

**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 Eleven Quarterly reports in Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi through email in ngt.filing@gmail.com. Last quarterly report was submitted in November, 2021 and the next quarterly report is due in February, 2022

Progress of Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration Project and Adyar River Restoration Project as on 30th November 2021.

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, Commissionerate of Town Panchayats 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. Public Works Department (PWD) / Water Resources Department:

PWD / WRD is entrusted with the implementation of 9 sub-projects viz., desilting the river to enhance free flow of water during monsoon and, formation of baby canal to maintain minimum ecological flow during the non-monsoon season.

- 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, Administrative Sanction for Rs. 42.00 Crores has been accorded vide G.O (Ms) No.76, Municipal Administration & Water Supply (MC-I) Department, dated 31.07.2020. For this work, CRZ Clearance has to be obtained by PWD/WRD. The State Coastal Zone Management Authority appraisal meeting was held on 08.11.2021 and the copy of the recommendations is awaited.

2. Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC):

GCC is entrusted with the implementation of 3 sub-projects. The work components consist of fencing for a length of 23.92 km on both the sides of the river, removal of 81,364 MT of construction and demolition waste and 23,527 MT of Municipal Solid waste alongside the river and installation of booms at 8 locations to collect the floating waste in the river. The status of the work progress is as follows:

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 completed for a length of 16.72 km out of total length of 23.92 km and work is under progress in the remaining stretches.

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

CMWSSB is entrusted with the implementation of 15 sub-projects. The work components consists of 10 Interception & Diversion systems along the river and 3 Modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Chetpet, College Road and Maduravoyal, one 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Langs Garden and one Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) at Nerkundram. Work on the 14 sub-projects is in progress as detailed below:

i. Interceptor and Diversion pipelines:

- Package I (Chintadripet) - 100% works completed.
- Package II (Chetpet) – 100% works completed. The outfalls will be plugged after commissioning of the STP.
- Package III (Nungambakkam) – 100% works completed. The outfalls will be plugged after commissioning of the STP.
- Package IV (Metha Nagar) – 99% of work completed. Work is under progress and the scheduled date of completion is 30.11.2021
- Package V (Anna Nagar) – 100% works completed and the systems have been commissioned.
- Package VI (Langs Garden Road) - 99% of work completed. Work is under progress and the scheduled date of completion is 30.11.2021.

- Package VII (South Cooum River Road) – 99% of work completed. Work is under progress and the scheduled date of completion is 30.11.2021.
- Package VIII (Aminjikai) – 100% works completed.
- Package IX (NSK Nagar) – Proposal Dropped.
- Package X (Anna Nagar) – 100% works completed and the systems have been commissioned.

ii. Modular STPs

- For Modular STP (1.0 MLD) near College Road, Chetpet, Civil works are under progress and so far, 98% of work completed. The scheduled date of completion is 30.11.2021.
- For Modular STP (1.2 MLD) at Nungambakkam, Civil works are under progress and so far, 67% of work completed. The scheduled date of completion is 31.12.2021.
- 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 - Civil works are under progress and so far, 38% of work completed. The scheduled date of completion is 16.05.2022.

iii. Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS):

- For UGSS Nerkundram, Pipe laying and construction of Sewage Pumping Station works are in progress. 38% of work completed and the remaining works are under progress. It is scheduled to be completed by 30.06.2022.

4. Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA):

DMA is entrusted with the implementation of 2 sub-projects. The work components consist of removal of 1,648 MT of solid waste along the river side in Thiruverkadu Municipality and fencing for a length of 10.78 km.

- Accumulated solid waste along the banks of the river has been removed within Thiruverkadu Municipality limits.
- Fencing have been completed for a length of 6.7 km within Thiruverkadu Municipality. Further DMA has informed that in the encroached stretch for a length of 1.06 km will be taken up after the relocation of slum habitations (i.e. Shanmuga Nagar and Perumal Koil Street) as the case is pending in Hon'ble Madras High Court.

5. Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (DRD):

DRD is entrusted with the implementation of 7 sub-projects. The work components consist of removal of 4582 cubic metre of solid waste alongside the river, fencing for a length of 3.3 km in 3 village panchayats (Seneerkuppam, Adayalampattu and Vanagaram) and plantation at Vanagaram.

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

6. Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) is entrusted with the Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) of 14,257 identified Project Affected Families (PAFs).

- So far, TNSCB has allotted 12,407 tenements. To resettle the remaining 1850 PAFs, 879 tenements are ready for allotment now and remaining 971 tenements will be ready by December, 2021.

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. Public Works Department (PWD) / Water Resources Department (WRD)

PWD/WRD is entrusted with the implementation of 7 sub-projects - desilting and widening the river for 16.18 km; construction of flood protection walls for 1.76 km and river mouth opening and its maintenance. The work progress is detailed below:

- For the package 1, i.e., from River mouth to Thiru. Vi. Ka Bridge, PWD has to get CRZ Clearance. The proposal was placed in the 257th EAC meeting held on 05.03.2021, MoEF&CC. The proposal has been deferred and requested to come back after completing the study undertaken by NIOT for sustainable river mouth opening (Package 7).
- NIOT has submitted the interim report and it is forwarded to Expert Appraisal Committee through TNPCB for obtaining CRZ Clearance.
- 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), NIOT has taken up the multi-seasonal study and the final report is expected to be completed by December, 2021.

2. Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)

GCC is entrusted with the implementation of 19 sub-projects. The work components consist of boat jetties at 2 locations, fencing for a length of 24.67 km on both the sides of the river, solid waste removal alongside the river, levelling and compacting the solid waste at dumpsite, booms to collect the floating waste in the river, beautification of bridges and plantations alongside the river course.

- Under this project, out of a total 24.67 km, fencing work is in progress for 13.11 km. The expected date of completion is December, 2021.
- Under Solid waste removal works, 12,936 MT out of 67,490 MT have been cleared from the river banks. Right now reconnaissance is being carried out to remove the accumulated solid waste from the banks of Adyar river.
- 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. Two locations viz., Jafferkhanpet Causeway and near Maraimalai Adigalar Bridge has been completed and in other one location work is under progress. The work is expected to be completed by 31.01.2022.
- 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.
- Regarding the Plantation works along the river stretch from Thiru-vi-ka Bridge to Kotturpuram bridge, LOI has been issued on 22.11.2021.
- For the Park near Kotturpuram, 38% of work is completed and the balance work is expected to be completed by 31.12.2021.

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

CMWSSB is entrusted with Interception and Diversion pipelines & Modular STPs and the status of works is as follows:

i. Interceptor and Diversion Pipelines:

- Package I- Adyar & Kotturpuram – So far 84% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 31.01.2022.
- Package III - Nandanam Extension, Turn Bulls Road & Radhakrishnapuram Slum - So far 95% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 31.12.2021.
- Package IV – Mambalam Canal - So far 44% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 31.01.2022.
- Package V - Guindy & Ekkattuthangal - So far 93% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 31.12.2021.
- Package VI – Samiyar Thottam, Jafferkhanpet & MGR Drain – So far 74% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 31.12.2021.

ii. Modular STP:

- Package VIII – So far 35% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 09.06.2022.
- Package X - So far 46% work completed and the scheduled date of completion is 04.05.2022.
- Package - XI – Work order issued on 09.09.2021.
- Package – XV – Tender bids opened on 12.10.2021 and it is under evaluation.

4. Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA)

DMA is entrusted with the implementation of sub-projects viz., solid waste removal alongside the river; fencing for a length of 3.54 km; community toilet at 1 location and plantation alongside the river.

- Under solid waste removal, 522 MT of garbage have been removed and the work is completed.

- The construction of community toilet in Anakaputhur Municipality is completed and opened to public.
- In Anakaputhur Municipality, under Phase 1, out of a total length of 1.52 km, fencing completed for a length of 0.635 km and work is in progress for a length of 0.885 km. The ongoing work is expected to be completed by December, 2021.
- Under Phase II for a length of 1.72 km, fencing will be taken up after the removal of encroachments (4 slums, 676 PAFs – case pending before Hon'ble High Court).
- In Pammal Municipality, out of a total length of 0.3 km, PWD has constructed flood protection wall for the entire length of 0.3 km and hence fencing is not required.
- Regarding UGSS for Anakaputhur and Pammal Municipalities – Collection system work is under progress. Thus far, 6% of works have been completed.
- Plantation in Anakaputhur Municipality - Site assessment completed and available area is 5510 Sq. m between the river bund and the fencing. Tender floated and work order issued on 26.11.2021.

5. Commissionerate of Town Panchayats (CTP)

CTP is entrusted with solid waste removal alongside the river, fencing for a length of around 14 km, and plantation alongside the river.

- In Kundrathur Town Panchayat, under phase I, fencing work is completed for a length of 1.20 km. Under phase II, for the fencing work 1.39 km, WRD has proposed river widening work in this river stretch as per the instruction of District Collector, Kancheepuram. Hence, the proposal of fencing in this stretch is kept on hold.
- In Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat, under phase I, out of 2.382 km, work completed for 2.086 km and work in progress for 0.296 km. Under phase II, out of 0.70 km, flood protection wall has been constructed by WRD for 0.50 km and for 0.20 km and bridge with abatement and retaining wall (both sides) has been constructed along the river by Highways department. Hence, the proposal of fencing in this stretch is to be dropped. Under phase III, out of 0.539 km, WRD has informed that, Adyar river

widening work is proposed in this particular river stretch. Hence, the work is not taken up in this stretch.

- In Perungalathur Town Panchayat, under phase I, out of 5.132 km, work completed for 2.711 km and work in progress for 2.421 km. Under phase II, out of 1.00 km, encroachments have to be removed for 1.00 km and work will be taken up after resettlement and rehabilitation. 36 families residing in this stretch have filed a writ petition in Hon'ble Madras High Court. Under phase III, out of 1.256 km, encroachments have to be removed for 1.256 km and work will be taken up after resettlement and rehabilitation. RDO inspection completed and sketches have been submitted to District Collector. Relocation process will be initiated and in mean time work front created for 0.231 km and pile works are under progress.
- Solid waste removal – Work is completed
- Plantation - Work order issued on 06.09.2021 for Thiruneermalai and Perungalathur Town Panchayats. For Kundrathur Town Panchayat, tendering is under process.

6. Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (DRD)

DRD has been entrusted with the implementation of 4 sub-projects - solid waste removal alongside the river; fencing for a length of 35.1 km, community toilet and plantation along the river bank.

- Under solid waste removal, 8275 MT of accumulated solid waste along the river banks has been fully removed.
- In Kancheepuram District, fencing work is proposed for a length of 21.019 km. Out of this, fencing is fully completed for a length of 13.310 km and work is in various stages of completion for a length of 5.224 km. Scheduled date of completion is February, 2022. For the additional proposal in Kundrathur block for a length of 2.923 km, work order issued on 18.06.2021 and survey work is in progress.
- In Chengalpattu District, fencing work is proposed for a length of 11.07 km. Out of this, fencing is fully completed for a length of 5.43 km and work is in various stages of completion for a length of 5.64 km. Scheduled date of completion is February, 2022. For the additional proposal of 630 m fencing work in St. Thomas

Mount block, work is in progress for a length of 630 m and expected to be completed by February 2022.

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

- Out of a total 9,539 Project Affected Families (PAFs) identified on the banks of the Adyar River, so far, 4,462 PAFs have been resettled and remaining 5,077 PAFs have to be resettled. In order to resettle the remaining PAFs, 80 allotment orders have been issued out of which 64 PAFs have been relocated in February, 2021. 250 tenements at (Moolakothalam & Vyasarpadi - TT Block), 770 tenements at (Kargil Nagar), 200 tenements at (Gowthamapuram) will be ready before December, 2021 and from other schemes (Perumbakkam) 1,152 by March 2021, 1,196 by June 2022, 216 by July 2022, 1,277 by December, 2022.

Way Forward

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) Preparatory works have been taken up by concerned implementing agencies i.e. WRD and GCC for 26 drains (WRD-11 & GCC-15) which are identified as ready for implementation.
- ii) Cost Estimates are under preparation for the drains which are ready for implementation by concerned implementing agencies.
- iii) Implementing agencies (i.e. WRD & GCC) have sent communication to Revenue Department for joint survey of boundary and obtaining maps & FMB sketches of these waterways are underway.
- iv) Regarding the Joint survey and boundary demarcation of Buckingham Canal and all major drains, Joint survey team has been formed by District Administration and Survey has been completed for Buckingham Canal. Survey is under progress for associated drains.

v) Joint survey of Project Affected Families (PAFs) within the Right of Way / boundary of these waterways will be carried out by WRD and GCC in coordination with Revenue Department and Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board.

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

The Government has accorded Administrative Sanction for a total project cost of Rs.2,371 crore for sanitation projects in Buckingham Canal and its drains, Cooum Drains and Adyar Drains. Under Phase-I, sanction was accorded for Rs.1001 crore vide G.O. (Ms) No.107, MA&WS (MW1) Department, dated: 20.08.2019.

The Managing Director, CMWSSB has presented the status of various works taken up under this project. He informed that, out of Rs.1001 cr. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) has been called for 52 works (Rs.755.41cr.); work order has been issued for 36 works (Rs.364.83 cr.) and work commenced for 26 works (Rs.286.92 cr.), 3 works are completed and work to be commenced for 10 works.

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

V. Kalaiarasan
20/12/21

(Name & Designation) : Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Project Officer

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Project Officer
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
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