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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 299 of 2013 (SZ)
in
Original Application No. 164 of 2014 (SZ)
in
Original Application No. 164 of 2015 (SZ)
in
Original Application No. 130 of 2016 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Jawagarlal Shanmugam,

Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control board and others

...Respondent(s)

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Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai
Date: 16.07.2024

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

**Original Application No. 299 of 2013 (SZ)
Original Application No. 164 of 2014 (SZ)
Original Application No. 164 of 2015 (SZ)
Original Application No. 130 of 2016 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion on the
News item reported in the Hindu
Dt. 25.10.2013 about beach at
Adyar Estuary with trash, rubble

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary
Environment & Forests,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai & ors.

..... Respondent(s)

With

P.Edwin Wilson
Purasaiwalkam, Chennai.

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep by its Chief Secretary,
Chennai & ors

.....Respondent(s)

With

Jawaharlal Shanmugam
Thiruvanmiyur

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board & ors

.....Respondent(s)

With

S.Muthumeena
Egmore, Chennai

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

The Secretary to the Government,
PWD, Secretariat, Chennai & Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

**STATUS REPORT OF RIVER RESTORATION PROJECTS IN CHENNAI IN
TERMS OF THE ORDER PASSED BY THIS TRIBUNAL**

(Report filed by the 6th Respondent)

I state that in the respect of the Original Application No. 299/2013, 164/2014, 164/2015 & 130/2016 the issue taken up for consideration by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) is the pollution of rivers Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham Canal in and around Chennai in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its Order dated 28.07.2015 directed the Chief Secretary to convene a meeting once in every two months. From thereon, the Chief Secretary have convened bi-monthly meeting to review the progress of the river restoration projects along with the line department and an Affidavit along with the Minutes of the Chief Secretary review meeting would be submitted by CRRT on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu.

Later, the case was taken over by the Principal Bench, New Delhi and new Case (OA 556 to 559/2018) numbers were assigned. As per the Order dated 13.2.2019, the Committee headed by Chief Secretary to meet fortnightly for a period of next three months and thereafter on monthly basis to review the progress in the matter and quarterly report may be furnished to this Tribunal on the progress in the matter by email at ngt.filing@gmail.com. Thereon, the Chief Secretary has been conducting monthly meeting and thus far 21st Quarterly reports filed in Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi through email in ngt.filing@gmail.com. Last quarterly reports filed was submitted in June, 2024 and the next quarterly report is due in August, 2024. Last meeting was conducted on 28.06.2024.

The Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai directed the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the State of Tamil Nadu to file a further report in terms of the order passed by this Tribunal on 01.07.2024 as follows;.

The Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai, directed to ascertain the allegations made in the Newspapers 'The Hindu' dated 18.06.2024 under the caption 'Fish kill in the Adyar near Eco-park points to sewage discharge going unchecked' and Submission of details as directed by the Hon'ble NGT order passed:

The matters in the above captioned news items happened in Adyar River stretch between Kotturpuram Bridge and Thiru.Vi.Ka Bridge (i.e) close to Kotturpuram Urban Tree Park located on River view road.

The CRRT and CMWSSB Zone IX officials have immediately inspected the spot and took immediate measures to arrest the outfalls flowing into the river. When reviewed with the CMWSSB vide of our office letter (enclosed) and the CMWSSB submitted their action taken report with the following details;

i) Under the Adyar River Restoration Project (ARRP), CMWSSB taken up the work of laying of interceptor and diversion pipelines in Kotturpuram and Gandhi Nagar Depot 170 and 173, to plug the three outfalls (ID No.AR-680, AR-683 and AR -687) from the Chainage 2000 to 4000 Right Bank.

ii) Also, completed the allied works such as construction of 51 Nos machine holes, laying gravity sewer main for a length of 1396m, construction of sewage pumping station, laying of 15mm dia pumping main for a length of 850 m up to Kottupuram Modular STP of 0.6 MLD capacity. All these works have been completed and put into operation since 22.11.2022.

iii) Meanwhile, on 16.06.2024, the operation of Interceptor and Diversion at the Sewer Pumping Station located at the Lock Street Junction on River View Road, Kotturpuram was affected due to electrical short circuit and damages caused at multiple locations in the power cable which resulted in the outburst. Temporary pumping arrangements were made immediately to restore the operations and completely resumed on 20.06.2024

iv) At present, there is no sewage outflow and the CMWSSB assured to take necessary measures to avoid reoccurrence of it. In the article, there is also a mention on Tilapia fish kill floating near compound wall of Adyar Ecopark and a note on Tilapia is submitted before the Hon'ble NGT.

- a) Tilapia (*Oreochromis mosambica*) is a tropical freshwater fish species belonging to the Cichlidae family and native to Africa and the southwestern Middle East and introduced in India in 1950s. Hence, it was considered as an alien invasive species occupied almost all the water bodies and having the nature of high adaptation due to genetic changes induced by the habitat.
- b) They have high reproductive rate and capable to live in low oxygen levels water, tolerate pollution and temperature fluctuations. They become heavy competitor for the native fish species and suppress the growth and eliminating the indigenous fish populations. Sometimes, over population will also lead to massive fish kills.

- c) In order to avoid such conditions, CRRT scientifically carryout the selective culling of overpopulated Tilapia's at Adyar Eco Park as part of water management activity. Since, the date of completion of the eco-restoration project in Phase I and II, the water quality been maintained at the Adyar Eco Park and completely prevented from the outfalls. As reported in the Hindu caption on 16.06.2024, few Tilapia fish kills near the compound wall of Adyar Eco Park was not because of contamination and it was resulted due to sudden increase in the salinity because of high tidal influx towards the creek and this was submitted before the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Bench.

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi vide Order dated 13.02.2019, the Chief Secretary is regularly conducting monthly meetings to review the progress of the river restoration works and to ensure that Chennai's waterways are restored, in keeping with the stated commitment of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Yours Faithfully


Project Director
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Tamilnadu)
R.A. Puram, Chennai-600 028.

Name & Designation : S. Ramamoorthy
Project Director, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
Authorized Signatory : 
Contact Number : 8122745363
Email ID : pd.crrt@gmail.com
Date : 15-07-2024



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CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Area Engineer – XIII

Lr No.CMWSSB/Area XIII/CRRT/Spl/2024

Dated. 10.07.2024

To

The Project Director
Chennai River Restoration Trust
RA Puram
Chennai 600 028.

Sir,

Sub : CMWSSB – Area XIII –CRRT – Outfall into Adyar River – Press
Publication – Report Submitted – Reg

- Ref:
1. Press Publication in The Hindu, dated 19.06.2024
 2. Lr.No.CRRT/Adyar/SWD/Outfalls/Plucking/2024
 3. Lr.No.CRRT/Adyar/SWD/Outfalls/Plucking/2024, dated
08.07.2024
 4. Item No.01 (i) to (iv), before the NGT Southern Zone, hearing
date 01.07.2024.

With reference to the letter 3rd cited & The Hindu article dated 19.06.2024 "Little in the north of feeder channel flowing through the Kotturpuram Urban forest on River view road was filled with the sewage" the initiated actions and report is submitted as follows:

In Kotturpuram and Gandhi Nagar of Depot 170 & 173, Three nos of outfall (Outfall ID AR 680, AR 683 & AR 687) have been identified along Adyar river. The rectification work was taken up by "Laying of interceptors and diversion of sewage (SWR 1&2) at Adyar and Kotturpuram from Chainage 2000 to 4000 Right Bank and allied works in Depot 170 & 173, Area XIII" under CRRT funds.

The works includes Interception and diversion arrangements from SWD, constructions of 51nos of Machine holes, laying gravity sewer main for a length of 1396m, construction of sewage pumping station, Laying of 150mm dia pumping main

for a length of 850m upto Kotturpuram Modular STP. The intercepted and diverted sewage is treated in the Kotturpuram Modular STP of 0.6 MLD capacity, which is also constructed under CRRT funds. All these works have been completed and put into operation since 22.11.2022.

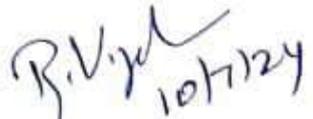
In the pretext, on 16.06.2024, the operation of I&D - SPS located at the Lock Street Jn. River View Road, Kotturpuram was affected due to electrical short circuit due to damages caused to incoming power supply cable at multiple locations. Temporary pumping arrangements were immediately made to restore the operations on 17.06.2024. The normal pumping operation were resumed on 20.06.2024 and maintained properly till date.

Under these circumstances, it was reported in an English News daily on 19.06.2024 that "Fish kill in the Adyar near eco-park points to sewage discharge going unchecked".

It is submitted that three Nos of sewage outfalls identified along Adyar river at the above location has been effectively plugged and diverted for collection, treatment and disposal through the Interception and diversion arrangements and only during the above incident, the I&D SPS went non functional. There are no such outflows existing now.

In future, necessary preventive measures will be taken up to avoid reoccurrence of it. It is humbly submitted that due to the above incident, no damages to the aquatic life or the flora/fauna were caused.

The above report is submitted for kind perusal.


10/7/24
Area Engineer XIII

Encl: Photos

CHENNAI RIVERS RESTORATION TRUST

Report on study of Pisces of Adyar Eco Park (Adyar Creek – Phase I) during the year 2024 -2025

The total estuarine area of Tamil Nadu was estimated to be 56000 ha, which accounts for 3.88% of the total estuarine area of India. In which, Adyar Creek and Estuary is one of the estuaries and brackish water wetlands in Chennai. Estuarine are important buffer zone as it is transition zone between freshwater environments and subject to marine influences such as tides, waves and influx of saline water, freshwater and sediments. Being a dynamic ecosystem, provide habitat for proliferation of diadromous and estuarine resident fish species to complete their life cycle. Also form a significant component of coastal ecosystem due to their immense biodiversity values in aquatic ecology.

Since, we have restored the urban coastal wetland in a phased manner, to observe and record the progress of eco-restoration success; we are conducting fish survey in the creek ecosystem every year during the month of June. Accordingly we have conducted a fish meta population study at the 58 Adyar Creek. Fish were caught by using gill nets, hook and line net by hiring fisherman and boatman. Eleven species belonging to Eleven Families were encountered over two days.

1. Family: Megalopidae - Indo-Pacific Tarpon *Megalops cyprinoides* (Broussonet)
2. Family: Anguillidae - Indian Shortfin Eel *Anguilla bicolor* McClelland
3. Family: Chanidae - Milk Fish *Chanos chanos* (Forsskal)
4. Family: Mugilidae - Flathead Mullet *Mugil cephalus* Linn.
5. Family: Carangidae - Scad *Caranx para* Cuiver
6. Family: Leiognathidae -Toothed Ponyfish *Gazza minuta* (Bloch)
7. Family: Gerridae - Common Mojarra *Gerres oyena* (Forsskal)
8. Family: Teraponidae -Target Perch *Terapon jarbua* (Forsskal)
9. Family: Cichlidae -Egyptian Mouthbreeder or Tilapia *Oreochromis mossambica* (Peters)
10. Family: Channidae - Striped Snake-head *Channa striatus* (Bloch)

As per the capture, we caught 10 species from 10 families and all of them in the storm water retention zone. The highlight of the fishing exercise was that 706 specimens were collected accounting for a total biomass of over 150 kg.



Though the alien invasive species *O. mossambica* dominated numerically, they accounted for a biomass of more than 120 kg (average weight per fish 140 g). One hundred and fourteen *M. cyprinoides* caught and this accounted for a biomass of more than 30 kg (average weight 160 kg). Another notable finding was an *estuarine fishes such as* Target perch, Whipfin Mojaro also caught and released back into the water body. *M. cyprinoides* and *O. mossambica* are the two dominant species recorded in the east of the spillway and accounted for the greater biomass (40 specimens weighing 28 kg at an average weight of 700 g each and the culled species was buried. Though, the water body is restored, bottom sediments may be accumulated with traces of pollutants. Hence, it was not suitable for consumption and the culled out samples has recommended to bury.

Plugged outfalls at the Adyar River between Kootupuram Bride to Thiru.Vi.Ka. Bridge



Electrical Repair works attended by CMWSSB at the Interceptor and Diverter

