitted to district committee by 15.10.2023.
- iv) On completion of boundary survey, Joint bio-metric enumeration of Project Affected Families (PAFs) within the Right of Way is to be carried out by WRD and GCC in coordination with Revenue and TNUHDB.

Further, the Principal Secretary / Member Secretary, CRRT informed the WRD and GCC have prepared the cost estimates for all the drains entrusted to them and the status of these are tabulated below:

Description of work	Total no. of cost estimates	Progress as per last meeting	Incremental Progress	Balance to be Completed	Remarks
Drains – WRD (29 Nos)					
Preparation of cost estimate by WRD for 26 Drains	35	35	-	-	Completed
AS given by CRRT for the cost estimates	35	21	14	-	Completed
Tendering of works by WRD	35	7	13	15	-
Commencement of work by WRD	35	2	-	33	-
Drains – GCC (23 Nos)					
Preparation of cost estimate by GCC for 21 Drains	21	21	-	-	Completed
AS given by CRRT for the cost estimates	21	21	-	-	Completed
Tendering of works by GCC	21	-	21	-	Tender due on 26.10.2023
Commencement of work by GCC	21	-	-	21	

Out of the 29 drains entrusted to WRD, 3 drains were taken up by WRD under their own funds viz., Thanikachalam Drain, Arasankhalani Drain & Chembarabakkam Drain and 23

drains are entrusted to GCC, 2 drains were taken up under their own funds viz., Mambalam Drain and Secretariat Colony Drain.

Way Forward

Mitigation of Sewage Outfalls in Adyar & Cooum Drains and Buckingham Canal and its Drains

Under the sanitation projects in Adyar & Cooum drains and Buckingham canal and its drains, the Managing Director, CMWSSB has informed that

- Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) issued for 52 works (11 nos- I&D and 41 nos - IS) (Rs.755.68 cr.).
- Work order issued for 36 nos. of work (6 nos - I&D + 30 nos IS) for Rs.364.80 cr. (Revised to Rs 385.38 cr).
- Fund received for Rs.191.25 cr. (Rs.63.75 cr. from CMCDM-2020-21 + Rs.40.0 cr. from TNPCB + Rs.87.50 Cr. Budgetary support).
- Revised AS accorded for Rs.385.39 cr. vide G.O (Ms.) No.11, MA&WS Dept. dated: 24.01.2023 in which Budgetary support sanctioned for the year 2022-23 for an amount of Rs. 281.63 cr.
- Proposal for the remaining 27 works for the value of Rs.468.76 Cr. for mitigation of outfalls under Budgetary support has been sent to Government for approval on 08.03.2023. The proposal is under the active consideration of the Government.

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi vide Order dated 13.02.2019, the Chief Secretary will continue to conduct monthly meetings to review the progress of the river restoration works and to ensure that Chennai's waterways are restored, in keeping with the stated commitment of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Yours faithfully

Name & Designation : S.Ramamoorthy
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 Date : 31.10.2023


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