

MINUTES

795th MEETING

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AUTHORITY-TAMIL NADU**

Date: 13.02.2025 & 17.02.2025

**MINUTES OF THE 795th MEETING OF THE STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 13.02.2025 & 17.02.2025.**

Agenda No	Description	File No.	Minutes
a)	Confirmation of the minutes of the 794th meeting of the Authority held on 12.02.2025.		The minutes of the 794th meeting of the Authority held on 12.02.2025 was confirmed.
1.	Existing Medical College & Hospital Buildings at S.F. No. 35/1,2,3,63/2,64/1A & 1B2 in Numbal village, Ambattur Taluk, Tiruvallur District Tamil Nadu by M/s. A.C.S. Medical College & Hospital – Environmental clearance under violation notification dated: 08.03.2018 of MoEF & CC – Regarding. (SIA/TN/MIS/225908/2021 Dt. 22.8.2021)	226	<p>The proposal was placed in the 795th Authority meeting held on 13.02.2025 & 17.02.2025.</p> <p>The authority noted the following:</p> <p>i) Earlier, the proposal was placed in 565th authority meeting held on 31.10.2022 and 622nd Authority meeting held on 26.05.2023. The authority noted that the subject was appraised in 320th SEAC meeting held on 13.10.2022. SEAC has furnished its recommendations for granting Environmental Clearance subject to the conditions stated therein.</p> <p>After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to request the Member Secretary, SEIAA to inform the proponent to furnish the following particulars as recommended by SEAC in the Minutes of 320th SEAC Meeting held on 13.10.2022.</p> <p>1. Accordingly, the amount prescribed for Ecological remediation (Rs.35.86 lakhs), Natural resource</p>


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		<p>augmentation (14.344 lakhs). & Community resource augmentation (Rs.21.516 lakhs), totaling Rs.71.72 Lakhs. Hence the SEAC decided to direct the project proponent to remit the amount of Rs.71.72 Lakhs in the form of a bank guarantee to Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board and submit acknowledgment of the same to SEIAA-TN. The funds shall be utilized for the ecological damage remediation plan, Natural resource augmentation plan & Community resource augmentation plan as indicated in the EIA/EMP report.</p> <p>2. The proposed CER amount of Rs. 121.72 lakhs shall be spent as committed before the issue of Environmental Clearance and the proof for the same shall be submitted to SEIAA-TN.</p> <p>3. The project proponent shall submit proof of the action taken by the state Government/TNPCB against the project proponent under the provisions of section - 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as per the EIA Notification dated: 14.03.2017 and amended 08.03.2018.</p> <p>ii) The project proponent is yet to submit the above details</p>
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			<p>mentioned in the 565th SEIAA meeting.</p> <p>iii) Meanwhile, the project proponent vide letter dated.31.01.2023 has requested as follows:</p> <p><i>“..... Therefore. we kindly request your good office to consider our environmental clearance/ Consent to operate for our Educational Institutions in the name of ACS Medical College its Hospital and Hostel having built-up area of 78,103 sq.m under schedule 8(a) to EIA Notification 2006, constructed based on the notification S.O.5736 (E) dated.15.11.2018 of MoEF&CC as exempted category to get prior environmental clearance at an early date and do the needful....”</i></p> <p>iv) Further, the project proponent has again submitted a request letter dated.17.05.2023 to the O/o SEIAA-TN on 19.05.2023 stating as follows:</p> <p><i>“..... Therefore in continuation of our representation dated.31.01.2023 we would submit this further submissions towards</i></p>
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our project of building construction of Educational Institution of Medical College, Hostels, and Hospital, etc to impose and to comply the conditions as per SELAA minutes of meeting dated.31.10.2022 cannot be insisted and based on our earlier representation and this submissions consider our project Environmental Clearance/ Consent to operate without insisting remedial measures and action against alleged violation as mentioned in the 565th minutes of meeting of SELAA and do the needful..”

V) Now The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone, Chennai, has issued its judgment in O.A. No. 07 of 2022 (SZ), concerning environmental violations by ACS Medical College and hospital. The applicant, Meenava Thanthai K.R. Selvaraj Kumar Meenavar Nala Sangam, raised concerns over the hospital's operation without obtaining prior Environmental Clearance (EC), Consent to Establish, and Consent to Operate under the applicable environmental laws.


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		<p>The applicant also alleged improper biomedical waste disposal, illegal groundwater extraction, and the absence of a functional Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The Tribunal found that the hospital, which falls under Category 8(a) of the EIA Notification, 2006, had been operating since 2008 without obtaining mandatory EC. The project proponent had applied for EC in 2009 but failed to pursue it and continued construction and operation without clearance.</p> <p>The hospital later attempted to regularize its status by applying under the 'violation' category. However, the Tribunal held that exemptions granted to educational institutions under S.O. 3252(E) dated 22.12.2014 did not extend to hospital components, making prior EC mandatory. The judgment also highlighted findings from the Joint Committee and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), which confirmed violations. The hospital lacked proper sewage treatment, discharged untreated effluents into open areas, and failed to obtain authorization under the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016. Additional</p>
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			<p>unauthorized construction was also observed.</p> <p>Based on these violations, the Tribunal directed SEIAA-TN and TNPCB to compute and recover environmental compensation from the hospital, ensuring that funds are used for ecological damage remediation and community resource augmentation. Further, the Tribunal clarified that under the Hon'ble Supreme Court's interim order in Fatima vs. Union of India (06.01.2025), pending applications for ex-post facto EC may be processed but no final orders granting approval can be issued. Consequently, the hospital's application for EC can be reviewed, but operations will continue to be considered in violation of environmental laws until compliance is achieved.</p> <p>In this regard, now the proposal was placed in this 795th Authority meeting on 13.02.2025 & 17.02.2025. After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to forward to SEAC.</p>
2.	Proposed Development of Industrial Park with Industrial Housing Facility over an extent of 215.834 Ha (533.11 Acres) at Soorapoondi Village S.F.Nos. 65/1, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189/1, 190, 192, 213pt, 214pt, 215,	9263	The subject was placed in this 795 th meeting of SEIAA held on 13.02.2025 & 17.02.2025. The Authority noted the following:


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<p>216, 217, 218pt, 219pt, 220pt, 221pt, 227/1pt, 227/2pt, 227/3pt, 228/1pt, 228/2pt, 228/3pt, 235pt & Vaniamallee Village S.Nos. 31/1, 31/2, 31/3, 31/4, 31/5, 31/6, 36, 38/1, 41/3, 41/4, 41/12, 41/20, 142/1, 175/2, 175/3, 175/4, 176/1, 176/2, 176/3, 177, 178/1, 179, 180/1, 180/2, 180/3, 180/4, 180/5, 180/6, 181/1, 181/2, 181/3, 181/4, 182, 183, 184, 185, 188/2, 188/3, 188/4, 188/5, 189/1, 189/2, 189/3, 189/4, 197/2, 198/1, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203/1, 204/10, 205/2, 206, 207/1, 207/2, 207/3, 207/4, 207/5, 207/6, 207/7, 207/8, 207/9, 208/1, 208/2, 208/3, 208/4, 208/5, 208/6, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213pt, 214pt, 215, 216, 217/1, 218pt, 219pt, 221pt, 222pt, 223pt, 225pt, 226pt, 228/1 of Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited - Environmental Clearance issued - NGT direction .</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental Clearance was issued to M/s SIPCOT Ltd. for the development of Industrial Park at Soorapoondi village and Vaniamallee village at Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu vide EC Identification No. EC24B3813TN5100474N dated 22.04.2024. 2. Subsequently, a case was filed at Hon'ble NGT (SZ) against EC granted SIPCOT by the residents of Manallur and Sanaputhur villages vide Appeal No. 46 of 2024 (SZ). 3. Now, Hon'ble NGT (SZ) pronounced its judgement vide order dated 28.01.2025. 4. The Tribunal observed that SIPCOT had segmented the project into different phases, thereby avoiding a Cumulative Impact Assessment. It noted that the previous EC granted on 10.11.2020 for a similar project in a nearby location was kept under abeyance by the Tribunal in an earlier judgment dated 13.09.2022. 5. Additionally, the Tribunal noted that SIPCOT had not sufficiently considered alternative sites for the project, as the decision to locate the industrial estate was made even before assessing environmental suitability. It concluded that the failure to conduct a
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		<p>proper cumulative impact assessment undermines the validity of the EC and justifies its suspension.</p> <p>6. Therefore, the Hon'ble NGT order dated 28.01.2025 finally states that,</p> <p><i>".....33. Therefore, in our view the Environmental Clearance grant without an appropriate cumulative impact assessment would require a reconsideration when already the earlier Environmental Clearance granted on 10.11.2020 is before the MoEF&CC for reconsideration. It would be open to the project proponent to combine the impugned project also with that and take a cumulative study. If the project proponent has proposal to have a phase-III of the project, it would be appropriate for the SIPCOT to apply for the said project also, and conduct a cumulative impact assessment which would avoid segmentation. After the study is conducted, the commencement of the project may be implemented in a phased manner.</i></p> <p><i>34. In fine, the impugned Environmental Clearance dated 22.02.2024 is kept under abeyance and it is open to the project proponent to conduct a cumulative study and apply before the MoEF&CC and obtain a prior Environmental Clearance.</i></p>
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		<p>35. Accordingly, the appeal [Appeal No. 46 of 2022(SZ)] is disposed of.”</p> <p>The Authority, after carefully examining the judgement, decided to forward the proposal to SEAC.</p> <p>On receipt of view of SEAC, MS-SEIAA may write to SIPCOT to take necessary action as directed by Hon’ble NGT.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>M/s. Synthite Industries Pvt. Ltd - (W.P. No. 22608 of 2025)</p> <p>The matter concerns M/s. Synthite Industries Pvt. Ltd., which has filed a Writ Petition (W.P. No. 22608 of 2025) before the Hon'ble Madras High Court, challenging the requirement to obtain an Environmental Clearance (EC) for the manufacture of certain products.</p> <p>The central issue for consideration is whether the proponent requires prior EC under the EIA Notification, 2006, for the production of Synthetic Mustard Oil, Synthetic Garlic Oil, and Synthetic Onion Oil. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has classified these products under Category 5(f) of the EIA Notification, 2006, which includes synthetic organic chemicals, and has directed the proponent to obtain prior EC. TNPCB referenced a similar case where the SEIAA Gujarat issued EC to a project proponent in 2020.</p> <p>However, the proponent argues that their industry primarily deals with food-based products and should not be classified under synthetic organic chemicals. The petitioner also cites clarifications from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and previous approvals granted under different categories. Given the ambiguity surrounding categorization and the technical complexity of the issue, it is requested that the matter be referred to the SEIAA for clarification on whether the project proponent requires EC.</p> <p>This approach will ensure an informed decision based on expert evaluation. The outcome can then be communicated to the counsel for presentation before the Hon'ble Madras High Court. The matter was discussed in the 795th Authority meeting held on 13.02.2025 and 17.02.2025. After detailed deliberation, the Authority decided to refer the matter to SEAC for its input on whether the project proponent requires EC.</p>	



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