

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 250 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion  
Suo Motu News item appearing  
in The Hindu dated 18.06.2024  
titled "Fish kill near Adyar ecopark  
highlights persisting sewage contamination".

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors. ...Respondent(s)

**INDEX**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1	28.01.2026	Status Report Filed by 4 <sup>th</sup> Respondent – Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust.	2-5

**(Note:** The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



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

**DATE:09.04.2026**

**BEFORE THE HONBLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI  
Original Application No.250 of 2024(SZ)  
[Earlier OA No.821 of 2024(PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu News item appearing in The Hindu dated 18.06.2024 titled "Fish kill near Adyar Eco-park highlights persisting sewage contamination".

...Applicant (s)

1. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Through Iis Managing Director
2. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Through Its Member Secretary
3. Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary
4. Chennai River Restoration Trust through its Member Secretary
5. District Collector, Chennai
6. Ministry Of Environment Forest And Climate Change through its Regional Office

...Respondent (s)

-Sd/- P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S.,  
Member Secretary,  
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust.

**STATUS REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF CHENNAI RIVERS RESTORATION TRUST**

I, Mrs. P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S., D/o Mr. Philip. S.Sakthivel, aged about 40 years, working as Member Secretary and representing on behalf of Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust at Tholkapia Poonga, No.19, TP Scheme Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

It is humbly submitted that on 15-07-2024, Suo Moto was registered by the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original application No. 821 of 2024(PB) based on the News item published in "The Hindu" dated 18.06.2024 under caption "Fish Kill in the Adyar near eco-park Points to Sewage discharge going unchecked" which has been transferred to National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai.

The Hindu article describes that Dead fish were seen floating near eco park in the Adyar river due to Sewage outfalls which were also spotted at several places near Kotturpuram.

The Honorable NGT has passed following order on 21.11.2025:

With reference to the directions of the National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai on 21.11.2025 stating,

- i. *The report dated 13.06.2025 of the Additional Chief Secretary & Member Secretary of the Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT) is filed and taken on record.*
- ii. *As per the report, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation and a committee of technical experts with members from IIT, Anna University and industry has been constituted for scrutiny and for making recommendations on approval for implementation of the DPR. The project is expected to be completed within 30 months by 2028.*

-Sd/- P. S. Leela Alex, I.A.S.,  
Member Secretary,  
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust

- iii. *As per G.O. No.50 dated 14.03.2024 of the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply, the Managing Director of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has been directed to take necessary follow-up action in consultation with the Officer on Special Duty, Adyar River Project and the Managing Director of the Chennai Rivers Transformation Company Limited.*
- iv. *In this regard, the CMWSSB and CRRT are directed to file independent reports regarding their further plan of action. The reports shall specifically address the status of the DPR currently under preparation by the experts.*
- v. *Post the matter on 29.01.2026*

#### **STATUS REPORT OF THE PREPARATION OF DPR FOR ADYAR RIVER**

I humbly submit that, the Government of Tamil Nadu through Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) / Chennai Rivers Transformation Company Ltd. (CRTCL) is committed to improve the ecological condition of the rivers and water bodies by ensuring sustainable and healthy living environment of all in the State of Tamil Nadu.

It is humbly submitted that the Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT) has taken a special initiative & restoration plan to improve the ecological conditions and thereby enhance the biodiversity in the entire Adyar river from Guduvancherry Origin point of Adyar river till its confluence point with Bay of Bengal at Adyar.

The river Adyar originates from Guduvanchery in Chengalpattu district meandering through Tambaram, Thiruneermalai, Manapakkam, Alandur, Saidapet and finally confluences into Bay of Bengal at Adyar. The total length of the river is 43.9 km. As per the detailed feasibility report there are total 76 identified wet outfalls identified leading to pollution and degradation of the river. The BOD levels range from 30 mg/l to 140 mg/l and the Dissolved oxygen levels are found to be "0" mg/l in the river and this indicates that the river needs to be ecologically restored in places.

-Sd/- P. S. Leela Alex, I.A.S.,  
Member Secretary,  
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust

**The objectives of the project are -**

- To ensure effective abatement of pollution and protection of the river by adopting a sustainable approach for **achieving water quality as per national standards (CPCB designated best use – water quality criteria Class D – “Propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries) - pH 6.5 to 8.5, DO 4 mg/l or more and Free Ammonia as (N) 1.2 mg/l or less.**
- To **maintain minimum E-flows in the rivers** with the aim of ensuring water quality and aquatic life in River.

**The Major Project Components proposed under this project are:**

- Interception and Diversion of 605 wet outfalls.
- Laying of Trunk Sewer in both the banks of river for 89 kms
- Treatment of polluted water through 14 STPs (110 MLD Capacity).
- 4 parks and plantations in the banks of the river.
- Project Experience Centre for the Public and Monitoring the Project through SCADA.

The **project period** includes 6 months development period, 30 months construction period and fifteen years of O&M period.

The Restoration of Adyar River Project is being implemented under a PPP Concession Agreement (Hybrid Annuity Model) between Chennai Rivers Transformation Company Ltd. (the Authority, “CRTCL”) and the Concessionaire M/s. P&C Adyar Water Projects Private Limited. **The project’s Concession Agreement was signed on 23 January 2025 following issue of LoI on 14 March 2024) and acceptance received from the concessionaire on 20.03.2024.**

CRTCL is facilitating the required review meetings and discussions between the IE, the Concessionaire, consultants, stakeholder departments of WRD, CMWSSB, DMA, RD, Highways, Revenue etc., and with the expert members of the DPR committee from Anna University and IIT formed as per the agreement.

-Sd/- P. S. Leela Alex, I.A.S.,  
Member Secretary,  
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust

The major and key obligation of the Authority is already met. The obligation of the concessionaire with respect to submission of DPR and financial approval is pending.

Considering the **complexities** involved in designing proposals for pollution abatement, protection of the river hydrology, reduction of flood risk and overall ecological restoration of a monsoon fed river with the involvement of multiple stakeholders and completion of DPR including good for construction drawings, procurement details and complying with the detailed and multiple schedules including vendor details and construction methodology provided in the agreement for development of the DPR, Execution of Time is given for submission of full fledged DPR. It is observed that the comprehensive work envisaged is without much precedence and requires various departments inputs.

Further, variations in field conditions and any additional works that result and suggested by the stakeholders also will impact the timeline for preparation, revision and finalization of the DPR. Now the revised DPR is submitted by the concessionaire, Upon receipt of recommendation from the Independent Engineer and the Experts, DPR will be placed for approval before the Board. The work is scheduled to commence immediately after DPR approval and financial closure.

It is therefore prayed that this Honorable NGT may be pleased to record the above status report filed on behalf of the CRRT rep. by the Member secretary, and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

-Sd- P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S.,  
Member Secretary, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust

  
Project Director, CRRT

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 and signed his /her /their name in my presence.

Before Me  
Mokuna Tamilmozhi  
(4437/2024)  
No.4, Law officers chambers,  
Madras High Court, ch-104