

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 125/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Harish Tholar

...APPLICANT

Versus

State of Karnataka and Others

...RESPONDENTS

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Date: - 03/10/2024

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SPOT INSPECTION REPORT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 6
(DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, UDUPI)

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the instant report is being filed following the spot inspection dated 28.06.2024 carried out by the answering Respondent along with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, with respect to the allegation made in the present Application, regarding pollution of rivers Agni Theertha and Souparnika in Udupi District.
2. Following the joint inspection carried out along with the officials of Karnataka State Pollution Control, it has been ascertained as follows:

OBSERVATIONS ON EVENTS PRIOR TO FILING OF THE INSTANT ORIGINAL APPLICATION

3. It was informed during the inspection by the KPSCB that several prior inspections had already been carried out in the area in question. A Sewage Treatment Plant of 1.5 MLD capacity is present

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at Kolluru. The said STP was inspected by the Regional Senior Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Mangalore on 30.07.2021. It was observed during the said inspection that:

- STP was operating at the time of inspection without valid consent from the Board;
 - No sewage effluent was found to enter the STP during inspection;
 - It was observed that the fresh water, probably rain water was being pumped into the STP.
 - All aeration tanks were operating, but, no bacterial culture was found in any of the aeration tanks.
 - Flow meter installed was not working at the time of inspection.
 - On enquiring, it was learnt that there was rain water entry into the UGD because of some gaps which had to be rectified.
4. The KSPCB had thereafter taken requisite action and issued a notice to the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS&DB) on 07.08.2021.
5. It has also been observed that the temple authorities have obtained the CFE for the establishment of STP of capacity 1.5MLD vide No:CTE-327052 dated 27.09.2021.
6. It was also informed during the joint inspection that KSPCB had received a telephonic complaint on 24.04.2023 alleging pollution in Agnitheertha river. The concerned area and the STP was inspected

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on 25.04.2023 by Board wherein the following observations were made:

- STP was in operation without CFO from the Board.
 - No outflow meter was present in the STP.
 - Provided the inflow meter which is not in operation.
 - Not using the treated sewage for the irrigation purpose as per CFE condition.
7. For the above non-compliances, KSPCB had issued notice to the temple authority on 28.04.2023.
 8. KSPCB (Regional office-Udupi) had also issued notice dated 04.05.2023 to the Panchayath Developing Officer, Kollur Grama Panchayat and directed to complete the 100% connection of the individual houses to the UGD network.
 9. The Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS&DB) authorities submitted a reply and sought 10 days' time to apply for CFO of the Board.
 10. The Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Kollur submitted a reply to the notice issued on 28.04.2024 vide letter dated 19.06.2024, and informed that the sewage generated from the individual houses is not discharged into the river and that instead non-operation of the UGD wet well is causing river pollution.

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11. Based on the reply of the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Kollur, KSPCB (Regional Office –Udupi) has issued a notice to the temple authorities on 30.06.2023 regarding the operation of the STP, maintenance of UGD and wet well.
12. A follow-up inspection was then carried out by the KSPCB on 14.07.2023 and the following observations were made:
- Inflow of sewage near the Sowparnika bathing ghat.
 - Discharge of untreated sewage to storm water drain near Maarikatte.
 - STP was not in operation, the untreated effluent was passing through STP and same joining to Agnithirtha river.
 - There was no outflow meter in the STP.
 - Inflow meter was not in operation.
 - Untreated sewage was discharged into the river/storm water drain.
 - Logbook regarding operation of STP was not maintained.
 - No person was available at STP for operation of the same.
13. Based on the observations, KSPCB issued notices dated 20.07.2023 to the temple authorities.
14. The KSPCB officials also informed that they had received information regarding fish kill. To ascertain the present status of the compliance the KSPCB Regional Office, Udupi inspected the STP and complaint area on 02.04.2024 where certain violations were

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found such as non-segregation of wet and dry waste, dumping in an open pit, fire incident at legacy waste site *etc.*

15. The temple authorities as well as PDO were accordingly informed to address the said non-compliances.

OBSERVATIONS DURING THE JOINT INSPECTION DATED 28.06.2024

16. A joint inspection was carried out on 28.06.2024 along with Executive engineer KWSSB, PDO, Kollur Grampanchyath, Executive Office, Kollur temple. During inspection following observations were made:

- I. There was blockage in a machinehole behind one Narasimhachar's residence/ house;
- II. There is no sewer house service connection to Tantrik Guest House (Respondent No. 47 herein), due to which sewage is being discharged into storm water drain which ultimately joins Sowparnika River.
- III. An interception diversion channel has been constructed by Temple authorities from Agnithirtha River up to bathing ghat at downstream of Sowparnika River. This channel is being used to convey sewage beyond the bathing ghat during overflow/maintenance of wet - well;

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- IV. The sewer house service connection coverage is not 100%, few houses and commercial complexes have not yet been connected to the UGD network;
 - V. Since there is no demand to reuse the treated sewage for irrigation/industrial purpose, it is being discharged to SowparnikaRiver;
 - VI. The commercial establishments/ lodges/ hotels(names enclosed in annexure-IV) are disposing of solid waste into the UGD system which has led to frequent blockages of sewer pipeline and manholes. No screening system is provided at individual service connections;
 - VII. The pumping machineries installed in the wetwell of Kollur UGD scheme was not being run to full potential for the past few months;
 - VIII. The diffuser pump of bioreactor No-3 was under repair and the STP was being run with two numbers of Bioreactors. The treated sewage is being led off to River Sowparnika through a pipeline laid for a length of 600m;
 - IX. The sewage generated from few lodges and hotels were being let into storm water drains since they were not provided with sewer house service connections.
 - X. A common U-PVC pipeline of 110mm dais installed to the side walls of RCC storm water drains with clamping to convey sewage generated from three or four hotels/lodges to a common receiving chamber which are in turn connected to

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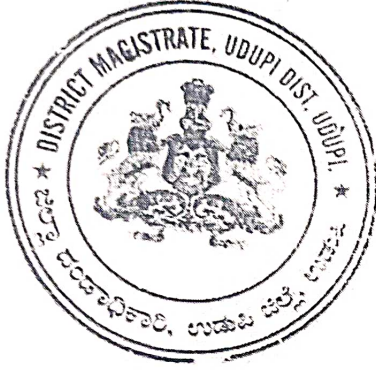
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manholes for conveyance of sewage into wet-well through UGD network. The common HSC pipe clamped to the walls of storm water drain had fallen off its place due to excessive weight and sewage generated from this main street directly enters the river through the storm water drain.

- XI. The outfall sewer line is laid across Kashi River which is obstructing the flow of water in the river during summer.
- XII. The following commercial establishments/lodges/hotels are disposing of solid waste into the UGD system which has led to frequent blockages of sewer pipeline and manholes.
- a) MM Residency (Owned and operated by Mr. Sathyanarayana Rao & Mrs. Sharada S. Rao);
 - b) Hotel Mookambika (Owned and operated by Mr. Karunakara Shetty – Respondent No. 13 herein);
 - c) Tantrika Guest House (Owned and Operated by Mr. Manjunath Adiga);
 - d) Sannidhanam Hotel (Owned and Operated by Mr. Aruna Kumar Shetty);
 - e) Devikripa Lodge (Owned and Operated by Mr. K Madhu);
 - f) Narayani Residency (Owned and Operated by Mr. Narayana Puranik).
- XIII. It was also noted that no screening system is provided at individual service connections

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17. It is prayed that the above information may be taken on record and this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass such orders as it deems fit in the instant case, and the answering Respondent shall be duty bound to implement the same.



Date: 01.10.2024


(Dr. K. Vidya Kumari, I.A.S)
Deputy Commissioner
Udupi District

Filed By


Darpan KM
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