

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

**Original Application No.45 of 2024 (SZ)
WITH
Original Application No.137 of 2024 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion
Suo Motu based on the News Item
in Malayalam Daily Mathrubhumi
Dt. 24.01.2024 titled "Garbage is dumped in
areas including Kadambayar by the mafia,
which contracts to remove waste from big companies"
And

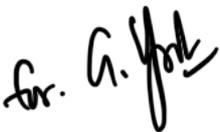
Water Resources Department
Rep. by its Secretary to Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, LOCAL SELF
GOVERNMENT, KERALA/ 5TH RESPONDENT**

| <u>SI.NO</u> | <u>DOCUMENTS</u> | <u>PG NO.</u> |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| 1. | Report of the Additional Secretary, Local self Government | 1 - 14 |

Dated at Chennai on this 19th day of February, 2026.



M/s. E.K. Kumaresan
Standing Counsel for Government of Kerala

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,

CHENNAI IN

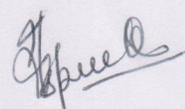
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 45 of 2024

According to the Comprehensive Report on Prevention and Control of Pollution in the Kadambayar river, an Action Plan for Rejuvenation 2018, CPCB had identified Kadambayar river (Manackkadavu-Brahmapuram stretch) under priority -IV.

2. The State Govt. has taken stringent action to rejuvenate the polluted stretches so as to improve the river water quality. The State Government as per G.O(Rt) No.135/2018/Envr dated 12.12.2018(**Exhibit R1**) constituted River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) comprising of Director, Environment Department, Urban Department, Industries Department, and Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board for monitoring the action plans for rejuvenating the identified polluted river stretches. As per G.O (Ms) No.12/2019/WRD dated 30.04.2019 (**Exhibit R2**), a District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) comprising of representatives from Irrigation Department (Chairperson), Pollution Control Board (Convener), members from Industries Department, Local Self Government Department, representative of District Collector etc. was constituted for preparing a detailed Action Plan for the rejuvenation of polluted river stretches. Since the natural water bodies have got to be used for various competing as well as conflicting demands, the objective of the Action Plan is aimed at restoring and / or maintaining natural water bodies or it's stretches to such a quality as needed for their best uses. The DLTC had prepared an Action Plan which has been approved by CPCB. At present the Action Plan is under the implementation stage. The Action Plan mainly includes the following measures:

a) Cleaning of river by removing water hyacinth, silt etc. for maintaining flow in river;

b) Identification of polluting sources such as industries/ flats/hotels/waste dumping/



unauthorized discharges to river and closing of all illegal outlets;

c) Installation of Sewage Treatment Plants(STPs) etc.

d) Installation of solid waste and Liquid Waste Management facilities

e) Installation of cameras, strengthening surveillance etc. for preventing illegal dumping of waste

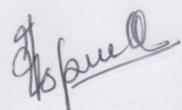
3. The DLTC is convening meetings periodically to monitor the progress in the implementation of Action Plan. The DLTC had issued several directions to the departments concerned to take immediate action for the implementation. The DLTC had conducted physical verification of the projects undertaken by the departments to verify the status of implementation of action plan. The Cochin Corporation has initiated biomining at the Brahmapuram dumpyard and the project is underway. Besides a new bio-waste processing plant utilizing Black Soldier Fly (BSF)- based technology has started functioning so that dumping of waste to water bodies can be prevented,

4. Kadambrayar River Rejuvenation Works taken up by Local Self Government Department

Local bodies have prepared Kadambrayar Action Plan for the recovery of the river to its natural state. Identification of polluting sources including drains has been completed and further actions are being taken at the local body levels for its rejuvenation

I) Kizhakkambalam Gramapanchayath

Cleaning / conservation work in all streams which are tributaries of Kadambrayar within the limits of Kizhakkambalam Grama Panchayat is included in MGNREGS and undertaken every year. In the 2024-25 Annual Plan, for the work Karukulam Kadambrayar Valiya Thodu Side Protection Rs. 36,02,000/- has been allocated for the fourth reach and follow-up action is being taken by forming local body level squads for continuous inspections to prevent dumping of waste in water bodies.



ii) Kunnathunaad Grama panchayath

Pursuance to the Kadambarayar Action Plan, surveillance cameras have been installed near the Manakkadav bridge on the banks of Kadambayar and follow-up action is being taken by forming local body level squads for continuous inspections .

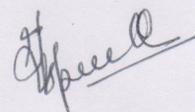
iii) Edathala Grama Panchayath

Palakuzhi stream, which is a tributary of Kadambayar within the limits of Edathala Grama Panchayat, is cleaned and protected every year under the MGNREGS. In the year 2024 – 2025 the project has been undertaken by allocating Rs. 2 lakh for the restoration of Palakuzhi Thodu.

iv) Thrikkakkara Municipality

A fine of Rs. 26,590/- has been levied for the period from March to August 2024 from the persons who have deposited garbage in the water bodies. A scheme has been formulated for setting up of Sewage Treatment Plant using Sanitation Mission Fund at the local government level and it has been decided to include it in the Annual Plan for 2024-25. The number of Haritha Karma Sena (women's SHG) members has been increased to collect waste from homes and institutions. The project for bio waste management has been taken up at the institutional level under the Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP). A notice has been given by the health department to set up their own sewage treatment plants for the flats under the Thrikkakara Municipal Corporation. Cameras have been installed at the local government level to prevent pollution and follow-up measures are being taken. Continuous monitoring related to Kadambarayar pollution at the district level is being conducted under the leadership of the District Collector, Ernakulam.

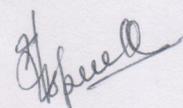
Strict instructions have been given to the Secretaries of the LSGs to identify the gap and undertake the necessary projects related to waste management. Local body level squads and district level enforcement squads are conducting regular inspections and necessary follow-up action is being taken.

v) Kochi Municipal Corporation

- A survey of the sources of discharge of waste to Kadambrayar has been completed.
- A sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 100 KLD has been installed at the Brahmapuram waste plant. Also, the plan to establish FSTP with 1 MLD capacity included in AMRUT project has been approved by the Cabinet and the State Level Technical Committee has approved the project.
- Projects have been undertaken by conducting gap analysis to augment the existing infrastructure related to waste management.
- A contract has been entered into with RAIDCO for setting up a 3 TPD capacity plant for sanitary waste management and work has commenced.
- Haritha Karma Sena has been additionally appointed to collect bio waste from bulk waste generators.
- Biomining of legacy waste has been taken to prevent leaching from Brahmapuram waste plant into Chitrapuzha..
- Kozhichira Bund has been constructed from Manakukadav to the Kadamprayar - Chitrapuzha confluence.
- 1.5 TPD biomedical waste is collected and treated

Further action is being taken by forming local body level squads for continuous inspections to prevent the dumping of garbage in the water bodies. Necessary interventions have been made at the district level to prevent pollution of water bodies in the district and instructions have been given to the concerned local body Secretaries to strengthen the squad activities as per Section 219S of the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2024 . 219S deals with the punishment for depositing waste or rubbish or excreta in public water sources or water bodies. As per this section

- It is illegal to deposit waste, rubbish or excreta in a water course, water body or water source.
- It is also illegal to allow or cause to allow to flow water from any latrine or



allow waste water to flow in to it , or pollute the water in any other way , or engage , depute , compel , or instigate any person to do such activity.

- An offence under sub section (1) shall be cognizable and non bailable
- Anyone who commits an offense under this section is punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but not exceeding fifty thousand rupees.
- The offender may also be imprisoned for a term of at least six months but not exceeding one year.

5. Status of STP / FSTPs and details of existing infrastructure in Kochi Municipal Corporation

*** 100 KLD STP @ Brahmapuram** with a treating capacity of 20 truckloads is working progressively (Existing)

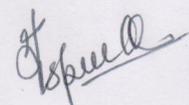
*** 1 MLD FSTP @ Brahmapuram under AMRUT 2.0 (Proposal)**

The project proposal of 1 MLD FSTP at Brahmapuram has been approved by Government. The Project cost is Rs. 30.5 crores. 35 cent LSGI land is required for this proposal. MoHUA's approval was received on 01.10.2024. The ULB has engaged IRTC to execute the work in DBOT mode. The DPR to be submitted by the ULB for placing in the SLTC/SHPSC for approval of AS.

Considering the city population, Kochi Municipal Corporation only need a plant up to a capacity of 1 MLD. After completion of proposed FSTP, Kochi Municipal Corporation can definitely meet more requirement. As soon as the Bio mining work is completed, the said proposal will be implemented.

*** 1.1MLD STP @ Edakochi South under AMRUT 2 . 0 (ongoing)**

This project has a total network of 21.7 km network which covers 1897 households in Division 16. Work was awarded for an amount of Rs.18.6 crore and work started on



06/12/2023. The delay was due to the public protest. About 47% progress has been reached, as of 05/12/2024. Rain affected the progress of works. **Expected to be completed by 31.03.2025**

* **5 MLD STP at Elamkulam** with 24 KLD septage co-treatment . Project Cost: Rs.185.000 Cr. Implementing Agency: KWA . TS was issued by KWA for the STP package on 08.11.2024 and tender was floated on 02.12.2024.

6. Solid Waste Management in Kochi Municipal Corporation

A 40 Kg/day Thumboormuzhi unit is installed at Edappally. The Municipality has four MCF cum RRF facilities at Edappally, Padiyathukulam, Mattancherry and Kaloor. There is a 1 TPD MCF at Fort Kochi. 22 Container MCFs are installed in various wards in the Kochi Corporation.

7. Sanitary waste

Sanitary waste collected by Service providers M/S Aravind Associates and A4 Mercantiles (whom ULB has agreement with) and the same is transported to KEIL for disposing at Ambalmedu for scientific management, 2 – 3 TPD collected and treated at KEIL. Sanitary Waste Incinerator of capacity 3 TPD is planned at Brahmapuram. Work order has been given to the agency named Raidco and the work is in the final stage of completion. About 1450 number of menstrual cups were distributed in different areas of the City as part of restriction of sanitary pads

8. Vehicles for primary and secondary collection of Municipal Solid Waste

Tricycle- 320

Market/ small enterprise - 9 auto tippers 1000 kg capacity

Standby-27 (LCV) more than 1400kg capacity

Available vehicles for Secondary Transportation

As per

Compactor-13

E-Kart-130 (120 purchased through CSML Fund)

Collection and Transportation

E carts: 808 proposed for primary collection-Project for 237 electric vehicles and 41 tippers are included in year 2024 KSMWP project

Others proposed in Solid Waste Management draft plan

CNG auto tippers: 120

Compactor: 15

Mechanised road sweepers : 02

Septage Honey sucker vehicle : 03

Construction and Demolition recycling plant.

Litter bins at Public/Tourist places.

Segregation bins (plastic/paper/glass/metal)

Rejects management- Land fill proposed at Brahmapuram

Action Plan for river Kadambrayar

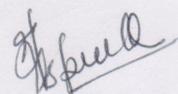
A) Short Term Measures

i) Drain joining Chitrappuzha (near Brahmapuram dumping yard)

Activity: Restricting seepage of the leachate of plastic dumped in the dumping yard

Remedial measure: Bio-mining of legacy waste

The new bio-mining plant project was awarded to Bhumi Green Energy and the agreement between Kochi Municipal Corporation and Bhumi Green Energy was executed on 04/11/2023 and the work order for the same was issued on 06/11/2023. About 4.40 lakh MT waste excavation, turning and stabilisation completed. Approximately 3,60,755 lakh MT waste processing completed as on



August 15/08/2024. About 72,382.730 MT RDF dispatched to ACC Limited (Wadi Cement Works), Dalmia Cement Ltd, and to JK Cement Works, Karnataka as on August 15/08/2024. About 42,496.250 MT of C&D and inert filling for road making and about 1,51,133.450 MT of 6mm-30mm fraction filling for road making is dumped in the low line area of Brahmapuram dumpsite, and the same is utilising for road making. About 124.920 MT recyclable (shoes sample) was dispatched. Approximately 51.8% of processing completed as on 15th August 2024. The time line fixed for the completion of the said project is 16 months.

ii) Main stream (Manakkadavu to Kadambavar-Chitrapuzha Confluence point

Activity : Provide proper facilities for restricting the seepage of leachate

Remedial Measure: Establishing Black Soldier Fly Plant

The BSF (Black Soldier Fly) plant of 100 TPD project was awarded to Zigma Global Enviro Care Pvt.Ltd (50TPD) and FAABCO Pvt. Ltd(50TPD) and about 6 acres of Brahmapuram land is allotted for the project work to the Zigma Global Enviro Care Pvt.Ltd and about 4 acres allotted to FAABCO by KMC. The agreement of Zigma Global Enviro Care Pvt.Ltd and FAABCO Pvt. Ltd with KMC was executed and work order was issued and work was started in the month of November. The BSF plant (ZIGMA & FAABCO Pvt. Ltd.) at Brahmapuram is effectively processing bio-waste at a capacity of 25 TPD. The plant is prepared to scale up to 50TPD and the same is under the consideration of Council.

COMPRESSED BIO-GAS PLANT (BIO-METHANATION):

Construction of a compressed Bio-gas Plant by BPCL , with a capacity to treat 150 TPD biodegradable waste , is also nearing completion in Brahmapuram,Kochi .



Preetha K.S.
PREETHA K. S.
 Additional Secretary
 Local Self Government Department
 Thiruvananthapuram

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Environment Department- River Rejuvenation Committee, District Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force, State Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force constituted in compliance with the Order dated 20-09-2018 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A.No.673/2018 - Orders issued.

ENVIRONMENT (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.135/2018/Envt

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 12-12-2018

- Read: 1. Order dated 20-09-2018 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A.No.673/2018 regarding news item " More river stretches are now critically polluted : CPCB" published in ' The Hindu ' .
2. Letter No. PCB/HO/EE1/NGT/673/2018 dated 22/11/2018 of the Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in its Order read as 1st paper above has directed the State to constitute River Rejuvenation Committee, District Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force, State Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force in order to prepare action plans within two months for bringing all the polluted river stretches to be fit atleast for bathing purposes. (i.e BOD<3mg/L and FC<500 MPN/100ml) within six months from the date of finalization of the action plans. The Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board as per the letter read as 2nd paper above has requested Government to constitute above committees for complying with the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi.

2) Government have examined the matter in detail and hereby constitute the following committees in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in its Order read as 1st paper above.

A) **River Rejuvenation Committee** comprising the following members under the overall supervision and co-ordination of Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department.

1. Director, Environment Department.
2. Director, Urban Development Department.
3. Director, Industries Department.
4. Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

The River Rejuvenation Committee will sent the progress report on or before 15-12-2018 through e-mail id ' filing.ngt@gmail.com'.

B) District Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force comprising the following members.

1. District Magistrate.
2. Superintendent of Police.
3. Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control Board.
4. One person will be nominated by the District Judge in every District in his capacity as Head of the District Legal Services Authority.

C) State Level Special Environment Surveillance Task Force comprising the following members

1. Chief Secretary.
2. Secretary, Environment Department.
3. Secretary, Urban Development Department.
4. Secretary, Local Self Government Department.

(By order of the Governor)

VALSA.V

Additional Secretary

To

The Standing Counsel, National Green Tribunal, New Delhi (with C/L).
 The Advocate General, Ernakulam (with C/L).
 The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The Director, Urban Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The Director, Industries Department, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The District Magistrates in all districts.
 The Superintendent of Police in all districts.
 The Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board (through the Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board).
 The District Judges in all districts.
 The Principal Accountant General (Audit/A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
 The Director, Information & Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department
 (for uploading in the Government website).

Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded/By order

Section Officer



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Water Resources Department – Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A.Nos.581/2018, 582/2018 and 673/2018-Implementation - Preparation of Action plan for rejuvenation of polluted river stretches in the State-District level Technical Committees-Constituted- Orders issued.

DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.12/2019/WRD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 30/04/2019

- Read 1 Order dated 20.09.2018 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A.No.673/2018
- 2 Orders dated 25.01.2019 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A.Nos.581/2018 and 582/2018.
- 3 Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the State Level Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal held on 06.04.2019.

ORDER

As per the Order read as 1st paper above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directed, inter alia, that all States and Union Territories should prepare action plans for restoring the polluted river stretches to the prescribed standards. The action plans are to be prepared by the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) comprising the Director, Environment, Director , Urban Development, Director, Industries and Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board. The Order of the Honourable National Green Tribunal is attached as **Annexure-1**.

2. The Honourable National Green Tribunal also directed vide orders read as 2nd paper above, that the State Level Monitoring Committee for solid waste management, constituted by the Honourable National Green Tribunal and headed by Honourable Justice (Retd) A. V. Ramakrishna Pillai may also look over the issue of rejuvenation of the polluted rivers in Kerala. The State Level Monitoring Committee in its 3rd meeting held on 6/4/2019 decided, inter alia, that Action plan has to be

submitted for the rejuvenation of river stretches mentioned in the OA No. 581/2018, OA No. 582/2018 and 673/2018 by the Water Resources Department before the next meeting of River Rejuvenation Committee under intimation to State Level Monitoring Committee

3. Government have examined the matter in detail. As directed by the Honourable National Green Tribunal in OA. No. 581/18, an Action Plan has been prepared for the rejuvenation of the Karamana River in Thiruvananthapuram District and submitted to River Rejuvenation Committee and the same has been approved by the River Rejuvenation Committee. Action plan is being prepared for the rejuvenation of Tirur-Ponnani river in Malappuram District in compliance with the direction of the Honourable National Green Tribunal in OA. No. 582/18. The list of 20 rivers (including Tirur- Ponnani) included in the priority categories IV and V as mentioned in the Order of National Green Tribunal, read as Ist paper above is attached as Annexure-2.

4. In view of the Orders of the Honourable National Green Tribunal and decision of the State Level Monitoring Committee, the Government are pleased to constitute the District Level Technical Committees (DLTC), for preparing the draft action plan for the rejuvenation of the polluted rivers in the 8 Districts concerned, as follows:-

1. The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department : Chairperson
2. The Superintending Engineer, Kerala Water Authority : Member
3. The Environmental Engineer, District Office, Kerala State
Pollution Control Board : Convenor
4. The District Co-ordinator, District Suchitwa Mission : Member
5. The General Manager, Industries Department : Member
6. Senior Officer representing Revenue Department
(to be nominated by the District Collector) : Member
7. The Secretary of the Corporation /Municipality : Member
8. The Secretary of the Grama Panchayath : Member

5. The first meeting of the District Level Technical Committees shall be held on 3/05/2019 and joint site inspection shall be conducted at the river stretches concerned thereafter.

6. The District Level Technical Committees shall submit the draft action plan to the Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board for being submitted to the River Rejuvenation Committee on or before 25/05/2019, under intimation and copy to the Government.

7. The Heads of the Department/Organization concerned shall intimate the members of the DLTCs regarding constitution of the Committees and the time lines, immediately on receipt of this G. O. The DLTCs shall function under the supervision and co-ordination of the HoDs.

(By order of the Governor)

DR. VISHWAS MEHTA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

The Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD Department.

The Principal Secretary, Environment Department.

The Principal Secretary, Revenue Department.

The Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.(with C/L)

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Urban affairs, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Panchayaths, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Industries and Commerce, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Thiruvananthapuram.

The commissioner Land Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram.

The District Collectors,
Alappuzha/Ernakulam/Thrissur/Palakkad/Malappuram / Kannur/Kasargod.

The Information Officer, Web & New Media Wing, I&PRD.

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PS to ACS (WR)