

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.166 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in Dinamalar, Chennai edition, Newspaper dt: 06.05.2024, under the caption, "Uprooting of trees in ECR slope in goes violation of Green Tribunal orders".

And

1. The Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Chennai-09
2. The Additional Chief Secretary / Commissioner,
Greater Chennai Corporation,
Ripon Building, Chennai – 03
3. The District Collector Chennai,
Singaravelar Maaligai,
Rajaji Salai, Chennai -01
4. The Secretary to Government of Tamilnadu,
Highways and Minor ports Department,
Chennai -09
5. The Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 32

..... Respondent(s)

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Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:01.11.2024

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Chennai – 32

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**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE
4TH RESPONDENT**

I, P.M.Rajaganapathi, S/o.Masilamani, aged 57, presently discharging my duties as the Divisional Engineer (H), CMDP, Division – I, Chennai -16 on full Charge, file the Additional report as.

1. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone Chennai on 15.05.2024 by its own motion has filed this SUO MOTU case based on the News Item in Dinamalar, Chennai edition, Newspaper dt: 06.05.2024, under the caption, "Uprooting of trees in ECR slope in goes violation of Green Tribunal orders".
2. The case came up for hearing on 28.08.2024 and The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone Chennai has passed an order, wherein at Para:3 , it was stated as " In order to see the survival rate of the transplanted trees, let the additional report be filed and also report as to whether the money required for the plantation of further trees is fully paid to the Forest Department and whether the 1:10 ratio of trees are already planted. Let the additional report and the photographs be produced before the date of next hearing". In this regard, I respectfully submit the additional report as follows:
3. It is respectfully submitted that the Highways Department is carrying out the road widening work from Kottivakkam to Akkarai of East Coast Road. The Project road starts at Km 13/615 and ends at Km 22/300 with Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, Neelangarai, Injambakkam and Sholinganallur Villages.
4. It is respectfully submitted that in order to widen the road at Kottivakkam and Palavakkam village limits, 123 live trees were found to be removed from the project stretch. In this regard, a proposal was submitted to the District Green Committee for necessary orders. The District Green Committee had an elaborate discussion in its meeting dated 23.11.2022 and orders were given to cut down 123 trees and plant 1230 new saplings in the ratio of 1:10 as compensatory plantation. Further, it is respectively submitted that the Forest Department has provided a demand of Rs.53,04,650/- for creating

Compensatory Greening plantation of 1230 numbers at the ratio 1:10 for felling down of 123 live trees.

5. It is respectfully submitted that in order to widen the existing four lane road to six lane of ECR from Neelangarai to Sholinganallur at Km 15/700 – 22/300, it became unavoidable to remove 856 trees. So, a proposal for removal of 856 live trees was placed before the District Green Committee, Chennai for necessary orders. In this regard, the District Green Committee vide its meeting held on 12.07.2023 has issued orders for removal of 758 trees, transplantation of 97 trees and retention of 1 tree (i.e., The *Strychnos nux vomica* L.(Etti) tree). The District Green Committee has further issued orders to carry out compensatory plantation of about 7580 numbers of new saplings at the ratio 1:10. In this regard, a demand of Rs.3.26 crore was obtained from the District Forest Officer, Chennai for planting 7580 new saplings in lieu of felling 758 live trees. Based on the demand, an interim amount of Rs.50 lakh was paid to the District Forest Officer, Chennai on March 2024 towards rising new saplings for compensatory plantation.
6. It is respectfully submitted that in meantime the Forest Ranger, Velacherry Special range, Chennai Forest Division had requested to provide consent for planting the compensatory plantation at Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF), Avadi instead of the selected location of Ramanathanagal Lake, Sholinganallur. Subsequently, the Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP Division-1, Chennai has confirmed and provided consent for planting the compensatory plantation at the HVF, Avadi location. The copy of the consent letter of the Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP Division-1, Chennai is annexed as Exhibit No: I.
7. It is respectfully submitted that following the Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai in OA No. 166 of

2024 (SZ), dated: 28.08.2024, the Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP Division-1, Chennai has processed and further paid an interim payment of Rs. 25,01,560/- towards raising nursery and planting operation of compensatory plantation works for the ECR vide Proceeding order no.07/A1/2024,dated: 27.09.2024. Till now, 75 lakhs have been deposited to the Forest Department towards nursery making and plantation. The copy of the Divisional Engineer (H), CMDP proceedings for making payment of Rs. 25,01,560/- to the District Forest Officer, Chennai are annexed as Exhibit No:II.

8. It is respectfully submitted that on making the payment, the District Forest Officer, Chennai was requested to expedite the compensatory plantation works at the HVF, Avadi location at the ratio 1:10 and plant all the total 8810 number of compensatory plantation samplings (i.e., 1230 numbers for Kottivakkam & Palavakkam reach + 7580 numbers for Neelankarai to Akkarai reach). Further, the copy of the Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, dated: 28.08.2024 was also communicated to the District Forest Officer, Chennai and requested to submit action taken report along with recent photographs of the compensatory plantation work carried out at HVF, Avadi for submitting the additional report to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern region, Chennai. The copy of the Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP Division-1, Chennai letter requesting to plant 8810 numbers of compensatory plantation is annexed as Exhibit No: III.
9. It is respectfully submitted that the District Forest Officer, Chennai was informed that necessary proposal for obtaining Revised Administrative Sanctions (RAS) from the Government are submitted and the same is under process. On obtaining the RAS from the Government, the entire balance amount will be paid immediately to the Forest Department. In the meantime, the District Forest Officer,

Chennai was requested to complete the compensatory plantation work of 8810 number of new samplings at HVF, Avadi.

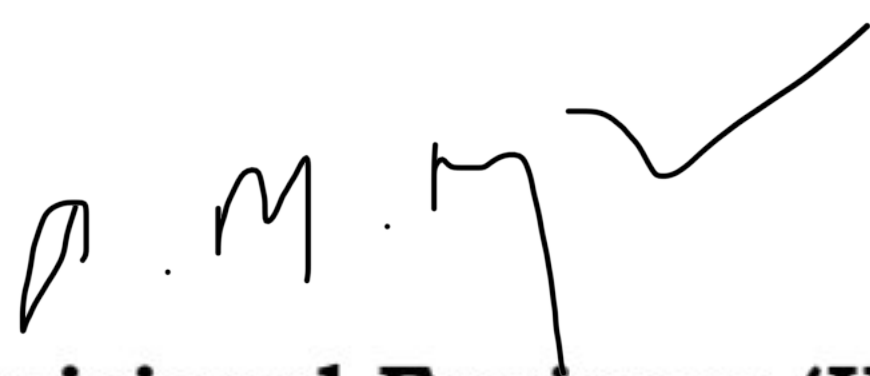
10. It is respectfully submitted that the compensatory plantation work is being carried out at HVF, Avadi by the Forest Department. About 4200 number of iron tree guards for protecting the new samplings are procured, 1400 new samplings got planted, works like taking pits, placing fertilizer, etc., are under progress and by the end of November 2024, 4200 new samplings will be planted and protected by the Forest Department as compensatory plantation. The copy of the photo showing the compensatory plantation works carried out at HVF, Avadi is annexed as Exhibit No: IV.
11. It is respectfully submitted that as per the orders of the District Green Committee, Chennai dated: 12.07.2023, 97 live trees inbetween Neelangarai to Akkarai stretch of ECR got transplanted to Sri Raman Thangal Lake bund, Sholinganallur. The tree transplantation work was carried out by an agency named M/s. Green care, Coimbatore, an NGO, which was having right skill sets and expertize in the tree transplantation works. During the transplantation work of live trees, the branches of tree were pruned , the cut parts of the branches were covered with cow dung and tied with gunny bags and then the trees were uprooted with JCB, lifted with crane and placed in the vehicle for transportation. Thereafter, without disturbing the roots the transported trees were placed into the trenches excavated at Sri Raman Thangal Lake bund with the original mother soil, cocopeat, neem oil cake, vermicompost and necessary fertilizers. The transplanted trees are then maintained properly and watered daily using water tanker and also with pumpset arrangements.
12. It is respectfully submitted that even after doing proper maintenance and watering of the transplanted trees, the 100% success rate of transplanted live trees depends upon many factors like soil conditions,

adaptability of transplanted trees, variety of the tree selected for transplantation, weather conditions, maintenance factors and many other unknown natural factors. Now, it is observed that 22 numbers of transplanted trees are found to be grown well and sprouted with new leaves. The Highways Department has further planned to transplant few more number of live trees from the approved cut down list of 758 numbers to make the purpose of District Green Committee order to get fulfilled. The copy of the recent photo showing the transplanted live tree at Sri Raman Thangal Lake bund, Sholinganallur is annexed as Exhibit No: V.

13. It is respectfully submitted that the trees are removed / transplanted as per the directives of the District Green Committee, Chennai and the directives of the District Green Committee has never been violated. The Highways Department has taken sincere efforts and implemented the instructions of the District Green Committee properly.
14. It is respectfully submitted that allegations made in the news article published on 06.05.2024 in the Tamil Daily named "Dinamalar, Chennai edition, Newspaper" under the caption, "Uprooting of trees in ECR slope in goes violation of Green Tribunal orders" is false. The Respondents are strictly adhering to the requirements prescribed under the law.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this additional status report and action taken report on file and pass such further orders which it deems fit to the case and thus render justice.

Signature :



**Divisional Engineer (H),
C.M.D.P Division-I,
Alandur, Chennai- 16**

Date : 30.10.2024

VERIFICATION

I, P.M.Rajaganapathi, S/o.Masilamani, aged 57, presently discharging my duties as the Divisional Engineer (H), CMDP, Division – I, Chennai -16 solemnly affirm that the contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge based on the records and I have not suppressed any facts.

Signature :



**Divisional Engineer (H),
C.M.D.P Division-I,
Alandur, Chennai- 16**

Date : 30.10.2024

அனுப்புநர்

பி.எம்.ராஜகணபதி, எம்.ஐ.இ.,
கோட்டப் பொறியாளர் (நெ),
கோட்டம் - 1,
ஆலந்தூர்,
சென்னை - 16

பெறுநர்

மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர்,
வன கோட்டம் சென்னை,
டி.எம்.எஸ்.வளாகம்,
தேனாம்பேட்டை,
சென்னை -18

கடித எண்.128/2022/இ.நி.வ/நாள்.28.08.2024

அய்யா,

பொருள், நெடுஞ்சாலைத்துறை - சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம், கோட்டம் 1, உட்கோட்டம் -2 - கிழக்கு கடற்கரைச் சாலை கி.மீ 15/700 - 22/300 வரை நீலாங்கரை, ஈஞ்சம்பாக்கம் மற்றும் சோழிங்கநல்லூர் கிராமங்களில் ஆறுவழித்தடமாக அகலப்படுத்தும் பணிக்கு வலது மற்றும் இடது புறம் சாலைப் பணிகளுக்கு இடையூறாக உள்ள 758 மரங்களை அகற்றுதல் - மரங்களை அகற்றுவதற்கு சென்னை மாவட்ட பசுமைக் குழு ஒப்புதல் வழங்கியுள்ளது - 7580 மரக்கன்றுகள் நடவு செய்து பராமரித்தல் - பராமரிப்புத் தொகை செலுத்துதல் - தொடர்பாக

பார்வை

1. அரசாணை நிலை எண்.229/நெடுஞ்சாலை (எச்.டபிள்யு 1) துறை, நாள்.14.11.2005
2. அரசாணை நிலை எண்.128/நெடுஞ்சாலை மற்றும் சிறுதுறைமுகங்கள் (எச்.டபிள்யு 2) துறை, நாள்.14.07.2022
3. சட்ட நடவடிக்கை குறிப்பு, மாவட்ட பசுமைக் குழு, சென்னை, நாள்.12.07.2023
4. மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர், சென்னை 06. ந.க.எண்.1905/2023/நாள்.11.09.2023
5. மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர், சென்னை 06. ந.க.எண்.1905/2023/நாள்.22.09.2023
6. கோட்டப் பொறியாளர் (நெ), சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம், கோட்டம் -1, சென்னை அவர்களின் செயல்முறை ஆணை எண்.7/A1/2024, நாள்.20.03.2024
7. வனச்சரக அலுவலர், வேளச்சேரி சிறப்புச் சரகம், சென்னை வனக் கோட்டம், சென்னை அவர்களின் கடிதம், ந.க.எண்.29/2024, நாள். 08.2024 (இவ்வலுவலகத்தில் கிடைக்கப்பெற்ற நாள்.27.08.2024).

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பார்வை 1-ல் காணும் அரசாணையின்படி கிழக்கு கடற்கரைச் சாலை கி.மீ 11/800 - 23/200 வரை திருவாண்பியூர், கொட்டிவாக்கம், பாலவாக்கம், நீலாங்கரை, ஈஞ்சம்பாக்கம் மற்றும் சோழிங்கநல்லூர் கிராமங்களில் ஆறுவழித்தடமாக அகலப்படுத்தும் பணிக்கு நில எடுப்பு செய்ய நிர்வாக ஒப்புதல் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

பார்வை 2-ல் காணும் அரசாணையின்படி கிழக்கு கடற்கரைச் சாலை கி.மீ 15/700 - 22/300 வரை நீலாங்கரை, ஈஞ்சம்பாக்கம் மற்றும் சோழிங்கநல்லூர் கிராமங்களில் ஆறுவழித்தடமாக அகலப்படுத்தும் பணிக்கு நிர்வாக ஒப்புதல் வழங்கப்பட்டது. பின்னர் பணிக்கான ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் அழைக்கப்பட்டு ஒப்பந்ததாரர் திருவாளர். ஆர்.பி.பி இன்ஃப்ரா லிமிடெட், ஈரோடு அவர்களுக்கு பணி ஒப்பந்தம் வழங்கப்பட்டு பணி நடைபெற்று வருகிறது.

இச்சாலை அகலப்படுத்தும் பணிக்கு வலது மற்றும் இடது புறம் இடையூறாக உள்ள 758 மரங்களை வெட்டி அகற்றுவதற்கு 12.07.2023 அன்று நடைபெற்ற கூட்டத்தில் மாவட்ட பசுமைக்குழு சென்னை பார்வை 3-ல் காணும் கூட்ட நடவடிக்கை குறிப்பின் மூலம் அனுமதி வழங்கியுள்ளது. பின்னர், மாவட்ட பசுமைக்குழுவால் ஒப்புதல் அளிக்கப்பட்ட மரங்களை வெட்டி அகற்றுவதற்கு தடிமரம் மற்றும் விறகு பயன்பாட்டு மரம் என வகைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட வனத்துறைக்கு சம்பந்தப்பட்ட மரங்களுக்கு மரமதிப்பீட்டுத் தொகை மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர், சென்னை அவர்களிடம் இருந்து பார்வை 4-ல் காணும் கடிதத்தின் மூலம் பெறப்பட்டது.

கிழக்கு கடற்கரைச் சாலை கி.மீ 15/700 - 22/300 வரை அகலப்படுத்தும் பணிக்காக வெட்டப்படவுள்ள 758 மரங்களுக்கு ஈடாக 1:10 என்ற விகிதத்தில் 7580 மரக்கன்றுகளை நடவு செய்து மூன்று ஆண்டுகள் பராமரிக்க மதிப்பீடு தயார் செய்யப்பட்டு கேட்புத் தொகை ரூ.3,26,77,812/- செலுத்துமாறு பார்வை 5-ல் காணும் மாவட்ட வன அலுவலர், சென்னை அவர்களின் கடிதம் மூலம் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளப்பட்டது. இதனைத் தொடர்ந்து, பார்வை - 6ல் காணும் கோட்டப் பொறியாளர் (நெ), சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம், கோட்டம் -1, சென்னை அவர்களின்

செயல்முறை ஆணையரின் மூலம் இடைக்காலத் தொகையாக ரூ.50,00,000/- சென்னை வனக் கோட்டம் வங்கிக் கணக்கில் செலுத்தப்பட்டது.

மேற்கண்ட பணியில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள சட்டுதல் செலவினங்கள் காரணமாக நிதிப் பற்றாக்குறை ஏற்பட்டுள்ளதால், கேட்டபுத் தொகையை முழுமையாக செலுத்த இயலாத நிலை ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. சட்டுதல் செலவினங்களை ஈடு செய்யும் பொருட்டு திருத்திய நிர்வாக ஒப்புதல் பெற மதிப்பீடு தயார் செய்து அரசுக்கு சமர்ப்பிக்கும் பணி நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. அரசிடம் இருந்து திருத்திய நிர்வாக ஒப்புதல் பெறப்பட்ட பின்னர் மீதமுள்ள தொகை ரூ.2,76,77,812/- சென்னை வனக் கோட்டம் வங்கிக் கணக்கில் செலுத்தப்படும் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

மேலும், பார்வை -7ல் உள்ள கடிதத்தில் தெரிவித்துள்ளபடி, ஏற்கனவே, மரக்கன்றுகள் நடவு செய்ய தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்ட, சோழிங்கநல்லூர் அருகிலுள்ள ராமன்தாங்கல் ஏரிக்கு பதிலாக ஆவடியில் அமைந்துள்ள HVF (Heavy Vehicle Factory) தொழிற்சாலை பகுதியில் 7580 மரக்கன்றுகளை நடவு செய்துக்கொள்ள ஆட்சேபணை ஏதுமில்லை என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

கோட்டப் பொறியாளர் (நெ),

சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம்,
சுய கோட்டம் - 1, சென்னை -16
28/6/24

நகல்

1. தலைமைப் பொறியாளர் (நெ), சென்னை பெருநகரம், சென்னை -25 அவர்களுக்கு தகவலுக்காக பணிந்து சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படுகிறது.
2. கண்காணிப்புப் பொறியாளர் (நெ), சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்ட வட்டம், சைதாப்பேட்டை, சென்னை -15 அவர்களுக்கு தகவலுக்காக பணிந்து சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படுகிறது.
3. உதவிக் கோட்டப் பொறியாளர் (நெ), சென்னை பெருநகர வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம், உட்கோட்டம் - 2, சென்னை -16 அவர்களுக்கு மேல்நடவடிக்கைக்காக அனுப்பப்படுகிறது.
4. வனச்சரக அலுவலர், வேளச்சேரி சிறப்புச் சரகம், சென்னை வனக்கோட்டம், சென்னை

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIVISIONAL ENGINEER(H),CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN, DIVISION-I, CHENNAI-16.**PRESENT: Thiru. P.M.Rajaganapathi, M.I.E.,****Proceeding Order No.7 /AI/2024****Dated: .09.2024**

Sub : Widening the East Coast Road (ECR) to six lane from Km 13/615 – 14/550 at Kottivakkam Village Making payment to **District Forest Officer Chennai Forest Division** – orders issued

Ref : G.O.(Ms) No.133/Highways and Minor ports (HW2) Department dated:15.12.2021.

Sanction is hereby accorded to make payment of Rs. 25,01,560/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only) towards Making payment to **District Forest Officer Chennai Forest Division** in the work of Widening the East Coast Road (ECR) to six lane from Km 13/615 – 14/550 at Kottivakkam Village
The allotment for the head is follows

Appropriation for the Current Year 2024- 2025	:	1372410000/-		
Expenditure to the end of previous Bill	:	580340600 /-		
Expenditure on this Bill	:	2501560/-		
Total Expenditure	:	582842160/-		
Balance	:	789567840/-		
Value of work done:	2501560/-	: Income Tax 2%		NIL
Deducted 5% WHA:	NIL	2 ^{1/2} WHA :		-NIL-
Balance:	2501560/-			
Deduct Previous :	NIL			
Payment now to be made	2501560/-	TOTAL		NIL

The PAO (South) Requested to disburse the amount of Rs.25,01,560/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only) Payment to **District Forest Officer Chennai Forest Division** as Per the ECS Statement enclosed.

The Expenditure is incurred under the following Head of Account

Head of Account: 5054-80-800-JW-416-01

5054-Capital outlay on roads and bridge 80 – General -800- Other Expenditure – State's Expenditure – JW – Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan – Traffic and transport Improvement in Chennai City -416 Major Works -01 Major Works.

P.M.R.
Divisional Engineer (H),
CMDP Division – I,
Chennai – 16

P.M.R.
27/9/24

To

District Forest Officer Chennai Forest Division

Copy to Bill

Copy to PAO South

Copy to file.

**PAO&ACCOUNTS OFFICE (SOUTH)
CHENNAI-35**

ENFACEMENT SLIP

Name of the Drawing Officer : Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP-1 Alandur, Chennai-16.
Drawing Officer code : HF 405

D.P.Code.5054 - 80 - 800 - JW - 416-01

Head of account	Amount
Widening the East Coast Road (ECR) to six lane from Km 13/615 - 14/550 at Kottivakkam Village	Rs. 2501560/-
<u>Deduction :</u>	
1. 2% IT	-NIL-
Ecs to District Forest Officer Chennai Forest Division incl. 18% GST	Rs. 2501560/-
NET Amount	Rs. 2501560/-

Rs. 25,01,560/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only)

pm
Divisional Engineer (H),
CMDP-1 Alandur,
Chennai-16.

27/9/24

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**From**

Er.P.M.Rajaganapathi, M.I.E.,
Divisional Engineer (H),
CMDP Division- I,
Alandur,
Chennai-16

To

The District Forest Officer,
Chennai Division,
DMS Complex,
Teynampet,
Chennai-18

Letter No:265/2017/JDO/Dated:03.10.2024

Sir,

Sub: Highways Department – CMDP Division – I – Forming six lane of East Coast Road (ECR) from Km.11/800 – 22/300 Thiruvanmiyur to Akkarai (LA) – Green committee accorded approval for felling down / transplantation & retention of trees along ECR – widening work in progress - National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai has taken up a Suo moto case for a paper news published in Dinamalar daily under the caption “Uprooting of trees in ECR Slope goes in violation of Green Tribunal Orders” - Original Application No.166 of 2024(SZ) – Next hearing of the NGT case fixed on 04.11.2024 - demand received for compensatory greening plantation – partial payment made to Forest Department – compensatory plantation to be taken up on priority and compliance report to be submitted to the Hon’ble Tribunal – requested – regarding

- Ref**
1. G.O (Ms) No.229/ Highways & Minor Ports (HW1) Department / dated: 14.11.2005
 2. G.O (Ms) No.50/ Highways & Minor Ports (HP2) Department / dated: 12.05.2023
 3. Minutes of the District Green Committee, Chennai meeting held on 23.11.2022
 4. Minutes of the District Green Committee, Chennai meeting held on 12.07.2023
 5. The District Forest Officer, Chennai, Letter: Ref.No. 3294/2023/P/ dated: 04.09.2023
 6. The District Forest Officer, Chennai, Letter: Ref.No. 3758/2023/P/ dated: 22.09.2023

7. The District Forest Officer, Chennai, Letter Na.Ka. no: 3758/2023/P/ dated 18.03.2024
8. The Forest Ranger, Velacherry Special range, Chennai Forest Division, Letter Na.Ka no.29 / 2024/ dated: 27.08.2024
9. This office letter no:128/2022/JDO/dated:28.08.2024
10. Orders of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai in OA No.166 of 2024 (SZ), dated:28.08.2024

The Land acquisition work for “Forming six lane of East Coast Road (ECR) from Km.11/800 – 22/300 Thiruvanmiyur to Akkarai” was taken up in the year 2005 vide Government Order cited 1st in the reference. Later, in the year 2023 the Government has accorded revised administrative sanction-III for the said work vide reference 2nd cited and now the work is in advanced stage.

As Land acquisition works advanced, the Government has accorded administrative sanctions for carrying out the widening work of ECR from Kottivakkam to Akkarai in 3 phases. Tenders were then invited, works were entrusted to contractors and now the civil works are in progress.

While executing the civil works, it was found that TNEB Utilities, CMWSSB Utilities, etc are to be shifted and many numbers of live trees are to be removed from the project stretch. Hence, necessary proposals for removal of live trees at Kottivakkam, Palavakkam and Neelangerai to Akkarai was prepared and placed in the District Green Committee, Chennai.

The District Green Committee, Chennai conducted a meeting on 23.11.2022 and accorded approval for removal of 123 live trees at Kottivakkam and Palavakkam Village vide minutes of the meeting cited 3rd in the reference. Similarly, approval for removal of 758 live trees from Neelangerai to Akkarai was accorded by the District Green Committee, Chennai on 12.07.2023 vide its minutes of the meeting cited 4th in the reference.

Subsequently, based on the approval of the District Green Committee, Chennai, a demand for planting compensatory greening plantation of 1230 numbers for Rs. 53,04,650/- was received from the District Forest Officer, Chennai vide reference 5th cited for Kottivakkam and Palavakkam reach of ECR. Similarly, a demand for planting compensatory greening plantation of 7580 numbers for Rs. 3,26,77,812/- was received from the District Forest Officer, Chennai vide reference 6th cited for Neelangerai to Akkarai reach of ECR.

Further, the District Forest Officer, Chennai vide reference letter 7th cited has requested to pay Rs. 50.00 lakhs as interim payment towards making iron guards for protecting the compensatory greening plantation. Based on the said request, this office vide proceeding order no: 7/AI./2024, dated 20.03.2024 has made payment of Rs. 50.00 lakhs to the District Forest Officer, Chennai.

The Forest Ranger, Velacherry Special range, Chennai Forest Division had requested to provide consent for planting the compensatory plantation at Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF), Avadi instead of the selected location of Ramanathanagal Lake, Sholinganallur vide reference letter 8th cited. The Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP Division-1, Chennai vide reference letter 9th cited had confirmed the HVF, Avadi location for planting the compensatory plantation.

In the meantime, a Suo moto case was filed by the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai for a paper news article published in Dinamalar daily under the caption "Uprooting of trees in ECR Slope goes in violation of Green Tribunal Orders". This case came up for hearing on 28.08.2024 and orders were passed. The copy of the order is enclosed herewith and communicated for information and taking necessary actions. The Next hearing date of the case is fixed on 04.11.2024.

With respect to the demand received for the compensatory plantation for Kotivakkam and Palavakkam reach of ECR cited 5th in the reference and in order to comply with the orders of the National Green Tribunal, Southern zone, this office had processed and further paid an interim payment of Rs. 25,01,560/- towards raising nursery and planting operation of 1230 number of samplings vide the Divisional Engineer (H), CMDP, Chennai-16, Proceeding Order No: 7/A1/2024, Dated: 27.09.2024. The balance amount of the demand cited 5th in the reference towards maintenance charges for 3years will be paid soon, duly on obtaining Revised Administrative Sanction from the Government.

Further, it is inform that Revised Administrative Sanctions are awaited from the Government and on obtaining the sanction, the balance amount of the demand received for compensatory plantation cited 6th in the reference shall also be paid to Forest Department immediately.

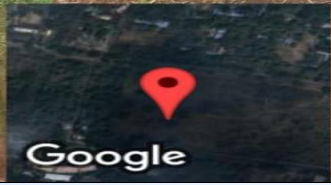
Since, in order to comply with the orders of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, it is kindly requested to expedite the compensatory plantation works at HVF, Avadi location at the ratio 1:10 and plant 8810 number of tree samplings (i.e., 1230 numbers + 7580 numbers) as per both the demands received from the Forest cited 5th and 6th in the reference and shall submit action taken report along with recent photographs of the compensatory plantation work carried out at HVF, Avadi, so that this office shall submit compliance report to the National Green Tribunal, Southern region, Chennai. Your kind cooperation is highly solicited.

Am 7 04/10/24
Divisional Engineer (H),
CMDP, Division-I,
Chennai-16

1. Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer (H), Metro, Guindy, Chennai-25 for favour of kind information
2. Copy submitted to the Superintending Engineer (H), CMDP Circle, Chennai -15 for favour of kind information.
3. Copy to Assistant Divisional Engineer (H), CMDP, Sub Division-II, for followup action.



GPS Map Camera



Google

Avadi, Tamil Nadu, India
Adam Gate, Avadi, Tamil Nadu 600054, India
Lat 13.140138° Long 80.092021°
30/10/24 08:36 AM GMT +05:30



GPS Map Camera

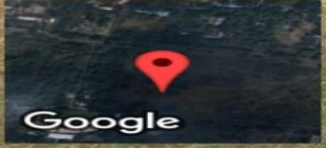


Google

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GPS Map Camera



Avadi, Tamil Nadu, India
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GPS Map Camera



Avadi, Tamil Nadu, India
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GPS Map Camera



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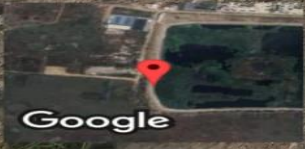
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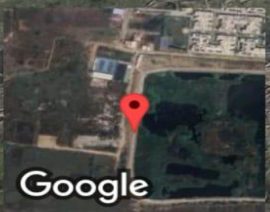
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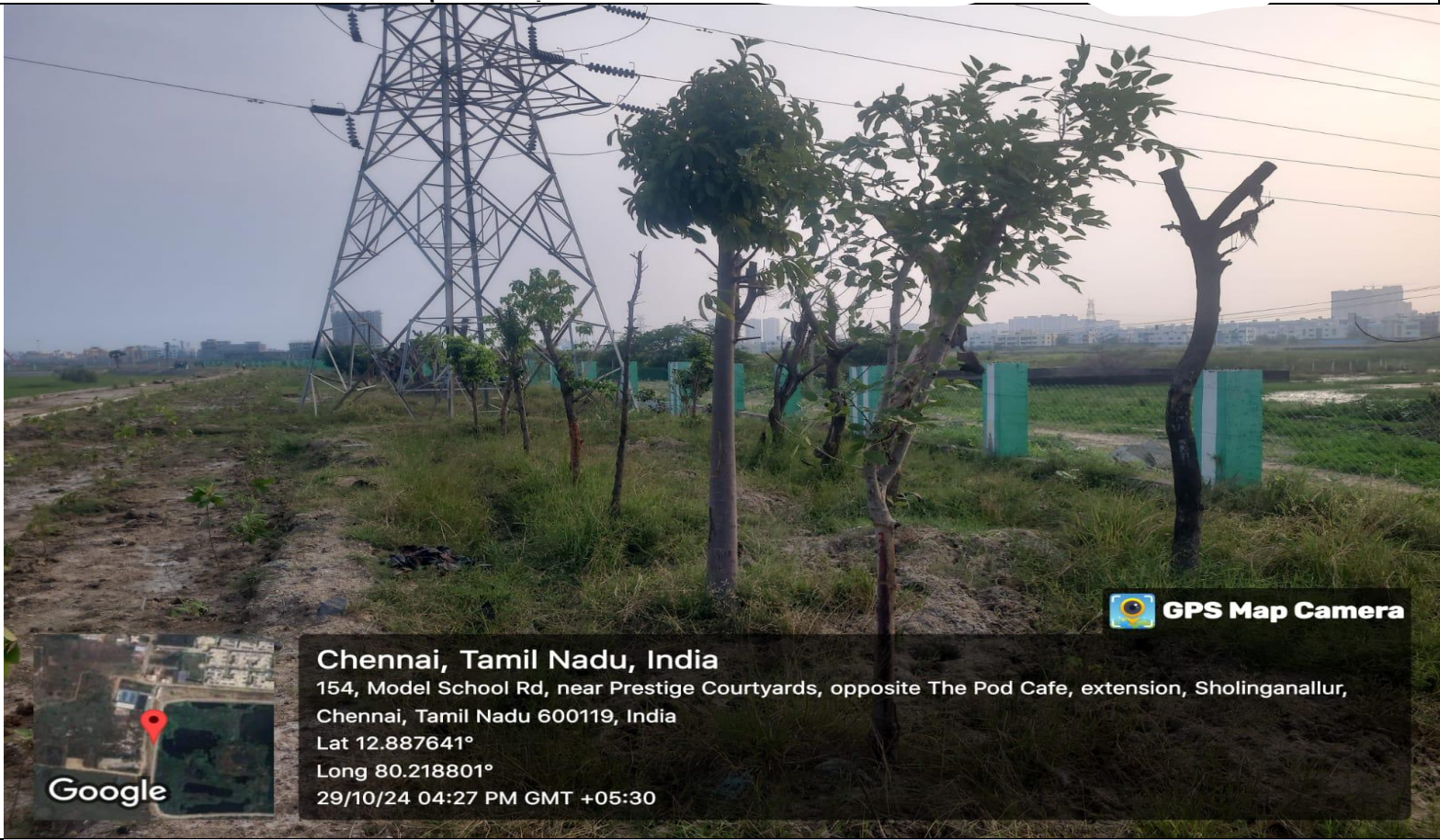
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 **GPS Map Camera**



Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
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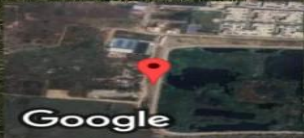
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Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
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Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600119, India
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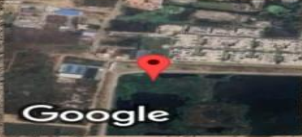
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Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
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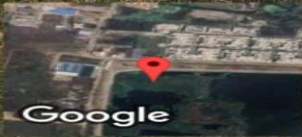
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