

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

APPLICATION NO. 93 of 2023(SZ)

[SUO MOTO]

Applicant : The Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the News item published in The Hindu Newspaper, Thiruvananthapuram Edition Dt.07.06.2023, “ Study finds disturbing evidence of Marine Plastic Pollution of Kerala Coast ”

Respondents : Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority and Others.

**REPORT FILED BY THE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
REGIONAL OFFICE, LEGAL CELL, ERNAKULAM FOR AND ON
BEHALF OF THE KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD R3**

- 1) I , Vinaya K. S., Senior Environmental Engineer, Legal Cell, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Ernakulam do here by submit that I am authorised to represent the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, and that I am conversant with the facts of the above case and I may state as follows.
- 2) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had registered Suo Motu based on a news item published in “The Hindu “ Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption “ Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast” against (1) Member Secretary- Kerala State



Vinaya
VINAYA K.S.
Senior Environmental Engineer
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Regional Office
Gandhi Nager, Kochi-682 020

Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA) and (2) Additional Chief Secretary- Department of Environment. Later the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 31.07.2023 impleaded Chairman, KSPCB as the 3rd respondent. The news had stated that a European Union- funded project in University of Kerala to document underwater diversity found plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics beyond 40m depth off Kerala coast.

In connection with the above matter, the Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board had convened a meeting with Dr. Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and representative following Departments on 27.07.2023 to prepare action plan as well as to review various activities conducted by Departments concerned to reduce plastic pollution. A true copy of the minutes of meeting is produced herewith and marked as Annexure 1.

- i) Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority, Thiruvananthapuram
- ii) Director of Tourism, Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
- iii) Director of Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries, Thiruvananthapuram
- iv) Director of Urban Affairs, Swaraj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram
- v) Director of Panchayath, Panchayat Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram
- vi) Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission, Thiruvananthapuram.

During the meeting, Dr. Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram who has conducted the study informed that underwater Survey was carried out along the coast of Trivandrum.



Vinaya

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Senior Environmental Engineer
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Regional Office
Gandhi Nagar, Kochi-682 020

During the survey, it was observed that underwater sites were littered with plastic waste including bottles, bags, fishing nets and fragments of Single Use Plastics (SUP). Fishing gears were also observed. The hotspots in coastal waters are identified as Vizhinjam, Kovalam, Poonthura, Valiathura, Sanghumuham and Veli in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation area, indicating the proximity to the discharge points of canals, rivers and drains feeding into the ocean, tourism destinations and fishing villages, which could also serve as sources of plastic pollution into the coastal waters.

The following decisions were taken in the above said meeting:

- (i) To identify all sources of entry of plastic into the coastal waters in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.
- (ii) To collect the details of action taken by the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation for managing plastic waste.
- (iii) To arrive at an action plan for filling the gap in plastic waste management in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.
- (iv) To develop and implement an action plan to remove discarded fishing gears and plastic waste from rocky reefs of coastal waters and plastic dumps from rocky reefs.
- (v) To launch awareness drives in tourism destinations, fishing villages and coastal villages which requires good community participation.
- (vi) To provide incentives to fishermen community to collect Single Use Plastics (SUP) from the sea under "Suchitwa Sagaram Sundara Theeram" project so that that could be brought into the domain of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) that will result in better plastic waste management.
- (vii) To develop mechanism for collection of discarded Nylon fish nets in shore area.



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Regional Office
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Though many actions are being taken by LSGIs for the proper management of plastic wastes in the Municipal Corporation area, the actions taken so far are to be documented and gaps are to be identified. An action plan is to be formulated by involving stakeholder Departments such as Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram, Fisheries Department, Department of Tourism, and Irrigation Department in order to bridge the gap. It is humbly submitted that action plan is under preparation with the involvement of above stakeholder Departments.

All that is stated above are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.

Dated this the 25th day of August 2023



Senior Environmental Engineer



VINAYA K.S.
Senior Environmental Engineer
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Regional Office
Gandhi Nagar, Kochi-682 020

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 93 of 2023

Applicant : The Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the News item published in The Hindu Newspaper, Thiruvananthapuram Edition Dt.07.06.2023, "Study finds disturbing evidence of Marine Plastic Pollution of Kerala Coast"

Versus

Respondent(s) : Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority and Others

**VOLUME 2
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Dated this the 25th day of August 2023



Rema Smrithi VK
Standing counsel for KSPCB - R3

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

Environment B Department

No-Envt-B2/54/2023-Envt

24-07-2023, Thiruvananthapuram

From

Secretary to Government

To

The Member Secretary

Kerala State Pollution Control Board

The Member Secretary

Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority

Sir,

Environment Department-OA 93/2023-News item published in
Sub: 'The Hindu' Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023
under the caption " Study finds disturbing evidence of marine
plastic pollution off Kerala coast"-reg

Ref: Order dated 14/07/2023 in OA 93/2023 of Hon'ble NGT

I am to forward herewith a copy reference cited for
urgent report by return.

Yours Faithfully,
L T SANTHOSH KUMAR
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

For Secretary to Government.

Approved for Issue,

Signed by

Nalan A T

Date: 24-07-2023 12:23:38

Section Officer.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No.93 of 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based
on the news item published in 'The Hindu'
Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023,
"Study finds disturbing evidence of marine
plastic pollution off Kerala coast"

Date of hearing: 14.07.2023.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant (s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. Prabhu for R1.
Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. E.K. Kumaresan for R2.

ORDER

1. There was a news item published in 'The Hindu', Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption "Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast".

2. The news item states that a European Union - funded project in University of Kerala to document underwater diversity finds plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics beyond 40 meter depth off Kerala coast.
3. As the plastics dumps have been reported in shallow waters which is after the study conducted by the University of Kerala, we take Suo Motu cognizance of the matter and issue notice to the (1) Member Secretary - Kerala SCZMA, and (2) Additional Chief Secretary - Department of Environment for the time being.
4. Let notice be issued to all the respondents through the Tribunal along with a copy of the news item.
5. The learned counsel Mr. G. Vignesh representing Mr. Prabhu accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.1 and Mr. G. Vignesh representing Mr. E.K. Kumaresan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.2.
6. Let the matter be listed on 31.07.2023. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective responses.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.93/2023 (SZ)
14th July, 2023. Mn.

Copy to

- 1) **Member Secretary**
Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA)
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala.

- 2) **Additional Chief Secretary**
Department of Environment
Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC)
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala.



HOME / NEWS / INDIA / KERALA

Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast

EU-funded project in University of Kerala to document underwater diversity finds plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics beyond 40-metre depth off Kerala coast

June 07, 2023 06:53 pm | Updated 06:53 pm IST - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

THE HINDU BUREAU

COMMENTS

SHARE

READ LATER



Marine life forms move past plastic waste on the sea bed: | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

Researchers have found unsettling evidence of plastic dumps in the ocean beyond 40-metre depth off the Kerala coast that are posing a grave threat to marine life forms.

An expedition to document underwater biodiversity led by the European Union-supported Project Ecomarine in the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, found reefs beyond 40 metres depth dumped with plastics. Underwater sites were littered with plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics, according to the findings published on Wednesday.

Peril of 'ghost nets'

The documentation revealed the direct impact of plastic pollution on marine species, the researchers said. Marine creatures were seen struggling to free themselves from discarded fishing nets, while others were found ingesting plastic fragments, mistaking them for food. Plastic fishing nets, possibly discarded by fishers, were found on several deepwater reefs. These 'ghost nets' pose a grave problem as they trap creatures, and remain a permanent threat to underwater life.

The diving team included Umeed Mistry of Earth CoLab, Bengaluru and noted underwater photographer and filmmaker Jonah Skoles, Eternal Divers, Puducherry.

Role of rivers, sewers

The findings highlight the deadly consequences of plastic pollution on marine biodiversity, calling for increased efforts in waste management, recycling and the adoption of sustainable practices, A. Biju Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Aquatic Biology, said. They also call for serious thought on upstream management of plastics, as rivers and sewers drain plastic waste into the ocean on a daily basis, according to him.

"Underwater rocky reefs have a wealth of Gorgonians (sea pens, sea fans) and solitary corals. These areas at a depth of 50 metres may be called 'animal forests' as the biodiversity is so rich, including the rare soft corals, solitary hard corals, sponges, worms, molluscs, bryozoans and ascidians. In this environment, huge schools of fish are also present," he said.

A wake-up call

While plastic dumps have been reported in shallow waters, this is the first instance of a study being conducted on rocky reefs beyond 40 metres off the Kerala coast. "The discovery of additional plastic dumps in the ocean off Kerala is a distressing wake-up call. It is crucial that we take immediate action to reduce plastic consumption, promote responsible waste management, and develop sustainable alternatives to plastic. Our marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities depend on it," says Biju Kumar.

A 'ghost net' found on the ocean floor: | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

The study is in its first phase, and ongoing investigations are expected to unravel the richness of biodiversity as well as threats to the system.

The Project Ecomarine apart, the University of Kerala, in its Budget speech for 2022, had announced a project for the digital documentation of biological and archaeological heritage in the coastal seas of Kerala.

COMMENTS

SHARE

Item No.6:-**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI***(Through Video Conference)***Original Application No.93 of 2023 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**
based on the news item published in 'The
Hindu' Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated
07.06.2023, "**Study finds disturbing evidence
of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast**"

And

Member Secretary
Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA)
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 31.07.2023.

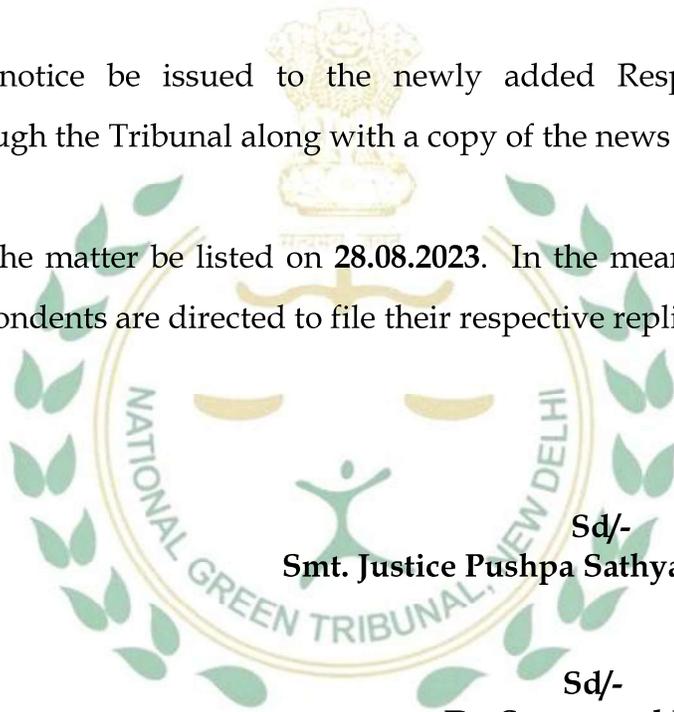
CORAM:**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER****HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant (s): Suo Motu by Court.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. Prabhu for R1.
Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. E.K. Kumaresan for R2.

ORDER

1. The learned counsel appearing for the State of Kerala wants to implead the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, as they are also a necessary party to this proceeding.
2. Accordingly, the Chairman - Kerala State Pollution Control Board is impleaded as additional Respondent No.3.
3. Let notice be issued to the newly added Respondent No.3 through the Tribunal along with a copy of the news item.
4. Let the matter be listed on **28.08.2023**. In the meanwhile, all the respondents are directed to file their respective replies.



Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.93/2023 (SZ)
31st July, 2023. Mn.

Copy to

The Chairman
Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

☎: General: 0471- 2312910, 2318153, 2318154, 2318155 Chairman: 2318150 Member Secretary: 2318151
e-mail: chn.kspcb@gov.in; ms.kspcb@gov.in FAX: 2318152 web: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



PCB/HO/EE3/OA-93/2023

Date: 26.07.2023

From

The Member Secretary

To

- 1) Member Secretary,
Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority(KSCZMA),
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal,
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001
- 2) Director of Tourism,
Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 033.
- 3) Director of Fisheries,
Directorate of Fisheries,
Vikas Bhavan,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033.
- 4) Director of Urban Affairs,
Swaraj Bhavan,
Nanthancodu, Kowdiar P.O,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003.
- 5) Director of Panchayath,
Panchayat Directorate,
Swaraj Bhavan, Ground Floor,
Nanthancodu, Kowdiar P.O,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003.
- 6) The Executive Director,
Suchitwa Mission,
Public Office Building,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 033.

Sub: OA 93/2023-News item published on 'The Hindu' Thiruvananthapuram E- Edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption " Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution of Kerala coast.

Ref: Govt Letter No. Evt-B2/54/2023-Evt dated 24.07.2023.

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the subject matter. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 14/07/2023 in OA 93/2023 has taken Suo Motu cognizance of the report on plastic dumps in shallow water which is after the study conducted by University of Kerala. In connection with the above matter, the undersigned proposes to conduct a meeting on 27.07.2023 at 4 PM in the chamber of Member Secretary with Dr. A Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Trivandrum (copy enclosed). Kindly nominate concerned officer for the meeting.

Yours Faithfully,

Slu A7

MEMBER SECRETARY

Enclosure: As above

☎: General: 0471- 2312910, 2318153, 2318154, 2318155 Chairman: 2318150 Member Secretary: 2318151
e-mail: chn.kspcb@gov.in; ms.kspcb@gov.in FAX: 2318152 web: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



PCB/HO/EE3/OA-93/2023

Date: 26.07.2023

From

The Member Secretary

To

Dr. A Biju Kumar,
Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries,
University of Kerala, Karyavattom Campus,
Trivandrum – 695 581.

Sub: OA 93/2023-News item published on 'The Hindu' Thiruvananthapuram E- Edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption " Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution of Kerala coast.

Ref: Govt Letter No. Evt-B2/54/2023-Envvt dated 24.07.2023.

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the subject matter. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 14/07/2023 in OA 93/2023 has taken Suo Motu cognizance of the report on plastic dumps in shallow water which is after the study conducted by University of Kerala. In connection with the above matter, the undersigned proposes to conduct a meeting on 27.07.2023 at 4 PM in the chamber of Member Secretary. Please make it convenient to attend.

Yours Faithfully,

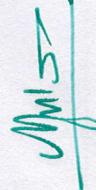
Sheela AM

MEMBER SECRETARY

Copy to:

- 1) Member Secretary,
Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA),
4th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal,
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001.
- 2) Director of Tourism,
Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033.
- 3) Director of Fisheries,
Directorate of Fisheries,
Vikas Bhavan,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033.
- 4) Director of Urban Affairs,
Swaraj Bhavan,
Nanthancodu, Kowdiar P.O.,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
- 5) Director of Panchayath,
Panchayat Directorate,
Swaraj Bhavan, Ground Floor,
Nanthancodu, Kowdiar P.O.,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
- 6) The Executive Director,
Suchitwa Mission,
Public Office Building,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS- MEETING HELD BY THE MEMBER SECRETARY, KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ON 27.7.2023 IN CONNECTION WITH OA 93/2023

Sl. No.	Name, Designation and Office	Mobile No	Email	Signature
1	Rahul Ramesh Asst. Environmental Officer. Directorate of Environment on behalf of KCZMA	8291657982	rahuldoec@gmail.com	
2.	Vivek-JM, Technical Expert, GIZ	9167883176	vivek.jm@giz.de	
3.	Dr A. Biju Kumar University of Kerala 9447216157.	9447216157.	bijupuzhapparam@gmail.com	
4	MUHAMMED HUWAIZ M JOINT DIRECTOR SWAG PD LSGD	9745536917	huwaizmulammed@gmail.com	

☎: General: 0471- 2312910, 2318153, 2318154, 2318155 Chairman: 2318150 Member Secretary: 2318151
e-mail: chn.kspcb@gov.in; ms.kspcb@gov.in FAX: 2318152 web: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



PCB/HO/EE3/OA-93/2023

Date: 29.07.2023

From

The Member Secretary

To

Secretary to Government,
Environment Department

Sub: OA 93/2023-News item published on 'The Hindu' Thiruvananthapuram E- Edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption " Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast".

Ref: (1) Govt Letter No. Evt-B2/54/2023-Evt dated 24.07.2023.

(2) Letter No. PCB/HO/EE3/OA-93/2023 dated 26.07.2023.

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the subject matter. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 14/07/2023 in OA 93/2023 has taken Suo Motu cognizance of the report on plastic dumps in shallow water which is after the study conducted by University of Kerala. In connection with the above matter, a meeting was conducted on 27/07/2023 at 4.00 PM with Dr. A Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala. The minutes of the meeting is submitted herewith for your kind information.

Yours faithfully,

Shweta

MEMBER SECRETARY

Enclosure: As above

Shweta

Minutes of meeting held on 27.07.2023 by the Member Secretary , Kerala State Pollution Control in connection with Suo Moto Proceedings of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA : 93/2023

The meeting was commenced at 4pm on 27/08/2023. Member Secretary welcomed the participants- Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Shri. Muhammed Huwaiz M., Joint Director, Urban Directorate (Swag Cell), Shri. Rahul Ramesh, Assistant Environmental Officer, Directorate of Environment (on behalf of Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority(KSCZMA) and Sri. Vivek J. M. , Technical Expert, GIZ . List of all participants is enclosed.

The Member Secretary explained the need of conducting the meeting .She explained that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal registered Suo Motu based on a news item published in "The Hindu " Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023 under the caption " Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast" against (1) Member Secretary- Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA) and (2) Additional Chief Secretary- Department of Environment. The news had stated that a European Union- funded project in University of Kerala to document underwater diversity found plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, and fragments of single-use plastics beyond 40-meter depth off Kerala coast.

Dr. Biju Kumar, Professor, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram has been invited for the presentation. Assessment of marine debris and microplastic in Kerala coast under the European Union program- ECOMARINE project has been conducted. As the part of the project, Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries, University of Kerala is one of Universities identified from Asia to establish a Marine Monitoring Labs (MML) under this scheme. The program on Marine Debris documents was launched on 08/06/2023 in nine coastal districts of Kerala in collaboration with colleges and citizen scientists. Beach cleaning drives have been conducted and beaches were also categorized on the basis of Clean Coast Index. Underwater Survey along the coast was carried out in the rocky reefs of Trivandrum. During the survey, it was observed that underwater sites were littered with plastic waste including bottles, bags, fishing nets and fragments of Single Use Plastics (SUP). Fishing gears were also observed. The hotspots in coastal waters are identified as Vizhinjam, Kovalam, Poonthura, Valiathura, Sanghumham and Veli, indicating the proximity to the discharge points of canals, rivers and drains feeding into the ocean, tourism destinations and fishing villages, which could also serve as sources of plastic pollution into the coastal waters. It was suggested to identify all the sources of entry of plastic waste into coastal waters through upstream management including trapping plastic waste in all natural drainages, frequent cleaning through better coordination between stakeholder departments; arrive at an

action plan to remove discarded fishing gears by community participation and to conduct awareness programs and also suggested to implement “ Shuchitwa Sagaram Sundaratheeram” Scheme in Thiruvananthapuram district by the Fisheries Department.

Shri. Muhammed Huwaiz M said that Thiruvananthapuram Corporation has already established material Collection Facilities and Resource Recovery Facility within Corporation Area. Authorized persons (Haritha Karma Sena) are also deployed for door to door waste collection from residences and establishments. Clean Kerala Company Ltd, an undertaking of Govt Clean Kerala Company is collecting Non biodegradable waste from Thiruvananthapuram Corporation area. They are also conducting study related with marine plastic pollution in some wards of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. As part of Karmana River Action plan prepared in OA 673/2018 , the Board has identified major drains and streams contributing pollution load to the Karmana River and thereby to the Sea and preventive measures have been taken to prevent the accumulation of the waste. The Corporation has conducted beach cleanup in Shanghumukham, Veli and Vettucaud. About 2.5 tonnes of waste were collected with the help of about 500 volunteers. In addition, two trash bins are installed in Veli tourism village for segregated waste collection. Trash bins have been placed by 6 authorized and 20 unauthorized vendors. A smart garbage monitoring system named Haritha Mithram Smart Garbage Monitoring System App was also been launched by Haritha Kerala Mission and Suchitwa Mission. Suchitwa Sagaram Sundara Theeram, project aimed at making the sea and coast plastic-free was also launched by the State Government.

The Member Secretary said that actions are being taken by LSGIs for the proper management of plastic wastes. The actions taken so far are to be documented and the action plan is to be formulated for the gap.

The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- (i) To identify all sources of entry of plastic in to the coastal waters in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.
- (ii) To collect the details of action taken by the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation for managing plastic waste.
- (iii) To arrive at an action plan for filling the gap in plastic waste management in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.
- (iv) To develop and implement an action plan to remove discarded fishing gears and plastic waste from rocky reefs of coastal waters and plastic dumps from rocky reefs.
- (v) To launch awareness drives in tourism destinations, fishing villages and coastal villages which requires good community participation.
- (vi) To provide incentives to fishermen community to collect Single Use Plastics (SUP) from

the sea under "Suchitwa Sagaram Sundara Theeram" project so that that could be brought into the domain of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which will result in better plastic waste management.

(vii) To develop mechanism for collection of discarded Nylon fish nets in shore area.

Shew AS
MEMBER SECRETARY

☎: General: 0471- 2312910, 2318153, 2318154, 2318155 Chairman: 2318150 Member Secretary: 2318151
 e-mail: chn.kspcb@gov.in; ms.kspcb@gov.in FAX: 2318152 web: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



PCB/HO/EE3/OA-93/2023

Date: 29.07.2023

From

The Member Secretary

To

Secretary,
 Thiruvananthapuram Co-operation

Sub: Accumulation of Plastic Waste in Amayizhanjan Thodu - reg.

Sir,

It is noted that a large quantity of plastic waste is accumulated in Amayizhanjan Thodu especially from Rajaji Nagar to East Fort (nearby 2 km only). Urgent action is to be taken to identify its source and take preventive measures to stop such disposal. Action taken may kindly be reported to the office.

Yours faithfully,

MEMBER SECRETARY