

Water recharge, clean energy projects nearing completion

Good progress in restoring temple tanks, installing solar panels on rooftops

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Six projects taken up under the Smart City Mission will be completed this month, which will result in improving groundwater recharge and promotion of clean energy, officials said.

The projects include restoration of 35 waterbodies, 15 temple tanks, pedestrianised streets, solar rooftop panels and street parking. Work on restoration of 85% of the 32 waterbodies has been completed at an estimated cost of ₹5.85 crore.

Using Smart City funds, the Greater Chennai Corporation began the restoration process last year and the work will be completed by the end of this month, officials said.

Over 90% of work on restoration of temple tanks in 15 locations have been completed. The work in Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal and



Almost ready: The restoration process began last year and will be completed by the end of this month. ■ FILE PHOTO

Peyazhvar temple, Saidapet, was delayed owing to traffic police restrictions, civic officials said.

Clearance delayed

The clearance was received from the executive officer only in April. But the work order was issued last year.

The others include Ganga-deeswarar temple, Purasawalkam, and Virupacheeswarar temple in Mylapore.

“The restoration is ex-

pected to improve ground water recharge in the neighbourhoods of Ayanavaram, George Town, Mylapore, Purasawalkam, Kaladipet and Saidapet,” an official said.

Solar panels on rooftops have been installed in 87% of the 662 buildings of the Chennai Corporation, at an estimate of ₹24 crore.

“The work will be completed this month,” an official said.

The Corporation imple-

mented this so that it would own the assets. The project was delayed as renewable energy service companies rejected the public-private partnership (PPP) mode, pointing to the small solar power capacity of Corporation buildings.

A few major buildings such as Ripon Buildings and Communicable Diseases Hospital have higher solar power capacity. Most of the buildings have a solar power capacity of 1-12 KW. Solar rooftop projects have been commissioned in more than 100 buildings in each of the zones of Tiruvottiyur, Tondiarpet, Royapuram, Thiruvika Nagar, Teynampet, Kodambakam and Alandur.

Similarly, work on 90% of the pedestrianised roads at 23 locations has been completed at ₹19 crore.

“All these projects will be completed this month,” an official said.