

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER DATED 12/01/2022 PASSED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (WZ), PUNE IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 68/2021 (WZ) TITLED AS VANSHAKTI & ANR VS. MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI & ORS.**

The Minutes of first meeting of joint committee constituted for compliance of the order dated 12.01.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (WZ), Pune in Original application No. 68/2021 (WZ) titled as Vanshakti & Anr Vs. Municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai & Ors was held on 16/02/2022, circulated to all joint committee members for concurrence and upon receipt of concurrence, the same was finalized. Further, addendum for the first meeting of the joint committee was considered w.r.t. detailed deliberation of ToR of joint committee for the proposed action plans and suggestions made by the joint committee members were confirmed.

Second meeting of the joint committee was held on 07/03/2022 at MCGM Headquarter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Hall Annex Building, Head Office, CSMT-Mumbai. List of participants present in the aforesaid joint committee meeting is given at **Annexure-I**.

Shri. P. Velrasu, IAS, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Project) welcomed all the joint committee members, invitee participants and briefed about historical background of Powai Lake and the present concerned issues as below;

Powai Lake is a manmade lake, constructed in the year 1891 and the Lake water was polluted since begging. Hence it was declared as unfit for drinking purpose in the year 1893. Further, mentioned that the Lake water is being used only for industrial uses and cattle sheds. He pointed out that discharge of untreated sewage from the surrounding areas into the Powai Lake through 19 no. of culverts causing the pollution problems and growth of water hyacinth.

He highlighted the major corrective measures taken by the MCGM for intercepting the discharge of sewage from the surrounding areas into the Powai Lake and subsequent diversion of such intercepted sewage into existing sewerage network and treatment at Bhandup STP (comprising of aerated lagoons). Also, informed that MCGM has proposed to construct a cycle/walking track around the periphery of the lake. The total length of cycle/walking track is about 10 Km. He further, mentioned that a PIL has been filed by Shri Omkar Supekar before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, PIL no. 23928 of 2021, Omkar Supekar & Anr. Vs MCGM & Ors. regarding the proposal of construction of cycle/walking track project by the MCGM, which is pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay.

As per the suggestion given by the joint committee member i.e. Smt. Nidhi Chaudhary, District Collector, Mumbai Suburban District during the first joint committee meeting which was held on 16/02/2022; Shri Pankaj Joshi, Consulting Architect, MCGM made a presentation before the joint committee regarding the proposed project of cycle/walking track around the periphery of Powai Lake and also highlighted about various measures taken by MCGM for rejuvenation of Powai Lake. Accordingly, the joint committee heard the presentation made by MCGM.

He informed that the proposed cycle/walking track shall be constructed by using gabion technology. Further, highlighted about the works carried-out by MCGM w.r.t. interception of sewage entering into Powai Lake and diverting into existing sewerage network for treatment at Bhandup STP.

He highlighted about the initiatives taken by MCGM for rejuvenation of Powai Lake viz. installation of new mobile barge mounted sub surface aerator,(introduced in May 2019); installation of 06 no. of real time monitoring stations for monitoring of dissolved oxygen ; installation of 04 no. of jet fountains; installation of 07 no. of jet flow aerators (installed 05 nos. & 02 nos. are in progress) and also water hyacinth removal by means of mechanical operation.

Meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the dais.

Thereafter, in compliance to the aforesaid Hon'ble NGT order dated 12/01/2022, the joint committee visited the Powai Lake along with the MCGM officials. Accordingly, based on the preliminary information shared by the MCGM and followed by site visit; the joint committee made the following observations and findings, which are given as below.

1. MCGM has provided total 19 no. of culverts along the periphery of Powai Lake for regulation of storm water in and around Adi Shankaracharya Road and Peruwadi area into Powai Lake, which serves a main recharge of water to Powai Lake.
2. As per the survey carried-out by MCGM during 2016, it was estimated that about 10.9 MLD of sewage is being entering into Powai Lake through the aforesaid 19 no. of culverts and also through some of the natural drains, from the adjoining areas viz. Adi Shankaracharya Road, Peruwadi slum pockets, NITE campus and IIT campus etc.
3. Erstwhile due to non-availability/non-installation of STP for treatment of sewage generated from the surrounding areas of Powai Lake, situated along the Adi Shankaracharya Road, Peruwadi slum pockets, NITE campus and IIT campus,

which were directly entering into the Powai Lake. Later, MCGM initiated intercepting the sewage coming from Adi Shankaracharya Road and diverted into existing sewerage network for treatment at Bhandup STP, comprising of aeration lagoons. However, MCGM has not quantified the sewage being diverted into Bhandup STP. Further, as informed by MCGM officials due to ongoing metro rail project work on the Adi Shankaracharya Road, sewerage header lines were damaged, as a result the sewage is being entering into Powai Lake through the culverts meant for the regulation of storm water.

Besides, this MCGM has initiated intercepting sewage generating from Perubaug slum pockets and NITE campus @ 4.14 MLD and diverting into newly commissioned sewage pumping station (established in May, 2021) at Peruwadi, which is being presently discharged into Mithi River without treatment. As informed, MCGM is in process of commissioning of new 8 MLD STP at Powai, which is expected to be made operational w.e.f. June, 2022. The sewage generating from the aforesaid locations viz. Perubaug slum pockets and NITE campus are proposed to be treated in the new 8 MLD STP.

4. Out of 19 no. of culverts, 15 no. of culverts were found with sewage ingress into the Powai Lake especially from the areas located along Adi Shankaracharya Road, partly from Perubaug area and major quantity of sewage is being entering into Powai Lake through the IIT campus @ 2.2 MLD, reportedly generated from the slum pockets situated upstream of IIT campus.
5. Mobile barge mounted sub surface aerator, jet fountains, jet flow aerators and mechanical water hyacinth removal machine was in operation.

**Decisions:**

After detailed discussions, following decisions were taken by the joint committee.

- a) Commissioner – MCGM was requested to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate among various intra department for collection and dissemination of information to the joint committee. Accordingly, Shri Rajesh Tamhane, Deputy Hydraulic Engineer was appointed as a nodal officer for coordination.
- b) MCGM to provide the zonal map of sewerage network of the areas around Powai Lake including the area in sq-km covered with and without sewerage network for each ward-wise/area-wise and status of its connectivity to STP for treatment if any; Details on action plan for establishment of sewerage network for un-sewered area and its connectivity to STP for treatment including diversion of sewage from sewered area into STP for treatment.

- c) MCGM to carry-out the detailed reconnaissance survey for identification of locations and estimation of present quantity of sewage being flowing into Powai Lake through the existing culverts and natural drains if any;
- d) MCGM to carryout reconnaissance survey to quantify water consumption, sewage generation, mode of conveyance/existing sewerage network and treatment provided by IIT campus (including hostel campus).
- e) Connectivity and dissemination of real time monitoring results of DO levels of Powai Lake at public domain i.e. website of MCGM.

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**Annexure-I**

<b>S. no.</b>	<b>Name of the participants</b>	<b>Department</b>
1.	Shri P. Velrasu, IAS Additional Municipal Commissioner (Project),	MCGM, Mumbai
2.	Shri Suresh Kumar Adapa, Scientist 'E'	MoEF&CC, Nagpur
3.	Shri Nishchal C., Scientist 'D'	CPCB, Regional Directorate - Pune
4.	Shri Padmakr Rokade, SDO, Representative of District Collector, Mumbai Suburban District	District Collectorate, Govt. of Maharashtra
5.	Shri Narendra Toke, Director	Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra
6.	Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Regional Officer	MPCB Regional Office, Mumbai
7.	Shri Rajesh Tamhane, Deputy Hydraulic Engineer	MCGM, Mumbai
8.	Officers from MCGM	MCGM, Mumbai