

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

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

With

Original Application No. 23 of 2023(SZ)

[Earlier O.A. No.185 of 2022 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "**Andhra town Eluru hit by „mystery“ illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples**", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "**Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP**", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, "**Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh**".

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "**Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution**".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Daram Govinda Rajan. ...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson, New Delhi and others. ...Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT
FILED BY THE ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
RESPONDENT NO.4

Date: 27.03.2026



M/S. K. RAVINDRANATH
ADVOCATE

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.35, Flat No. A-2 'Aurora' Apartments,
Kandhan Street, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600 030
Mobile No.9840057777

E-mail : ravindranath.kilari@gmail.com

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

**Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)
With
Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)
With
Original Application No. 23 of 2023(SZ)
[Earlier O.A. No.185 of 2022 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, “**Andhra town Eluru hit by „mystery“ illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples**”, News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, “**Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP**”, & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, “**Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh**”.

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) “**Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution**”.

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Daram Govinda Rajan. ...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson, New Delhi and others. ...Respondent(s)

I N D E X

Sl. No.	Description of documents	Page Nos
1.	Status Report on Kolleru lake in the matter of O. A. No. 259 / 2020 (SZ) with O. A. No. 02 / 2021 (SZ) in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT, Chennai orders dated 24.03.2023, 05.02.2024, 03.07.2024, 05.11.2024, 30.01.2025, 05.03.2025, 28.04.2025, 16.06.2025, 18.08.2025 and hearing dated 15.10.2025.	1-3
2.	Annexure – 1 to 10: Copy of the Hon'ble NGT Orders, dated 24.03.2023, 05.02.2024, 02.04.2024, 03.07.2024, 05.11.2024, 30.01.2025, 05.03.2025, 28.04.2025, 16.06.2025, 18.08.2025, 15.10.2025, 05.01.2026 & 09.02.2026.	4 – 29
3.	Action Plan Report (APR)_1 - Panchayat Raj – Eluru.	30 – 32
4.	APR_2 –Water Resource Dept. – Eluru	33 - 37
5.	APR_3 - Fisheries Department –Eluru.	38 – 45

6.	APR_4 - Municipal Corporation –Eluru	46 -47
7	APR_5 - Industries Dept .–Eluru. 48	48
8	APR_6 - Forest Department –Eluru. 49-52	49 - 52
9	APR_7 - Fisheries Department - West Godavari.	53 - 57
10	APR_8 – Drains Department West Godawari	58
11.	APR_9 – Municipal Corporation – West Godavari	59 – 60
12	APR_10 – Industries Department – West Godavari	61
13	APR_ 11 Andhra Pollution Control Board	62

Date: 27.03.2026



K.RAVINDRANATH
STANDING COUSNEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF A.P.
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Status Report on Kolleru lake in the matter of O. A. No. 259 / 2020 (SZ) with O. A. No. 02 / 2021 (SZ) in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT, Chennai orders dated 24.03.2023 & 05.02.2024, 02.04.2025, 03.07.2024, 05.11.2024, 30.01.2025, 05.03.2025, 28.04.2025, 16.06.2025, 18.08.2025,15.10.2025, 05.01.2026 and hearing dated 09.02.2026.

APPCB issued Notification of Award to M/s. NEERI during November, 2022 for carrying out "Comprehensive study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru" as per directions of Hon'ble NGT. Accordingly, APPCB submitted the draft Comprehensive study report on Kolleru Lake to Hon'ble NGT during June 2025, with a request to facilitate additional time for furnishing of final report by CSIR-NEERI.

In compliance with the Hon'ble NGT directions, in its order dated 05.01.2026, the Special Secretary, EFS&T and In-charge Member Secretary, APPCB convened a meeting with concerned Stakeholder departments on 13.01.2026. The remarks and suggestions received from the concerned stakeholder departments were forwarded to CSIR-NEERI for inclusion in the final report.

In this context, it is pertinent to mention that, there is a contempt petition(C) filed against the State Government in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide Dairy no. 39857 of 2024 with I.A. No.81754 & 81576 of 2025 in W.P (C) No.202 of 1995 on Kolleru Wetland.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order, dated 16.04.2025, directed that certain aspects pertaining to Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary to be revisited by the Central Empowerment Committee (CEC) as stated below:

"We, therefore, request the CEC to inspect Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and submit its report on the following aspects:

- a. Actual status of compliance of the judgement dated 10.04.2006 in T.N Godavarman Thirumalpad v Union of India, (2006) 5 SCC 47;***
- b. CEC shall examine the working of the Andhra Pradesh Wetland State Authority and whether the said authority continued to monitor the effective implementation of the Central Wetland Rules and especially the judgement of this Hon'ble Court;***

- c. Examine the Status of the boundaries of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and the resolution of the Standing Committee of the National Wildlife Board in its meeting dated 08.08.2015 and the report of the working group chaired by Prof. R Sukumar dated 02.01.2017;***
- d. CEC shall specifically look into the settlement of private rights and as to whether the same was done in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 before notifying the sanctuary.”***

In accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) inspected the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary in June, 2025. The CEC had a consultative meeting with multiple stakeholder groups alongside an inter-departmental review meeting, following which, the CEC requested the State Government to give a comprehensive report on the subject incorporating the views of all the stakeholder departments.

Further, the Andhra Pradesh government, vide G.O. Ms No.67, 04.11.2025, constituted the Kolleru Lake Management Authority (KLMA), a 26-member committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, for sustainable management of the Kolleru Wetland.

The Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary (upto +5 boundary of Kolleru Lake) is presently managed by the Forest department as per the approved management plan of Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary.

The Hon'ble NGT, in its order, dated 05.01.2026, directed EFS&T department to convene a meeting with all the stakeholders including APPCB and NEERI to whom the studies have been entrusted at the earliest, and in any event on or before 21.01.2026 and to file an action plan report on the next date of hearing (i.e. 09.02.2026), without fail.

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble NGT, a meeting was held on 13.01.2026 with all the Stakeholder departments, and the NEERI report "Comprehensive study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru" was discussed in detail and the remarks were sought. The draft report of CSIR-NEERI was earlier communicated to all the stakeholder departments on 13.06.2025 for their remarks.

The Stakeholder Departments were requested, vide APPCB Lr. No. APPCB-12023/2/2025-SS-CL-APPCB, dated 06.02.2026 to submit their respective department's action plan for restoration of Kolleru Wetland.

In continuation with this, in compliance with the directions issued to Special Chief Secretary, EFS&T department as Respondent no.2 in the Hon'ble NGT orders in O.A no.259 of 2020, another meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to Government, EFS&T department on 13.03.2026 to review on the progress of preparation of action plan for restoration of Kolleru lake, and requested all the stakeholders to submit specific action plan with targeted timeline.

Accordingly, each of the stakeholder departments furnished their respective action plan reports (Action Plan Report (APR) -1 to 11).

Based on the study report, as a way forward, CSIR-NEERI suggested that the issues concerning domestic sewage, solid waste management and aqua culture drains may be specifically addressed in the Kolleru lake and surrounding areas.

The comprehensive action plan will be submitted on compilation of the action plans of the respective Stakeholder departments duly considering the Central Empowerment Committee (CEC) directions in the contempt petition(C) filed against the State Government in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide Dairy no. 39857 of 2024 with I.A. No.81754 & 81576 of 2025 in W.P (C) No.202 of 1995 on Kolleru Wetland.

Place: Vijayawada

Date: 24-03-2026

Shyam
24/3/2026

Joint Chief Environmental Scientist (FAC)

Joint Chief Environmental Scientist
A.P. Pollution Control Board,
Central Laboratory, Head Office,
Vijayawada-520 010.

Item Nos. 04 & 5(i) & (ii):-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

With

Original Application No. 23 of 2023(SZ)

[Earlier O.A. No.185 of 2022 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, **“Andhra town Eluru hit by ‘mystery’ illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples”**, News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, **“Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP”**, & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, **“Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh”**.

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) **“Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution”**.

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Daram Govinda Rajan.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.01.2026.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranath for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

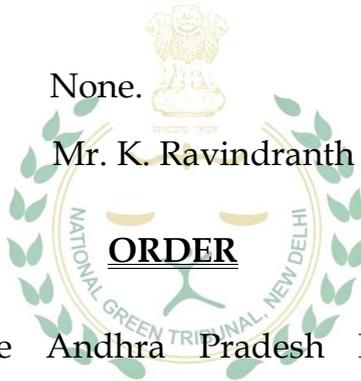
For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranth for R1 to R8.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): None.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranth for R2 to R11.



1. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) awarded the work to M/s. NEERI in November 2022 for carrying out a comprehensive study on Kolleru Lake, as per the directions of this Tribunal.

2. NEERI submitted its interim report in February 2024, which was reviewed by the APPCB. Thereafter, only on 01.01.2026 the APPCB reviewed the draft report titled "*Comprehensive Scientific Study to Save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru*" and issued instructions to include certain additional information in the final report. This additional information includes the inventorization of industries in the area, the quality of effluents generated and their disposal, the

quantification of domestic waste generated, and the waste entering Kolleru Lake.

3. When the interim report was filed by NEERI as early as February 2024, the PowerPoint presentation thereafter has still not been made. The APPCB appears to have taken the matter very lightly, despite the alarming issues concerning Kolleru Lake and the metal content in the water allegedly causing mysterious diseases, which were taken up *suo motu* by this Tribunal. The reasons stated for the delay are themselves mysterious, notwithstanding the fact that the matter has been listed on several occasions and the APPCB has repeatedly sought time to obtain the report from NEERI.

4. Despite the passage of five years, the actions expected to be taken by the authorities are very disappointing. Today, the interim report has been filed through the APPCB, which refers to the instructions issued to NEERI for inclusion in the final report and to the management plan, dated 03.01.2026.

5. Therefore, we direct Respondent No. 2, namely the Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology, to convene a meeting with all stakeholders, including the APPCB and NEERI, to whom the studies have been entrusted, at the earliest, and in any event **on or before 21.01.2026**, and to file an action plan report on the next date of hearing (i.e. 09.02.2026), without fail.

6. Post the matter on 09.02.2026.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ) &
O.A. No.23/2023(SZ)
05th January, 2026. AD.



Item No.18 (i - ii) & 19:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.259 of 2020 (SZ)
With
Original Application No.02 of 2021 (SZ)
With
Original Application No. 23 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt. 09.12.2020, “Andhra town Eluru hit by ‘mystery’ illness, Traces of lead, nickel in blood samples”, News item in The Time of India, Newspaper Dt. 08.12.2020, “Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in Andhra Pradesh” & News item in NDTV, dt. 09.12.2020, “Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with Mystery illness in Andhra”

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, “Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) “Mystery illness raises Concerns over Kolleru Pollution”

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh,
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Daram Govinda Rajan.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 18.08.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. VIJAY KULKARNI, EXPERT MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.259/2020:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No.02/2021:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

O.A. No.23/2023:

For Applicant(s): None Appeared.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R11.



1. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has filed its report dated 15.06.2025.
2. The final report from the NEERI is still awaited.
3. For filing the final report of the NEERI, post the matter on **15.10.2025**.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, EM

Sd/-
Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.259/2020 (SZ)
O.A. No.02/2021 (SZ)
O.A. No.23/2023 (SZ)
18th August, 2025. Mn.



Item No. 04(i) & (ii):-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "**Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples**", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "**Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP**", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, "**Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh**".

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "**Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution**".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt.of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 16.06.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.



1. The learned counsel appearing for the State of Andhra Pradesh submitted that the NEERI would require some more time i.e. till 31.07.2025 to file its report. As the matter is of the year 2020, we direct all the parties to get ready with the matter for final hearing on the next adjourned date.

2. Post the matter on 18.08.2025 for final hearing.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ)
16th June, 2025. AD.

Item No.15 (i - ii) & 16:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

**Original Application No.259 of 2020 (SZ)
With
Original Application No.02 of 2021 (SZ)
With
Original Application No. 23 of 2023 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt. 09.12.2020, “Andhra town Eluru hit by ‘mystery’ illness, Traces of lead, nickel in blood samples”, News item in The Time of India, Newspaper Dt. 08.12.2020, “Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in Andhra Pradesh” & News item in NDTV, dt. 09.12.2020, “Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with Mystery illness in Andhra”

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, “Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) “Mystery illness raises Concerns over Kolleru Pollution”

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh,
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Daram Govinda Rajan.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.03.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.259/2020:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No.02/2021:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

O.A. No.23/2023:

For Applicant(s): None Appeared.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R11.



1. The report of the NEERI has not yet been filed.
2. For filing the report of the NEERI, post the matter on **28.04.2025**.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020 (SZ)
O.A. No.02/2021 (SZ)
O.A. No.23/2023 (SZ)
05th March, 2025. Mn.

Item No.3 (i - ii) & 4:-**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No.02 of 2021 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 23 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Legal

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt. 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, Traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News item in The Time of India, Newspaper Dt. 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in Andhra Pradesh" & News item in NDTV, dt. 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with Mystery illness in Andhra"

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

SK

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, "Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises Concerns over Kolleru Pollution"

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

SBB (L)

EE
MS
27/02/25

DPO/G
fyma
05/3/2025

With

Daram Govinda Rajan.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 30.01.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.259/2020:

For Applicant(s):

Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No.02/2021:

For Applicant(s):

Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

O.A. No.23/2023:

For Applicant(s):

None Appeared.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R11.

ORDER

1. The learned counsel appearing for the State of Andhra Pradesh would seek four weeks' time to file the report of the NEERI.

2. For filing the report of the NEERI, post the matter on
05.03.2025.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020 (SZ)
O.A. No.02/2021 (SZ)
O.A. No.23/2023 (SZ)
30th January, 2025. Mn.



Item No. 17(i) & (ii):-

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

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh".

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt.of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.11.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.



1. The report of the NEERI is not filed.
2. Post the matter on 30.01.2025, finally.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ)
05th November, 2024. AD.

Item No. 09(i) & (ii):-

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

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

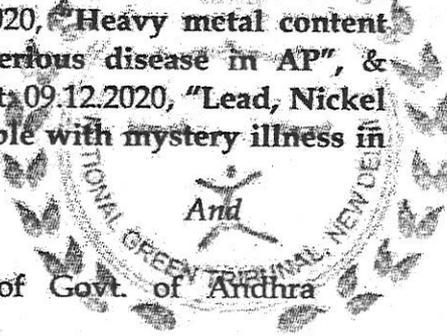


JCEE-L

SBB(L)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh".



The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

CE
MR
08/07/24

DP0/G
Hula
09/11/2024

Date of hearing: 03.07.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

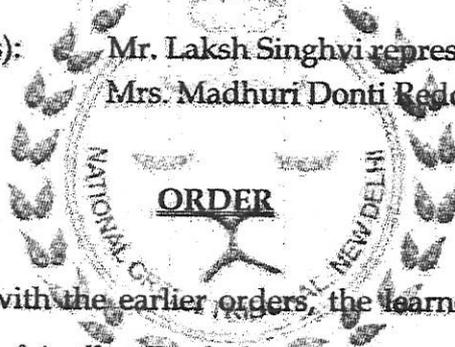
For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Laksh Singhvi represented
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Laksh Singhvi represented
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.



1. To comply with the earlier orders, the learned counsel appearing for the State of Andhra Pradesh seeks time.
2. Post the matter on 02.08.2024, finally.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ)
03rd July, 2024. AD.

Item No.7 (i) & (ii) & 8:-

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

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No.259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

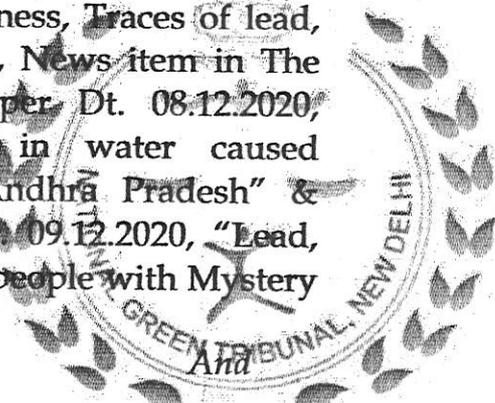
Original Application No.02 of 2021 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 23 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt. 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, Traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News item in The Time of India, Newspaper Dt. 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in Andhra Pradesh" & News item in NDTV, dt. 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with Mystery illness in Andhra"



The Chief Secretary of Govt. of
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, "Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises Concerns over Kolleru Pollution"

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh,
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Daram Govinda Rajan.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 02.04.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.259/2020:

For Applicant(s):

Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No.02/2021:

For Applicant(s):

Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

O.A. No.23/2023:

For Applicant(s):

None.

For Respondent(s):

Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R11.



ORDER

1. Today, there is no representation for the applicant in O.A. No.23 of 2023 (SZ).
2. The report of the District Collector as well as the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board is filed.
3. For filing the interim report of the NEERI, let the matter be listed on 03.07.2024.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020 (SZ)
O.A. No.02/2021 (SZ)
O.A. No.23/2023 (SZ)
02nd April, 2024. Mn.



Item No. 07(i) & (ii):-

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

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

JCEEL
[Signature]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh.



And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

SIR
[Signature]
2/12

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

EE legal
pt. personal
with JCEEL (PAC)
lab.
RM
21/02

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.02.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

ORDER

1. For filing the report of the District Collector, the learned Government Pleader - Andhra Pradesh seeks time.
2. Post the matter on 11.03.2024.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ) &
05th February, 2024, AD.

Item No. 08(i) & (ii):-

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

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)
WITH
Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP", & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020 "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution".

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 24.03.2023.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

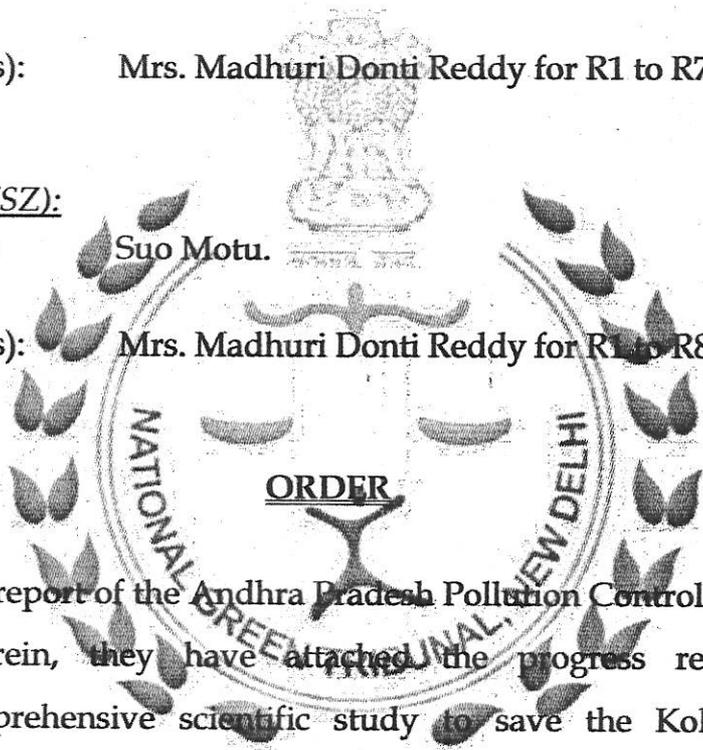
For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.



1. The report of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board is filed wherein, they have attached the progress report on the comprehensive scientific study to save the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and the wetland of Kolleru.
2. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board awarded the above study to the NEERI on 09.11.2022 and 07.12.2022. After accepting the work order, the NEERI has taken samples from various places, and the particulars of which are given in the report.

3. The result of the report is awaited. Though it is stated that the report of the final analysis would take more than a year, it is submitted by the learned Government Pleader that they would get interim analysis report from the NEERI periodically.
4. Post the matter on 08.05.2023.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ)
24th March 2023. Mn.



**Government of Andhra Pradesh
Panchayat Raj Department**

From
Smt. K. Anuradha, M.Sc.,
District Panchayat Officer,
Eluru District, Eluru

To
The District Collector,
Eluru District, Eluru

Lr.Roc.No.92758/2025/A6 , Dated: 18.03.2026

Madam,

- Sub:- Visits- Kolleru - Site Visit report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in respect of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh- Action Plan on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation- Reg.
- Ref:- 1. Lr.No.AEE/Kolleru/CEC/2026 dt:17.03.2026 of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Eluru.
2. This office Lr.Roc.No.92758/2025/A6, Dated: 18.03.2026

Kind attention is invited to the references cited.

It is submit that in the reference 1st cited, the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Eluru stating that the Central Empowered Committee (CED) has communicated the site visit report of the Central Empowered Committee (CED) under taken on 17th & 18th June, 2025 in respect of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh in which the action points by the line departments for conservation and management of Kolleru wild life sanctuary were indicated in Annexure B. The CEC, in its site visit report, indicated point No.9 in Annexure-B, requested the Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department to propose an action plan for rural drains and belt village sewerage and Coordination mechanism with the Municipality and Irrigation Department.

In this connection, the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Eluru submitted the following report:

- 1) There are 46 Bed village and 76 Belt Villages exist in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

2) The Gram Panchayats are supplying protected water to the public at 55 LPCD. As a result, Grey water & Black Water are generated from house holds.

A) All the households of 60,071 in the above villages are having toilet coverage with soak pits. Hence no Black water (Toilet Water) is disposed in to the Kolleru Lake.

B) The usage water (ie., from Kitchen & Bathroom) ie., Grey Water generated from Houses, which is let into Kolleru Lake through village Drains (Katcha Drains/ Pacca Drains) is approximately 0.86 MLD. For these Soakage Draoms (Magic Drains) /Community Soakpits will be constructed before letting in to Kolleru Lake. Soakage/Magic Drains of length 170KM will be constructed with Rs.238.00 Lakhs in all the Bed/Belt Villages in this coming year 2026-27.

In the reference 2nd cited, the MPDOs concerned are instructed to furnish detailed estimates and necessary proposals at their level for the proposed works through PD, DWMA, Eluru to the District Collector, Eluru District to facilitate timely implementation of the action plan under VBG-RAM-G.

In view of the above, the information is submitted for kind perusal and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


**District Panchayat Officer,
Eluru District, Eluru**

PS:3
18/3/26
Copy to the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Eluru.
Copy to the Executive Engineer, AP Pollution Control Board, Eluru.

**Government of Andhra Pradesh
Panchayat Raj Department**

From
Smt. K. Anuradha, M.Sc.,
District Panchayat Officer,
Eluru District, Eluru

To
The Mandal Parishad Development Officers,
Bhimadole, Kaikaluru, Unguturu, Denduluru
Nidamarru, Mandavalli, Eluru & Pedapadu

Lr.Roc.No.92758/2025/A6, Dated: 18.03.2026

Sir/Madam,

Sub:- Kolleru – CEC Site Visit Report – Action Plan on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation – Construction of Soakage (Magic) Drains / Community Soak Pits – Furnishing of detailed estimates and cost proposals – Requested – Reg.

Ref:- Lr.No.AEE/Kolleru/CEC/2026 dt:17.03.2026 of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Eluru.

Attention is invited to the references cited.

It is informed that, as per the site visit report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, action points have been communicated to the Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department for preparation of an action plan for management of grey water through rural drains and sewerage systems in bed and belt villages.

In this regard, it is proposed to construct soakage drains (magic drains) / community soak pits in all bed and belt villages to prevent discharge of grey water into Kolleru Lake.

Therefore, the MPDOs concerned are hereby requested to:

- Identify the requirement of soakage (magic) drains / community soak pits in the concerned villages.
- Submit the proposals through the Project Director (DWMA), Eluru for scrutiny and consolidation to take up the certain works under VBG-RAM-G.
- Furnish the same to this office at the earliest for consolidation and submission to higher authorities.

The matter may be treated as most urgent, and the required information shall be submitted without delay to ensure timely implementation of the action plan.

Yours faithfully,


**District Panchayat Officer
Eluru District, Eluru**

Copy submitted to the District Collector, Eluru District, Eluru

PS: B.
18/3/26

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Water Resources Department

From
Sri Ch.Deva Prakash, M.Tech.,
Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle,
E L U R U

To
The Environmental Engineer,
APPCB, ELURU D.No.22B-3-2,
Kaanukolanivaari Street,
Power Peta
E L U R U

Lr.No. SE/IC/Elr/DB/ATO.1/F-

740 SE

Dt. 25/2/2026.

Sir,

Sub : APPCB – RO, Eluru – Hon'ble NGT directions in OA No. 259 of 2020 and 02 of 2021 – Draft report on "Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wet land of Kolleru - Comprehensive Action plan with stipulated time lines for Restoration of Kolleru wet land - Submission of Report -Reg.

Ref: 1) APPCB . Regional Office, Eluru Lr.No. Gen-01/APPCB/RO-ELR/2026/576,dt. 21.1.2026
2) Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Bhimavaram Lr.No. 107 DD,dt. 22.1.2026 addressed to the Environmental Engineer, APPCB and copy marked to this office
3) Engineer – in – Chief, Irrigation, Vijayawada Lr.No. ENC(I)/DCE(DW)/ OT6/ AEE2/1403/95/Vol.28, dt.19.1.2026
4) This office Lr.No. DB/ATO.1/ 276 SE,dt. 23.1.2026
5) APPCB . Regional Office, Eluru Lr.No. Gen-01/APPCB/RO-ELR/2026/701,dt. 25.02.2026

With reference to the APPCB . Regional Office, Eluru Lr.No 5th cited, It is to submit that the Environmental Engineer has informed to submit the "Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wet land of Kolleru" and the parawise comprehensive action plan is prepared by the Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Bhimavaram in the reference 2nd cited is as follows.

- 1) Kolleru Lake is located in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India and the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia. It lies between the Krishna and Godavari River deltas and spans across three districts: NTR, Eluru and West Godavari covering a vast area of 4760 square miles and the Maximum flood discharge works out to 1,10,000 Cusecs.
- 2) The lake is primarily fed by the seasonal Budameru and Thammileru streams, along with over 67 notified major and minor drains and 46 non-notified drains. The Upputeru is a narrow and only outlet to the Kolleru Lake which takes off into two arms called as Perantala Kanuma and Juvvi Kanuma. These arms run for about 9.68 Kms and then joins where after it is known as Upputeru. The Upputeru flows for a distance of 64 Km and empties into the Bay of Bengal

near Chinnagollapalem. At Km 46.40, a Straight cut is excavated for a length of 4.00 Km in 1977 to drain off Upputeru water into Bay of Bengal in addition to the old course

- 3) Due to introduction of Aquaculture in 1975, the growth of habitation and significant changes have been taken place and consequently the capacity of kolleru lake as well as water ways within lake got reduced. Also due to thick weed growth and formation of road network and inadequate capacity of upputeru, the water level is raising fast during floods causing submergence of valuable irrigated land around the lake.
- 4) Salt water intrusion has also become a problem disturbing the ecology of Kolleru lake and nearby adjacent lands. During summer the water level is depleted due to drainage through Upputeru, creating ecological imbalance in Kolleru lake.
- 5) Various committees have been formulated in the past for construction of the Regulators on Upputeru. The main objectives of Regulators are to prevent intrusion of salt water into the Kolleru system, to pass excess water into the sea whenever there are excess flows in the lake, and to impound water for use by the Aquaculture and Agriculture purposes during lean season. accordingly, 3 regulators on Upputeru have been proposed for construction at the various locations.
- 6) In addition to the construction of above-mentioned regulators, it is also recommended that the unauthorised occupation in kolleru lake and on either side of the banks of upputeru needs to be evacuated. The jungle grown on either side of the banks of upputeru is to be cleared. The silt deposited over the bed of the upputeru needs to be removed by dredging. The silt and sand particles carried by the waves near confluence of the sea may also have to be regularly dredged for easy entering of flood waters into the sea.
- 7) Due to inadequate discharging capacity of Upputeru River and Straight cut and the flood water receiving from improved major, medium and minor drains flowing into Upputeru river, the water levels in Upputeru and Upputeru Straight cut are rising. This is causing significantly greater and longer submersion of areas around the Kolleru and the Upputeru Basin. As a result the water level in the Kolleru Lake rises several feet and Upputeru River remain high for long periods causing serious damage to crops and property in large extent in the Kolleru and Upputeru basins. Because of the above reasons and non-excavation of the drain for the past so many years the Upputeru River is in choked condition. Hence, it is very essential to remove the silt in the entire Upputeru River upto from sea mouth by means of dredging as early as possible for reducing of inundation and serious damage to crops and property in large extent in the Kolleru and Upputeru basins.

8) Since more than 30 years no improvements were taken up in the Upputeru River. It is essential to improvement the Upputeru drain and construction of regulators on upputeru wherever necessary to stop ingress of salt water into the kolleru lake to protect wild life sanctuary & wet lands of kolleru

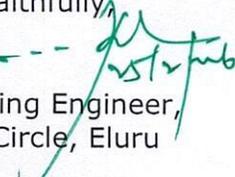
A LiDAR survey has been conducted for the preparation of contour maps covering elevations from +5 ft to +10 ft to support the assessment of the Kolleru Lake area. In addition, the details of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) boundary maps were collected to evaluate the water spread area of the lake.

Based on the survey findings and available CRZ data, a technical note has been prepared outlining the hydrological management strategy and canal flow regulation study. The study focuses on optimizing the inletting arrangements of the drains to ensure effective water management, improved flow regulation, and sustainable maintenance of the lake's hydrological balance

The removal of encroachments involving illegal fish tanks in Upputeru Lake commenced on 16.08.2025 and is currently in progress. The operation is being carried out jointly by officials from the Revenue, Police, Survey, and Water Resources Departments. The process will be completed in due course

This is submitted for favour of information and taking further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

ch ———— 
Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle, Eluru


25/2/26

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RWS & S DIVISION, ELURU

From:
Sri G.Trinatha Babu.B.Tech.,
Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Eluru.

To:
The District Panchayat Officer,
Eluru District,
ELURU.

Lr.No. No. AEE/Kolleru/CEC/2026 Dt. 17- 03-2026

Sir,

Sub:- Visits- Kolleru-Site Visit report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in respect of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh- Action Plan on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation- Report- Furnished-Regarding.

Ref:- 1) F.No.1-261CEC/SCI2025 Pt-72- Dated: 20.06.2025 of the Officer on Duty, CEC, Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh.

2) Lr.No. Gen-01/APPCB/RO-ELR/2025, dt.25.06.2025 of Environmental Engineer, APPCB Regional office, Eluru.

Kind attention is invited to the reference cited.

It is to submit that in the reference 1st cited, the Central Empowered Committee (CED) has communicated the site visit report of the Central Empowered Committee (CED) under taken on 17th& 18th June, 2025 in respect of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh in which the action points by the line departments for conservation and management of Kolleru wild life sanctuary were indicated in Annexure B. The CEC, in its site visit report, indicated point No.9 in Annexure-B, requested the Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department to propose an action plan for rural drains and belt village sewerage and Coordination mechanism with the Municipality and Irrigation Department.

In this connection, I am herewith submitting a report as follows.

1) There are 46 Bed village and 76 Belt Villages exist in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

2) The Gram Panchayats are supplying protected water to the public at 55 LPCD. As a result, Grey water & Black Water are generated from house holds.

A) All the households of 60,071 in the above villages are having toilet coverage with soak pits. Hence no Black water (Toilet Water) is disposed in to the Kolleru Lake.

B) The usage water (ie., from Kitchen & Bathroom) ie., Grey Water generated from Houses, which is let into Kolleru Lake through village Drains (Katcha Drains/ Pacca Drains) is approximately 0.86 MLD. For these Soakage Draoms (Magic Drains) /Community Soakpits will be constructed before letting in to Kolleru Lake. Soakage/Magic Drains of length 170KM will be constructed with Rs.238.00 Lakhs in all the Bed/Belt Villages in this coming year 2026-27.

All necessary precautions are being taken to prevent contamination of the lake ecosystem.

In view of the above, the information is submitted for kind perusal and further action.

Yours Faithfully

RJM
17.3.2026

Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Eluru

Copy to the Executive Engineer, AP Pollution Control Board, ELURU.

**ACTION POINTS BY FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF KOLLERU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

1. Submit a GO prohibiting harmful aquaculture inputs:

G.O. Ms. No. 2, Dated: 11-01-2017, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Department (copy enclosed).

The G.O pertains to Regulation on the Usage of banned Antibiotics in Aquaculture and Constituting a District Level Committees and Task Force Committees to take action on the sale of Veterinary Grade and banned Antibiotics in Aqua culture in the State.

Report on initiatives in the Kolleru region:

- i. In Kolleru area, agriculture crops are frequently affected by floods and cyclones, resulting in heavy losses to farmers. As an alternative livelihood source, Government encouraged fish culture in Kolleru area as it is most suitable for culture by organizing them into Formation of Fishermen Co-operative Societies (FCS) from 1977. FCS members belong to SC/BC/Minorities. The department provided training and financial assistance to FCS.
- ii. The fishing licensing Scheme for traditional fishermen has been implementing vide G.O. Ms. No. 50 Agriculture Dept. dt. 8-1-1963 in both Kolleru & in Upputeru. This Scheme was discontinued in Kolleru due to declaration of Wildlife Sanctuary. But the wildlife Division of Kolleru (Forest dept) has taken up the issue of fishing permits in Kolleru Lake area.
- iii. Department provided extension services to FCS and these societies were run in good position upto 2006. However, post 2006, the livelihoods of local communities were threatened, leading many to migrate both within and outside the state, where they settled as laborers."
- iv. To address this issue, the Department encouraged domestic fish marketing by sanctioning retail outlets, fish markets, and kiosks to improve local sales and support fisher livelihoods."
- v. After the demolition of fish tanks in the below +5 contour area of Kolleru Lake, fishermen were limited to traditional fishing methods using basket traps and cast nets. In response, the Department extended support by providing traditional fishing gear, skill development training, and alternative livelihood options to sustain their incomes.

vi. The present fishery wealth in the lake is unable to sustain the livelihood needs of the fishermen population whose sole activity is fishing. The Department shall explore viable options to improve their livelihoods through various schemes.

Feasibility of Organic Aquaculture in Kolleru:

A) Feasibility and Roadmap for Organic Aquaculture in Kolleru Lake Region

- i. Given the ecological significance and rich biodiversity of the Kolleru Lake region, the feasibility of organic aquaculture is promising but requires a carefully phased and context-specific approach.
- ii. The existing dependence on natural fishery resources, availability of traditional knowledge among local fishermen, and the ecological sensitivity of the lake makes it an ideal candidate for eco-friendly and sustainable aquaculture practices.
- iii. To realize this potential, the State Government may consider adopting a pilot project-based model, focusing initially on select areas within the lake to demonstrate viability.
- iv. A detailed feasibility study should be commissioned to document and adapt relevant national and international organic aquaculture models suitable to the local ecological, economic, and social context of Kolleru.
- v. This initiative must involve key stakeholders, including line departments, local bodies, research institutions, NGOs, and the fisheries community.

B) The success of organic aquaculture in Kolleru hinges on the following enablers:

- i. **Site-Specific Guidelines and Protocols:** Tailored organic aquaculture practices that respect the unique hydrology and biodiversity of Kolleru Lake must be developed in collaboration with institutions such as ICAR-CIFRI, ICAR-NBFGR, ICAR-CIFA and other scientific bodies.
- ii. **Awareness and Capacity Building:** Extensive training programs and awareness drives must be undertaken to sensitize fishers about the long-term benefits of organic aquaculture, such as higher market value, sustainability, and environmental compatibility.
- iii. **Input and Infrastructure Support:** Feasible incentives in kind—including organic-certified inputs, low-impact farming infrastructure, water quality

monitoring tools, and disease control mechanisms—should be extended to early adopters.

iv. A phased implementation strategy, beginning with model clusters, followed by scaling up based on results, will help ensure successful adoption. Ultimately, a comprehensive and integrated Management Plan—balancing conservation goals with livelihood promotion—will be the key to mainstreaming organic aquaculture in the Kolleru Lake ecosystem.

v. Certification and Market Linkages: Support for organic certification, branding, and access to premium domestic and international markets is essential to ensure profitability and sustainability.

A holistic and integrated approach is essential for the preparation of a comprehensive Management Plan, which aligns conservation priorities with sustainable livelihoods.

C) Issues and concerns for its feasibility in the Kolleru Lake region:

The implementation of organic aquaculture in Kolleru Lake presents several critical challenges, arising from the current ecological, hydrological, and infrastructural conditions of the region.

i. Altered Hydro-Ecological Balance: Kolleru Lake's aquaculture currently depends on agricultural runoff, seasonal rainfall, and wastewater discharges from surrounding settlements. Freshwater inflow is largely restricted to the monsoon season, which has significantly altered the natural hydrology and water retention capacity of the lake, affecting the ecosystem's resilience.

ii. Poor Water Quality: One of the primary concerns is the quality of inflowing water, which contains excess nutrients, agro-chemicals and domestic waste. Such water is unsuitable for organic aquaculture without substantial treatment, as it fails to meet the stringent water quality standards required for certified organic production.

iii. Sewage and Pollution Load: The lake receives untreated domestic sewage daily through major drains like Budameru, and over 60 other drains from villages and towns in the Godavari region. This continuous pollution load deteriorates the water quality and poses a major obstacle to maintaining organic compliance.

iv. Lack of Environmental Flow and Remediation: There is currently no mechanism to ensure continuous environmental flows in the feeder streams, leading to stagnation and concentration of pollutants. Additionally, desiltation, phytoremediation, and Certification and Market Linkages: Support for organic certification, branding, and access to premium domestic and international markets is essential to ensure profitability and sustainability.

A holistic and integrated approach is essential for the preparation of a comprehensive Management Plan, which aligns conservation priorities with sustainable livelihoods.

C) Issues and concerns for its feasibility in the Kolleru Lake region:

The implementation of organic aquaculture in Kolleru Lake presents several critical challenges, arising from the current ecological, hydrological, and infrastructural conditions of the region.

i. Altered Hydro-Ecological Balance: Kolleru Lake's aquaculture currently depends on agricultural runoff, seasonal rainfall, and wastewater discharges from surrounding settlements. Freshwater inflow is largely restricted to the monsoon season, which has significantly altered the natural hydrology and water retention capacity of the lake, affecting the ecosystem's resilience.

ii. Poor Water Quality: One of the primary concerns is the quality of inflowing water, which contains excess nutrients, agro-chemicals and domestic waste. Such water is unsuitable for organic aquaculture without substantial treatment, as it fails to meet the stringent water quality standards required for certified organic production.

iii. Sewage and Pollution Load: The lake receives untreated domestic sewage daily through major drains like Budameru, and over 60 other drains from villages and towns in the Godavari region. This continuous pollution load deteriorates the water quality and poses a major obstacle to maintaining organic compliance.

iv. Lack of Environmental Flow and Remediation: There is currently no mechanism to ensure continuous environmental flows in the feeder streams, leading to stagnation and concentration of pollutants. Additionally, desiltation,

phytoremediation, and bioremediation measures along drain networks have not been fully implemented, further complicating restoration efforts.

v. Misconceptions About Aquaculture Pollution: There exists a general perception that aquaculture is a primary polluter of the lake. However, it is important to note that most fish ponds are harvested annually, and the discharged water typically meets environmental standards, indicating that pollution may be more related to external sources than to aquaculture itself.

vi. Absence of Organic Infrastructure: Organic aquaculture requires a fully certified supply chain—organic seed, feed, clean water, and eco-friendly pond management. The lack of dedicated infrastructure, certification bodies, and regulated supply chains in the region presents a significant barrier to scaling organic practices.

vii. Technology and Innovation Gap: Advanced technologies for pond treatment, solar-powered aeration, and other green innovations are largely absent but could play a pivotal role in reducing the environmental footprint. The current gap in technological adoption limits progress toward organic and sustainable aquaculture. While organic aquaculture in Kolleru Lake holds potential, the feasibility is constrained by water quality issues, infrastructure deficits, and lack of systemic remediation and regulatory mechanisms. Addressing these concerns through comprehensive planning, multi-departmental coordination, and targeted investments will be essential for transitioning toward a viable and sustainable organic aquaculture model in the region.

4. Report on species cultivated and input usage:

i. In the below +5 contour, through traditional fishing, use of basket traps, gill nets and Cast nets. The fish species available are catla, rohu, mrigal, grass carp, common carp, Murrel, Pangasius etc. Clarias, Heteropneustes, Pabda (Ompok), Barbs and minnows, and occasionally Tilapia.

ii. No chemical inputs or feed are used, preserving water quality and biodiversity.

iii. The other inputs used include, stocking of fish fingerlings, feed like – rice bran, Ground nut oil cake

iv. In the above +5 contour, the fish species cultivated are catla, rohu, grass carp, pangasius, and pacu.

v. List of inputs using in Freshwater Aquaculture:

a) Minerals-Zinc, Magnesium, Calcium, Agriculture lime, Rock lime

b) Manures Vermi compost, Cow dung

c) Fertilizers- Superphosphate, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Murate of Potash (MoP), Urea.

d) Sanitizers-Bromine, Benzal Konium Chloride (BKC), Iodine, Glutaraldehyde

e) Others-Probiotics, Zeolite, Hydrogen peroxide.

5.Sustainable Aquaculture models and livelihood:

A. Present Scenario in Kolleru Lake

i.Kolleru Lake, a Ramsar site and ecologically sensitive wetland, has witnessed increasing environmental degradation due to sewage inflows, and poor waste management. The lake's below +5 contour area has been subjected to discharge of untreated sewage from 46 bed villages and over 122 surrounding villages, and wastes from agricultural fields and domestic sources. This has severely impacted water quality and fish biodiversity, making conventional fishing unsustainable and posing risks to both ecological balance and livelihoods.

ii. While traditional fishermen still depend on open water fishing, its viability hinges entirely on improving water quality and restoring the lake's hydrological health. Without effective pollution control and sustainable alternatives, both livelihood and conservation goals remain at risk.

B. Sustainable Aquaculture and Livelihood Models

i. Sustainable and eco-friendly aquaculture practices offer a promising alternative to restore livelihoods while conserving the lake.

ii. Organic aquaculture, supported by integrated farming models, can provide both ecological and economic benefits.

iii. Models that combine agriculture with low-input aquaculture can naturally generate feed and fertilization for fish, reduce input costs, and restore ecosystem health.

- iv. Captive seed nurseries proposed on 100 acres in collaboration with ICAR-CIFA can help multiply native fish species, support seed ranching, and reduce dependence on external hatcheries.
- v. Simultaneously, youth from fishing communities can be trained in eco-tourism, fish processing, value addition, and biodiversity-based livelihoods.
- vi. Fishermen Cooperative Societies (FCS) can act as the backbone for value chain development, resource management, and social mobilization.

C. Implementation Strategy and Solutions

- i. To implement these models effectively in the Kolleru region, a phased and multi-pronged approach is necessary.
- ii. Conventional fishing in open waters by the local fishermen is possible, unless the quality of water that is discharged into Kolleru from the catchment areas is free from pollution.
- iii. First, all 46 bed villages must establish independent drainage systems linked to the main outflow drains to prevent sewage and aquaculture waste from entering the lake. Dedicated forest land (10-15 acres per village) may be earmarked for Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to treat domestic sewage and wastes.
- iv. Alongside infrastructure, enforcing strict pollution control norms and incentivizing organic practices through input support and certification are essential.
- v. Aquaculture must be recognized as a formal livelihood sector on par with agriculture, enabling better institutional and financial support.
- vi. Integrated farming models should be promoted on a small scale through government schemes.
- vii. Local monitoring and participation must be institutionalized by involving traditional fishers in wetland conservation activities.
- viii. Sustainable and cost effective natural products for disease management should be developed and recommended as an alternative for synthetic antibiotics.
- ix. Together, these steps will provide a win-win solution-reviving livelihoods while safeguarding bird habitats, water quality, and Kolleru's ecological integrity.

Action plan on unauthorized aquaculture:

- i. As per G.O. Ms.No. 120, no aquaculture farm licenses shall be issued or renewed in notified area of Wild life sanctuary.
- ii. Conduct joint inspections through a Committee consisting of the Revenue, Fisheries, Fish farmers association representatives and Pollution Control Departments, with support from District Administration to Identify existing unauthorized aquaculture farms.
- iii. The Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (AP SADA) Act, 2020 will serve as the enforcement mechanism: It empowers the competent authorities to regulate, stop, and dismantle unauthorized aquaculture operations. Penal provisions under the Act shall be invoked against violators.
- iv. Conduct awareness campaigns among local communities, fisherfolk, and stakeholders regarding: Legal restrictions under the Wetlands Rules, AP SADA Act, and environmental laws.
- v. Availability of alternative livelihoods and government support schemes.

Five-year report on exotic fish species release:

- i. Pacu and Devil fishes are recent exotic fish species were reported in freshwater aquaculture in the Kolleru region.
- ii. Pacu though it is an exotic fish species, the Govt. of India issued the guidelines for its culture in 2024.
- iii. The impact of the invasive devil fish (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.) on carp culture in Andhra Pradesh has been reported by several researchers. It might have escaped from urban aquariums and ornamental fish tanks into natural water bodies. This species disrupts the aquatic ecosystem by competing with native carps for food and space, thereby affecting their growth and overall ecological balance.

B. Reddy 1. 17/3/2026
District Fisheries Officer (FAC)
Eluru District, Eluru

ELURU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Updated Sewage data and Co-ordination with other local bodies:

The Municipal Corporation of Eluru comprises off 66 square kilo meters of area and divided into 50 municipal divisions. The present population of the city is 3.35 lakh with 73167 numbers of households. The total daily water supplied is 38 MLD and the waste water generated in the Corporation limits is 32 MLD. The black water is 3.8 MLD and grey water is 28.2 MLD. All the 73167 households across the municipal corporation have 73167 septic tanks/soak pits. The septic tanks/soak pits are being desludged and transported through 11 desludging vehicles to the existing 5 MLD sewerage co-treatment plant located at Tangellamudi.

Existing/ Proposed action plan or sewage diversion/treatment:

The existing capacity of co-treatment Sewerage Treatment Plant is 5 MLD. All the black water is being treated at co-treatment facility of Tangellamudi STP only. 15 MLD capacity of STP is proposed at Ponangi Compost Yard under Amrut 2.00 scheme and tenders were also finalized. The construction of 15 MLD will complete within a year i.e., before dt.30.04.2027 Remaining 8.2 MLD Water is also planned for treating by preparing DPR and by allotting funds from Municipal General Funds or any other grants with the help of Swachh Andhra Corporation.

Note on interim measures to prevent sewage inflow into the lake:

Total daily water supply is 38 MLD and the waste water generated in Eluru Municipal Corporation is 32 MLD. This black water is 3.8 MLD and grey water is 28.2 MLD. All the 73167 households in the Eluru Municipal Corporation have septic tanks. All the septic tanks are maintained and transported through 11 desludging vehicles to the existing 5 MLD Sewerage Co-treatment Plant located at Tangellamudi. All the black water is being treated at co-treatment facility at STP only.

The interventions proposed to improve the water quality have an alternate approach to create a sustainable healthy eco-system. Bio-remediation of drains plays vital role in this regard. It is a natural ecological pollution control system that reduces nutrient load of the polluted lakes. The self-purification function of natural lakes and ponds provide an opportunity for biological treatment for water quality control. This process is as per the CPCB guidelines and as approved by the Honourable National Green Tribunal.

Therefore, it is to submit that no black water is entering directly into the water body of Eluru Municipal Corporation.


AG 17/3/26


17.03.26


m.c

In line with environmental protection measures for Kolleru Lake, earlier it was decided that no new industries should be permitted within the 10km radius of +5 contour area of Kolleru Lake to prevent deterioration of water quality, safeguard the wetland ecosystem and ensure compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

However, industries that do not generate process wastewater may be permitted within the 5th contour area under Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) provisions, subject to strict compliance with environmental norms, in order to promote industrial development and generate employment opportunities.

The Government is giving a lot of priority to establish more number of industries and create more employment. In this connection, it may be considered that we have to give permission for the Green Category and Orange Category industries above the radius of 1 KM from the 5th contour of Kolleru Sanctuary.

Further, if any Red Category industries are proposed, they will be established on the 5th Contour above 5 KM radius, we may take a decision after thorough verification of the District Level Verification Committee, which is constituted by the Hon'ble District Collector.

With regards,

GM,DIC,

Eluru.

**GOVERNEMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Rc.No.1360/2022-WLO,
Dated.16.03.2026.

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Management Division, Eluru.

From
Dr A.Trimurthulu Reddy, SFS.,
Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Management Division,
Eluru.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rajahmundry circle,
Rajamahendravaram.

Sir,

Sub: AP Forest Department –Wildlife - Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary – Hon'ble NGT directions in O.A. No.259 of 2020 and 02 of 2021 – Draft report on "*Comprehensive Scientific study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru*" by CSIR-NEERI – Comprehensive action plan with stipulated timelines for restoration of Kolleru wetland Requested – Submission - Reg.

Ref:- 1. Environmental Engineer APPCB, Regional Office Lr.No.Gen-01/APPCB/RO-ELR/2026 dt.21.01.2026.
2. DFO,WLM Eluru Rc.no.1360/2022-WLO Dt.28.01.2026
3. Environmental Engineer APPCB, Regional Office Lr.No.Gen-01/APPCB/RO-ELR/2026 dt.25.02.2026.

@@@

Kind attention is invited to the subject and references cited.

It is submitted that, the Special Secretary, EFS&T and In-charge Member Secretary, APPCB held a review meeting with the major stakeholder departments i.e., Forest Department on 13.01.2026 in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT directions in the matters of O.A No 259 of 2020 and 02 of 2021 pertaining to the "*Comprehensive Scientific Study to Save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru*" by CSIR-NEERI.

The Environmental Engineer, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada, requested all the stakeholder departments to furnish their remarks/comments on the draft study report by CSIR-NEERI, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 259 of 2020 and O.A. No. 02 of 2021, so as to submit the final report to the Hon'ble NGT and accordingly remarks were submitted by the undersigned vide reference 1st and 2nd cited.

Further, the Environmental engineer, APPCB, Eluru has requested all the stakeholder departments with a request to furnish comprehensive

action plan with stipulated timelines for restoration of Kolleru Wetland so as to submit the final report to Hon'ble NGT vide reference 3rd cited.

The Forest Department has been implementing management plans for the conservation, development and restoration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. Initially, a plan prepared by Wetlands International – South Asia (2008) was followed, and currently, a new management plan (2022–2032) prepared by the Bombay Natural History Society is under implementation.

The Kolleru Lake is an ecologically significant wetland of national and international importance, supporting large populations of resident and migratory birds and sustaining livelihoods which are dependent on traditional fishing and agriculture. Since the Forest Department does not have full administrative control over the entire lake area, an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is required as per Government of India guidelines for holistic wetland management for the sustainable conservation and management of Kolleru wetland, ensuring ecological integrity while also balancing the socio-economic requirements of communities dependent on the Kolleru lake ecosystem. In this regard, SACON has been nominated to prepare the IMP, with a proposed timeline of two years.

As per NGT directions, CSIR-NEERI conducted a scientific study identifying major issues such as pollution inflows, hydrological disruptions, and habitat degradation. The study recommends a comprehensive restoration strategy including pollution control, hydrological restoration, invasive species removal, habitat improvement, and community participation.

Accordingly, a comprehensive Action Plan based on the inputs of NEERI report and management plan with defined timelines is proposed, focusing on boundary protection, removal of illegal aquaculture, pollution control, weed removal, restoration of wetland vegetation, and improvement of water circulation and bird habitats. Long-term measures such as catchment treatment, sustainable fisheries, eco-tourism, and livelihood support for local communities are also suggested to ensure sustainable conservation of the Kolleru ecosystem as per NEERI study and Management plan (2022–2032) prepared by the Bombay Natural History Society which is approved by the Government.

Further, long-term measures such as Kolleru catchment area treatment, sustainable fisheries management, eco-tourism development,

and community livelihood programmes in Kolleru are also proposed to ensure ecological sustainability of the wetland while balancing the socio-economic interests of local communities dependent in this region.

Proposed Comprehensive Action Plan prepared for Restoration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru wetland with Timelines:-

Sl. No	Activity	Key Actions	Tentative Timeline	Remarks
1.	Demarcation of Kolleru Sanctuary Boundary	The joint verification of the boundary, and demarcation of the Kolleru wildlife sanctuary is under process in compliance with the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme court in the Contempt petition a Contempt Petition (Civil) No.39857 of 2024	0 - 6 Months	
2.	Identification & Removal of Encroachments	The Forest Department has been actively working to prevent & evict the encroachments in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. A total 11149.95 acres of Encroachments were identified in Government lands and 10380.49 acres evicted and illegal tanks were breached in the Government lands.	0 - 6 Months	
3.	Removal of Invasive Aquatic Weeds	Mechanical removal of water hyacinth and other invasive species in and around Kolleru wildlife sanctuary.	6 Months - 1 Year	
4.	Habitat Restoration for Birds	Restoration of nesting habitats, protection of pelicanries, creation of artificial nesting platforms etc.,	1 - 5 Years	
5.	Community Livelihood Support	Promotion of eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries, and alternative livelihoods for local communities	1 - 5 Years	
6.	Solid Waste Management in Surrounding Villages	Establishment of waste collection systems and prohibition of dumping into drains and around the sanctuary areas.	1 Year	

7.	Establishment of Monitoring Mechanism	Periodic monitoring of water quality, biodiversity, and ecological health of the wetland.	Periodic monitoring by forest department and in coordination with stake holders.	
----	--	---	--	--

The proposed Comprehensive Action Plan for restoration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru wetland shall be implemented in coordination with all stakeholder departments, including Revenue, Irrigation, Survey & Land Records, Fisheries, Industries, and other concerned departments.

This is submitted for favour of information and necessary action.

Yours faith fully,

Encl: As above

[Signature]
16/7/26.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Management Division,
Eluru.

Copy submitted to the District Collector and Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru for favour of information and necessary action.

Copy submitted to the District Collector and Magistrate, West Godavari District, Bhimavaram for favour of information and necessary action.

Copy forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, APPCB Regional Office, Eluru for favour of information and necessary action.

[Signature]
16/7/26.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Management Division,
Eluru.

ACTION POINTS BY FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF KOLLERU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Kolleru lake is present in the Akividu mandal of West Godavari District which consists of around Ac 6851. Among Ac 6851 the area of fish tanks or aquaculture is around Ac 1523. To manage and conserve the Kolleru lake from the discharge of the fish tanks the following points are proposed:

1. Submit a GO prohibiting harmful aquaculture inputs:

G.O. Ms. No. 2, Dated: 11-01-2017, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Department (copy enclosed).

The G.O pertains to Regulation on the Usage of banned Antibiotics in Aquaculture and Constituting a District Level Committees and Task Force Committees to take action on the sale of Veterinary Grade and banned Antibiotics in Aqua culture in the State.

2. Report on Initiatives in the Kolleru Region

- i. The Kolleru Lake region, prone to floods and cyclones, has made agriculture highly vulnerable, leading the Government to promote fish culture as an alternative livelihood since 1977.
- ii. The formation of Fishermen Co-operative Societies (FCS)—comprising members from SC, BC, and minority communities—was initiated to organize fishers and provide training and financial support.
- iii. Traditional fishing licenses were issued under G.O. Ms. No. 50 (Agriculture Dept., dated 8-1-1963) in both Kolleru and Upputeru.
- iv. This licensing scheme was later discontinued in Kolleru following the declaration of the area as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Forest Department (Wildlife Division) has since taken up the matter of issuing fishing permits within sanctuary limits.
- v. The Fisheries Department actively supported FCS through extension services, training, and inputs, resulting in successful operations until 2006.
- vi. However, post-2006, livelihood disruptions—especially after enforcement actions and lake conservation measures—forced many fishers to migrate and take up manual labor in other regions.
- vii. To restore livelihoods, the Department promoted domestic fish marketing by establishing retail outlets, fish markets, and kiosks, enhancing local consumption and fisher income.
- viii. Following the demolition of fish ponds below +5 contour, fishing was restricted to traditional methods (e.g., basket traps and cast nets).
- ix. In response, the Department provided traditional gear, skill development training, and alternative livelihood options to sustain affected communities.

X. The natural fishery resources of Kolleru are now insufficient to meet the livelihood demands of the dependent population.

xi. The Department proposes to explore and implement viable livelihood models through:

- Sustainable and organic aquaculture
- Eco-tourism and biodiversity-based employment
- Integrated farming systems & Skill enhancement and market linkages

3. Feasibility of Organic Aquaculture in Kolleru:

i. Potential and Roadmap:

Kolleru Lake, with its ecological richness and traditional fisheries knowledge, offers strong potential for organic aquaculture. However, a phased, area-specific approach is essential. A pilot model in select zones, backed by a comprehensive feasibility study and stakeholder involvement (government, research bodies, NGOs, local communities), can demonstrate viability.

ii. Key Enablers:

- **Site-Specific Protocols:** Organic standards must align with Kolleru's unique ecosystem, developed with ICAR and related institutions.
- **Capacity Building:** Awareness programs and training for fishers on benefits and practices of organic farming.
- **Support Infrastructure:** Provide organic-certified inputs, water testing tools, disease control, and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- **Market Linkages & Certification:** Facilitate certification, branding, and access to premium markets.
- **Integrated Planning:** Balance conservation with livelihoods through an inclusive, adaptive management plan.

iii. Challenges and Constraints:

- **Hydro-Ecological Imbalance:** Limited freshwater inflow and altered lake hydrology reduce suitability for organic practices.
- **Poor Water Quality:** Inflows contaminated with agrochemicals, sewage, and domestic waste threaten compliance with organic standards.
- **Pollution Load:** Continuous discharge from drains like Budameru and over 60 feeder streams worsens lake conditions.
- **Lack of Organic Infrastructure:** Absence of certified inputs, seed, and eco-certification mechanisms.
- **Technology Gaps:** Minimal use of sustainable innovations like solar aeration, pond remediation, etc.
- **Public Misperceptions:** Aquaculture is often wrongly blamed for pollution; external sources contribute more significantly.

While Kolleru Lake is a promising site for organic aquaculture, success depends on **multi departmental coordination, pollution control, infrastructure development, and community engagement**. With the right policy push and pilot demonstrations, Kolleru can evolve into a national model for sustainable, organic inland aquaculture.

4. Report on species cultivated and input usage:

i. In the below +5 contour, through traditional fishing, use of basket traps, gill nets and Cast nets. The fish species available are catla, rohu, mrigal, grass carp, common carp, Murrel, Pangasius etc. Clarias, Heteropneustes, Pabda (Ompok), Barbs and minnows, and occasionally Tilapia.

ii. No chemical inputs or feed are used, preserving water quality and biodiversity.

iii. The other inputs used include, stocking of fish fingerlings, feed like - rice bran, Ground nut oil cake

iv. In the above +5 contour, the fish species cultivated are catla, rohu, grass carp, pangasius, and pacu.

v. List of inputs using in Freshwater Aquaculture:

a) Minerals - Zinc, Magnesium, Calcium, Agriculture lime, Rock lime

b) Manures - Vermi compost, Cow dung

c) Fertilizers- Superphosphate, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Murate of Potash (MoP), Urea

d) Sanitizers- Bromine, Benzal Konium Chloride (BKC), Iodine, Glutaraldehyde

e) Others – Probiotics, Zeolite, Hydrogen peroxide.

5. Sustainable Aquaculture models and livelihood:

i. Present Scenario

- Kolleru Lake, a designated Ramsar site, is facing severe ecological degradation due to the discharge of untreated sewage from 46 bed villages and 122 surrounding villages, coupled with agricultural and domestic waste inflows.
- This has significantly deteriorated water quality, reduced fish biodiversity, and threatened the viability of traditional open-water fishing, endangering both livelihoods and ecological balance.
- The sustainability of traditional fishing now depends on restoring hydrological flows and improving water quality through urgent pollution control measures.

ii. Sustainable Livelihood and Aquaculture Alternatives

- Eco-friendly aquaculture, particularly organic and integrated models, offers a viable alternative to restore both livelihoods and lake ecology.
- Integrated farming-combining agriculture with low-input aquaculture-reduces costs,utilizes natural inputs, and enhances ecosystem recovery.

- Captive seed nurseries (proposed in 100 acres with ICAR-CIFA support) can boost native species production, enabling seed ranching and reducing hatchery dependency.
- Skill development for youth in eco-tourism, fish processing, and biodiversity-based enterprises will diversify livelihoods.
- Fishermen Cooperative Societies (FCS) should lead efforts in value chain development,
- social mobilization, and resource governance.

iii. Implementation Strategy

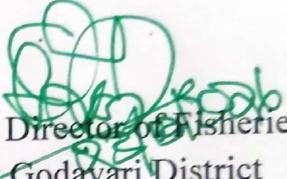
- A phased, multi-pronged strategy is essential for successful implementation.
- Pollution control is a priority: All 46 bed villages must develop separate drainage lines linked to outflow channels, with STPs set up on 10-15 acres of forest land per village.
- Strict pollution norms, incentives for organic inputs, and certification support must be institutionalized.
- Aquaculture should be formally recognized as a primary livelihood sector, enabling financial and institutional backing.
- Integrated farming should be promoted under government schemes, with support for natural disease management products.
- Local communities, especially traditional fishers, must be actively involved in monitoring and wetland conservation.

6. Action plan on unauthorized aquaculture:

- As per G.O.Ms.No. 120, no aquaculture farm licenses shall be issued or renewed in notified area of Wild life sanctuary.
- Conduct joint inspections through a Committee consisting of the Revenue, Fisheries, Fish farmers association representatives and Pollution Control Departments, with support from District Administration to Identify existing unauthorized aquaculture farms if any
- The Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (AP SADA) Act, 2020 will serve as the enforcement mechanism: It empowers the competent authorities to regulate, stop, and dismantle unauthorized aquaculture operations. Penal provisions under the Act shall be invoked against violators.
- Conduct awareness campaigns among local communities, fisherfolk, and stakeholders regarding: Legal restrictions under the Wetlands Rules, AP SADA Act, and environmental laws.
- Linking of government support schemes for alternative livelihoods.

7. Five-year report on exotic fish species release:

- i. Pacu and Devil fishes are recent exotic fish species were reported in freshwater aquaculture in the Kolleru region.
- ii. Pacu (*Piaractus brachypomus*) though it is an exotic fish species, the Govt. of India issued the guidelines for its culture in 2024.
- iii. The impact of the invasive devil fish (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.) on carp culture in Andhra Pradesh has been reported by several researchers. It might have escaped from urban aquariums and ornamental fish tanks into natural water bodies. This species disrupts the aquatic ecosystem by competing with native carps for food and space, thereby affecting their growth and overall ecological balance.


Joint Director of Fisheries
West Godavari District
Bhimavaram

16.03.2026

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON NOTIFIED & NON NOTIFIED DRAINS INFALING INTO KOLLERU LAKE BELOW 5' FEET CONTOUR:

There are about 113 drains in the kolleru lake wild sanctuary , in which 67 drains were notified and 46 drains are Non-notified drains. Since there is No Approved Hydraulic particulars, the department has not taken up the desilting works for these non-notified drains as there is no sanction from the Government. The Maximum Flood Discharging capacities of the infalling drains into kolleru lake is 52167 cusecs (1477 cumecs) .

Every year the Government has sanctioned for Deweding works on all Notified drains and accordingly the department has taken up the deweeing work on all drains infalling into Kolleru upto 5th contour throughout the year. For every 3 years the desilting proposals are submitted for approval to the Government and based on the sanctioned, the works are being taken up.

From last 10 years the desilting works are not taken up hence all the drains got silted up heavily. Due to non- availability of funds, no sanctioned were obtained from Government for desilting works. Due to this the discharge carrying capacity of the drains reduced hence department is unable to take up the desilting works regularly.

Ongoing maintenance and cyclic desilting of major drains to Kolleru, though often hampered by funding constraints. During this financial year 2025-26 Estimates of Rs. 19.15 Crores are submitted for approval for 27 important notified drains for take up desiltation works. After approval the estimates the works will be taken up and completed in 6 months of working season.

This ATR is submitted for necessary action.

Ch. Jayaram
16/3/2026
EE/Drains /BVRM

From
Sri G. Krishna Mohan,
Municipal Commissioner,
Akiveedu Nagarpanchayat,
AKIVEEDU,
West Godavari District.

To
The Environmental Engineer,
A.P. Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office,
D.No.22B-3-2,
Kaanukolani Vari Street,
Powerpet Railway Station Road,
Powerpet,
ELURU – 534002,
A.P.

Lr.Roc.No.27/E1/2026, dated.20-03-2026

Sir,

Sub : Akiveedu Nagarpanchayat – Hon'ble NGT directions in O.A.No.259 of 2020 & 02 of 2021 – Draft report on “Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru – Comprehensive action plan with stipulated timelines for restoration of Kolleru Wetland – Submitted - Reg.

Ref : 1. Lr.No.Gen-01/APP/RO-ELR/2026, dated 25-02-2026 of the Environmental Engineer, A.P. Pollution Control board, Regional Office, Eluru.
2. Lr.Roc.No.12071/6/2022/LSec, dated.13-03-2026 of the Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration, A.P.

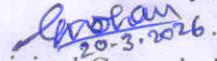
In obedience to the references cited, I am to submit brief summary on Akiveedu Nagarpanchayat.

- Geographical Area of Akiveedu Nagarpanchayat : 22.60 Square Kilometers
- No. of Election Wards : 20
- Population as per 2011 Census : 32,412
- Present estimated Population : 36,595
- No. of House Holds : 8,693
- Daily Water Supply : 2.72 MLD
- Daily Waste Water Generated : 2.16 MLD
(80% of Supply Water)
- Out of daily waste water generated, Black Water is : 0.21 MLD
- Out of daily waste water generated, Grey Water is : 1.95 MLD
- The House Holds Having Septic Tanks (100%) : 8,693
- All the Septic Tanks are being cleaned and Collected black water is being disposed by the Two desludging Vehicle Owners in their own Land.
- Plan of action is prepared for proper disposal of Grey Water.

2. I submit that for proper disposal of daily generated Grey Water, 4 MLD capacity of sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) is required with a cost of Rs.15 Crores. Due to paucity of funds in this ULB, Government is to be addressed for sanction of one STP with a capacity of 4 MLD.

3. I submit that to establish STP with the operational mode, it takes minimum one & half year. Therefore, **timeline for the establishment of STP is 31-08-2027.**
4. I also submit that for proper disposal of Black Water, a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) Capacity of 9 KLD (Kilolitres Per Day) is required. I submit that Government is to be addressed for sanction of one **FSTP and it will be established by 31-12-2026.**
5. I therefore submit that in the meantime, necessary precautionary measures to be taken like proper cleaning of all Major / Medium / Minor drains, Regular disiltation of drains, maintaining proper disposal of Wet Waste, Dry Waste, Hazardous Waste & Plastic Waste – not to be mixed in the grey water.

Yours faithfully,


20-3-2026.

Municipal Commissioner,
Akiveedu Nagarpanchayat

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari,
for kind information.

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru for kind information.

Copy submitted to the Member Secretary, AP Pollution Control Board,
Vijayawada for kind information.

Copy submitted to the Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration,
A.P. for kind information.

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Department of Industries

APR-10

From
The District Industries Officer,
District Industries Centre,
West Godavari District,
Bhimavaram.

To
The Environmental Engineer,
A.P. Pollution Control Board,
Eluru District,
Eluru.

Lr.No:- DIC-JA2/12/WG-EODB, Dt:- 23.03.2026

Sir,

Sub :- DIC - W.G.Dist - Comprehensive action Plan with stipulated timelines for restoration of Kolleru Wetland - Submitted - Reg.

Ref :- Lr.No.Gen-01/APP/RO-ELR/2026-703, Dt:- 26.02.2026 of Environmental Engineer, APPCB.

with reference to the above, it is to inform that the opinion is given below.

"In line with environmental protection measures for Kolleru Lake, earlier it was decided that no new industries to be permitted within the 10km radius of +5 contour area of Kolleru Lake to prevent deterioration of water quality, safeguard the wetland ecosystem and ensure compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

However, industries that do not generate process wastewater may be permitted within the +5 contour area under Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) provisions, subject to strict compliance with environmental norms, in order to promote industrial development and generate employment opportunities."

Yours faithfully,



District Industries Officer.

APR-11

Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board
Paryavaran Bhavan, Vijayawada

Proposed Action plan for restoration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru

S.No	Activity	Key actions	Tentative timeline	Remarks
1.	Water quality monitoring in inflow/outflow channels and aquaculture zones	APPCB is regularly monitoring at 25 locations comprising of inlet and outlet drains and aquaculture outlets on quarterly basis to assess the water quality of Kolleru lake	Regular activity on monthly basis	APPCB is monitoring Kolleru Lake on monthly basis . Additional locations are being proposed for monitoring in Kolleru Lake area
2.	Solid waste management in Kolleru lake area.	APPCB will coordinate with stakeholders to ensure environmentally sound waste processing and disposal of solid waste in accordance to SWM Rules.	Monitoring at periodical intervals	APPCB would monitor in coordination with the stakeholder departments based on their respective action plans.
3.	Abatement of industrial pollution	APPCB is regularly monitoring the industries to prevent any discharges of pollutants.	Periodical inspections	--
4.	Create awareness on environmental pollution and mitigation in Kolleru Lake	Conducting awareness programmes involving Stakeholder depts, public, NGOs, Educational Institutions on Environmental pollution and mitigation measures.	Every month, As part of Swachh Andhra Programme.	--

S SRISARAVANAN, I.F.S
MEMBER SECRETARY