

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 136/2025

**In re:** News item titled "Faecal coliform in Puducherry's  
Thengaithittu, Kuruchikuppam beaches exceed safe limits,  
appearing in The Hindu dated 09.06.2025

And

Central Pollution Control Board

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Through



Mr. Ramaswamy Meyyappan,  
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MS 1894/2016

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 136 of 2025

In re: News Item titled "Faecal coliform in Puducherry's Thengaithittu,  
Kuruchikuppam beaches exceeds safe limits appearing in The Hindu dated  
09.06.2025

THIRD REPORT FILED BY THE MEMBER SECRETARY PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION  
CONTROL COMMITTEE ON THE INCIDENT OF ELEVATED LEVEL OF FAECAL  
COLIFORM IN PUDUCHERRY THENGAITHITTU AND KURUCHIKUPPAM BEACHES AND  
ACTION TAKEN REPORT IN THE MATTER OF  
OA NO 136 OF 2025

1

**Introduction**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 13.02.2026 in OA No. 136 of 2025 has directed PPCC to file an updated status report on the commissioning of the STP, underground sewerage system connectivity, status on the restoration of Chunammbar and Arasalar, water quality of surface water bodies, and coastal water quality.

In compliance with the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Third report is submitted.

2

**Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP)**

A 15 MLD SBR-based sewage treatment plant has been built at Dubraypet, Puducherry, costing Rs. 28.53 crore, and it started operation on 01.03.2025.

*N. Ramesh*

**Dr. N. RAMESH**  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION  
CONTROL COMMITTEE  
PUDUCHERRY

An 11 MLD SBR-based Sewage Treatment Plant has been constructed at a cost of 28.05 crore at Karaikal. Trial run will be conducted on (or) before 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

3

### Under Ground Sewer Connection

All 76,491 households and commercial establishments are connected to the underground drainage system (UGD). (Annexure-I)




4




### Action plan on Restoration of Chunnambar and Arasalar

#### Chunnambar River

Sl. No.	Action Points	Status of Action Taken
1.	Assessment of pollution level in the river.	<p>Water quality in Chunnambar River is monitored monthly. Water Quality Data for the period Dec, 2025 – Mar, 2026 is provided in Annexure II.</p> <p>pH and concentrations of DO and BOD meet the primary water quality criteria. Faecal Streptococci (140 MPN/100ml) exceeds the desirable limit in February. However, it remains within the maximum permissible limit of 500 MPN/100ml for primary water quality standards.</p> <p><i>Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing water: pH - 6.5 - 8.5, DO (mg/l) - 5 or more, BOD<sub>5</sub> (mg/l) - 3 or less. Faecal Coliform MPN/100ml - 500 (Desirable) and 2500 (Max. Permissible) Faecal Streptococci MPN/100ml - 100 (Desirable) and 500 (Max. Permissible).</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>N. Ramesh</i>  <b>Dr. N. RAMESH</b>  <b>MEMBER SECRETARY</b>  <b>PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION</b>  <b>CONTROL COMMITTEE</b>  <b>PUDUCHERRY</b></p>


2


2.	Inventorisation of industries located on the bank of the river and closing down of unauthorized industrial operations if any.	<p>The inventory of industries has been completed. The following industries and establishments are located on the bank of the Chunnambar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M/s. Caplin Point, Suthukeny, MCP</li> <li>• M/s. Jothy Laboratory</li> <li>• M/s. Pondicherry Distilleries Ltd., Ariyalalayam, VCP</li> <li>• M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Thirukanchi, VCP</li> <li>• M/s. Pondicherry Cancer Trust Hospital</li> <li>• M/s. Deedi Resort, (Le Pondy), Nonankuppam</li> <li>• M/s. Wind Flower, Nonankuppam</li> <li>• M/s. Chunnambar Boat House</li> </ul>
3.	Identification of polluted streams which contaminates the river.	<p>All the drains that reach the Sankaraparani were identified, and grill gratings and bar screen are provided to all the 152 drains.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
4.	Identification and prevention of Municipal Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Bio-Medical Waste dumping.	<p>Periodic inspections are being conducted to monitor for waste dumping on the riverbank. Sign boards prohibiting dumping of any waste are placed along the riverbank.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
5.	Installation / upgradation of ETP/STP in the industries.	<p>Closure directions were issued to M/s. Windflower and M/s. Ford Car Washing Centre for not providing an STP. Subsequently, both units installed STP.</p> <p>M/s. Pondicherry Distilleries Ltd., was directed to provide STP. Accordingly, the unit has installed 20 KLD STP and the test report is complying with the Standards.</p>

6.	Provision of STP in the habituated area of river bank.	<p>The work order was issued on 12/30/2025 for a 3 MLD STP using SBR technology with FSTP at Kanuvapet, Villianur. The work was commissioned on 03/02/2026. The scheduled completion date is 09/10/2026.</p> <p>Puducherry Tourism Development Corporation has installed STP of 30 KLD capacity in Chunnambar Boat House during Feb 2021.</p> 
7.	Eradication of open defecation on the River Bank.	<p>1836 toilets in the Households located on the Bank of Chunnambar have been constructed by DRDA.</p> 
8.	Development of Green belt on the bank and improving biodiversity.	<p>The Forest Department has planted 4000 plants on the bank of the Chunnambar river bed.</p>
9.	Arresting sand mining and maintaining Environment flow of river.	<p>A Special Task Team has been formed under the chairmanship of the Deputy Collector in each district to combat illegal sand mining and transportation. 44 cases have been filed against illegal sand miners, resulting in a fine of Rs. 9.1 lakhs collected.</p> <p>144 has been imposed in illegal sand mining prone area.</p>
10.	Developing Information Education and Communication programmes (IEC).	<p>A dedicated WhatsApp group called "Chunnambar River Watch" has been created.</p> 


## Arasalar River

Sl. No.	Action Points	Status of Action Taken
1.	Assessment of pollution level in the river.	<p>Water quality in Arasalar River is being monitored monthly. Water Quality Data for the period Dec, 2025 – Mar, 2026, is given in the Annexure – III.</p> <p>DO in Arasalar River (4.8 mg/l) during January does not meet the Primary Water Quality Criteria. However, all other parameters are within the criteria.</p> <p><i>Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing water: pH - 6.5 - 8.5, DO (mg/l) - 5 or more, BOD (mg/l) - 3 or less. Faecal Coliform MPN/100ml - 500 (Desirable) and 2500 (Max. Permissible) Faecal Streptococci MPN/100ml - 100 (Desirable) and 500 (Max. Permissible).</i></p>
2.	Inventorisation of industries located on the bank of the river and closing down of unauthorized industrial operations if any.	No industries are situated along the bank of the Arasalar River.
3.	Identification of polluted streams which contaminates the river.	Out of 33 channels or street drains converging at Arasalar and Vanjore in the Karaikal region, bar screen arrangements have been installed for 20. For the remaining 13 locations, bar screening is not necessary since the flow in these drainage channels is seasonal only.

4.	Identification and prevention of Municipal Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Bio-Medical Waste dumping.	<p>Periodic inspections are being conducted to monitor for waste dumping on the riverbank. Signboards prohibiting waste disposal are placed along the riverbank.</p> 
5.	Installation / upgradation of ETP/STP in the industries.	No industries are situated on the bank of the Arasalar River.
6.	Provision of STP in the habituated area of river bank.	Construction of the 11 MLD STP at Puduthurai in Dharmapuram Revenue Village, Karaikal, began on December 1, 2023. The trial run is scheduled for April 10, 2026.
7.	Eradication of open defecation on the River Bank.	DRDA has constructed 6847 toilets in households near the Arasalar River.
8.	Development of Green belt on the bank, improving biodiversity and Biodiversity monitoring and indexing of Arasalar River to assess the efficacy of River Restoration activities.	Biodiversity Assessment in the Mangrove Forest of Karaikal was carried out during July 2021 – June 2022.
9.	Arresting sand mining and maintaining Environment flow of river.	Special Task Team has been constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Collector in Karaikal District for curtailing illegal sand mining and its transportation.

10	Developing Information Education and Communication programmes (IEC).	<p>Dedicated WhatsApp group “Arasalar River Watch” has been formed.</p> 
11	Ground water regulation, management and Ground Water Recharge.	<p>Water Policy has been prepared in 2016 to develop, conserve and manage the water resources in the U.T. of Puducherry in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>The planning authorities while issuing occupancy certificate ascertain that the conditions stipulated in the building permits regarding rain water harvesting measures have been complied with.</p> <p>The Puducherry Ground Water Authority does not issues fresh permits/renews permits to any industries/ institutions unless Rain Water Harvesting System is installed in their respective buildings.</p> <p>882 Rain Water Harvesting structure are constructed in the U.T of Puducherry by Department of Agriculture.</p>
12	Protection and management of Flood Plain Zones.	<p>DPR is to be prepared under FMBAP. The expert team from Central Water Commission, New Delhi has inspected the sites on 02.02.2023 for conducting filed survey for water management of sustainable development in Karaikal region.</p> <p>After getting necessary expert advice / recommendation from the expert team CWC, New Delhi necessary Detailed Project report will be prepared.</p>

DR. N. RAMESH  
 MEMBER SECRETARY  
 PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION  
 CONTROL COMMITTEE  
 PUDUCHERRY

  
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## 4

### Status of Surface Water Quality

Monthly water samples have been collected from Ouestri Lake, Kanagan Lake, Chunnambar River, Bahour Lake, and Arasalar River in Karaikal. The analysis reports are provided in Annexure IV. They revealed that the BOD levels exceeded the prescribed standards throughout each month at Kanagar Eri, with March showing particularly high levels in Ousteri Lake. In Chunnambar River, Faecal Streptococci levels exceeded the limits in February. The DO levels declined to 4.8 mg/l in January 2026 in Arasalar (Annexure II & III).

All other parameters meet the primary water quality criteria.

## 5

### Coastal Water Quality Analysis

Water samples were collected from Thengaihittu, Kuruchikuppam, and Kalapet beaches on January 6th, 2026. The analysis report is placed in Annexure V.

It showed that the value of Faecal coliform exceeded 110/100 MPN, which is the primary water quality criterion at Kuruchikuppam beach. All other parameters meet the primary water quality standards.

Date : 27.03.2026  
Place : Puducherry



(Dr. N. RAMESH)  
MEMBER SECRETARY  
PPCC

**Dr. N. RAMESH**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**  
**PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION**  
**CONTROL COMMITTEE**  
**PUDUCHERRY**

954/  
 No. /PW/PHD/DB-NGT/2025-26  
 GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
 PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
 P.W.D., PUDUCHERRY

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Puducherry, the 14.03.2026

To

The Member Secretary,  
 Dept. of Science, Technology and Environment,  
 Puducherry Pollution Control Committee,  
 Puducherry.

Sir,

**Sub:** PW-PHD-Submission of report to the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. 136 of  
 2025- Information on STPs and UGSS- Submitted - Reg.

**Ref:** No.136/PPCC/PRS/SCI/2026/312 dt.18.03.2026

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With reference to the subject mentioned above, the required information is  
 given below:

- i) The 15 MLD sewage treatment plant at Dubrayapet has been commissioned  
 on 01.03.2026.
- ii) The targeted household connections to the UGD has been achieved which  
 includes the commercial establishments.

Yours faithfully,

(N. SUNDARI)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PHD)

**Encl:** As stated above

**Copy Submitted to:**


1. The Chief Engineer, PWD, Puducherry, for favour of information please.
2. The Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, PWD, Puducherry for favour of information  
 Please.

**Copy to:** 1. The Assistant Engineer, Drainage Sub-Division, PHD, PWD, Puducherry  
 2. SF/OC

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYTICAL LABORATORY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE**  
R.S. NO. 189, GARAGE BUILDING, IYYANAR KOIL STREET,  
MARIE OULGARET, METTUPALAYAM, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA.

<b>Surface Water Quality Data in Puducherry</b>						
Sl. No.	Parameters	Chunnambar River				Standard limit as per the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing water - Class of Water B (Water Used for Organised Outdoor Bathing) as per Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	
1	Date of sampling	01.12.2025	05.01.2026	03.02.2026	02.03.2026	--
2	Time	12.45 P.M	11.45 AM	11.15 AM	11.40 AM	--
3	Temp °C	25.0	28.0	29	30	--
4	pH	7.81	8.30	7.99	8.07	6.5-8.5
5	DO (mg/l)	5.4	5.7	5.3	6.2	5 or more
6	BOD (mg/l)	1.6	BDL (DL:1.0)	2.0	2.8	3 or less
7	Faecal Coliform MPN/100ml	79	94	120	84	500 (Desirable) and 2500 (Max. Permissible)
8	Faecal Streptococci MPN/100ml	70	70	140	94	100 (Desirable) and 500 (Max. Permissible)

Faecal Streptococci in Chunnambar River (140 MPN/100ml) in February month exceeds the desirable limit of 100 MPN/100 ml. However, it is within the maximum permissible limit of the primary water quality criteria of 500 MPN/100 ml.

  
(Dr. V. R. Sumathi)  
Scientist

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MARIE OULGARET, METTUPALAYAM, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA.

<b>Surface Water Quality Data in Puducherry</b>						
Sl. No.	Parameters	Arasalar River				Standard limit as per the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing water - Class of Water B (Water Used for Organised Outdoor Bathing) as per Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
		Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	
1	Date of sampling	01.12.2025	05.01.2026	02.02.2026	02.03.2026	--
2	Time	06.50 A.M	06.40 A.M	07.40 A.M	06.50 A.M	--
3	Temp °C	26.0	26.0	26.0	28.0	--
4	pH	7.18	7.88	7.71	7.84	6.5-8.5
5	DO (mg/l)	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.1	5 or more
6	BOD (mg/l)	1.6	BDL (DL:1.0)	1.1	2.5	3 or less
7	Faecal Coliform MPN/100ml	140	70	<1.8	94	500 (Desirable) and 2500 (Max. Permissible)
8	Faecal Streptococci MPN/100ml	94	58	<1.8	<1.8	100 (Desirable) and 500 (Max. Permissible)

DO in Arasalar River (4.8 mg/l) during January is not meeting the Primary Water quality Criteria of (5mg or more).




(Dr. V. R. Sumathi)  
Scientist

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYTICAL LABORATORY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE  
R.S. NO. 189, GARAGE BUILDING, IYYANAR KOIL STREET,  
MARIE OULGARET, METTUPALAYAM, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA.**

**Surface Water Quality Data**

Sl. No.	Parameters	BOD mg/l			
		01.12.2025	05.01.2026	03.02.2026	02.03.2026
	Date of Sampling	01.12.2025	05.01.2026	03.02.2026	02.03.2026
1.	Ousteri Lake, Puducherry	2.4	1.3	2.0	3.3
2.	Kanagan Lake, Puducherry	3.8	5.3	6.5	8.5
3.	Chunnambar River, Puducherry	1.6	BDL (DL:1.0)	2.0	2.8
4.	Bahour Lake, Puducherry	1.0		2.5	2.5
5.	Arasalar River, Karaikal	1.6		1.1	2.5
Standard limit as per the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing water - Class of Water B (Water Used for Organised Outdoor Bathing) as per Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986		3 mg/l or less			

  
(Dr. V. R. Sumathi)  
Scientist

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**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
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MARIE OULGARET, METTUPALAYAM, PUDUCHERRY, INDIA.

**Coastal Water Quality Data Jan-Mar Quarter**

Sl. No.	Parameters	Thengaithittu Beach	Kuruchikuppam Beach	Kalapet Kuppam Beach	Primary Water Quality criteria for Class SW-II Waters (For bathing, contact water sports and commercial fishing)
1.	Station Code	5689	5688	5687	-
2.	Date of Sampling	06.01.2026	06.01.2026	06.01.2026	-
3.	Latitude	11.906542	11.939611	12.033225	-
4.	Longitude	79.8339	79.844453	79.870228	-
5.	Time	10.30 AM	11.30 A.M	12.30 P.M	-
6.	Temperature°C	28.0	28.0	28.0	-
7.	pH	8.14	8.25	8.16	6.5-8.5
8.	Turbidity NTU	21.3	23.4	12.7	30 NTU
9.	BOD mg/l	2.0	2.6	BDL (DL:1.0)	3 mg/l
10.	DO mg/l	6.9	8.1	6.8	4.0 mg/l or 50 percent saturation value whichever is higher.
11.	Total Coliform MPN/100ml	210	240	220	-
12.	Faecal Coliform MPN/100ml	94	110	84	100/100 ml (MPN)
13.	Faecal Streptococci MPN/100ml	46	63	43	-

**BDL – Below Detection Limit**

**DL - Detection Limit**



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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL**  
**GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN**  
**ZONE, CHENNAI**

**APPLICATION NO: 136 OF 2025**

News item titled “Faecal coliform in  
Puducherry’s Thengaitthittu,  
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09.06.2025

**THIRD REPORT**

**RAMASWAMY MEYYAPPAN**  
**STANDING COUNSEL**  
**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY**  
**MS 1894/2016**