

Item No. 13

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 1029/2019

(With report dated 06.02.2020)

In Re: Instagram BBC News with regard to **Coastal Pollution on Marina Beach, Chennai**

Date of hearing: 08.09.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent(s): Mr. Ram Shankar, Advocate for State of Tamil Nadu

ORDER

1. A factual and action taken report was sought from a joint Committee of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Municipal Corporation, Chennai and the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) with reference to news item on Instagram BBC News dated 03.12.2019 that there was huge collection of foam at Marina Beach, Chennai. Similar news items appeared in other papers, including the Indian Express.

2. Accordingly, report has been filed on 06.02.2020 by the joint Committee *inter-alia* stating as follows:-

“3. *The cause for the frothing of sea occurrence on 29.11.2019 may be due to the following reasons:*

i. Due to heavy rain, flow of the river is increased, which causes disturbance of bottom settled debris and sludge leads to froth formation due to high mixing/turbulence.

The indication of disturbance was confirmed by the settled debris in shore line.

ii. *The Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT) is carrying out de-silting of Adyar River due to which sediments (containing organic matter) would have reached sea which causes sea foaming.*

iii. *Analysis report shows variation in the water quality on the day of froth formation and normal day, which indicates mixing of rain water and sewage. **Chance of bypassing of untreated/partially treated sewage from Common Sewage Treatment Plants (CSTPs) of capacity 23 MLD, 54 MLD extension 1 & 40 MLD extension — 2 located at Nesapakkam operated by Chennai Metro Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) into River Adyar during the rainfall before the date of sea foam occurrence.***

4. *TNPCB shall monitor the Common Sewage Treatment Plants (CSTPs) of capacity 23 MLD, 54 MLD extension 1 & 40 MLD extension — 2 located at Nesapakkam operated by Chennai Metro Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and M/s. Pallavaram Tanners Industrial Effluent Treatment Company Limited, Tannery CETP effectively especially during rainy season so as to avoid recurrence of sea foam at the confluence point of River Adyar. Moreover, the flow meters installed at CSTPs shall be connected to TNPCB online monitoring system for effective monitoring.*

5. *Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB), New Delhi, in O.A.No.558/2018, 557/2018, 559/2018 & 556/2018 in the matter of pollution of rivers Adyar, Cooum & Buckingham Canal order dated 13.02.2019, constituted a joint committee comprising of representatives of CPCB, IISC-Bangalore, Madras School of Economics, NEERI and TNPCB to assess the cause and quantum of damage to the environment as well as further steps required for restoration of environment which are not covered in the action plan.*

6. *Moreover, Chennai River Restoration Trust (CRRT) Chairperson/Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu is reviewing the performance of the works carried out by the CRRT regularly. The action plan of the CRRT involves abatement of pollution, eviction of encroachments, plugging of sewer in-falls providing interceptors and diversion arrangements, modular sewage treatment plants, widening and deepening of waterways etc.”*

3. In view of the above, let the State PCB strictly monitor the sources of pollution, including the clandestine release of sewage or other effluents from STP/CETP, in coordination with other concerned authorities.

The application is disposed of.

A copy of this order be forwarded to the State PCB, the CPCB and the Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu by e-mail for further necessary action in the matter.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S. P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

September 08, 2020
Original Application No. 1029/2019
SN