

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)  
IN  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 141/2021(SZ)**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR,**

**KOLLAM/7<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

**M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN**

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE 7th RESPONDENT, DISTRICT COLLECTOR KOLLAM BEFORE HON'BLE NGT, SOUTH ZONE, CHENNAI IN OA No.141/2021 (SUO MOTO)**

The river Pallickal flowing towards Kollam District originate from Kodumon on Pathanamthitta district having an overall length of 42 kms, flows through Pathanamthitta District and enter Kollam District at Sooranadu North and flows the rest 25 kms, through the places of Sooranadu, Pavumba, Pavumba Churuli, Thodiyur, Vadakkumthala, Kuttivettom, Mynagapally, Karunagapally, Ayanivelikulangara and Panmana and ends in Vattakayal in Panmana Grama Panchayat. The local bodies covered by the river alignment includes Sooranadu North GP, Sooranadu South GP, Poruvazhy GP, Thazhava GP, Thodiyoor GP, Mynagapally GP, Panmana GP and Karunagapally Municipality.

The case has been voluntarily taken up by the National Green Tribunal OA.141 / 2021 on the basis of Kerala Kaumudi newspaper report on 06/06/2021 "Pallikalar is the new life of Pallikalar" regarding the decontamination of Pallickal river. The order dated 15/09/2021 of the case directed to submit report before the National Green Tribunal before 26/11/2021 on the steps taken to prevent the pollution of the Pallickal river. Prior to this, the District Suchitwa Mission led inspections in all the panchayats and Karunagapally Municipal Areas related to the Pallickal River from 30/10/2021 to 03/11/2021 and the report was submitted to the Government on 25/11/2021. Accordingly, a meeting was convened on 02/12/2021 under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Water Resources to take further action on the basis of the report submitted and was directed to take steps to clean up the hotspots found in the Pallikkal river in Kollam district. Following is the list of hotspots found during the inspection conducted by the Sanitation Mission and the action taken thereafter by the Grama Panchayat.

SL No	Hotspots	Action Taken
1	<b>Sooranad North Grama Panchayat</b>	
a)	Spot :4 At Kannamam, a concrete tar mixing unit was seen discharging waste into the	The Grama Panchayat Secretary has informed that the issue has been resolved

	river.	on the basis of the instruction given.
b)	Spot :5 The construction of the septic tank at the Global Cashew Factory at Kannamam was in progress. However, septic wastes were found to be discharged into the river.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary informed that construction of the septic tank at the Factory has been completed and the problem has been resolved on the basis of the instruction given.
2	<b>Sooranad South Grama Panchayat</b>	
a)	Spot : 1 Plastic waste was seen being dumped into the river from the Thodiyoor bridge.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary informed that the Public Works Department and the Police Department were jointly installing camera footage in the said area to track down the culprits and no other complaints were received regarding the issue.
b)	Spot : 4 At the A1 dairy unit, waste from the tank of an anaerobic sludge bank was found flowing into the river.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary informed that notice has been issued to take steps to prevent the flow of waste into the river from the anaerobic sludge bank.
3	<b>Thazhava Grama Panchayat</b>	
a)	Spot : 1 It was found that the AF concrete mixing unit, which was operating illegally in Kalungu Junction, was dumping the machinery effluent waste into the river as part of sand dredging.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary informed that a notice has been issued against the AF Concrete Mixing Unit, which was operating illegally at Kalunk Junction, to stop discharging machinery effluent waste into the river as part of the sand dredging and decided to set up a board at the site.
b)	Spot 5: Locals had complained that slaughterhouse waste and Toilet waste were being dumped in the Erottupalam canal, a tributary of the Pallikalar.	The Sooranad Station House Officer has been directed to carry out effective patrolling to detect and take strict action against anti-social elements engaged in the activities.
4	<b>Thodiyoor Grama Panchyat</b>	
a)	Spot 1 : It was found that water from the river was being used for the operation of the concrete tar mixing unit used as part of the road construction.	The Thodiyoor Grama Panchayat Secretary has been directed to inspect the site directly and submit a report as there is a possibility of dumping of waste from the river if water is found to be used for the operation of the concrete tar mixing unit to be used as part of road construction.
b)	Spot 3 : Waste from a confectionery factory located just 5 meters from the river bank was found to be deposited.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary informed that a notice has been issued to the confectionery factory instructing to install a compost unit to compost the waste from the factory which is located only 5 meters away from the river bank.

c)	Spot 5: The company named B.B. BRICS was found to be carrying out sand dredging activities in the river.	The concerned Tahsildar and station house officer has been directed to take steps to prevent sand dredging activities in the river by the company .
<b>5 Mynagapally Grama Panchyat</b>		
a)	Spot 1: Garbage was seen being dumped in plastic bags from the Kallukadavu bridge into the river.	The Grama Panchayat Secretary has been directed to take steps to install cameras in the area in collaboration with the Block Panchayat to track down those who dump garbage in plastic bags from the Kallukadavu bridge into the river.
b)	Spot 2: The water in the Pallickal river near Thottumukham bridge was found to be discolored. Therefore, it is necessary to find out whether the change in the color of the water was due to the effluent from the cashew factory operating in the area.	Due to the discoloration of the river water near the Thottumukham bridge, it is necessary to find out whether there is any waste from the cashew factory in the area. In addition, it was found that sewage from the No. 5 Cashew Factory owned by KSCDC was flowing into the river. Accordingly, the Pollution Control Board and the Grama Panchayat Secretary have been directed to inspect the site and submit a report.
<b>6 Karunagapally Municipality</b>		
a)	Spot 1 : At Alummoodu Junction, 135 meters away from Pallikalar, the water in the Patoli stream, a tributary of Pallickal river was discolored.	Patrolling is being carried out at Alummoodu Junction to find out whether the water in the Patoli stream, which is 135 meters away from Pallikalar, was discolored due to the dumping of sewage and plastic waste from the vehicles and to take strict action against the anti - socials involved in the activities.
b)	Spot 2 : The presence of oil was found in the river water in the area where the workshop 'Automoto' was operating.	The Pollution Control Board has been directed to find out the cause of the presence of oil in the river water in the area where the workshop 'Automoto' operates, and to identify the source of contaminants such as oil, flour and plastic in the area where the Patoli stream joins the Pallickal river, and to conduct site inspections in the areas.
c)	Spot 3 : Parveen Sweets is located near Patoli stream in Karunagapally Municipality. It was found that 2 pipes each from the maida waste pit of the establishment and the halwa manufacturing unit were connected to the trench for	Two pipes each from Maida Waste Pit and Halwa Manufacturing Unit of Parveen Sweets operating near Patoli stream in Karunagapally Municipality are connected to the stream for outlet & inlet purposes. The Pollution Control Board has been directed to inspect the area and

	outlet & inlet purposes.	submit a report to find out whether the Patoli stream is polluted by such activities.
d)	Spot 5 : Plastic waste was seen being deposited in the Chanda Kayal	The Karunagapally Municipal Secretary has been directed to take steps to set up cameras in the area in collaboration with the Block Panchayat to track down those who dump plastic waste in the Chanda Kayal.
e)	Spot 6 : Complaints were raised that canteen waste was being dumped at the Valyath Institute of Medical Sciences in Valyath Thottil, situated 600 meters from Pallikalar.	Complaints have been raised that canteen waste is being dumped at the Valyath Institute of Medical Sciences in Valyath Thottil, 600 meters from Pallikalar. In addition, the Pollution Control Board has been directed to conduct a site inspection and submit a report on whether effluent from the pressure sand filter and pressure carbon filter in the sewage treatment plant of the company is leaking into the stream.
f)	Spot 7 : In Maruthurkulangara, cattle waste was seen flowing into the stream from the dairy farms operating in two houses near the stream.	The Karunagapally Municipal Secretary has been directed to issue a notice to the farm owners to stop the operation.

The final report on the completion of the procedure as suggested in the hotspots found above will be made available by the Sanitation Mission and will be submitted soon.

Although the Pallikkal River flows through eight local bodies in the district, only three local bodies have taken the initiative to construct wastewater treatment plants. Information about this is given below.

1. The waste water treatment plant at Sasthamcotta Taluk Hospital, which is being taken over by Sasthamcotta Block Panchayat, was started a few years ago but has not been completed due to some socio-political issues.
2. In the first phase, bio-reactor wastewater treatment plant was proposed at the Sooranad Community Health Center under Sasthamcotta Block Panchayat. But

due to the complexity of the operations and repairs associated with such technology, it was decided to change it and adopt the Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor technology. Work is in progress to prepare an estimate of this.

3. Work is in progress to select a suitable agency to prepare a detailed project report on the setting up of a fecal sludge treatment plant at the site of the MCF Building cum Gas Crematorium in Karunagappally Municipality.

The aforesaid details are herewith submitted before the Hon'ble NGT for favourable consideration.

Signed by Afsana Perween  
I A S  
Date: 16-07-2022 13:50:37

District Collector

Kollam