

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.55 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Ramaniyam Towers Residents
Association Represented By
Mr. Kannan Subbiah

... Applicant(S)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone
Management Authority

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 2ND RESPONDENT –
THE STATE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:07.04.2026

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE)**@ CHENNAI.****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 55 OF 2025**

Ramaniyam Tower Resident Association

Represented by Mr. Kannan Subbiah,

Authorized Representative,

Registration No: 353 of 2002,

No. 12, Greenways Road, R.A. Puram,

Chennai – 600 028

...Applicant

1. Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority

Represented by its Member Secretary,

Department of Environment and Forests,

First Floor, Panagal Building,

Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015

2. The Divisional Engineer (H),

CMDP Division - III,

Highways Department,

Government of Tamil Nadu,

76/2, Sardar Patel Road, Guindy

3. Greater Chennai Corporation,

Represented by its Commissioner,

Ripon Building, Sydenhams Road,

Periamet, Chennai – 600 003

...Respondents.

Additional Status Report filed by the 2nd Respondents

1. I, V.P.Narayanan, M.E., S/o. V.Padmanabhan, Hindu, aged 54, working as Divisional Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Division – III, Chennai – 600 025, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows,
2. I humbly submit that I am the 2nd respondents herein and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and based on available records in this office, I am filing this additional report as per the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal on 01.04.2025.
3. I humbly submit that the formation of new link road is located at one of the congested intersections at the heart of the Chennai city. This road connects Greenways Road (DGS Dhinakaran Salai) on eastern side with Durgabhai Deshmukh road on western side. The road junction at the intersection of Greenways Road and Durgabhai Deshmukh road witness heavy traffic congestion throughout the day particularly during peak hours and it necessitated for an improvement to resolve the traffic issue. The Greenways Road is abutting the residence of Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Madras, Hon'ble Ministers and other important dignitaries, as well as public using this congested road for their official work. Hence to overcome this issue, the new link road is proposed through Government Vacant land and without affecting any of the major structures.

4. I humbly submit that the proposed new link road branches at Km 8/9 of Greenway Road (DGS Dinakaran Salai) and joins at Km 0/6 of Durgabhai Deshmukh Road to a length of 603m. The alignment has been prepared in such a way that to utilize 100% Government land and avoiding any acquisition of private land for this project. This link road will cater the main traffic to reach Chennai from Adyar/Guindy and vice versa and a conflict at the said intersection will be eliminated.
5. I humbly submit that the claim of applicant that the project comes under the CRZ-IA is purely arbitrary and without any records to substitute their allegation. The CZMA map is available in the official website of TNSCZMA and it clearly shows that the project zone is not under the category of CRZ-IA and only lies in CRZ-IB and CRZ-II.
6. This was also confirmed by mapping the said project in the CZMA Map by the competent authority of the Director, Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS), Anna University, Chennai in their mapping of project.
7. I humbly submit that the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority in its official website has uploaded the approved CZMA map as per CRZ Notification, 2011 and it is a public document and can be accessed.
8. The said project comes under the Mylapore – Triplicane Taluk in Chennai District and the Map No. TN 109, it clearly states the

various CRZ Category in the map such as Green for CRZ – 1A, Ash Colour for 50m Mangrove Buffer Zone CRZ – IA, Blue Spotted for CRZ – IB, Rose Colour for CRZ – II category and so on.

9. This map clearly illustrate the project lies within the CRZ – IB & CRZ – II category only and it is nowhere near CRZ – IA category as per applicant allegation.
10. I humbly submit that the mapping of this project in the approved CZMP map was entrusted to the Director, Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai – 25 and the entire process of mapping was done by conducting GPS survey demarcating HTL, LTL, demarcating of ecologically sensitive area and superimposed the project site on to the cadastral map at 1:4000 scale was done and submitted on 19.10.2020.
11. I humbly submit that the CRZ clearance for project was applied by the 2nd Respondent on 09.11.2020 in the prescribed form to the District Coastal Zone Management Authority (DCZMA) for the proposal of Highway Department for Formation of new link road connecting Greenways Road and Durgabhai Deshmukh road through Tamil Nadu Music College for a length of 603m to eliminate the traffic congestion at Greenways Road and Durgabhai Deshmukh road junction.

Chainage (m)		Length (m)	Zonation
From	To		
0	339	339	Out of CRZ
339	499	160	CRZ-II
499	588	89	CRZ-IB
588	603	15	CRZ-II

12. It is submitted that the averment made in para 1 of application, that the applicant states, the Hon'ble tribunal that approval was not obtained for the said work which passes through the CRZ area. The approval for this work was accorded by the TNSCZMA in its 113th meeting held on Dated 27.10.2021 & 01.11.2021 under the para 8 (i) I CRZ-I (ii) (b) & (g) of CRZ Notification, 2011
13. It is submitted that the averment made in para 3 of application by the applicant is completely wrong and misleading the Hon'ble Tribunal that the applicant has stated the project falls under CRZ – IA category instead of CRZ – IB without any records in facts.
14. I humbly submit that the based on the Hon'ble Tribunal order dated 30.07.2025, the proposal was once again placed before the District Coastal Zone Management Authority (DCZMA) in the prescribed form on 26.09.2025 and 26.11.2025. The DCZMA has recommended the proposal to the Tamil Nadu state Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA).

15. I humbly submit that the TNSCZMA committee meeting was held on 27.01.2026 and has recommended the proposal to Ministry of Environmental, Forest and Climate Change. Government of India.
16. I humbly submit that the proposal was placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Projects related to Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change held on 27.02.2026, The Committee deliberated on the proposal based on the information submitted and the presentation made by the Project Proponent (PP). During the deliberations, the Committee observed following:

A. The project had already obtained CRZ clearance from the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) vide letter dated 13/01/2022.

B. It was further noted that, pursuant to the said clearance, construction activities in the non-CRZ area have already been undertaken by the proponent.

C. The Committee also took cognizance of the fact that the matter is presently under litigation before the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone (SZ), in O.A. No. 55 of 2025 and I.A. No. 95 of 2025, wherein the CRZ clearance issued by the TNSCZMA dated 13/01/2022 is under challenge. As the matter is sub judice and PP could not produce any information/document indicating towards any specific direction to the PP by the Hon'ble NGT/Court to approach the Government of India for

reconsideration or fresh appraisal at the Central level, **the Committee was of the view that there is presently no scope for examining or granting CRZ clearance at the Central level.**

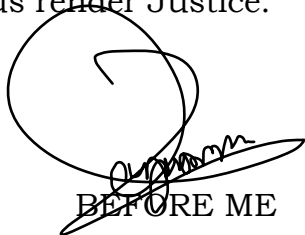
D. Further, the Committee observed that clarification may be sought from the TNSCZMA regarding the rationale for forwarding/recommending the proposal to the Ministry, despite the project having already been granted CRZ clearance by the TNSCZMA and the same being under judicial consideration.

17. I humbly submit, in above para 16. *C. the Committee was of the view that there is presently no scope for examining or granting CRZ clearance at the Central level*, which clearly indicates that the clearance issued by the TNSCZMA is sufficient.

18. I humbly pray that, as per deliberation made in the committee held on 27.02.2026, it is given to the understanding that the clearance issued by the TNSCZMA itself is sufficient to carry out the project or the Ministry may be directed to consider the case and issue clearance for this project at central level.

It is therefore prayed that Memorandum of Application is liable to be dismissed in the interest of general public and thus render Justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this 17th day of March 2026 and the deponent signed in my presence


BEFORE ME

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



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division



Minutes of 437th Meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Projects related to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) to be held on 27th February, 2026 meeting held from 27/02/2026 to 27/02/2026 **Date:** 06/03/2026

MoM ID: CRZ/MOM/EAC/421792/2/2026

Agenda ID: CRZ/AGENDA/EAC/421792/2/2026

Meeting Venue: Sutlej Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Jal Wing, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.

Meeting Mode: Hybrid

Date & Time:

27/02/2026	10:30 AM	05:30 PM
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1. Opening remarks

At the outset, Shri M. S. Negi, Chairman, EAC (CRZ) welcomed the Members of the EAC and requested Dr. H. Kharkwal, Member Secretary to initiate the proceedings of the meeting with a brief account of the activities undertaken by the Ministry under CRZ Division.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

The Committee has confirmed the minutes of the 435th meeting held on 17/02/2026 respectively with suggestions that in case any typographical or grammatical errors are noticed in the due course, the same may be corrected suitably.

3. Details of proposals considered by the committee

Day 1 -27/02/2026

3.1. Agenda Item No 1:

3.1.1. Details of the proposal

Formation of New Link Road Greenways Road (DGS Dinakaran Salai) With Durgabhai Deshmukh Road through Tamil Nadu Music College in Chennai. by DIVISIONAL ENGINEER(H) located at CHENNAI,TAMIL NADU			
Proposal For		Fresh Proposal Form	
Proposal No	File No	Submission Date	

IA/TN/CRZ/564476/2026	11/15/2026-IA.III	23/01/2026	
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3.1.2. Project Salient Features

“The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA / EMP report. If any part of the data / information submitted is found to be false / misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental and or CRZ Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent.”

The Project Proponent (M/s the Divisional Engineer (Highways), CMDP) and consultant (M/s. Pollucare Engineers India (P) Ltd; Chennai.) have made a presentation on above said proposal and informed the following salient features of the proposal, including the details provided in the application of the project, to EAC:

1.	Title of the project	Proposed formation of new link road connecting Greenways Road (DGS Dinakaran Salai) with Durgabhai Deshmukh road through Tamil Nadu Music College in Chennai by the Divisional Engineer (Highways), CMDP, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.		
2.	Brief description of the Project	The proposed project is seeking CRZ clearance under CRZ notification 2011 for formation of new link road connecting Greenways Road (DGS Dinakaran Salai) with Durgabhai Deshmukh road through Tamil Nadu Music College in Chennai by the Divisional Engineer (Highways), CMDP, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.		
3.	Salient features / Components of the project activity	The total length of proposed link road is 603 km and width is 15 m and land area having an extent of 10695 sq.m.		
4.	CRZ Report/Maps prepared by	Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University		
5.	CRZ Categorization as per CRZ Report:			
	Sl. No	Chainage(m)		CRZ Classification
		From	To	Length (m)
	1	0	339	Out of CRZ
	2	339	499	CRZ II
	3	499	588	CRZ IB
	4	588	603	CRZ II
		Total		603
6.	Applicability of EIA Notification 2006	Not Applicable		
7.	NOC from SPCB (For discharge Project)	Not applicable		
8.	Certified Compliance Report from IR O (Expansion / Amendment Case)	Not applicable		

9.	Permissibility of project as per CRZ Notification 2011:		
	Proposed activity	CRZ Classification	Permissibility clause
	Proposed construction of link road, road furniture and compound wall	CRZ II	8 I (ii) (b)
		CRZ IB	3 (iv) (a)
10.	EIA Consultants details (with validity)	M/s. Pollucare Engineers India (P) Ltd; Chennai <i>vide</i> Certificate No: NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0425, Valid upto September 05, 2028	
11.	Baseline period for EIA	The baseline environmental study was carried out during August 2025. Marine environment was collected in January 2020.	
12.	Applicability of Terrestrial and Marine EIA (please mention clearly, if not applicable please mention the same)	Terrestrial EIA & Marine EIA is carried out	
13.	Anticipated impacts (mention page no of EIA)	Mentioned in Pg 82	
14.	Mitigation measures proposed (mention page no of EIA)	Mentioned in Pg 86	
15.	Disaster Management Plan (mention page no of EIA)	Mentioned in Pg 96	
16.	Risk Assessment (mention page no of EIA)	Mentioned in Pg 96	
17.	Total Project cost	Rs.25.92 Crores	
18.	Is project located in erosion prone area (yes/no)	No	
19.	If yes, specific the management plan proposed	Not Applicable	
20.	EMP cost proposed (capital and recurring)	Rs.36.05 Lakhs	
21.	Forest Clearance requirement	Not Applicable	
22.	Wildlife Clearance Requirement	Not Applicable	
23.	Proposed Green Cover	Green belt development will be carried in consultation with a local forest department.	
24.	Proposed budget for green cover development	To be Calculated by M/s Pollucare Engineers India Private Limited	

25.	Rain water harvesting	Not Applicable
26.	Proposed budget for rainwater harvesting	Not Applicable
27.	Details of Mangrove tree Cutting	No Mangrove tree will be cut.
28.	Details of tree Cutting	During the Construction Phase tree cutting is takes place with 31 Trees.
29.	Details of Compensatory afforestation proposed	Compensatory plantation of 310 trees will be carried out.
30.	Proposed energy conserving measures	Not Applicable
31.	Power Requirement and Source	Power requirement during construction phase will be 10 kv sourced from state grid
32.	Water requirement and source	Construction Phase: The expected daily water requirement for the construction phase is estimated to be about 3650 KL.
33.	Waste water Treatment and reuse	Not Applicable
34.	Solid Waste Generation	Not Applicable
35.	Solid Waste management	Not Applicable
36.	Hazardous waste Management	Not Applicable
37.	Resettlement and Rehabilitation	Not Applicable
38.	Employment generation (in No.)	During the construction phase, 5 nos. of people will be employed. During operation phase, 2 nos. of people will be employed.
39.	Details of Litigation, If any	Yes. W.P. No 12357 of 2025 in Hon'ble High Court of Madras, and O.A. 55 of 2025, O.A. 65 of 2025, O.A. 125 of 2025 in Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
40.	Details of Ground Water extraction	No ground water extraction is being done.
41.	Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed project will provide better, fast, safe and smooth connectivity for the travellers and will cause only lower emissions thereby reducing pollution levels. Accident rates are also expected to come down substantially. The vehicle operating and maintenance cost is expected to go down substantially.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People will have increased access to better social and health infrastructure and other services located outside the project area. This will in turn lead to overall improvement of the quality of life of people residing in the project zone in terms of their economic, social and health status. ● The proposed route will provide better connectivity between Santhome, Mylapore with Adyar, Guindy through Tamil Nadu Music college campus. This can contribute to economic development by encouraging attraction of business to site equipped with good access and by improving the travel efficiencies of the existing business and to start new avenues. This also helps in to developing the Infrastructure projects.
42.	SCZMA Recommendation	The Tamil Nadu SCZMA has recommended the proposal to Ministry vide letter no. P1/DO ECC/2002/2025, dated 10/02/2026 under CRZ Notification 2011.

3.1.3. Deliberations by the EAC in previous meetings

N/A

3.1.4. Deliberations by the EAC in current meetings

<p>2. The Committee deliberated on the proposal based on the information submitted and the presentation made by the Project Proponent (PP). During the deliberations, the Committee observed following:</p> <p>A. The project had already obtained CRZ clearance from the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) vide letter dated 13/01/2022.</p> <p>B. It was further noted that, pursuant to the said clearance, construction activities in the non-CRZ area have already been undertaken by the proponent.</p> <p>C. The Committee also took cognizance of the fact that the matter is presently under litigation before the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone (SZ), in O.A. No. 55 of 2025 and I.A. No. 95 of 2025, wherein the CRZ clearance issued by the TNSCZMA dated 13/01/2022 is under challenge. As the matter is sub judice and PP could not produce any information/ document indicating towards any specific direction to the PP by the Hon'ble NGT/Court to approach the Government of India for reconsideration or fresh appraisal at the Central level, the Committee was of the view that there is presently no scope for examining or granting CRZ clearance at the Central level.</p> <p>D. Further, the Committee observed that clarification may be sought from the TNSCZMA regarding the rationale for forwarding/recommending the proposal to the Ministry, despite the project having already been granted CRZ clearance by the TN SCZMA and the same being under judicial consideration.</p> <p>In view of the above circumstances, the Committee decided to return the proposal in its present form.</p> <p>The proponent was advised to submit a fresh proposal, if so required, along with clear justification and any specific directions or merits arising from the orders of the Hon'ble Court/Tribunal that explicitly</p>
