

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

OA No.130 of 2025

In

OA No. 240 of 2025 (PB)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SINGIRI MADHU

..... Applicant

Vs

**STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH THROUGH CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND OTHERS**

.... Respondents

**JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT FILED BY THE APPCB 4th
RESPONDENT**

DATE- 07.08.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN BENCH, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 240 of 2025**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE IN THE MATTER OF O.A.NO.240 of
2025 (SZ) SUBMITTED TO HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTH BENCH, CHENNAI IN COMPLIANCE TO HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREENTRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI ORDER
DATED 29th MAY,2025**

INDEX

Sl. No.	Description	Page Nos
1	Report of Joint Committee in O.A. No.240 of 2025	1-17
2.	Annexure-I- Hon'ble NGT order copy dated 29.05.2025	18-21
3	Annexure-II- Copy of Letters dated.01.07.2025 addressed to Panchayath Secretary & Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple, Jonnawada	22-23
4	Annexure-III- Copy of Analysis report dt.28.03.2025	24
5	Annexure-IV- Copy of the letters dated.24.04.2025 addressed to Panchayath Secretary & Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple, Jonnawada	25-26

Date:06.08.2025

Place: Nellore.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
APPCB, Regional Office, Nellore**

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE IN THE MATTER OF O.A.NO.240 of 2025 (SZ) SUBMITTED TO HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTH BENCH, CHENNAI IN COMPLIANCE TO HON'BLE NATIONAL GREENTRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI ORDER DATED 29th MAY, 2025.



Submitted to

**HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
 SOUTH BENCH, CHENNAI**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
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I. Preamble:

Sri Singiri Madhu S/o. Subbaiah, Jonnawada Village, Buchireddypalem Mandal, SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, submitted a letter petition to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, regarding the domestic sewage waste water from the Panchayath, temple are being discharged into Penna River thereby causing contamination of Natural Penna River Environment. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, treated and registered the representation as O.A. No. 240 of 2025 and the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has disposed the petition on 29.05.2025 and transferred to Hon'ble NGT (Southern Zone), Chennai.

II. Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB), New Delhi dated. 29.05.2025

1. The Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi has disposed the petition and transferred to Hon'ble NGT (Southern Zone) with the following order dated 29.05.2025, the gist of the order is as follows:

“

1. *The applicant- Singiri Madhu has sent the present letter petition dated 03.02.2025 to this Tribunal, which has been treated and registered as O.A. No. 240/2025 for exercise of suo motu jurisdiction.*
2. *The relevant part of the letter petition enumerating grievances of the applicant is reproduced as follows: -*

“It is humbly submitted that our Jonnawada Village is situated on the northern Bank of Penna River with a population of nearly 2500. The village is identified with Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple which was consecrated by Adi Shankaracharya and is one of the famous spiritual centers and the people from all walks of life from all corners of the country used to visit the said temple for offering prayers.

The issue relates to the high density of Pollution at Penna River

Though our village is identified as a spiritual and religious place, due to the absence of proper sanitation and sewage treatment, the sewage flows through open drains and is directly discharged into the Penna River and the Garbage is dumped from time to time into the river. In addition to this the floral waste generated from the Temple and the local flower traders are being dumped into

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08/08/2025
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office
NELLORE

the Penna River in a regular manner for decades together. The wastewater from domestic drains of the Jonnawada Village typically contains a mix of household waste, detergents, food waste and other chemicals apart from cattle waste and the flower waste generated from the temple typically contains a mix of household waste, detergents, food waste, and other chemicals. These drains are openly discharged into the Penna River which increases the concentration of harmful substances in the river water and causes severe damage to the Penna River Environment and its texture.

The said contaminants not only affect the health of the river ecosystem but also harm the communities that rely on the river for drinking, fishing and agriculture. In addition to this, the plastic and the wrapping waste which is dumped into the river course plays a vital role in damaging the river ecosystem and environment.

The village administration, the Temple authorities and the Pollution Board authorities are well aware about the above menace, but for the reasons best known they not initiated any steps towards prevention of Penna River pollution and in the result, there is a water quality degradation, development of dead zones due to damage of aquatic life, soil contamination at the river and became a hub for diseases preventing the people from recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing.

The Panchayat and their inspecting authorities apart the authorities of Water Resources department, the Penna River Conservator and the Pollution Board authorities not initiated any steps for establishment of better sewage treatment system & practices and for educating the communities and for diverting the drains to the treatment system as on date and kept silent over the issue and witnessing the same in a mechanical manner and cornered the surrounding communities to face the risk of the high density of pollution which will have drastic impact on their health, economies and river ecosystem.

In view of the above I humbly request your good office to look into the issue.

- 1) Call for the status report and conduct a detailed enquiry into the lapses*
- 2) Fix the responsibility and liability for the lapses and for the damage caused to the river ecosystems.*
- 3) initiate appropriate steps for establishment of a better sewage treatment system in the village and*

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08/08/2025

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A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office
NELLORE

- 4) initiate steps for closure of the village drains connected to the Penna River.
- 5) Direct the Temple authority to make alternative arrangements for disposal of floral waste, instead of dumping into the river
- 6) Initiate steps for protection of the Penna River eco system at the surrounding areas of Jonnawada Village in the larger interest of the Penna River, Environment, Health and economies of the communities of the surrounding areas.”
3. *Prima facie* the averments made in the application raise substantial questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule-I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
4. In view of the averments in the application, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) State of Andhra Pradesh through Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, (2) Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Andhra Pradesh, (3) Secretary, Irrigation, Government of Andhra Pradesh (4) Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary and (5) District Magistrate, Nellore who stand impleaded as respondents No. 1 to 5.
5. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the application and issue notices to respondents No. 1 to 5 requiring them to file their reply/response within two months.
6. In view of the environmental questions involved in the case, we also consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee be constituted to verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of officers duly authorized by Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, APPCB and District Magistrate, Nellore and direct the same to meet within two weeks, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. The APPCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.
7. Even though the application has been listed before this Bench with approval and assignment under order of Hon'ble Chairperson, but in view of the fact that the place of accrual of cause of action lies within jurisdiction of the Southern

Nawabul Hakeem
08/08/2025

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A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office
NELLORE

Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai, we are of the considered view that it will be appropriate if the application is heard by the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai.

8. *Accordingly, the Registry is directed to list the matter before the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai on 08.08.2025 after obtaining orders from Hon'ble the Chairperson for transfer of the case.*
9. *Report of the Joint Committee may be filed by APPCB and replies/ responses may be filed by respondents no. 1 to 5 before the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai within two months.*
10. *A copy of this order be sent to Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, APPCB and District Magistrate, Nellore by email for requisite compliance."*

Copy of the Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated.29.05.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-I**

In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT, the following committee has been constituted to verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action:

1. Smt. H.D. Varalaxmi, Sc. E & Regional Director, Regional Director, Chennai
2. Ms. N.Anusha, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Nellore, SPSR Nellore District (Nominee on behalf of the Collector & District Magistrate, SPSR Nellore District)
3. Sri N. Asok Kumar, Environmental Engineer, Regional Officer, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board

III. Scope of Joint Committee

The Committee has been vested with the mandate to visit and inspect the site in question with the following scope as per the Order dated 29.05.2025:

- 1) *Call for the status report and conduct a detailed enquiry into the lapses*
- 2) *Fix the responsibility and liability for the lapses and for the damage caused to the river ecosystems.*
- 3) *Initiate appropriate steps for establishment of a better sewage treatment system in the village and*

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08/08/2025
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Regional Office
NELLORE

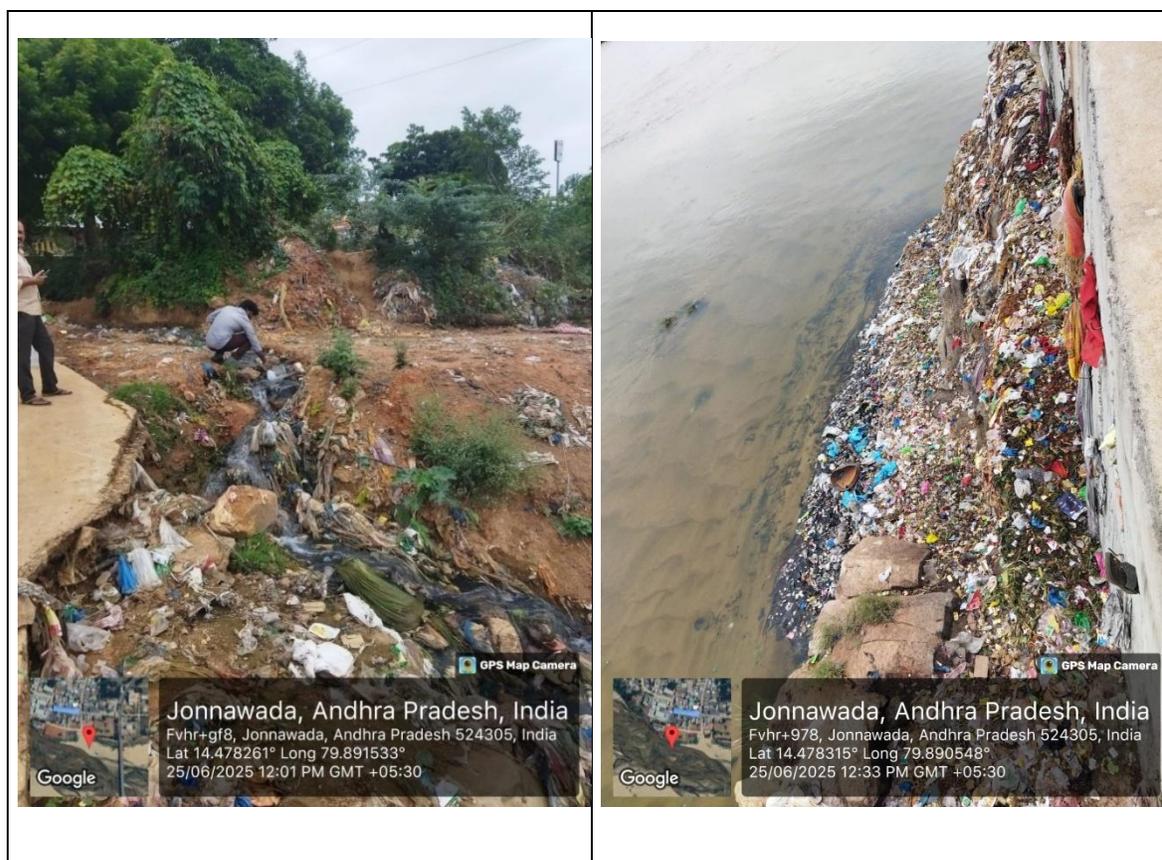
- 4) *Initiate steps for closure of the village drains connected to the Penna River.*
- 5) *Direct the Temple authority to make alternative arrangements for disposal of floral waste, instead of dumping into the river*
- 6) *Initiate steps for protection of the Penna River eco system at the surrounding areas of Jonnawada Village in the larger interest of the Penna River, Environment, Health and economies of the communities of the surrounding areas.”*

IV. Field Inspection by the Joint Committee

The Joint committee inspected the area on 25.06.2025 and met the petitioner Sri Singiri Madhu and interacted with local people regarding activities which are causing pollution to River Penna.

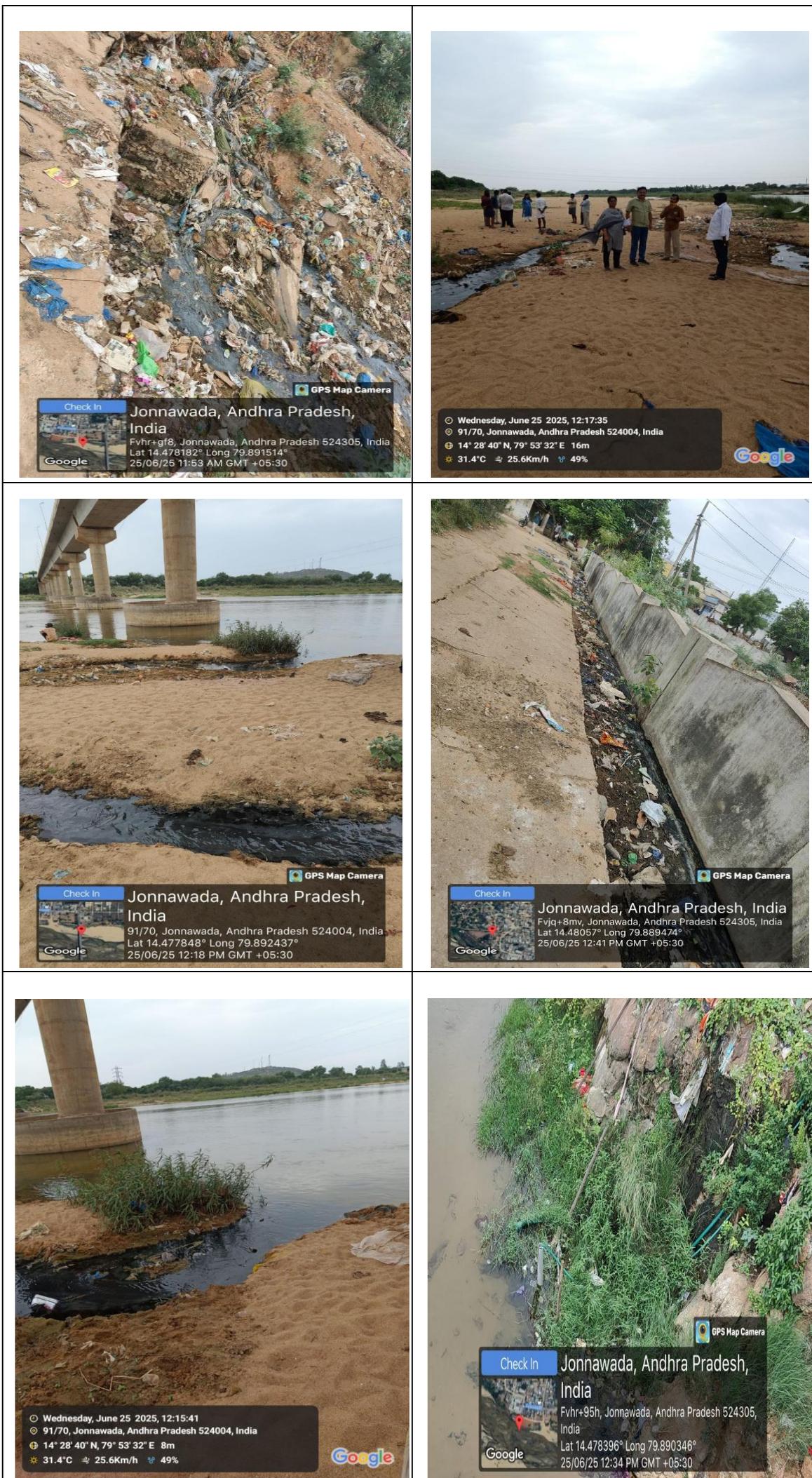
V. Committee interaction with Applicant Sri Singiri Madhu

The petitioner i.e. Sri S. Madhu S/o. Subbaiah expressed his concerns that the sewage generated from the Jonnawada Village and as well as *Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple is being let out to River Penna and the solid waste generated from the temple is also disposing into River Penna causing pollution.*



Nawudu Anil Kumar
06/08/2025

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Subsequently, the committee members visited the River Penna where drain carrying sewage from the village as well as temple and confluence with River and also visited

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06/08/2025

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NELLORE

the drain which is carrying sewage from Choultry of Varadaraja temple and confluence with River Penna.

It is further submitted that the as per the instructions of the Joint committee, the APPCB, Nellore addressed letters to the Panchayath Secretary & Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple, Jonnawada seeking certain information for report finalization. Copies of the letters are enclosed as **Annexure- II**

VI. Brief History about River Penna

The Penna River originates from the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka. From its source, the river flows northward and then eastward through the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, eventually emptying into the Bay of Bengal near Utukuru in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh, after traversing about 600Km.

The Penna River enters into Andhra Pradesh at Velikonda Range in the Eastern Ghats at about 467 km from its origin in YSR Kadapa district and enters the plains in the Somasila Dam in Nellore district. From there, it travels through major towns like Atmakur, Kovur, Jonnawada, Sangam, and Nellore and empties into Bay of Bengal near Utukuru, SPSR Nellore District.

Due to its location in the rain shadow region of the Eastern Ghats, the Penna River receives relatively low annual rainfall—around 500 mm on average. As a result, it is a seasonal river, primarily dependent on monsoonal rains, and often reduces to a small stream during drought periods.

The Penna River is fed by several tributaries. From the north, it receives waters from the Jayamangali, Kunderu, and Sagileru rivers. From the south, the main tributaries are Chitravathi, Papagni, and Cheyyeru. In addition, near Sangam town, it meets two minor tributaries: Boggeru and Biraperu.

VII. Brief about Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy, Kamakshi Tayee Temple

Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple is located on the Northern bank of the Penna River at Jonnawada village, about 10 km upstream of Nellore town in Andhra Pradesh towards the Western direction.

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06/08/2025

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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NELLORE

As per the information furnished by the Executive Officer of Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple, Jonnawada, it is respectfully submitted that the temple receives an average footfall of approximately 5,000 pilgrims per week.

The primary source of water is borewell located at Padamati polam and from there water is pumped to the overhead tank located at the TTD Satram on the western side of the premises of the temple. In addition, individual borewells have been provided for the guest houses that accommodate pilgrims, ensuring adequate water supply for both general and residential needs.

The temple premises are equipped with 24 nos of toilets and 24 nos of bathrooms to cater the needs of pilgrims. Furthermore, attached bathrooms are available within the guest houses. The sewage generated from these facilities is being discharged into the side drains managed by the Jonnawada Gram Panchayath, which is ultimately joining in River Penna.

With respect to Annadanam (free meal distribution), it is submitted that approximately 3,000 pilgrims per week avail the facility. The temple has a dedicated kitchen for food preparation, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is used as the cooking fuel. The kitchen operations are managed within the temple premises to cater to the needs of the pilgrims.

The following facilities available in the vicinity of the temple, namely:

- BMC Choultry, comprising 28 rooms
- Rajithagiri Satram, comprising 9 rooms
- Tourism Guest Rooms, comprising 6 rooms

These facilities are usually occupied on Wednesdays and Fridays, while remaining largely unutilized on other days.

The temple authorities provided septic tanks for the black water (toilets) and discharging bath water into side drains of Jonnawada Gram Panchayath which is ultimately joining in River Penna.

VIII. Brief about Jonnawada Village

Jonnawada village is located about 10 km west of Nellore city in S.P.S. Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. It is situated on the northern bank of the Penna River

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08/08/2025

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Regional Office
NELLORE

As per the information obtained from the Panchayathi Secretary, Jonnawada Village, the total area of the village is approximately 1173 acres, with a population of about 3200 members. The village comprises around 945 households, out of which 725 households have individual toilet facilities.

In terms of water supply, the village is served by 7 borewells, which provide water through a pipeline distribution system to meet the daily needs of the residents.

With respect to sanitation, it is estimated that approximately 80 KL of sewage is generated daily in the village. Out of this, around 60 KL is discharged into the existing sewage drains, while the remaining 20 KL is discharged into the drainage system, which ultimately joins to the nearby River Penna.

The village has sewage drainage system extending to a total length of about 3220 meters, facilitating the conveyance of wastewater from households and other sources but end with the river bank.

IX. Field Observations of the Joint Committee:

1. During the visit of Joint Committee, it was observed that 2 nos of sewage drains joining River Penna viz. Infront of the temple and backside of the temple.
2. The sewage/ bath water from the temple is joining into drain which is carrying sewage from village and ultimately joining into River Penna. The quantity of sewage being discharged into River Penna at the time of inspection estimated to be around 50 to 60 KLD based on the flow rate and width & depth of the drain.
3. The drain joining River Penna at backside of the temple is carrying bath water from Choultries along with some domestic waste water from the nearby residential houses.
4. It was also observed that the flower waste and other domestic waste is being dumped on the bank of River Penna near temple parking area.
5. During the inspection, it was observed that water in the River Penna is flowing at minimum water current with stream width of about 25 to 30m.
6. The usage of water from River Penna in the downstream of Jonnawada village was enquired and informed by the authorities that no village/town utilizing for drinking water purpose and utilizing for Irrigation purpose and carrying fishing activity by nearby communities.

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NELLORE

7. Water samples of sewage joining into River Penna and upstream & downstream confluence points of sewage joining into River Penna were collected as mentioned below:

- i. **TPT-2506052-** Water sample collected from Penna River upstream of the river before confluence of sewage into river (coming from Vardharajan temple, choultry and village (at location 14.479753; 79.886772)
- ii. **TPT-2506050-** Water sample collected from Penna River after confluence sewage from Vardharajan Temple (river at location 14.477982; 79.891505)
- i. **TPT-2506049-** Sewage water sample collected from open drain near temple at location 14.478261; 79.891533
- ii. **TPT-2506051-** Water sample collected from Penna River after confluence of sewage from temple Kamakshi Tayee and village (river at location 14.477577; 79.893258)



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06/08/2025

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NELLORE



Water sample collected from Penna River upstream of sewage confluence into river (coming from Vardharajan temple, choultry and village)



Water sample collected from Penna River after confluence of sewage from Vardharaj temple, choultry and village



Sewage water sample collected from open drain near temple



Water sample collected from Penna River downstream after confluence of two sewage streams

8. The results of the analysis reports of the samples collected during Joint Committee inspection are as follows:

Sl. No	Parameter	Upstream of Penna river before confluence of sewage from Vardharajan Temple	After confluence sewage from Vardharajan Temple (near to Bathing Ghat)	Sample from Drain carrying sewage from village and temple	Down stream of Penna river(After confluence of drain carrying sewage from Village and Temple)
1	pH @ 25°C	7.62	7.68	7.32	7.74
2	Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)	714	732	1173	761
3	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	6.0	6.1	---	6.3
4	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	7	2	4	6

Nawendu A. Adole
08/08/2025
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office
NELLORE

5	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	388	392	929	397
6	Total Hardness(TH)	203	196	572	214
7	Calcium Hardness	146	142	276	159
8	Magnesium Hardness	57	54	296	55
9	Sodium	92.1	99.7	90.9	98.2
10	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	10	11	124	8
11	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD, 3 days @ 27°C)	1.8	1.8	26	1.7
12	Oil & Grease (O&G)	<1	<1	4	<1
13	Boron	0.21	0.16	0.43	0.23
14	Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	2.81	3.10	1.65	2.92
15	Total Coliform	86	74	224	79

As per the results, it was observed that the BOD levels recorded in the sewage discharging into River Penna as 26 mg/lit and BOD levels at Upstream and Downstream points at River Penna are 1.8 to 1.7 mg/lit respectively. The total coliforms at Upstream (before confluence of drains) and downstream are 86 and 79 MPN/100ml respectively. The analysis reports of sample taken from drain indicates the weak strength of sewage flowing in the drain, the reason may be less devotees visited (on the day of committee visit) to temple and samples were taken in the afternoon (normally very less sewage is expected in the noon times). The Penna River water quality (pH 7.62 -7.72, BOD – 1.8 to 1.7 mg/L, DO 6.0-6.3 mg/L and total Coliform (74 – 89 MPN/100ml) also found meeting with Class B of designated best-use for Outdoor bathing due to higher dilution of water at River Penna with low discharge quantity of sewage.

X. Specific Remarks of the APPCB:

- i. Earlier, the same petition filed by Sri Singiri Madhu, Jonnawada Village, Buchireddypalem Mandal, SPSR Nellore District, also received on 10.03.2025, which was forwarded from the District Collector, Nellore regarding discharging of domestic sewage water to Penna River causing fresh water contamination.

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08/08/2025
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- ii. In this connection, the officials of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board inspected the complaint on 18.03.2025. During the inspection, it was observed that sewage water is being discharged through a drain in the Jonnawada temple area into the Penna River. The Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels in the sewage were found to be on the higher side, which may be attributed to the presence of oil and organic matter originating from temple kitchens and ritual activities such as poojas and abhishekham. Copy of analysis report is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.
- iii. Further, the APPCB is addressed letters to the Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer of Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple and the Panchayat Secretary of Jonnawada village, SPSR Nellore District, requesting them to take necessary steps for the diversion of sewage water and the construction of an in-house Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for the treatment of domestic sewage water, in view of protecting natural water resources. Copies of the letters are enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.
- iv. Besides the above, APPCB has been monitoring the Water Quality of River Penna under National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) on monthly basis at Upstream of Jonnawada (at about 62Km- aerial distance) i.e. at Somasila and also installed Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Station (RTWQMS) at Nellore Barrage which is about 10Km downstream of Jonnawada village. The APPCB has been physically monitoring the water quality of River Penna at Nellore barrage on fortnightly basis, besides the Real Time Water Quality Monitoring.

NWMP data:

Sampling Date	Sampling location	Sampling source	Parameter	NWMP Data	Units
06.03.2025	Upstream of Pennar river at Somasila	Penna River	pH	7.6	-
			TSS	5	mg/l
			TDS	434	
			COD	8	
			BOD	1.3	
07.04.2025	Upstream of Pennar river at Somasila	Penna River	pH	7.8	-
			TSS	4	mg/l
			TDS	382	
			COD	9	
			BOD	1.5	
12.05.2025	Upstream of Pennar river at Somasila	Penna River	pH	7.9	-
			TSS	7	mg/l
			TDS	381	
			COD	8	
			BOD	1.7	
04.06.2025		Penna River	pH	7.7	-
			TSS	5	mg/l

NawadurAalok
06/08/2025

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Upstream of Pennar river at Somasila	TDS	432
	COD	9
	BOD	1.5

Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Station (RTWQMS) at Nellore Barrage

Sampling Date	Sampling location	Sampling source	Parameter	RTWQMS Data	Lab Data	Units
01.03.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	8.31	7.71	-
			TSS	63.4	18	mg/l
			TDS	-	448	
			COD	17.9	1.3	
			BOD	3.8	<1	
18.03.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	8.59	8.03	-
			TSS	18	13	mg/l
			TDS	-	688	
			COD	9.1	1.1	
			BOD	1.9	<1	
03.04.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	8.57	8.24	-
			TSS	13.7	9	mg/l
			TDS	-	428	
			COD	8.6	12	
			BOD	1.8	1.6	
16.04.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	Display not working	7.68	-
			TSS		11	mg/l
			TDS		542	
			COD		8.9	
			BOD		1.7	
03.05.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	Display not working	7.68	-
			TSS		13	mg/l
			TDS		392	
			COD		15.1	
			BOD		2.2	
22.05.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	9.19	7.98	-
			TSS	44.6	23	mg/l
			TDS	-	401	
			COD	17.7	16.3	
			BOD	3.7	2.8	
09.06.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	9.39	7.47	-
			TSS	61.4	13	mg/l
			TDS	-	356	
			COD	17.6	14	
			BOD	3.7	2.8	
24.06.2025	Nellore barrage, Ranganayakulapeta, Nellore	Penna River near RTWQMS	pH	9.43	7.88	-
			TSS	25.1	12	mg/l
			TDS	-	342	
			COD	4.7	11	
			BOD	1.2	2.2	

As per the above analysis reports, the BOD levels in River Penna water at Upstream of Jonnawada village are in the range of <1 to 1.7 mg/lit and as per the RTWQMS data and the physical monitoring data, the BOD levels in River Penna water at

NawadurAvalok 08/08/2025
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
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 NELLORE

downstream of Jonnawada village i.e. at Nellore barrage are in the range of 1.2 to 3.8 mg/lit and <1 to 2.8 mg/lit respectively.

As per the CPCB classification of Water bodies, the penna river water quality falls under class-B- designated best-use for Outdoor bathing (organised) with Total coliform <500, pH-6.6 to 8.5, DO- 5 mg/lit or more and BOD with 3mg/lit or less.

XI. Conclusion of the Joint committee:

1. As per the analysis results, there is no significant impact on River Penna water due to higher dilution of water at River Penna with low discharge quantity of sewage.
2. In response to the letters addressed to the Panchayath Secretary & E.O. of Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple, Jonnawada and in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT joint committee inspection, the Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO), Buchireddypalem vide Ir.dated. 30.07.2025 submitted their proposals for diversion of sewage preventing discharge into River Penna and construction of 2nos of community soak pits for treatment with an estimated cost of Rs.10 lakhs under CSR funds.
3. Further, the MPDO while enclosing the present status pertaining to diversion of sewage preventing discharge into River Penna and construction of 2 nos of Community soak pits, informed that they would complete all the activities proposed within 15 days. Photos showing the present status of works.



NarandurAlok
08/08/2025
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office
NELLORE

4. The E.O. of Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple, Jonnawada informed that a tractor was purchased to transport the floral waste to the Solid waste Management Centre in order to prevent disposal of same on the bank of River Penna.

XII. Recommendation of the committee:

1. The concerned authorities shall expedite the completion of works pertaining to diversion of sewage to prevent discharge into River Penna and construction of low cost sewage treatment/Community soak pits for treatment.
2. The temple authorities and concerned Panchayath secretary shall ensure that
 - i. No sewage shall be discharged in to River Penna to prevent pollution of Natural body.
 - ii. Domestic / Kitchen Solid waste shall be segregated, stocked and disposal as per Solid Waste Management Rules,2016 amendments thereof.
 - iii. Plastic waste generated shall be disposal as per Plastic Waste Management Rules,2016 amendments thereof
3. The temple authorities shall explore utilization of floral waste for making of agarbattis/ dhoop sticks.
4. The temple authorities shall create awareness among the devotees on usage of banned Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and their ill effects.
5. The temple authorities shall provide oil skimmer to remove oil from washings generated in Kitchen as well as temple before discharge into community soak pits.

By considering the above facts and observations of the joint committee, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate orders(s)/ direction(s) as deemed fit.

H.D. Varalaxmi
6/8/2025

**Smt. H.D. Varalaxmi,
Sc. E & Regional Director,
Regional Director, Chennai**

Anusha
06/9/25

**Ms. N. Anusha,
Revenue Divisional Officer
(RDO), SPSR Nellore
District (Nominee on
behalf of the Collector &
District Magistrate, SPSR
Nellore District)**

N. Asok Kumar
08/08/2025

**N. Asok Kumar,
Environmental Engineer,
APPCB, RO, Nellore.**

Item No. 04

Court No. 2

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 240/2025

Singiri Madhu

Versus

Applicant

State of Andhra Pradesh

Respondent

Date of hearing: 29.05.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: None for the Applicant.

ORDER

1. The applicant- Singiri Madhu has sent the present letter petition dated 03.02.2025 to this Tribunal, which has been treated and registered as O.A. No. 240/2025 for exercise of suo motu jurisdiction.
2. The relevant part of the letter petition enumerating grievances of the applicant is reproduced as follows:-

“ It is humbly submitted that our Jonnawada Village is situated on the northern Bank of Penna River with a population of nearly 2500. The village is identified with Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshitai Temple which was consecrated by Adi Shankaracharya and is one of the famous spiritual centers and the people from all walks of life from all corners of the country used to visit the said temple for offering prayers.

The issue relates to the high density of Pollution at Penna River

Though our village is identified as a spiritual and religious place, due to the absence of proper sanitation and sewage treatment, the sewage flows through open drains and is directly discharged into the Penna River and the Garbage is dumped from time to time into the river. In addition to this the floral waste generated from the

Temple and the local flower traders are being dumped into the Penna River in a regular manner for decades together. The wastewater from domestic drains of the Jonnawada Village typically contains a mix of household waste, detergents, food waste and other chemicals apart from cattle waste and the flower waste generated from the temple typically contains a mix of household waste, detergents, food waste, and other chemicals. These drains are openly discharged into the Penna River which increases the concentration of harmful substances in the river water and causes severe damage to the Penna River Environment and its texture.

The said contaminants not only affect the health of the river ecosystem but also harm the communities that rely on the river for drinking, fishing and agriculture. In addition to this, the plastic and the wrapping waste which is dumped into the river course plays a vital role in damaging the river ecosystem and environment.

The village administration, the Temple authorities and the Pollution Board authorities are well aware about the above menace, but for the reasons best known they not initiated any steps towards prevention of Penna River pollution and in the result, there is a water quality degradation, development of dead zones due to damage of aquatic life, soil contamination at the river and became a hub for diseases preventing the people from recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing.

The Panchayth and their inspecting authorities apart the authorities of Water Resources department, the Penna River Conservator and the Pollution Board authorities not initiated any steps for establishment of better sewage treatment system & practices and for educating the communities and for diverting the drains to the treatment system as on date and kept silent over the issue and witnessing the same in a mechanical manner and cornered the surrounding communities to face the risk of the high density of pollution which will have drastic impact on their health, economies and river ecosystem.

In view of the above I humbly request your good office to look into the issue

- 1) Call for the status report and conduct a detailed enquiry into the lapses*
- 2) Fix the responsibility and liability for the lapses and for the damage caused to the river ecosystems.*
- 3) initiate appropriate steps for establishment of a better sewage treatment system in the village and*
- 4) initiate steps for closure of the village drains connected to the Penna River.*
- 5) Direct the Temple authority to make alternative arrangements for disposal of floral waste, instead of dumping into the river*
- 6) Initiate steps for protection of the Penna River eco system at the surrounding areas of Jonnawada Village in the larger interest*

of the Penna River, Environment, Health and economies of the communities of the surrounding areas.”

3. *Prima facie* the averments made in the application raise substantial questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule-I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

4. In view of the averments in the application, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) State of Andhra Pradesh through Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, (2) Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Andhra Pradesh, (3) Secretary, Irrigation, Government of Andhra Pradesh (4) Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary and (5) District Magistrate, Nellore who stand impleaded as respondents No. 1 to 5.

5. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the application and issue notices to respondents No. 1 to 5 requiring them to file their reply/response within two months.

6. In view of the environmental questions involved in the case, we also consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee be constituted to verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of officers duly authorized by Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, APPCB and District Magistrate, Nellore and direct the same to meet within two weeks, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. The APPCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

7. Even though the application has been listed before this Bench with approval and assignment under order of Hon'ble Chairperson, but in view of the fact that the place of accrual of cause of action lies within jurisdiction of the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai, we are of the considered view that it will be appropriate if the application is heard by the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai.

8. Accordingly, the Registry is directed to list the matter before the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai on 08.08.2025 after obtaining orders from Hon'ble the Chairperson for transfer of the case.

9. Report of the Joint Committee may be filed by APPCB and replies/ responses may be filed by respondents no. 1 to 5 before the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai within two months.

10. A copy of this order be sent to Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, APPCB and District Magistrate, Nellore by email for requisite compliance.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

May 29th, 2025
Original Application No. 240/2025
AB

 <p>ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ANDHRA PRADESH</p>	<p>ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE :: NELLORE.</p> <p>PLOT.NO.1, PRASANTHI NAGAR, NEAR NELLORE CLUB, NELLORE - 524004. Phone No: 0861-2329730 e-mail: ronlr-ee1@appcb.gov.in</p>	 <p>LIFE Lifestyle for Environment</p>
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Lr.No: OA 240 of 2025/APP/RO/NLR/2025-2025 240

Date.01.07.2025

To

1. The Panchayath Secretary, Jonnawada Village, Buchireddypalem Mandal, SPSR Nellore District.
2. The Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple, Jonnawada (V), Buchireddypalem (M), SPSR Nellore District

Sir/Madam,

Sub: APPCB -RO, Nellore - O.A. No.240 of 2025 before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai filed by Sri Singiri Madhu S/o. Subbaiah, Jonnawada Village, Buchireddypalem Mandal, SPSR Nellore District regarding domestic sewage waste water - Joint Inspection conducted on 25.06.2025- Information requested for preparation of Joint Committee report for onward submission to the Hon'ble NGT(SZ)- Reg.

- Ref: 1. Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi order dated 29.05.2025.
2. Joint Committee inspected on 25.06.2025.

With reference to the above, it is to submit that an Original Application (O.A) No. 240 of 2025 (PB) was registered as Suo-moto case by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench (PB), New Delhi based on the petition dt.03.02.2025 filed by Sri Singiri Madhu S/o. Subbaiah, Jonnawada Village, Buchireddypalem Mandal, SPSR Nellore District regarding domestic sewage waste water from the Panchayath, temple are being discharging into Penna River thereby causing contamination of Natural Penna river Environment.

In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi order dated. 29.05.2025, a Joint Committee constituted comprising with CPCB, APPCB and District Magistrate, Nellore. The Joint Committee inspected on 25.06.2025 to verify the factual position and to suggest appropriate remedial action.

After field observations, the Joint committee requires to prepare a report, for that the following information is needed to furnish for inclusion in the Joint committee report for onward submission to the Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai.

Regarding Village:

1. Total area of the village (with MAP), Population,
2. Total no. of Households, No. of Households having individual toilets
3. Source of water supply to the village
4. Total Sewage generation & its disposal area in the village
5. Availability of Drainage system in the village

Regarding Temple:

1. No. of Pilgrims visited on average per week
2. Source of water supply for temple
3. Facilities provided for bathing, accommodation, toilets & its discharges.
4. Details of Annaprasadam making unit
5. Record of Choultry

In view of the above, it is requested to furnish the above information pertaining to Village by the Panchayath Secretary and regarding temple by the Asst. Commissioner/EO, Jonnawada temple duly signed copies in pdf format and word format to the email id: ronlr-ee1@appcb.gov.in on or before 08.07.2025 for incorporation of the information in the joint committee report in the matter of O.A.No. 240 of 2025 filed before Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai. The case is posted on 08.08.2025.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: A/a.

Nawudusabok

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy submitted to the Revenue Divisional Officer, SPSR Nellore District for favour of information & for taking necessary action in light of Hon'ble NGT matter.

o/c



ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
ZONAL LABORATORY : TIRUPATI
II & V Floor, Narsimha Teertham Road, opp APSFC & LIC office, Tirupati



ANALYSIS REPORT

Report No: TPT2503041

Dated: 28-03-2025

Sample Source	:	Penna river, Jonnawada (v), Bucchireddypalem (m), SPSR Nellore District.
Sample Code & Location	:	TPT2503041 – Sample collected from drain at location 14.478006; 79.892302 joining Penna River
Inspection/Monitoring conducted by	:	Analyst (Out sourced), Regional office, Nellore
Sampling purpose	:	PGRS Complaint
Sample collected on	:	18-03-2025
Sample received on	:	20-03-2025
Report issued on	:	28-03-2025

It is to certify that the above samples were analyzed from 21-03-2025 to 27-03-2025 and the analysis result is declared below:

Sl.No	Parameter	Unit	Analysis Result
			041
1	pH	--	7.33
2	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/l	108
3	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/l	1192
4	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg/l	3640
5	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₃ days at 27°C)	mg/l	1056

Remarks:

1. All values are expressed in mg/l except pH
2. Result is related to sample as received.


Jr. Scientific Officer
Zonal Laboratory, Tirupati

✓ Copy submitted to the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, RO, Nellore for information and necessary action.

25

	<p align="center">ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE :: NELLORE.</p> <p>PLOT.NO.1, PRASANTHI NAGAR, NEAR NELLORE CLUB, NELLORE - 524004. Phone No: 0861-2329730 e-mail: ronlr-ee1@appcb.gov.in</p>	
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Lr.No: GN-6/PCB/RO/NLR/2025- 62Date.11.04.2025

To

ok
The Assistant Commissioner & Executive Officer,
Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kamakshi Tayee Temple,
Jonawada (V), Buchireddypalem (M),
SPSR Nellore District.

Sir,

Sub: APPCB -RO, Nellore - NLR20250109458- PGRS complaint received from Sri Singiri Madhu, Jonawada (V) Buchireddypalem (M), Nellore SPSR Nellore district on discharging of domestic sewage water to Penna River- Forwarded for take necessary action - Requested- Reg.

Ref: 1. PGRS complaint no. NLR20250109458 received from Sri Singiri Madhu, Jonawada (V) Buchireddypalem (M), Nellore SPSR Nellore district on 10.03.2025

2. Board officials inspected on 18.03.2025

With reference to the above, it is to submit that this office received PGRS complaint from Sri Singiri Madhu, Jonawada (V) Buchireddypalem (M), Nellore SPSR Nellore district regarding discharging of domestic sewage water to Penna River causing fresh water contamination.

The Board officials of A.P. Pollution Control Board interacted with the complainant on 18.03.2025 over telephone and he complained that domestic waste water is joining into the Penna River at Jonawada temple area and requested to restoration of natural Penna River flow. During the inspection, it was observed that sewage water is joining through drain at Jonawada temple area into Penna River. Water samples were collected and submitted to Zonal laboratory, Tirupathi for analysis. As per the analysis report, the BOD value recorded as 1056 mg/lit, indicating that untreated waste water is finding it ways to Penna River, which may lead to contamination of river will increase and pose a significant challenge for restoration. Copy of the analysis report is herewith enclosed for ready reference.

In light of the above, it is suggested to construct an in-house Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to treat domestic sewage generated in the temple area, thereby preventing the discharge of untreated wastewater into the Penna River.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: A/a.

N. Srinivas Reddy
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, SPSR Nellore District for favour of information.

Copy submitted to the District Panchayath Officer, Nellore for information.

26

 <p>ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ ANDHRA PRADESH</p>	<p>ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE :: NELLORE.</p> <p>PLOT.NO.1, PRASANTHI NAGAR, NEAR NELLORE CLUB, NELLORE - 524004. Phone No: 0861-2329730 e-mail: ronlr-ee1@appcb.gov.in</p>	 <p>LIFE Lifestyle for Environment</p>
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Lr.No: GN-6/PCB/RO/NLR/2025- 61Date.24.04.2025

To
The Panchayath Secretary,
Jonnawada Village,
Buchireddypalem Mandal,
SPSR Nellore District.

Sir,

Sub: APPCB -RO, Nellore - NLR20250109458- PGRS complaint received from Sri Singiri Madhu, Jonnawada (V) Buchireddypalem (M), Nellore SPSR Nellore district on discharging of domestic sewage water to Penna River- Forwarded for take necessary action - Requested- Reg.

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In view of the above, it is requested that appropriate measures be taken to divert sewage water to sewer lines for treatment at the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Once treated, the water may be utilized for on-land irrigation. The action taken report may be communicated to this office for record purpose.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: A/a.


ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, SPSR Nellore District for favour of information.

Copy submitted to the District Panchayath Officer, Nellore for taking necessary action.