

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE
BENCH AT CHENNAI**

OA No 259 OF 2020 AND OA No 2 OF 2021

**IN THE MATTER OF: NEWS ITEM IN EENADU TELUGU DAILY NEWS
PAPER ON 23.01.2024**

HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SUOMOTO)

.....Applicant

Vs

THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH & OTHERS

.....Respondent

REPORT FILED BY THE RESPONDENT - DISTRICT COLLECTOR, ELURU

DATE: 03.02.2024

**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

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**COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,
CHENNAI**

Original Application No 259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021

HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SUOMOTO)

.....Applicant

Versus

The State of Andhra Pradesh & Others

.....Respondent

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**COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU**

Report of the District Collector, Eluru District, Eluru in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 31.01.2024 in O.A. No.259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021 filed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal at Chennai (Suomoto).

I submit that in the reference 3rd cited, the Standing Counsel, National Green Tribunal, Chennai has informed that the O.A. No. 259 of 2020 and O.A. No. 2 of 2021 came up for hearing on 31.01.2024 on suomoto advance hearing based on a news item published in Enadu daily Telugu news paper on 23.01.2024 and the Hon'ble Tribunal directed the District Collector, Eluru to visit the concerned area and report the Court that any illegal fish ponding is happening in Pydichinthapadu Village as reported in Enadu daily Telugu news paper, before 05.02.2024 and the case is posted on 05.02.2024.

The main allegations in the adverse news published in Enadu Daily news paper on 23.01.2024 are a) illegal fish ponds are being dug in Kolleru Lake 2) Due to illegal fish ponds, the 'Kolleru' lake is being polluted and 3) Construction of regulators which was proposed to prevent the sea water into Kolleru lake to protect the agriculture land from salination effect is not yet started.

In obedience to the orders dated 31.01.2024 issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai, I have personally inspected the Kolleru lands in Pydichinthapadu Village, Eluru Rural Mandal on 03.02.2024 along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, Environmental Engineer, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Eluru and the Revenue Divisional Officer, Eluru.

I submit that, at the time of inspection, there is no illegal digging of fish ponds happening in Pydichinthapadu Village, Eluru Rural Mandal. In this connection, reports have been obtained from the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh have issued a draft preliminary notification declaring one third of Kolleru lake (2,25,000 acres or 90,100 ha upto +10 contour) as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.76, EFS&T


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(For.III) Dept, dated 25.09.1995. The Government have issued final notification of the sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.120, EFS&T (For.III) Dept., dated 04.10.1999. The Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over 9 Mandals, i.e., 8 Mandals in Eluru District and 1 Mandal in West Godavari District with an extent of 30,855.20 ha or 77,138 acres up to +5 feet contour MSL. Out of this 14861.33 Acres is privately owned patta lands.

Further with respect to the news item, the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru has reported as follows:

1. **The photo used in the news item is not related to Pydichintapadu area.**
2. Because of the high tide the water is turning into salty water in the lake.
3. It is already submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) that there are 17290 acres of land under illegal pisciculture. However in some areas, cases were registered multiple times since aquaculture activities were attempted in the same location every year. Accordingly, the area has been reconciled and arrived to an extent of 10111.16Acres. (Govt land: 7223.79Acres. Zeroyati land: 2887.37Acres).
4. The villagers tried to repair three times an old tank existing in government land in RS.Nos.333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338 and 341 adjacent to the village. Three cases were booked vide OR.No.18/2014-15, OR.No.38/2017-18 and OR.No.35/2018-19. Now also a case vide OR.No.29/2023-24, dt.23.01.2024 is booked when the villagers (Vaddi community whose livelihood is fishing) tried again in the mid night of 22.01.2024.
5. Two Eco Tourism spots namely Atapaka and Madhavapuram are developed to encourage tourism of birds getting revenue for the livelihood of the local people. Proposals for further Eco Tourism spots are being envisaged and identification process is undergoing.
6. The resurvey of Kolleru lake is under process with LiDAR instrument and the results are expected in a month or so.
7. Cases were booked and are being booked whenever encroachment attempts are made by the vested interests for fish tanks formation.
8. Patrolling by the protection staff like base camps, strike force and field staff is going on day to day relentlessly.


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9. It is not true that the staff are keeping quiet against the illegal fishing activities. They have booked nearly 670 cases against the encroachments in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary from 2006.

The DFO, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru has submitted the details of the Survey numbers attempted for encroachment in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary at Pydichintapadu as per news item published are shown below:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent in acres	Sy.No. Total in acres	Type of land	Nature of the land	Enjoyer
1	333-1	0.65		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
2	333-2	1.97		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
3	333-3	0.49		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
4	333-4	1.97	5.08	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
5	334-1	4.90		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
6	334-2	0.55	5.45	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
7	335-1	0.97		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
8	335-2	2.84	3.81	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
9	336-1	0.64		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
10	336-2	2.70	3.34	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
11	337-1	3.76		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
12	337-2	2.03	5.79	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
13	338-1	3.33		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
14	338-2	2.73	6.06	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
15	341	72.60	72.60	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
TOTAL EXTENT		102.13	102.13			

The date wise photos of patrolling by the Forest Department staff in the said locality are submitted for kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. As such, cases were booked against the persons attempted to dig illegal fishponds in Kolleru lake by the Forest Department officials, Eluru.

I further submit that, regarding the Pollution in Kolleru lake, the Environmental Engineer, Eluru District has submitted report as follows:


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A. Catchment Area:

The total catchment area of Kolleru Lake is 11,90,750 Acres. Out of which, the catchment area in upland area is 8,50,750 Acres and 3,40,000 Acres in delta area. Four rivers namely Budameru, Ramileru, Tammileru & Gunderu and drains in Krishna and Eluru Districts join the lake and the Upputeru drain is the only outlet from Kolleru Lake to the sea i.e., Bay of Bengal.

B. Action taken by APPCB:

APPCB is not issuing consents/permissions to any industry to discharge treated/untreated effluents to outside the industry premises or to any drains/canals within the radius of 10 KM from +5 contour of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. The Board is also not permitting any new industrial activities within the radius of 10 KM from +5 contour of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. Hence, no pollution due to industrial discharges.

C. Monitoring of water quality of Kolleru Lake and the drains joining into Kolleru Lake by APPCB

The APPCB has been monitoring the water quality of Kolleru Lake, the drains joining into the Lake and its outlet quarterly. The samples are tested for physio-chemical and bacteriological parameters.

Inference on drain points data:

- The average pH value in all the drains joining into the Kolleru lake are observed to be in the range of 7.03 to 8.10 over the period against the suggested range of 6.5 to 8.5. As per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, water quality is suitable for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- The average Dissolved Oxygen (DO) values in the major drains joining into Kolleru lake are observed to be in the range of 4.1 mg/l to 7.0 mg/l over the period. As per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, water quality is suitable for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries. The required DO value for propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries is 4.0 mg/l only.

Inference on Lake points data:

- The average pH values in the lake over the period are observed to be in the range from 7.2 to 8.0 as against the suggested range of 6.5 to 8.5 vide 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, indicating the water is suitable for propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- The average DO values, which were around 2 mg/l earlier (2010 to 2012), is observed to be improved to about 5.9 mg/l during the last 5 years (2015 to 2020) in the Kolleru Lake. The required DO levels for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries in the lake is 4.0 mg/l only


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as per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water.

- The analytical data is compared with CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria of surface water for designated best use and observed that it falls into Class-D, which indicates the water is suitable for propagation of wild life and fisheries.

The Environmental Engineer, APPCB has stated that, the APPPCD has been monitoring the Kolleru lake on regular basis. As per the findings of the analysis of water of drains as well as Lake water, no pesticide residues beyond standards was observed. Further, no industrial discharges are allowed in to Kolleru Lake. Further informed that the Hon'ble NGT disposed OA No.176 of 2019 on Kolleru lake pollution on 05.01.2021 with observation that no further orders appears to be necessary. The Hon'ble NGT observed that there is an improvement in the water quality of Kolleru lake waters in respect of pH and Dissolved oxygen (DO) when compared to CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria for designated water best uses of water, indicating the suitability of water in the lake for the propagation of wild life and fisheries, as per the regular monitoring carried out by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board". No industrial effluents are joining in to the Kolleru Lake and lake water is not the drinking water source to any village as it falls under Class-D as per CPCB Primary Water Quality criteria and is suitable for propagation of Wild Life & Fisheries only. It is also submitted that APPCB issued Notification of Award (NoA) dt: 09.11.2022 to M/s.CSIR- NEERI for conducting "Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru from pollution as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, Chennai".

Regarding the adverse news, the Environmental Engineer, APPCB, Eluru has reported that there is no water is existing in the said place of Paidichintalapadu village at the time of inspection on 03.02.2024 and no fish culture is noticed.

I also submit that, regarding construction of regulators to prevent the sea water into Kolleru lake, the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Eluru has reported as follows:

The Upputeru River is the only water way connecting Kolleru Lake with Bay of Bengal in West Godavari District and Krishna District. It takes off from the lake in two arms knows as Perantala Kanuma and Juvvi Kanuma.


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These two arms after flowing to a length of 9.60 km joins together near Dumapagadapa village and there after it is known as Upputeru. It confluences with Bay of Bengal after traveling a total distance of 64.0 km (39/8 miles) at Chinagollapalem village limits of Krishna District. The Upputeru River almost meanders into an acute serpentine bend before it joins into the Sea. About 67 minor, medium and Major drains of both Krishna and West Godavari Districts joins Kolleru with their total catchment area of 5235 sq.km and the estimated discharge inflows into the lake is about 1,10,920 cusecs, which is to be drained off into the sea through the only outlet Upputeru. with a catchment area of 1267 Sq. Miles (Both Upland and Deltaic Catchment). The lake was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in November 1999 under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and designated a wetland of international importance in November 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention. The wildlife sanctuary covers an area of 308 Sq. km (Ac.75,680).

A Straight Cut (an artificial channel) was excavated from the Upputeru River at Km. 46.70 (M 29/0) near Chinnagollapalem village limits of Krishna District to connect with sea Mouth (Bay of Bengal) for length of 4.30 Km to discharge flood water carrying capacity of 20,000 Cusecs from Kolleru lake and other drains in the year 1977. The capacity of Upputeru is inadequate to discharge the drain waters from kolleru lake during floods as a result water level in the lake rises several feet and remain high for long periods causing serious damage to crops and property in large extent adjacent to the lake.

After devastating floods in 1964, an expert committee on floods headed by sri A.C.Mithra has studied the problems in depth and made certain recommendations to mitigate the inundation problem. Mitra committee in the report indicated that presented tides from the sea travel along up to about M 20/0 during floods and up to M 7/0 during season with proposed increase in the capacity of Upputeru, it is likely that the tides might travel higher up particularly at times when the lake level is low and it is not entirely inconceivable that there might even enter in to the lake there by adversely


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effecting the adjoining lands due to salinity. The committee that in case the tides are found to travel beyond road bridge of Akividu construction of Regulator with Navigation lock at suitable place on Upputeru may have to be considered before carrying out second phase of the programme.

The primary purpose of construction of regulators across upputeru is to prevent sea water in to kolleru lake and also to maintain pond level in kolleru at +1.524 M thus protecting the agricultural land in kolleru lake from salination effect.

A review meeting was conducted on "Kolleru lake" with irrigation and Forest Department Officials Conducted by Sri Satish Chandra, IAS, Special chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Andha Pradesh at Velagapudi on 04.12.2018 and instructed to submit the estimates for construction of Regulators on Upputeru. And a meeting was conducted by the District Collector, West Godavari District, Eluru on Construction of Regulators on Upputeru River on 27/8/2019 in District collector meeting hall along with Member of Parliament, Eluru (M.P) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Member of Legislative Council (MLC) and Irrigation officers of Krishna and West Godavari Districts. Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, and Eluru has explained about the necessity and various committee proposals on construction of regulators. The Hon'ble public representative has opined that the construction of regulators on Upputeru River can prevent ingress of salinity in to the Kolleru lake. The proposed locations of the Regulators on Upputeru River are inspected by the Expert committee on 30.06.2021.

The Government vide Go.Ms. No. 63 dated 02.12.2020 and Go.Ms. No. 05, 27.01.2021 has formed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as a 100% State owned company under water resources department under the companies act 2013, in the name and style of **Andhra Pradesh - Krishna Kolleru Salinity Mitigation Projects Corporation Limited (AP-KKSMPL)** for construction of


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6 no's of projects with capital outlay of INR 2952 Crores (approx.) and more projects can be added in future based on requirement. In which it is proposed for construction of 3 regulators on Upputeru River.

Further Government vide **Go. Rt. No. 103, 23-03-2021** has Constituted an Expert committee for identification of exact location of regulators. The Expert Committee was constituted with the following members to identify the exact location for the regulators as mentioned further progress of work and explore the technical issues and recommend remedial measures.

1. Chief Engineer, Central Design Organization, Vijayawada.
2. Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada.
3. Sri M.Giridhar Reddy, CE/CDO (Retd.) Advisor, Designs, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
4. Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Dowlaiswaram-convener.

The Technical Expert committee has inspected the site on 30.06.2021. keeping the view of hydrological, Socio-Economic and Environmental aspects, the committee vide their inspection notes had Proposed the location of Regulators as follows.

1. Regulator near Dumpagadapa (V) is at Km. 10.560 with Co-ordinates **16°34'40"N & 81°20'50"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.
2. Regulator on Upputeru Straight Cut is at Km. 1.400 with Co-ordinates **16°22'51.65"N & 81°28'45.89"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.
3. Regulator on Upputeru River is at Km. 57.950 (M 36/0) with Co-ordinates **16°22'3.44"N & 81°33'14.10"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.


— **COLLECTOR,**
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Accordingly the estimates were submitted to Government for according administrative approval. Government has accorded administrative approval for the three proposed regulators as follows:

S. No	Name of the work	Administrative approval in Crores	Reference to the GO
1	Construction of Regulator across Upputeru at km 10.560 near Dumpagadapa (v) in Akividu(M), W.G.Dt	87.00	Go. Rt. No. 361 dt: 22.02.2022
2	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru straight cut at km 1.400 in pedatadika village limits	136.60	Go. Rt. No. 361 dt: 22.02.2022
3	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru river at km 57.950 (M36/0) in Mollaparru village limits	188.40	Go. Rt. No 362, dt:22.02.2022

Further it is to submit that as per the instructions of the higher authorities, the above three works are clubbed into a single estimate as "Construction of 3 Regulators across Upputeru river under Kolleru Salinity Mitigation Project" and the estimate amount is arrived to **Rs.412.00 Crores** with SoR 2021-22. Tenders were invited 2 times during July, 2022 but no bidder was participated in the Tender process.

Therefore, The Engineer in Chief(I), Vijayawada has instructed to update the said estimates with current SSR for the year 2022-23 and accord technical sanction, If it is with in the Administrative Sanction. Otherwise the Estimates are to be submitted to Government for Revised Administrative Sanction. Based on the instructions of the Engineer in Chief(I), Vijayawada, the said estimates were prepared with the SSR 2022-23 and submitted to the Government vide Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Dowlaiswaram Lr No 17 Govt Dt 15.03.2023 for **Rs.469.60 Crores** for according necessary Revised Administrative Approval.


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Further, vide Memo No 506/2022 Dt 04.05.2023 the Government have returned the Proposals and instructed to resubmit the individual revised estimates duly comparing with the sanctioned provisions and the Provisions provided in the estimated. Based on the instructions of the Government, the said estimates were prepared with the current SSR 2023-24 as bellow:

S.No	Name of the work	Estimate in Crores
1	Construction of Regulator across Upputeru at km 10.560 near Dumpagadapa (v) in Akividu(M) ,W.G.Dt	98.00
2	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru straight cut at km 1.400 in pedatadika village limits	158.50
3	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru river at km 57.950 (M36/0) in Mollaparru village limits	216.00

The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Eluru has reported that the above estimates were submitted to the Government for Rs.**472.50 Crores** for obtaining necessary Revised Administrative Approval. Accordingly, the allegation published in the adverse new item that no action is being taken to construct regulators to prevent the sea water into Kolleru lake is not at all correct.

I humbly submit that, the Forest Department officials have booked cases against the persons attempted to dig fish tanks on 22.01.2024 mid night. Further, the AP Pollution Control Board is taking adequate measures to protect the Kolleru lake from the Pollution. I also submit that the Irrigation Department submitted estimates to the Government to construct the regulators to prevent the salt water into Kolleru Lake. As such the allegations published in adverse news item in Enadu daily Telugu news paper on 23.01.2024 is not correct and I further submit that the Forest Department officials have been instructed to arrange more patrolling teams to prevent illegal activities in +5 Contour of Kolleru Lake and to take stringent action against such persons in accordance with Law.


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The above facts may kindly be considered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and pass suitable orders as deemed fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

The photographs captured during my inspection and the reports submitted by the DFO, Wildlife, Eluru, the E.E., APPCB, Eluru and the S.E., Irrigation Circle, Eluru are herewith submitted for kind perusal of the Hon'ble Tribunal.


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**Field visit photos of the Collector & District Magistrate,
Eluru District, Eluru on 03.02.2024.**



**Collector, Eluru inspecting the Tank where the Forest department has
filed a case for attempting illegal repairs of the tank covered
under Wild Life Sanctuary**




**COLLECTOR,
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Collector, Eluru interacting with the villagers not to make attempts for forming bunds within the sanctuary area.




**COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU**

PATROLLING TEAM PHOTOS WITH GEO COORDINATES

23-01-24 night



23-01-24 night



23-01-24 night



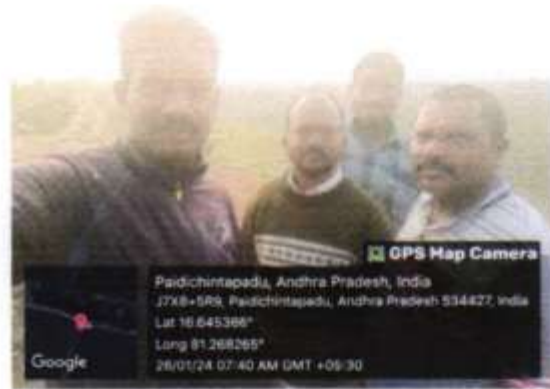
23-01-24 night



27-01-24 day



26-01-24 day



29-01-24 day



27-01-24 day



M
**COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU**

28-01-24 day



29-01-24 day



26-01-24 day



27-01-24 day



31-01-24 Night



M
COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU

01-02-24 Night



30-01-24 Night



02-02-24 Night



29-01-24 Night



02-02-24 Night



31-01-24 day



03-2-24 day



02/02/24 Morning day


**COLLECTOR,
ELURU DISTRICT, ELURU**

Item No.11 (i) & (ii):-

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No.259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No.02 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt. 09.12.2020, "Andhra town Eluru hit by 'mystery' illness, Traces of lead, nickel in blood samples", News item in The Time of India, Newspaper Dt. 08.12.2020, "Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in Andhra Pradesh" & News item in NDTV, dt. 09.12.2020, "Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with Mystery illness in Andhra"

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, "Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) "Mystery illness raises Concerns over Kolleru Pollution"

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 31.01.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.259/2020:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R7.

O.A. No.02/2021:

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R8.

ORDER

1. There was a news item published in Eenadu, a Telugu Daily dated 23.01.2024 alleging that in Chandralapadu Mandal, the land is being levelled within the Kolleru Ramsar site to create fish ponds in violation of the orders passed by this Tribunal as well as the Hon'ble High Court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
2. Let the District Collector inspect the site personally, file a report and take appropriate action if any violations are noticed.

3. Let the matter be listed on 05.02.2024.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.259/2020 (SZ)
O.A. No.02/2021 (SZ)
31st January 2024. Mn.



**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From
Sri S. Ravishankar, SFS.,
Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Management Division,
Eluru.

To
✓ The Collector & District Magistrate,
Eluru District,
Eluru.

Rc.No.1360/2022/WL-O, dt.03.02.2024

Sir,

Sub : KOLLERU – Adverse news published in Eenadu daily on 23.01.2024 captioned as "KOLLERUNU KOLLAGODUTHUNNARU!" – Submission of field visit report – Reg.,

Ref : 1. Instructions of the Collector and District Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru, dt.01.02.2024.
2. Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management, Eluru Rc.No.26/2024, dt.03.02.2024.

* * * * *

In obedience to the reference 1st cited, I am directed to submit a field visit report on adverse news published in Eenadu daily on 23.01.2024 captioned as "KOLLERUNU KOLLAGODUTHUNNARU!" regarding any illegal fish ponding happening at Pydichintapadu village reported in the news paper.

In this connection I submit that the Government of Andhra Pradesh have issued a draft preliminary notification declaring one third of Kolleru lake (2,25,000 acres or 90,100 ha upto +10 contour) as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.76, EFS&T (For.III) Dept, dated 25.09.1995. The Government have issued final notification of the sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.120, EFS&T (For.III) Dept., dated 04.10.1999. The Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over 9 Mandals, i.e., 8 Mandals in Eluru District and 1 Mandal in West Godavari District with an extent of 30,855.20 ha or 77,138 acres up to +5 feet contour MSL. Out of this 14861.33 Acres is privately owned patta lands.

With respect to the news item I submit the following points of field visit today i.e., on 03.02.2024:

1. The photo used in the news item is not related to Pydichintapadu area.

2. Because of the high tide the water is turning into salty water in the lake.
3. It is already submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) that there are 17290 acres of land under illegal pisciculture. However in some areas, cases were registered multiple times since aquaculture activities were attempted in the same location every year. Accordingly, the area has been reconciled and arrived to an extent of 10111.16 Acrs. (Govt land: 7223.79 Acrs. Zeroyati land: 2887.37 Acrs).
4. The villagers tried to repair three times an old tank existing in government land in RS.Nos.333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338 and 341 adjacent to the village. Three cases were booked vide OR.No.18/2014-15, OR.No.38/2017-18 and OR.No.35/2018-19. Now also a case vide OR.No.29/2023-24, dt.23.01.2024 is booked when the villagers (Vaddi community whose livelihood is fishing) tried again in the mid night of 22.01.2024.
5. Two Eco Tourism spots namely Atapaka and Madhavapuram are developed to encourage tourism of birds getting revenue for the livelihood of the local people. Proposals for further Eco Tourism spots are being envisaged and identification process is undergoing.
6. The resurvey of Kolleru lake is under process with LiDAR instrument and the results are expected in a month or so.
7. Cases were booked and are being booked whenever encroachment attempts are made by the vested interests for fish tanks formation.
8. Patrolling by the protection staff like base camps, strike force and field staff is going on day to day relentlessly.
9. It is not true that the staff are keeping quite against the illegal fishing activities because they have booked nearly 670 cases against the encroachments in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary from 2006.

Following are the details of the Survey numbers attempted for encroachment in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary at Pydichintapadu as per news item published:

Sl. No.	Sy.No.	Extent	Sy.No. Total	Type of land	Nature of the land	Enjoyer
1	333-1	0.65		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
2	333-2	1.97		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
3	333-3	0.49		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
4	333-4	1.97	5.08	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
5	334-1	4.90		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
6	334-2	0.55	5.45	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
7	335-1	0.97		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
8	335-2	2.84	3.81	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
9	336-1	0.64		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
10	336-2	2.70	3.34	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
11	337-1	3.76		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
12	337-2	2.03	5.79	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
13	338-1	3.33		Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
14	338-2	2.73	6.06	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
15	341	72.60	72.60	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
TOTAL EXTENT		102.13	102.13			

I submit few date wise photos of patrolling by the staff for favour of kind notice. (enclosed).

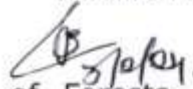
In the light of this, the above facts pertaining to the forest department may kindly be submitted to the National Green Tribunal, Chennai by the benign Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru.

This is submitted for favour of information and necessary action.

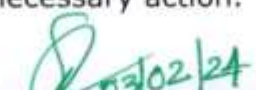
Yours faithfully,

 03/02/24

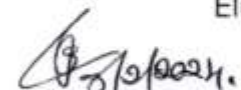
Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Management Division
Eluru

 03/02/24

Copy submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram for favour of information and necessary action.

 03/02/24

Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Management Division
Eluru

 03/02/24

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,
CHENNAI**

Original Application No 259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021

HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SUOMOTO)

.....Applicant

Versus

The State of Andhra Pradesh & Others

.....Respondent

Report of the Forest Department


**Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Management Division
Eluru**

Status report of A.P. Forest Department (Wildlife Management Division, Eluru) in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated.XXXXXXXXXX in O.A. No. 259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021 filed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal at Chennai (Suomoto).

It is humbly submitted that O.A.No.259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021 is taken cognizance by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal at Chennai as Suomoto case regarding Adverse news published in Eenadu Telugu daily news on 23.01.2024 captioned as "KOLLERUNU KOLLAGODUTHUNNARU!"

In this connection I submit the following report of the Forest Department in the capacity of Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru.

Government of Andhra Pradesh have issued a draft preliminary notification declaring one third of Kolleru lake (2,25,000 acres or 90,100 ha upto +10 contour) as Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.76, EFS&T (For.III) Dept, dated 25.09.1995. The Government have issued final notification of the sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.120, EFS&T (For.III) Dept., dated 04.10.1999. The Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over 9 Mandals, i.e., 8 Mandals in Eluru District and 1 Mandal in West Godavari District with an extent of 30,855.20 ha or 77,138 acres up to +5 feet contour MSL. Out of this 14861.33 Acres is privately owned patta lands.

Further with respect to the news item, I submit the following points of field visit today i.e., on 03.02.2024:

1. The photo used in the news item is not related to Pydichintapadu area.
2. Because of the high tide the water is turning into salty water in the lake.
3. It is already submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) that there are 17290 acres of land under illegal pisciculture. However in some areas, cases were registered multiple times since aquaculture activities were attempted in the same location every year. Accordingly, the area has been reconciled and arrived to an extent of 10111.16 Acrs. (Govt land: 7223.79 Acrs. Zeroyati land: 2887.37 Acrs).

4. The villagers tried to repair three times an old tank existing in government land in RS.Nos.333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338 and 341 adjacent to the village. Three cases were booked vide OR.No.18/2014-15, OR.No.38/2017-18 and OR.No.35/2018-19. Now also a case vide OR.No.29/2023-24, dt.23.01.2024 is booked when the villagers (Vaddi community whose livelihood is fishing) tried again in the mid night of 22.01.2024.
5. Two Eco Tourism spots namely Atapaka and Madhavapuram are developed to encourage tourism of birds getting revenue for the livelihood of the local people. Proposals for further Eco Tourism spots are being envisaged and identification process is undergoing.
6. The resurvey of Kolleru lake is under process with LiDAR instrument and the results are expected in a month or so.
7. Cases were booked and are being booked whenever encroachment attempts are made by the vested interests for fish tanks formation.
8. Patrolling by the protection staff like base camps, strike force and field staff is going on day to day relentlessly.
9. It is not true that the staff are keeping quiet against the illegal fishing activities because they have booked nearly 670 cases against the encroachments in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary from 2006.

Following are the details of the Survey numbers attempted for encroachment in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary at Pydichintapadu as per news item published:

Sl. No.	Sy.No.	Extent in acres	Sy.No. Total in acres	Type of land	Nature of the land	Enjoyer
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15	341	72.60	72.60	Government	GAYALU	KOLLERU WLS
TOTAL EXTENT		102.13	102.13			

Further I submit date wise photos of patrolling by the staff in that said locality for favour of kind notice of Hon'ble NGT.



23-01-24 night



23-01-24 night



24-01-24 night



23-01-24 night



28-01-24 day



26-01-24 day



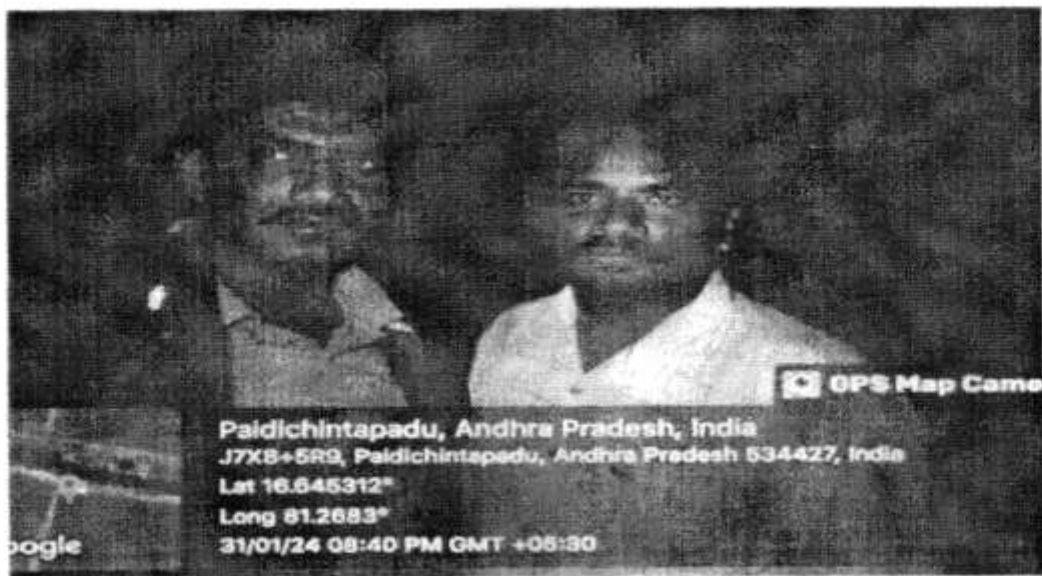
29-01-24 day



27-01-24 day



31-01-24 night



01-02-24 night



29-01-24 night



02-02-24 night



29-01-24 night



02/02/24 Morning



02/02/24 Morning



02/02/24 Morning



02/02/24 Morning

Field visit photo of the Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru on 03.02.2024.



Latitude: 16.645421
Longitude: 81.268175
Elevation: 4.92±12 m
Accuracy: 8.7 m
Time: 03-02-2024 10:44

In the light of this, the above facts pertaining to the forest department may kindly be submitted to the National Green Tribunal, Chennai by the benign Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru.

This is submitted for favour of information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


03/02/24
Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Management Division
Eluru

Copy submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram Circle, Rajamahendravaram for favour of information and necessary action.


03/02/24
Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Management Division
Eluru

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,
CHENNAI**

Original Application No 259 of 2020 and OA No 2 of 2021

HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SUOMOTO)

.....Applicant

Versus

The State of Andhra Pradesh & Others

.....Respondent

Report of the A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Eluru**

The Scenario of Kolleru lake

A. Catchment Area:

The total catchment area of Kolleru Lake is 11,90,750 Acres. Out of which, the catchment area in upland area is 8,50,750 Acres and 3,40,000 Acres in delta area. Four rivers namely Budameru, Ramileru, Tammileru & Gunderu and drains in Krishna and Eluru Districts join the lake and the Upputeru drain is the only outlet from Kolleru Lake to the sea i.e., Bay of Bengal.

B. Action taken by APPCB:

APPCB is not issuing consents/permissions to any industry to discharge treated/untreated effluents to outside the industry premises or to any drains/canals within the radius of 10 KM from +5 contour of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. The Board is also not permitting any new industrial activities within the radius of 10 KM from +5 contour of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. Hence, no pollution due to industrial discharges.

C. Monitoring of water quality of Kolleru Lake and the drains joining into Kolleru Lake by APPCB

The APPCB has been monitoring the water quality of Kolleru Lake, the drains joining into the Lake and its outlet quarterly. The samples are tested for physio-chemical and bacteriological parameters.

Inference on drain points data:

- The average pH value in all the drains joining into the Kolleru lake are observed to be in the range of 7.03 to 8.10 over the period against the suggested range of 6.5 to 8.5. As per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, water quality is suitable for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- The average Dissolved Oxygen (DO) values in the major drains joining into Kolleru lake are observed to be in the range of 4.1 mg/l to 7.0 mg/l over the period. As per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, water quality is suitable for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries. The required DO value for propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries is 4.0 mg/l only.

Inference on Lake points data:

- The average pH values in the lake over the period are observed to be in the range from 7.2 to 8.0 as against the suggested range of 6.5 to 8.5 vide 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water, indicating the water is suitable for propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- The average DO values, which were around 2 mg/l earlier (2010 to 2012), is observed to be improved to about 5.9 mg/l during the last 5 years (2015 to 2020) in the Kolleru Lake. The required DO levels for the propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries in the lake is 4.0 mg/l only as per the 'CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria' for designated best uses of water.

The analytical data is compared with CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria of surface water for designated best use and observed that it falls into Class-D, which indicates the water is suitable for propagation of wild life and fisheries.

APPCB has been monitoring the Kolleru lake on regular basis. As per the findings of the analysis of water of drains as well as Lake water, no pesticide residues beyond standards was observed.

Further, no industrial discharges are allowed in to Kolleru Lake. Further informed that the Hon'ble NGT disposed OA No.176 of 2019 on Kolleru lake pollution on 05.01.2021 with observation that no further orders appears to be necessary. The Hon'ble NGT observed that there is an improvement in the water quality of Kolleru lake waters in respect of pH and Dissolved oxygen (DO) when compared to CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria for designated water best uses of water, indicating the suitability of water in the lake for the propagation of wild life and fisheries, as per the regular monitoring carried out by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board".

No industrial effluents are joining in to the Kolleru Lake and lake water is not the drinking water source to any village as it falls under Class-D as per CPCB Primary Water Quality criteria and is suitable for propagation of Wild Life & Fisheries only.

It is also submitted that APPCB issued Notification of Award (NoA) dt: 09.11.2022 to M/s.CSIR-NEERI for conducting "Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru from pollution as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, Chennai".

It is submitted that there is no water is existing within said news item accused place of Paidichintalapadu village at the time of inspection on 03.02.2024 and no fish culture is noticed.

Submitted.

Yours faithfully,



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

D. No. 33-26-14D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Centre,
Chalamalavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520 010
Phone. No. 0866-2463200, Website: www.pcb.ap.nic.in

NOA No. APPCB-12023/2/2021-SS-CL-APPCB - 569 09/11/2022

// Notification of Award //

To
The Director,
CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI),
Nehru Marg, Vasant Nagar,
Nagpur-440020,
Maharashtra.

Sir,

Kind attention: Dr. Shaik Basha, Scientist & Head, CSIR-NEERI, Hyderabad

Sub	APPCB – LAB – Notification of Award for conducting “Comprehensive Scientific Study” to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru from pollution as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, Chennai - Issued to CSIR - National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) - Reg.
Ref:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon'ble NGT, Chennai Order, dated 03.01.2022 in O. A. No.259 of 2020 and 02 of 2021. EFS & T Dept., Govt. of AP Lr. No. EFS01-ENV/29/2020-SEC-I, dated 08.03.2022. APPCB Lr. No. APPCB-12023/2/2021-SS-CL-APPCB/54, dated 25.04.2022. CSIR-NEERI Lr. No. HZC/APPCB-KL/2022/372, dated 21.06.2022.

1. Introduction:

It is to inform that Hon'ble NGT, Chennai in its Order, dated 03.01.2022 in O.A. Nos. 259 of 2020 and 02 of 2021, vide reference 1st cited, directed the Government of Andhra Pradesh to conduct Comprehensive Scientific Study in order to protect the water body and remove the encroachments and hand to over the entire area to the Forest Department, so as to maintain the lake area in the wildlife sanctuary in an effective manner and to make the lake pollution free.

The EFS & T Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) to entrust the above study to CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur or any other reputed institute, vide reference 2nd cited.

Accordingly, APPCB has requested CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur to submit the proposals to

APPCB for conducting Comprehensive Scientific Study to save the Kolleru lake, vide reference 3rd cited.

In response, CSIR-NEERI, Hyderabad Zonal Centre has submitted the proposals for carrying out Comprehensive Scientific Study to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland, vide reference 4th cited.

2. Award of work order:

After careful examination of the proposals submitted by CSIR-NEERI, vide reference 4th cited, APPCB is herewith issuing the Notification of Award to CSIR-NEERI for conducting "Comprehensive Scientific Study" to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland" with the following objectives, scope & methodology, deliverables and terms & conditions:

3. Title of the study:

"Comprehensive Scientific Study" to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru from encroachments and pollution.

4) Objectives:

- 4.1) To delineate the Kolleru wildlife sanctuary and demarcate the Kolleru lake on Survey of India toposheet.
- 4.2) To identify the notified and unnotified drains entering the Kolleru lake.
- 4.3) To identify the various contaminants entering the lake through drains.
- 4.4) To assess the biodiversity status of the Kolleru wildlife sanctuary and Kolleru lake.
- 4.5) To assess the environmental impact and delineate the measures to save the Kolleru lake and wildlife sanctuary catchment area.
- 4.6) To make an assessment for suggesting safe distances for establishment of Red, Orange, Green and White category industries from the +5 contour of Kolleru lake.

5) Scope of Work and Methodology:

- 5.1) Demarcation of the Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru lake along with the notified and un-notified drains and outlet to the lake on the Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale.
- 5.2) Reconnaissance survey of the Sanctuary, lake and surrounding area shall be carried out to understand the status of the lake and the surrounding land use pattern.
- 5.3) Collection and analysis of secondary data from all sources like APPCB,

Irrigation & Forest department, Fisheries Department, etc.

5.4) Preliminary site assessment includes background data collection, site reconnaissance and drainage survey.

5.5) Inventory of potential contaminant sources of all the drains shall be prepared by carrying out preliminary investigation of the sanctuary and lake, topographic survey.

5.6) Collection of water & sediment samples in two seasons, post and pre monsoon seasons from (a) all the notified & other drains joining the lake, (b) existing lake (in adequate numbers) and (c) outlet of the lake and analysing for physico-chemical parameters like, pH, BOD, COD, DO, TOC, TDS, Phosphates, Nitrates, microbiological parameters like, E-Coli, Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform & Fecal Streptococci, organo-chloro & organo-phosphorus pesticide residues, antibiotic residues and metals such as As, Be, Cd, Cr, Pb, Co, Cu, Fe, Hg, Mn, Mo, Ni, Sb, Sc, Se, Ti, V and Zn.

5.7) Quantification of the drains entering the lake.

5.8) The water samples shall also be collected for analysis of phytoplankton and zooplankton diversity.

5.9) The sediment samples to be collected and assessed for the benthic fauna.

5.10) Collection of soil samples at representative locations and analysis for physico-chemical parameters like pH, EC, texture, bulk density, particle density, porosity, water holding capacity, soluble cations & anions, SAR, organic carbon, available N, P, K and heavy metals.

5.11) The whole study shall be carried out for the +5 contour of the Sanctuary and lake.

5.12) To delineate the environmental measures to be identified based on the contamination assessment, if any.

5.13) To study the baseline environmental data and examine the feasibility of permitting industries viz., White / Green / Orange / Red as per CPCB classification, 2016 within 10 km radius from +5 contour of Kolleru lake duly identifying the environmental impacts.

5.14) To envisage environmental changes in biodiversity in and around the lake (+5 contour) level.

5.15) Assess the biodiversity (flora and fauna) and attributes of study area around the proposed site.

5.16) Literature review and collation of secondary data relevant to the study area.

5.17) Primary data collection and establishment of baseline environmental status of the study area.

5.18) The baseline information of physical information of the lake and visual inspection of the flora and fauna in the project area.

6) Contract value of the study:

Total contract value of the study shall not exceed Rs. 70,20,000/- (rupees seventy lakhs and twenty thousand only). GST will be extra as applicable at the time of execution of the study.

7. Period of the study:

The study shall be completed in twelve (12) months period including submission of final report to APPCB as detailed below:

7.1) The post monsoon season water, sediment, soil, etc. quality monitoring shall be carried out during the year, 2022.

7.2) The pre monsoon season water, sediment, soil, etc. quality monitoring shall be carried out during the year, 2023.

7.3) The draft report of the study shall be submitted to APPCB by the end of September, 2023 and the CSIR-NEERI team shall make a power point presentation to the expert committee consisting of members of concerned stakeholders.

7.4) The CSIR-NEERI shall incorporate the suggestions and recommendations made by the expert committee in the report. The final report completed in all respects shall be submitted to APPCB not later than 31.12.2023.

8) Payment terms:

8.1) 40% of the contract value will be released towards advance to start the work.

8.2) 25% of the contract value will be released to the institute after successful completion of first phase water quality monitoring during post monsoon season, 2022.

8.3) 25% of the contract value will be released to the institute after successful completion of second and final phase water quality monitoring during pre monsoon season, 2023.

8.4) Balance 10 % of the contract value will be released after acceptance of final report.

9. Submission of final report:

The final report complete in all respects shall be submitted not later than 31.12.2023.

10) Deliverables:

10.1) Assessment of the status and measures to save Kolleru wild life sanctuary and Kolleru Wetland from pollution.

10.2) Recommendations on the safe distances for establishment of Red, Orange, Green and White category industries from the +5 contour of Kolleru lake duly identifying the environmental impacts.

11) General terms & conditions:

11.1) Retain such amounts from the payment due and payable by APPCB to the Institute as may be required to offset any losses caused to the Board as a result of such event of default and the Institute shall compensate the Board for any such loss, damages or other costs, incurred by the Board in this regard. Nothing herein shall affect the continued obligation of the Institute / other members of its team to perform all their obligations and responsibilities under this contract in an identical manner as were being performed before the occurrence of the default.

11.2) APPCB reserves the right to recover such costs / losses and other amounts from the Institute that may have resulted from such default and pursue such other rights and / or remedies that may be available to the Board under law.

11.3) The Member Secretary, APPCB, Vijayawada reserves himself the right to cancel the contract at any stage, if the Institute was found noncompliance of the terms & conditions and objectives of the entrusted study.

11.4) APPCB shall reserve the right to inspect and verify the progress of the study at any time during the project tenure with prior information. Institute shall provide the information regarding the progress of the project, accordingly.

11.5) Physico-chemical analysis of all the samples pertaining to the study shall be carried out in a NABL accredited and having Environmental Laboratory recognition under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The facilities shall be made available for the verification of APPCB, if required. Letter of authorizations / agreements / MoU / acceptance, etc. entered between CSIR-NEERI and Laboratories concerned shall be provided to APPCB.

11.6) The CSIR-NEERI shall have his own equipment / instruments for conducting the said studies. Transportation of required equipment / instruments for carrying out monitoring, safety during monitoring & storage, rents for buildings, electricity charges, installation expenses, including accommodation charges incurred shall be borne by the Institute. APPCB will not be providing any assistance or help to the Institute in supplying of equipment or laboratory services or manpower or in any other form.

12) Force Majeure:

12.1) The Institute shall not be liable for any penalization or termination of the contract for default, if and to the extent that its delay in performance or other failure to perform its obligations under the Contract is the result of an event of Force Majeure.

12.2) For purposes of this clause "Force Majeure" means an event beyond the control of the Institute and not involving the Institute's fault or negligence and not foreseeable. Such events may include, but are not restricted to, acts of the State Government in its sovereign capacity, wars or revolutions, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions and freight embargoes.

12.3) If a Force Majeure situation arises, the Institute shall promptly notify the Board in writing of such condition and the cause thereof. Unless otherwise directed by APPCB in writing, the Institute shall continue to perform its obligations under the Contract as far as is reasonably practical, and shall seek all reasonable alternative means for performance not prevented by the Force Majeure event.

13) Disputes & Jurisdiction:

This contract is between APPCB and the CSIR-NEERI and shall be governed by the Laws of India and under this contract shall be taken by the parties only in Andhra Pradesh to competent jurisdiction.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the Notification of Award and acceptance of the same for conducting "Comprehensive Scientific Study" to save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru from pollution as per the terms & conditions stipulated therein, may please be communicated to APPCB within seven (7) days from the date of receipt of the same.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Kumar Gsrkr Ias
Secretary To Government

Note on Construction of 3 Regulators across Upputeru river

Upputeru River is the only water way connecting Kolleru Lake with Bay of Bengal in West Godavari District and Krishna District. It takes off from the lake in two arms known as Perantala Kanuma and Juvvi Kanuma. These two arms after flowing to a length of 9.60 km joins together near Dumapagadapa village and there after it is known as Upputeru. It confluences with Bay of Bengal after traveling a total distance of 64.0 km (39/8 miles) at Chinagollapalem village limits of Krishna District. The Upputeru River almost meanders into an acute serpentine bend before it joins into the Sea. About 67 minor, medium and Major drains of both Krishna and West Godavari Districts joins Kolleru with their total catchment area of 5235 sq.km and the estimated discharge inflows into the lake is about 1,10,920 cusecs, which is to be drained off into the sea through the only outlet Upputeru. with a catchment area of 1267 Sq. Miles (Both Upland and Deltaic Catchment). The lake was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in November 1999 under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and designated a wetland of international importance in November 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention. The wildlife sanctuary covers an area of 308 Sq. km (75,680 Ac.).

A Straight Cut (an artificial channel) was excavated from the Upputeru River at Km. 46.70 (M 29/0) near Chinnagollapalem village limits of Krishna District to connect with sea Mouth (Bay of Bengal) for length of 4.30 Km to discharge flood water carrying capacity of 20,000 Cusecs from Kolleru lake and other drains in the year 1977. The capacity of Upputeru is inadequate to discharge the drain waters from kolleru lake during floods as a result water level in the lake rises several feet and remain high for long periods causing serious damage to crops and property in large extent adjacent to the lake.

After devastating floods in 1964, an expert committee on floods headed by sri A.C.Mithra has studied the problems in depth and made certain recommendations to mitigate the inundation problem. Mitra committee in the report indicated that presented tides from the sea travel along up to about M 20/0 during floods and up to M 7/0 during season with proposed increase in the capacity of Upputeru, it is likely that the tides might travel higher up particularly at times when the lake level is low and it is not entirely inconceivable that there might even enter in to the lake there by adversely effecting the adjoining lands due to salinity. The committee that in case the tides are found to travel beyond road bridge of Akividu construction of Regulator with Navigation lock at suitable place on Upputeru may have to be considered before carrying out second phase of the programme.

The primary purpose of construction of regulators across upputeru is to prevent sea water in to kolleru lake and also to maintain pond level in kolleru at +1.524 M thus protecting the agricultural land in kolleru lake from salination effect.

A review meeting was conducted on "Kolleru lake" with irrigation and Forest Department Officials Conducted by Sri Satish Chandra, IAS, Special chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Andha Pradesh at Velagapudi on 04.12.2018 and instructed to submit the estimates for construction of Regulators on Upputeru. And a meeting was conducted by the District Collector, West Godavari District, Eluru on Construction of Regulators on Upputeru River on 27/8/2019 in District collector meeting hall along with Member of Parliament, Eluru (M.P) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Member of Legislative Council (MLC) and Irrigation officers of Krishna and West Godavari Districts. Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, and Eluru has explained about the necessity and various committee proposals on construction of regulators. The Hon'ble public representative has opined that the construction of regulators on Upputeru River can prevent ingression of salinity in to the Kolleru lake. The proposed locations of the Regulators on Upputeru River are inspected by the Expert committee on 30.06.2021.

The Government vide Go.Ms. No. 63 dated 02.12.2020 and Go.Ms. No. 05, 27.01.2021 has formed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as a 100% State owned company under water resources department under the companies act 2013, in the name and style of **Andhra Pradesh - Krishna Kolleru Salinity Mitigation Projects Corporation Limited (AP-KKSMPL)** for construction of 6 no's of projects with capital outlay of INR 2952 Crores (approx.) and more projects can be added in future based on requirement. In which it is proposed for construction of 3 regulators on Upputeru River.

Further Government vide **Go. Rt. No. 103, 23-03-2021** has Constituted an Expert committee for identification of exact location of regulators. The Expert Committee was constituted with the following members to identify the exact location for the regulators as mentioned further progress of work and explore the technical issues and recommend remedial measures.

1. Chief Engineer, Central Design Organization, Vijayawada.
2. Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada.
3. Sri M.Giridhar Reddy, CE/CDO (Retd.) Advisor, Designs, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
4. Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Dowlaiswaram-convener.

The Technical Expert committee has inspected the site on 30.06.2021. **keeping the view of hydrological, Socio-Economic and Environmental aspects, the committee vide their inspection notes had Proposed the location of Regulators as follows.**

1. Regulator near Dumpagadapa (V) is at Km. 10.560 with Co-ordinates **16°34'40"N & 81°20'50"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.
2. Regulator on Upputeru Straight Cut is at Km. 1.400 with Co-ordinates **16°22'51.65"N & 81°28'45.89"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.
3. Regulator on Upputeru River is at Km. 57.950 (M 36/0) with Co-ordinates **16°22'3.44"N & 81°33'14.10"E**. The exact location can be shifted slightly, few meters U/s or D/s, during construction depending on sub surface explorations, geological formations for foundations and design considerations.

Accordingly the estimates were submitted to Government for according administrative approval. Government has accorded administrative approval for the three proposed regulators as follows:

S.No	Name of the work	Administrative approval in Crores	Reference to the GO
1	Construction of Regulator across Upputeru at km 10.560 near Dumpagadapa (v) in Akividu(M) ,W.G.Dt	87.00	Go. Rt. No. 361 dt: 22.02.2022
2	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru straight cut at km 1.400 in pedatadika village limits	136.60	Go. Rt. No. 361 dt: 22.02.2022
3	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru river at km 57.950 (M36/0) in Mollaparru village limits	188.40	Go. Rt. No 362, dt:22.02.2022

Further it is to submit that as per the instructions of the higher authorities, the above three works are clubbed into a single estimate as "Construction of 3 Regulators across Upputeru river under Kolleru Salinity Mitigation Project" and the estimate amount is arrived to **Rs.412.00 Crores** with SoR 2021-22. Tenders were invited 2 times during July,2022 but no bidder was participated in the Tender process.

Therefore, The Engineer in Chief(I), Vijayawada has instructed to update the said estimates with current SSR for the year 2022-23 and accord technical sanction, If it is with in the Administrative Sanction. Otherwise the Estimates are to be submitted to Government for Revised Administrative Sanction. Based on the instructions of the Engineer in Chief(I), Vijayawada, the said estimates were prepared with the SSR 2022-23 and submitted to the Government vide Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Dowlaiswaram Lr No 17 Govt Dt 15.03.2023 for **Rs.469.60 Crores** for according necessary Revised Administrative Approval.

Further, vide Memo No 506/2022 Dt 04.05.2023 the Government have returned the Proposals and instructed to resubmit the individual revised estimates duly comparing with the sanctioned provisions and the Provisions provided in the estimated. Based on the instructions of the Government, the said estimates were prepared with the current SSR 2023-24 as bellow:

S.No	Name of the work	Estimate in Crores
1	Construction of Regulator across Upputeru at km 10.560 near Dumpagadapa (v) in Akividu(M) ,W.G.Dt	98.00
2	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru straight cut at km 1.400 in pedatadika village limits	158.50
3	Construction of Regulator cum bridge cum lock on Upputeru river at km 57.950 (M36/0) in Mollaparru village limits	216.00

The above estimates were submitted to the Government for **Rs.472.50 Crores** for obtaining necessary Revised Administrative Approval.

Abhinav
For Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle, Eluru

Cle
04/02/2024