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Corporation plans to buy new amphibian equipment

[Shruti Suresh](#) | TNN | Updated: Dec 10, 2018, 09:46 IST



Corporation workers clean the water hyacinth at Velachery lake
CHENNAI: Waterways free of floating plastic bags, devoid of
odour and

[sewage](#)

are rare in the city but the Chennai

[corporation](#)

is planning to make it a reality by procuring

[amphibian equipment](#)

to clean smaller water bodies.

Tenders have been flated to buy an amphibian equipment, a mini-amphibian, and three more robotic excavators. As the civic body is going through a fund crunch, the allotment under the Swachh Bharat Mission ([SBM](#)) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) will be used, a source in the civic body said. “By April, we should be able to get them,” said an official.

An amphibian is capable of efficiently removing garbage, silt, and weeds from larger canals and water bodies with a width of 3m and above. Excavators are used for micro canals that are less than 3.5m wide.

A mini-amphibian can work well in smaller water bodies with

shallow water level of 1m depth or less. Besides, these machines, the civic body has deployed trash booms to collect garbage and floating plastic at nine locations across the Cooum River.

A year ago, the civic body had procured an amphibian equipment at a cost of Rs 4.43 crore from Finland, and three robotic excavators at Rs 19.65 crore to carry out dredging and hyacinth removal in water bodies. "These machines are deployed for desilting Adyar River and [Velachery](#) Lake, which are owned by the PWD. The PWD authorities are also mulling about buying the machines. It would be good if they too procure it as the work would be done faster," said an official. According to officials, an amphibian is estimated to cost around Rs 7.5 crore, a mini-amphibian and a robotic excavator costs around Rs 1.7 crore and Rs 6.5 crore respectively.

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more and more sophisticated systems to be used to ensure water bodies are protected for next generation

Srinivas M Sources in the department said cleaning of water bodies and canals continues to be a slow process, especially before monsoon, as the existing equipment is deployed in water bodies owned by the Public Works Department (PWD).

The civic body will also be procuring six super sucker machines to remove silt from storm water drains. Now, the civic body relies on workers hired by contractors to manually enter and desilt storm water drains, which in many areas also carry sewage.

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