

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

Original Application No.21 of 2025 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion – Suo Motu
based on the news item in Webdunia Tamil
e-newspaper, Chennai Edition dated
20.01.2025 titled **“Kaanum Pongal garbage
problem – Chennai has forgotten what it
learnt after 2015 floods”**.

.....Applicant

With

The Commissioner
Greater Chennai Corporation

.....Respondent

REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF GREATER CHENNAI

CORPORATION - 5TH RESPONDENT

I, J. Kumaragurubaran, I.A.S., son of Late Th.S. Jayabalan,
Hindu, aged about 45 years, Commissioner, Greater Chennai
Corporation, Ripon Buildings, Chennai - 600 003, do hereby
solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows:

1. It is respectfully submitted that the present report is filed
in compliance of the Order dated 26.11.2025, passed by


 COMMISSIONER
 GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION 14/30

this Hon'ble Tribunal in the above Original Application and am well acquainted with the facts stated hereunder.

2. This respondent, in order to effectively address the issues highlighted in the Webdunia Tamil e-newspaper article dated 20.01.2025 pertaining to post-Kaanum Pongal garbage on Chennai beaches, respectfully places this Report before this Hon'ble Tribunal, setting out (i) the existing institutional and operational arrangements, (ii) the additional measures initiated pursuant to the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal, and (iii) the proposed way forward, including the future strategy and monitoring mechanism for comprehensive and effective solid-waste management on the city's beaches and across the Greater Chennai Corporation area.
3. It is submitted that the subject news items have noted that on the day after Kaanum Pongal of the year 2025, approximately 44 MT of garbage were cleared from city beaches, with earlier figures of 59 MT (2013) and 36 MT (2017) from Marina and Elliots alone, and expressed concern at the recent increase, particularly at Elliots beach. The article also flagged issues of plastic waste, food litter, and environmental impacts, including interference with marine ecology and turtle nesting, and suggested that


COMMISSIONER
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION 17/30

mere clean-ups are not a sustainable solution. **At the outset, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) acknowledges the seriousness of these concerns and the need to move from reactive clean-ups to preventive and systemic measures.**

4. The existing waste management arrangements on major beaches of GCC Area can be briefed as follows :

(A). Marina Beach – Sand Area (Zone IX) :

- i. GCC has entrusted primary conservancy operations on the Marina Beach sand area to M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers. A total of 163 bins have been placed in the sand area for public use.
- ii. Conservancy staff are deployed in three shifts (A Shift : 6.00 a.m–2.00 p.m; B Shift : 2.00 p.m–10.00 p.m; C Shift :10.00 p.m–6.00 a.m) across defined segments (e.g., Labour Statue–Swimming Pool, Blue Flag Beach, Kannagi Statue–Vivekananda House, Vivekananda House–Mahatma Gandhi Statue, M.G. Statue–Lighthouse, Loop Road), totalling about 200 workers per day.
- iii. During festivals and public holidays, additional conservancy workers are mobilized under a Mass Cleaning Programme to deal with peak loads,

especially on Kaanum Pongal, public holidays and long weekends.

(B). Marina Beach – Service Road (Zone IX):

- i. Conservancy on Marina Beach service road has been entrusted to M/s Urbaser Sumeet. 43 bins have been placed along the service road stretch with three-shift cleaning similar to the sand area.
- ii. Dedicated conservancy teams attend to litter from vendors, visitors and vehicular lay-bys. The service road operations are coordinated with sand area staff to ensure that wind-blown and migrated litter is promptly collected.

(C) Elliots (Besant Nagar) Beach– Sand Area (Zone XIII):

- i) For Elliots Beach sand area, GCC issued a work order on 10.06.2025 for beach cleaning and solid-waste management to Chennai Enviro Solution Private Limited, and operations commenced on 23.07.2025.
- ii) At present, 27 cleaning workers are engaged daily: 15 in A shift (6.00 a.m–2.00 p.m), 6 in B shift (2.00 p.m–10.00 p.m), and 6 in C shift (10.00 p.m–6.00


COMMISSIONER
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION 19/30

a.m). On weekends and festival days, an additional 11 workers (distributed across shifts) are deployed.

- iii) Two supervisors, one unit officer and one zonal manager of the contractor supervise the operations round the clock to ensure continuity of cleaning.

(D) Elliots Beach – footpath and approach area (Zone XIII)

- i) Chennai Enviro Solution Private Limited, has deployed 25 workers for the footpath and approach areas to Elliots Beach (A shift 10; B shift 9 and C shift 6), supervised by three shift supervisors.
- ii) Three beach cleaning machines are used daily to remove waste from the sand; during weekends and festive seasons, two additional machines are engaged.
- iii) Presently, 7 and 8 well-ring bins and 3 fish model bins have been placed on the beach, with 20 twin bins for segregated bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable waste, serviced by two tractors (2-ton capacity) transporting waste to Kodungaiyur resource-recovery and processing facility. Average daily collection from Elliots Beach is about 1.5 MT of wet waste, 2 MT dry waste and 0.5 MT mixed waste.

(E) Other southern beaches (Thiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam, Neelankarai, etc.)

- i) As noted in the subject news report, beaches south of Elliots (Thiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam, Neelankarai) have seen increased litter, particularly during Vinayagar idol immersions and Pongal holidays.
- ii) GCC has progressively extended conservancy deployment and machines to these neighborhood beaches, on the model adopted in Marina and Elliots; the present proposal is to further standardize staffing, bins, and cleaning frequencies, as detailed in the strategy section below.

5. Regulation of vending and litter control measures:

- i) In W.P.No.36085 of 2025, the Hon'ble Division Bench of the Madras High Court, having undertaken a detailed physical inspection of Marina Beach and taken note of the need to drastically reduce and regulate hawking activity and to create hawker-free Blue Flag Areas, has, inter alia, directed the Greater

Chennai Corporation (GCC) and other stakeholders to prepare a draft plan providing for a substantially reduced and orderly number of shops confined to clearly defined categories of goods.

- ii) GCC has constituted Zonal-wise Town Vending Committees and undertaken biometric enrolment of beach vendors, with a view to regulate hawking, issue identity cards only to authorised vendors, and identify and weed out unauthorized hawkers.
- iii) In respect of Elliots Beach, GCC is in the process of removing and relocating shops situated impermissibly close to the high-tide line and is endeavouring to maintain the beach as a litter-free zone by earmarking designated vending areas and mandating that all licensed vendors provide and maintain twin bins and ensure proper collection and handing over of waste.
- iv) It is submitted that that unregulated vending on both Marina and Elliots beaches has historically contributed significantly to litter generation, and, in line with the parameters indicated by the Hon'ble High Court, the Corporation is moving towards strict vending-zone demarcation, reduction and rationalisation of shop numbers and the creation of

litter-free beach buffers, particularly within the proposed and existing Blue Flag Areas.

6. City-wide and beach specific monitoring mechanism (proposed)

In compliance with the direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal to specify the **monitoring mechanism**, GCC proposes the following multi-tier structure:

I. Beach level monitoring:

- Each major beach (Marina, Elliots, Thiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam, Neelankarai and other notified beaches) will have a designated Beach Nodal Officer (Assistant Engineer/Assistant Health Officer) responsible for daily oversight of conservancy contractors, recording of staff attendance, machine deployment, and bin-clearing frequency.
- A daily Beach Cleanliness Register (digital or physical) will be maintained capturing: number of workers per shift, number of machine runs, approximate quantity of waste collected, and any complaints or lapses.

II. Zonal level monitoring:

- Zonal Health Officer / Assistant Commissioner will review the Beach Cleanliness Registers weekly, conduct surprise inspections at least twice a month,

and impose contractual penalties for non-performance by operators.

- Zonal monitoring will also include vending regulation enforcement (checking illegal hawkers and ensuring licensed vendors maintain bins and do not litter) and coordination with local police where required.

III. Headquarters monitoring:

- Beach and Coastal Waste Management Cell at GCC HQ will consolidate monthly data from all zones, interact with TNPCB on environmental indicators and plastic-use regulation, and prepare quarterly reports on performance, which can be placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal as and when directed.
- GCC will also integrate citizen feedback through help lines and digital platforms, enabling beach visitors and resident associations to lodge complaints about litter or inadequate cleaning, which will be mapped to the relevant zone for prompt action.

- 7. Strategy for handling several tonnes of waste per day (proposed):** GCC proposes a **three pronged strategy** for handling peak waste loads, especially during Kaanum Pongal, festivals, long weekends and tourist seasons, both on beaches and across the city:

(A) Pre-event planning:

- Identification of expected high-footfall days (including Kaanum Pongal, major religious festivals, weekends in tourist season, large events on Marina/Elliots) at least two weeks in advance.
- Preparation of zone-wise deployment plans, including additional workers, more frequent bin-clearing, extra vehicles, and temporary storage points.

(B) Real-time operations:

- On identified high-footfall days, intensification of cleaning from early morning to late night, with back-to-back shifts and continuous removal of filled bags from bins to avoid overflow.
- Use of additional beach-cleaning machines and tractors, as already practised at Elliots, extended similarly to other beaches where feasible.

(C) Post-event clearance and processing:

- Complete clearance of beach-front and approaches by the next morning, with targeted timelines for each stretch; internal SOPs will be framed and circulated.

- All collected waste to be segregated as far as practicable and routed to appropriate processing/disposal facilities (such as Kodungaiyur) instead of informal dumping.
- GCC is strengthening door-to-door collection, source segregation, and secondary transport infrastructure to ensure that high-volume days in beaches do not lead to system overload or unauthorised dumping elsewhere.

8. **Coordination with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) :**

In compliance with the direction that TNPCB should join hands with GCC, the following coordination framework is proposed for:

- Periodic **joint inspections** of major beaches to assess solid-waste management performance, plastic-use compliance, and any coastal-water quality concerns.
- Joint **awareness campaigns** targeting vendors and visitors, particularly on banned plastics and littering offences.
- Regular exchange of data on violations booked under environmental laws and municipal by-laws,

enabling GCC to support enforcement and improve compliance.

- GCC will invite TNPCB to nominate nodal officers for regular interaction with the Beach and Coastal Waste Management Cell at GCC HQ.

9. **Public awareness and IEC (Information, Education and Communication):** GCC has been conducting and will continue to organise a series of focused, on-ground awareness programmes on Marina and other beaches, demonstrating GCC's proactive and sustained commitment to behavioural change in line with the Hon'ble Tribunal's direction. These include:

- a) **Fortnightly Awareness Programmes:** Awareness programmes are conducted twice every month on alternate weeks along Marina and other major beaches, focusing on litter-free behaviour, source segregation and avoidance of single-use plastics.
- b) **"Marinavil Kalzhai Vizha" Cultural Programmes:** At Marina Blue Flag Beach, GCC organises the "*Marinavin Kalzhai Vizha*" (Marina's Heritage Festival) cultural programme every Sunday between 5.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m., integrating cultural performances with

environmental and anti-littering messages, thereby leveraging cultural engagement to embed sustainable beach-use norms.

- c) **LED-Based Messaging System:** Overhead LED screens at Marina Blue Flag Beach continuously display beach-cleanliness and anti-plastic awareness messages daily from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., providing round-the-clock visual reinforcement of responsible visitor behaviour.
- d) **Monthly Rally Against Single-Use Plastics:** GCC conducts a "Rally for Single-Use Plastic Free Marina" once every month, involving students, resident welfare associations, school children and beach users, to create visible public momentum and collective action against single-use plastics on beaches.
- e) **TNPCB-Coordinated Awareness Programmes:** In coordination with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), dedicated awareness programmes on coastal environmental protection, banned plastics, waste reduction and marine life conservation are conducted at least once every month, bringing regulatory and conservation messaging to beach visitors.

- f) **Water-Body Cleaning and Special Programmes under Swachh Bharat** : As part of Special Programmes water-body cleaning-cum-awareness activities are organised once in three months at associated water bodies and wetlands linked to coastal areas. Four such programmes have been successfully conducted, combining physical clean-up and habitat restoration with public sensitisation on interconnected environmental systems.
- g) **Marathon for Clean Beaches**: On 1st March of every year, GCC has been organizing a "Clean and Plastic-Free Beaches" marathon along Marina and adjoining stretches, attracting large numbers of school children, college students, corporate employees, residents and fitness enthusiasts, thereby generating significant public participation and media visibility for the cause of beach conservation.
- h) GCC has been giving Advertisements in leading Tamil and English newspapers around festival periods, specifically appealing to citizens to keep beaches litter free, avoid plastics, and use the bins provided. Social media, GCC website and on-site public-address systems to broadcast messages on beach cleanliness and penalties for littering.

i) IEC signages at all entry points to Marina, Elliots and other major beaches, in Tamil and English, describing environmental impacts of litter, behavioural expectations, and penalties.

10. GCC undertakes to continue the above measures in a time-bound manner as directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

In the above facts and circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this Report on record and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice and environmental protection.



COUNSEL FOR 5TH RESPONDENT

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai
on this day of 12TH Jan 2026 and
signed his name in my
presence.



COMMISSIONER
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
Before me, 30/30

Advocate: : Chennai.



E No-340/91

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CORPORATION**

**TH.N.R.RAMESH KANNA,
STANDING COUNSEL**