

Inspection Report of the Joint Committee
(As per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai
Order dated 20.02.2020 in O.A. No. 41/2020)

1. Background

The Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, Suo Motu registered a case in O.A. No. 41 of 2020 on the basis of the newspaper report published in Times of India newspaper, Chennai edition dated 17.02.2020 under the caption "Choking Waterways". The report consists of a photograph with caption "In blatant disregard for the environment, chemicals and sewage are being diverted into the Adayar River behind the Chennai airport. The high chemical content is leading to foam being formed in the water body".

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 20.02.2020 appointed a Joint Committee comprising of the District Collector of Chennai, Official from the Chennai River Restoration Trust, Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to inspect the area in question including the beach confluence area where the Adayar River reaches the sea and submit a factual and action taken report before this Tribunal to remedy the situation. Further, on 17.11.2020 the Joint Committee was reconstituted, including the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department & Water Resources Organisation, Chennai, as one of the Committee Members and designated them as Nodal Agency.

The Committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has inspected the subject area on 16.02.2021.

Officers Present:

1. Er.C.Podupanithilagam, M.E.,
Executive Engineer, W.R.D., P.W.D.,
Kosasthalayar Basin Division, Thiruvallur.
2. Mr. V.Ravi.
Revenue Division Officer (I/c),
Central Chennai Division,
Chennai 600101.
3. Er. P.Selva Ilavarasi.,
Assistant Executive Engineer,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board- Chennai District,
Arumbakkam,
Chennai.
4. Er. S. Senthil Kumar,
Assistant Engineer,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Maraimalai Nagar.

5. Dr.S.Viswanathan,
Environmental Scientist,
Chennai River Restoration Trust,
Chennai.

The following observations were made by the committee during the site visit:

Adayar River starts from Adhanur tank surplus course in Sriperumbudur Taluk at about 15 kilometres west of Tambaram in South Chennai. This Adayar river runs to a length of 42 Km and finally confluence into Bay of Bengal. The catchment area of the river is 1081.4 square kilometres. The bed width ranges from 25 m to 400 metres. It flows for 24 kilometres in the Chennai Metropolitan area including about 15 kilometres within the Chennai district before draining into the sea. Due to sewage contamination, the river gets polluted and murky in nature and with debris and solid waste deposits, the river rises up easily even with mild rainfall.

The Adayar river restoration work is being done by the Public works Department with the financial aid of Chennai River Restoration Trust. Adayar River carries sewage / sullage water and contaminate the Adayar river eco-system.

It is submitted that the following inlet drains confluence into Adayar river between Manapakkam bridge and Thiruneermalai bridge comprising the Adayar river stretch behind Chennai Airport.

i) Manapakkam Channel:

The Manapakkam channel, which originates from sluice No.5 of Chembarampakkam Tank in Kundrathur taluk of Kancheepuram District, collects the flood surplus of the adjoining areas and discharge into Adayar River near Manapakkam village. The channel confluence into the left bank of Adayar river behind the Chennai Airport. The channel passes through thickly urbanised areas like Manapakkam, Kolapakkam and Madananthapuram. It is observed that the channel discharge the water with heavy foam formation into the Adayar river. Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board was requested to take the samples to verify whether if any hazardous chemicals present in the water due to any unauthorised industrial waste water discharge. Further, during the inspection the Manappakam channel at Manapakkam village, a private construction company let the muddy water into the channel during its construction activity. The Assistant Engineer, PWD and Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board were instructed to give notice to the construction company to stop

the muddy water immediately and take necessary legal action. It is necessary to provide adequate drainage system in the above municipal areas and underground sewage system.

ii) Manickam Odai:

It is observed that, the sewage / sullage water and effluents from the nearby residents and small scale industries in the Pallavaram and Pammal municipality limits are being let into the Manickam Odai and confluence into Adayar river near Meenambakkam Airport compound wall in Cowl Bazaar. The water in the confluence point of Manickam Odai found contaminated and the Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board, Maraimalai Nagar was requested to take the samples for further investigation. It is necessary to provide adequate drainage system in the above municipal areas and underground sewage system.

iii) Karima Nagar Odai:

It is observed that, the sewage / sullage water and effluents from the nearby residents and small scale industries in the Kundrathur Village Town Panchayat limits are being let into the Karima Nagar odai and confluence into Adayar river near Irandaam Kattalai Village. During the inspection, the raw textile waste water from the Perla Textiles processor industry was being let into the Karima Nagar odai and the committee immediately stopped the waste water. The committee instructed the Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board, Sriperumbudur to take appropriate action on the industry and impose environmental compensation. The water in the confluence point of Karima Nagar Odai found contaminated and the Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board officials requested to take the samples for further investigation. It is necessary to provide adequate drainage system/ Effluent Treatment Plant in the above municipal areas and underground sewage system.

iv) Nattu Kalvoi :

It is observed that, the sewage / sullage water and effluents from the nearby residents and small scale industries in the Thiruneermalai Village Town Panchayat limits are being let into the Nattu Kalvoi and confluence into Adayar River near Sankar Nagar in Pammal Village. During the inspection, Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board stated that effluent generated from the leather industries in and around Naagalkeni village is being treated in the Common Effluent Treatment Plant and after treatment let into the Nattu Kalvoi. The committee instructed Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board, Maraimalai Nagar to take water samples and report whether treated effluent meets the standard. It is necessary to provide adequate

drainage system/ Effluent Treatment Plant in the above municipal areas and underground sewage system.

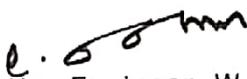
The committee finally inspected the Adyar river estuary. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai was requested to take the samples in the estuary for further investigation.

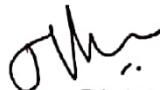
The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials were instructed to collect the water sample to ascertain the water quality of the Adayar river to find out as to whether it confirms to standard provided which must include the quantity of E-coli, Total coliform (Tc) and Fecal coliform. The committee requested the TNPCB officials to give the necessary report on water samples collected at various points of Adayar river and action taken report on defaulters found during inspection.

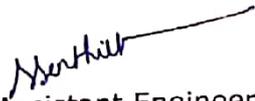
Based on the inspection by the Committee, the following necessary short term and long term action plan actions are suggested to take in short term and long term through various departments to mitigate the environmental damage to the Adayar river through various inlet drains.

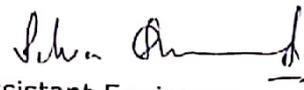
SHORT TERM PLAN				
S.No.		DESCRIPTION OF WORK	DEPARTMENT	TIME SCHEDULE
1	i)	Plugging the sewage/sullage water being let into the Manapakkam channel.	Executive Engineer, Greater Chennai Corporation & Executive Engineer, CMWSSB.	3 months
	ii)	Plugging the sewage/sullage water being let into the Manickam Odai.	The Commissioner, Pammal Town Municipality & Chief Executive Officer, Cantontment Board, St.Thomas Mount Cum Pallavaram.	3 months
	iii)	Plugging the sewage/sullage water being let into the Karaima Nagar Odai.	The Commissioner, Kundrathur Town Municipality.	3 months
	iv)	Plugging the sewage/sullage water being let into the Nattu Kalvoi.	The Commissioner, Thiruneermalai Town Municipality.	3 months
2		Appropriate action on the polluting industries and impose environmental compensation.	District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar and Sriperumpudur.	2 months

LONG TERM PLAN			
1	i)	Providing necessary drainage/Underground sewage System for Manapakkam, Kolapakkam, Madananthapuram areas.	The Commissioner, Pammal Town Municipality & Chief Executive Officer, Cantontment Board, St.Thomas Mount Cum Pallavaram. 2 YEARS
	ii)	Providing necessary drainage/Underground sewage System for Pallavaram and Pammal areas.	The Commissioner, Pammal Town Municipality & Chief Executive Officer, Cantontment Board, St.Thomas Mount Cum Pallavaram. 2 YEARS
	iii)	Providing necessary drainage/Underground sewage System for Kundrathur and Irandaam Kattalai areas. Necessary Effluent treatment Plant should be established.	The Commissioner, Kundrathur Town Municipality 2 YEARS
	iv)	Providing necessary drainage/Underground sewage System for Thiruneermalai areas. Necessary Effluent treatment Plant should be established.	The Commissioner, Thiruneermalai Town Municipality 2 YEARS


Executive Engineer, W.R.D., P.W.D.,
Kosasthalayar Basin Division,
Thiruvallur


Revenue Division officer,
Central Division,
Chennai 600 101


Assistant Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution control Board
MM Nagar district
MM Nagar.


Assistant Environmental Engineer
Tamilnadu Pollution control Board
Chennai district
Chennai


Environment Scientist,
Chennai River Restoration Trust
Chennai

**JOINT INSPECTION FOR NGT CASE OA. NO. 41 OF 2020 IN ADAYAR RIVER
@ CONFLUNENCE POINT OF MANAPAKKAM CHANNEL**



16.02.2021

**JOINT INSPECTION FOR NGT CASE OA. NO. 41 OF 2020 IN ADAYAR RIVER
NEAR MANICKAM ODAI**



**JOINT INSPECTION FOR NGT CASE OA. NO. 41 OF 2020 @ ADAYAR RIVER
IN CONFLUENCE POINT OF KARAIMA NAGAR ODAI**



16.02.2021

**JOINT INSPECTION FOR NGT CASE OA.NO.41 OF 2020 NEAR
NATTU KALVOY IN THIRUNEERMALAI VILLAGE**

