

“Kosasthalaiyar: How to throw darts in the dark”

TIMES CITY
THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

Inconsistencies In Design, No Contour Maps, No Topography Studies Cast Doubt On Project Progress
Kosasthalaiyar: How to throw darts in the dark

Civic body didn't create contour maps while laying drains

RAINWATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES
Dams, canals, Thevaraiyar, Mambalam, Madhavaram, Ambattur, Thiru V K Nagar
The project area has about 18 lakh people (about one crore square km, about 10% of UCC's population and 30% of its land area (2011 census))
Project area includes 8 major lakes and 71 minor tanks
As per UCC, 62% of the project area is flood prone, with 11.6 square km highly vulnerable
A batch of 100 covered culverts will be kept at 10% interval
Project management consultant appointed by the UCC
Kumar Mahalingam, a Hyderabad based company
Areas where work has been stopped: Kothur, Kottur, Retter, North Coast, Along Buckingham Canal

FUNDED BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
Rain water harvesting
The drains will be constructed to transfer maximum amount of rain to
Rain water harvesting will be set up at every 50m interval
This will help to be of 1.2 meter diameter

PROJECT COST ₹2,47cr
WATER BODIES TO BE IMPROVED
North Ambattur, North Kanchar, Kottur, Puthur, South Retter lake, Retter South, Retter North, Retter South, Puthur, South Retter, North Buckingham Canal, North Coast Waterbody, Retter Lake Waterbody, Ambattur And Kanchar, Madhavaram and Aranyalar Canal

MAJOR CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS
Technical faults in earlier project report
Drainage points have not been specified
Contractor has not prepared network drain maps
No synchrony between actual location of drains and those in official maps
No details on water runoff, rainfall quantification, flood model and hydrologic systems
No surveys or joint structures planned to test water in case of a flood
Drains constructed are not as per state government norms, violations in engineering board

PLANS
Local communities have not been consulted in creating awareness among workers to improve water management and protection of water bodies
Create flood zones and establish systems for early flood warning and functioning system

MYSTERY MAPS These are structural flaws in maps under the project. For instance, at ACP, there is no drain drain but the map shows it. Retter's Madhavaram colony has drains but the map does not show them

PROBLEMS The entire network of drains that were laid only rely on rain of 100 mm per hour rainfall. This, they said, was calculated based on the rainfall data recorded in these areas for the past 30 years. However, in 2015 and now in 2021, the rainfall recorded exceeded 200 mm per hour in these areas

IN RETTER AREA, UNDER PACKAGE 12 OUT OF 43 OR, ABOUT ₹150 CR HAS BEEN SPENT ALREADY. WE HAD ROAD DRAINS LAIN WORK DURING THIS PERIOD. THE PROJECT SHOULD BE RE-ASSESSED AND IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE MONITORED.
H Chandrasekhar (Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai)

News Item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 06th December 2021

CHENNAI: The Greater Chennai Corporation in a review of its drain projects has found deviations, design faults and lack of drain maps in the ₹3000cr Kosasthalaiyar project and the Mambalam canal project. While it has penalised the Mambalam canal's six contractors, it has also ordered to stop construction of drains in 16 of the total 45 packages in the Kosasthalaiyar drain project. Last month, the monsoon exposed shoddy engineering in several newly constructed drains. Following this, the civic body began a review of the entire project. It noticed deviations in five packages in areas near Retter lake, Buckingham canal and north coast and

issued notices to contractors. In one package in Ambattur area, there was delay in implementation of work. The remaining projects have been asked to speed up. Work on the Mambalam canal project, which covers West Mamabalm, Ashok Pillar, T Nagar, Nandanam and Adyar has been stopped. “The project will be reviewed...work will restart only after the designs is revised. We are roping in more experts,” said an official.

The Kosasthalaiyar project was designed and sanctioned in 2018 and work had begun in March 2021. However, the civic body has now found that the detailed project report was not completed. It has several faults, with many maps missing, and an incomplete flood model. The consultants are still unable to produce maps, details of water run-off and lack manpower. The consultant – Royal Haskoning, a Netherlands based company, has not appointed design engineers and hydraulic flood managers till date. In a review meeting held recently, the deputy commissioner, works, S Prasanth asked the consultant to add two design engineers and 2 license software to run the model. A weekly review will be held, he had said. He also instructed them to ensure there are no deviations.