

Highways Department

A report on the damaged steel bridge in Kollidam in Trichy District

A steel bridge was constructed in 1928 across the Kollidam River at Km 312/2-313/0 of Chennai- Trichy- Dindugal Road. The steel bridge has outlived the design life. Forecasting the failure of bridge at any time, considering the age and vulnerability, It was planned in 2012 itself to construct a new bridge.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced in the year 2012 that a new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the damaged steel bridge at Kollidam. Accordingly Government has given administrative sanction for Rs. 77.72 cores for construction of new bridge on the upstream side of the abandoned bridge at a distance of 10.00m. The new bridge was opened for traffic by the Hon'ble Chief Minister opened the new bridge for traffic on 14.2.2016. The steel bridge was abandoned since the new bridge has been constructed and all type of traffic including pedestrian movement was stopped in 2016 itself. The both entries of the bridge were closed and caution boards were erected.

The old abandoned bridge is having 24 spans of 33.00m each. The discharge in the Kollidam River on 15.08.2018 at 4.30 PM was 45,000 cusecs. On 15.08.2018 evening by 6.30 pm a crack was noticed by the patrolling members of the Highways Department on the ease water portion of the 18th pier.

On 16.08.2018 morning by 8.00 AM, the crack width was about 10 cm. The District Collector, Hon'ble Ministers for Tourism and Backward classes welfare inspected the bridge site by 11.00 AM. At this time the discharge in the Kollidam River is 76,000 cusecs and the width of the crack is about 60cm. The pier itself is sinking. The sinking is about 1.00m. The deck slabs resting on the 18th pier are also sinking along with pier. The foundation of the abandoned bridge is well foundations with three wells for each pier. The piers were constructed of brick masonry with lime mortar.

The traffic flow was not at all affected due to the damages caused to old abandoned steel bridge and this is because of the swift and advance action taken by the Government in 2012 itself to construct a new bridge adjacent to outlived old damaged steel bridge.

For Chief Engineer (H),
Construction and Maintenance

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