



ABSTRACT

Forests - Announcement for the year 2025-2026 - Establishment of Marine Elite Force at Chennai Wildlife Division for the amount of Rs.96.00 lakh during the year 2025-2026 - Orders – Issued.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.13) Department

G.O.(Ms.) No. 136

Dated: 22.07.2025

விசுவாச - ஆடி 6,
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு -2056

Read:

From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,
Chennai – 32, Letter No.WL6/7310/2025, Dated 26.05.2025

ORDER :

During the Budget Session of 2025-2026, the Hon'ble Minister for Forests has made the following announcement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 28.03.2025.

"Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to conservation of its marine resources. To protect its marine biodiversity, Government will set up a Marine Elite Force for Chennai coast".

2. Based on the above announcement, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has stated that establishment of Marine Elite Force under the Chennai Wildlife Division is essential to strengthen protection and monitoring of Tamil Nadu's ecologically sensitive coastal and marine habitats. This initiative will significantly improve the conservation of endangered marine species, particularly olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and support the safeguarding of other marine megafauna such as dolphins, dugongs and other marine species especially protected under various schedules of Wildlife Protection act 1972. The region between Neelankarai and Marina is a globally recognized nesting habitat for olive ridley turtles but faces increasing anthropogenic threats, necessitating immediate intervention.

In the months of January and February 2025, the Chennai coast recorded an alarming increase in olive ridley turtle mortalities with carcasses frequently washing ashore. These incidents may be largely attributed to bycatch in mechanized fishing nets

and trawlers, marine debris and plastic ingestion, unregulated coastal development, pollution, climate change etc. These threats underline the urgency to strengthen marine wildlife protection and provide round-the-clock patrolling, surveillance and enforcement capacity along the Chennai coast.

Objectives of the Marine Elite Force

- Ensure zero tolerance for illegal fishing and wildlife crimes in turtle and other marine species hotspots (particularly in the area within five nautical miles from the coast).
- Strengthen real-time response mechanisms for stranded, injured or dead marine species.
- Enhance coastal patrolling and surveillance during critical nesting and hatching periods (November to April).
- Support enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in marine species hotspots (particularly turtle congregation zones).
- Inter-departmental coordination with various stakeholders such as Tamil Nadu Coastal security group, Indian Coast Guard, fisheries department, fishermen associations, NGOs etc.
- Promoting research in the areas of marine species conservation.
- Engage in awareness creation and community outreach for participatory conservation.

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in olive ridley turtle mortalities along the Chennai coast.
- Enhanced enforcement illegal trawling and poaching.
- Rapid response to marine strandings and injuries.
- Improved data collection for research and conservation.
- Active community participation in marine protection .
- Better coordination among enforcement, research and community stakeholders.

The creation of a Marine Elite Force under the Chennai Wildlife Division is both a timely and strategic conservation measure. It will substantially enhance Tamil Nadu's capacity to protect its marine heritage and fulfil international commitments under biodiversity conventions.

3. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and accord sanction for the amount of Rs.96,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Six Lakh) towards Setting up of Marine Elite Force at Chennai Wildlife Division during the year 2025-2026. The component-wise cost details is annexed to this order.

4. The expenditure sanctioned in para 3 above shall be debited to the following head of account:-

| Sl. No. | Component | Head of Account | Amount (in Rupees) |
|---------|--|---|--------------------|
| | | 2406 FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE - 02 Environmental Forestry and Wildlife – 110 Wildlife Preservation State's Expenditure - AS - Marine Elite Force. | |
| 1. | Awareness Campaign | 308 – Advertising and Publicity 01 - Advertisement Charges | 2,00,000 |
| 2. | Procurement of marine modern tools | 319 – Machinery and Equipment's 01 - Purchase | 16,20,000 |
| 3. | Purchase of deep water boats | 321 – Motor Vehicles 01 – Purchase | 20,00,000 |
| 4. | Intelligence collection, data sharing with stake holders | 333 – Payment for professional and Special services 03 – Special Services | 2,00,000 |
| 5. | Salary for Marine Watchers and Boat Drivers | 333 – Payment for professional and Special Services 04 – Contract Payment | 19,80,000 |
| 6. | Fuel for patrolling boats | 345 - Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant 01- Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant | 36,00,000 |
| | | Total | 96,00,000 |

5. The expenditure sanctioned in para 3 above shall constitute an item of “ New Instrument Service” and the approval of the Legislature shall be obtained in due course of time by an inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2025-2026. Pending approval of the Legislature, the expenditure may be initially met by drawl of an advance from the Contingency Fund. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden is directed to calculate the actual amount required for the period upto next Supplementary Estimates and apply for sanction of the same as advance from the contingency Fund to Finance (BG-I) Department directly in Form “A” appended to the Contingency Fund rules, 1963 along with a copy of this order. Orders for sanction of an advance from the Contingency Fund will be issued from Finance (BG-I) Department. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden shall also send necessary draft explanatory notes for inclusion of this expenditure in the Supplementary Estimates for the year 2025-2026 to the Government in Finance (AHDF & FW/BG-I) Department at an appropriate time without fail.

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6. This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide e-file No. 809/Finance(AHDF&FW)/2025, Dated: 22.07.2025 and Additional Sanction Ledger No.0840 (Eight Hundred and Forty).

(IFHRMS ASL No. 2025070840)

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

(Head of Forest Force),

Chennai – 600 032.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden,

Chennai - 600 032.

The Principal Accountant General, Chennai – 600 018.

The Pay Accounts Officer, Chennai – 600 009.

Copy to :-

The Special Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister
(Finance & Environment, Climate Change), Chennai – 600 009.

The Special Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister
(Forests), Chennai – 600 009.

The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department,
Chennai – 600 009.

The Finance (Environment, Climate Change and Forest) Department,
Chennai – 600 009.

The Environment, Climate Change and Forest (FR.7) Department,
Chennai – 600 009.

Stock File/Spare Copy.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER //

S. Mohamed Yusuf
Section Officer. 22/7/2025
22/07/2025

Annexure to G.O (Ms) No. 136,
Environment, Climate Change and Foersts (FR.13) Department,
Dated. 22.07.2025

Cost details for Establishment of Marine Elite Force for strategic protection of the coastal and marine biodiversity, prevention of Wildlife poaching and illegal trade in coastal regions for Chennai Wildlife Division during the year 2025-2026.

| Sl. No | Component | Qty | Per Month / Nos | Amount sanctioned for the year 2025-2026 (Rs.in lakh) |
|--|--|-----|-----------------|---|
| Protection and Enforcement infrastructure | | | | |
| 1. | Salary for Marine Watchers and boat helper @ Rs.15,000/- per month. | 5 | 15000/ Month | 9.00 |
| 2. | Salary for Marine Boat Drivers @ Rs.15,000/- per month. | 6 | 15000/ month | 10.80 |
| 3. | Special Allowance and Risk Allowance. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Ration for Marine Watchers, Boat Drivers, and Helper. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Purchase of new boat / modification of existing boats with customization for each of 2 Elite Force Unit with well equipped accessories (Totally 4 boats for 2 elite force) | 1 | each | 20.00 |
| 6. | Fuel for Patrolling Boats @ 750 liters per month / boat (750x12=9000 liters) (9000 liters / year x Cost of Fuel, Rs.100/- = Rs 9,00,000/-) | 4 | 12 months | 36.00 |
| 7. | Annual maintenance / modification of existing boats and engines | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8. | Animal rescue, release and postmortom operation along with related expenditure per year.. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Providing suitable Marine field gadgets such as life jackets, camera traps, IR cameras, underwater drones, scuba diving equipment and snorkeling equipment, oxygen masks, underwaterwalk equipment, underwater monitoring equipment, including another surveillance system, modern tools and AMCs. | LS | - | 10.00 |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----|-----|--------------|
| 10. | Digital Handheld Transceivers for Communication (4 Nos x 30,000) | 4 | Nos | 1.20 |
| 11. | Providing of Camping equipments such as night lamp, Underwater torches & flares, tents, foldable table and stools, chairs, GPS, Body cams, Night vision binoculars, Waterproof Binoculars, Thermal Imaging Devices, Portable Weather Station, Satellite. (2 Nos x 2,50,000) | 2 | Nos | 5.00 |
| 12. | Rescue and Enforcement equipment like Rescue stretchers (waterproof), First Aid & Trauma Kits, Hand mic, Portable Audio System, Net guns and tranquilizer equipment (for marine fauna), Handheld GPS & digital compasses and Portable Desalination Units. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 13. | Marine Tactical Uniform (quick dry, UV-resistant) Field dress, Waterproof tactical boots, Tactical Backpacks (dry bags) and raincoats for Marine Elite Force Watcher, boat drivers and helpers. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 14. | Intelligence collection and data sharing and interaction meeting with other stakeholders i.e. customs, coast guard, navy, marine police, and fisheries in India and other countries etc. | LS | Nos | 2.00 |
| 15. | Providing Laptops with internet facilities, printers, Home UPS setup. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 16. | Providing bikes for patrolling in the coastal stretches. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| 17. | Documentation of the scheme works, Publication. | LS | Nos | 2.00 |
| 18. | Other contingencies. | - | 0 | 0.00 |
| | Total | | | 96.00 |

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//True Copy //

S. Mohamed Yunus 22/7/2025
Section Officer
22/7/2025