

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No. 02 of 2021(SZ)

With

Original Application No. 23 of 2023(SZ)

[Earlier O.A. No.185 of 2022 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the News Item in The Indian Express, Newspaper dt: 09.12.2020, “**Andhra town Eluru hit by „mystery“ illness, traces of lead, nickel in blood samples**”, News Item in The Times of India, Newspaper dt: 08.12.2020, “**Heavy metal content in water caused mysterious disease in AP**”, & News Item in NDTV, dt: 09.12.2020, “**Lead, Nickel found in blood of people with mystery illness in Andhra Pradesh**”.

And

The Chief Secretary of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Tribunal on its own motion - **SUO MOTU** based on the News item in The Hindu, edition dated 15.12.2020, Kolleru (West Godavari Dt.) “**Mystery illness raises concerns over Kolleru pollution**”.

And

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Others. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

Daram Govinda Rajan. ...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson, New Delhi and others. ...Respondent(s)

MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING
FILED BY RESPONDENT NO.2
THE PRINCIPLE SECRETARY, EFS&T DEPARTMENT A.P.

Date: 27.03.2026



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ADVOCATE

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Date: 27.03.2026



K.RAVINDRANATH
STANDING COUSNEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF A.P.
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Minutes of the Stakeholder Meeting on Kolleru Lake on 13.03.2026 @ 02:30 PM in the Chambers of the Principal Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department, 4 th Block, AP Secretariat, Amaravati, Vijayawada.

Present:

1. Sri Kantilal Dande, IAS Principal Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department
2. Sri. S. Sri Saravanan, IFS Spl. Secretary, EFS&T & In-charge Member Secretary, APPCB
3. Sri Prabhakar Rao, Engineer-in-Chief, Public Health department
4. Sri. M. Rajashekar, Chief Environmental Engineer, APPCB

The following officers attended through VC.

1.	Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru District	13.	Joint Director, Fisheries dept.
2.	Collector & District Magistrate, Krishna District	14.	Joint Director, Industries dept.
3.	Joint Collector & Additional District Magistrate, Eluru District	15.	Municipal Commissioner, Gudivada
4.	Joint Collector & Additional District Magistrate, West Godavari District	16.	EE, Drains, Bhimavaram
5.	Commissioner, Fisheries Dept.	17.	OSD to Commissioner, Panchayat Raj
6.	DFO, Wild Life, Eluru District	18.	FRO, Wild Life, Eluru
7.	Municipal Commissioner, Eluru	19.	Sri Shaik Basha, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI
8.	DD, CDMA, A.P.	20.	Sri K. Ravindranath, Standing Counsel
9.	DRO, Eluru	21.	Smt. Kavitha Renjini, Advocate
10.	DPO, Eluru	22.	JCES, Central Laboratory, APPCB
11.	CE, GDS, Dowleiswaram	23.	EE, RO, APPCB, Eluru
12.	CE, SDSO & Hydrology	24.	EE, RO, APPCB, Vijayawada

At the outset, the Principal Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department, welcomed all the officials of the Stakeholder departments and briefed on the importance of the meeting to review on the progress of preparation of action plan for restoration of Kolleru Lake, which is being held as per the Hon'ble NGT directions in O.A No.259 of 2020 & O.A.No.02 of 2021, wherein, an action plan

has to be filed before the Hon'bleNGT.

Earlier, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 05.01.2026, the Special Secretary, EFS&T department and In-charge Member Secretary, APPCB conducted a meeting with the Stakeholder departments on 13.01.2026 and requested to furnish remarks on the draft CSIR NEERI study report along with an action plan for restoration of Kolleru Lake. A communication dated 06.02.2026 was also sent to the stakeholder departments in this regard.

After detailed discussions, the Principal Secretary stressed on the fact that, as the guardians of the Kolleru Lake, it is the responsibility of all the stakeholder departments viz., Forest, Fisheries, MA&UD, Panchayat Raj, Irrigation, Agriculture, to protect the Kolleru Lake and restoration of this Wetland.

The Collector and District Magistrate, Eluru District detailed on the measures being implemented by the stakeholder departments for protection of the Kolleru Lake area and conveyed that an action plan would be submitted with key initiatives of the stakeholder departments for restoration of Kolleru Lake.

The Joint Collector, West Godavari detailed on the proposals to construct 2.5 MLD STP in Akiveedu nagarpanchayat, and planning to promote traditional fishing and de-siltation works in the drains and detailed action plan will be submitted.

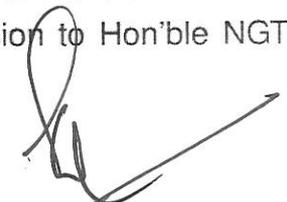
Officials from MA & UD, Irrigation, Fisheries, Panchayat Raj departments informed that necessary measures will be taken towards protection of Kolleru Lake and would submit their departments action plan.

The Standing Counsel to APPCB requested that each of the Stakeholder department may furnish an action plan based on the study results of CSIR-NEERI and existing scenario in Kolleru Lake area.

Dr. Basha, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI emphasized that based on the comprehensive study of Kolleru Lake, the major issues of concern causing Kolleru Lake pollution are identified to be confluence of domestic sewage, dumping of solid waste and waste water from aqua culture drains.

As a closing remark, the Principal Secretary, EFS&T requested all the stakeholder departments to give prime importance for protection of Kolleru Lake and submit specific action plan at the earliest with targeted timeline for each of

the departments and suggested that the DFO, Eluru (Wildlife), Forest Department may coordinate with the District Collectors of Eluru & West Godavari districts and other line departments in preparation of comprehensive action plan that helps in bringing back the pristine glory of Kolleru lake and submit the action plan by 18.03.2026 for onward submission to Hon'ble NGT before the next date of hearing on 25.03.2026.



PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
(EFS&T Department)

Item Nos. 04 & 5(i) & (ii):-**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

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And

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...Respondent(s)

WITH

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...Applicant(s)

Versus

National Wetland Committee,
Rep. by its Chairperson,
New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.01.2026.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No. 259/2020(SZ):

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranath for R1 to R7.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

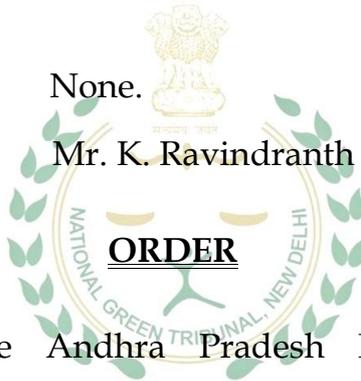
For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranth for R1 to R8.

O.A. No. 02/2021(SZ):

For Applicant(s): None.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranth for R2 to R11.



1. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) awarded the work to M/s. NEERI in November 2022 for carrying out a comprehensive study on Kolleru Lake, as per the directions of this Tribunal.

2. NEERI submitted its interim report in February 2024, which was reviewed by the APPCB. Thereafter, only on 01.01.2026 the APPCB reviewed the draft report titled "*Comprehensive Scientific Study to Save Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland of Kolleru*" and issued instructions to include certain additional information in the final report. This additional information includes the inventorization of industries in the area, the quality of effluents generated and their disposal, the

quantification of domestic waste generated, and the waste entering Kolleru Lake.

3. When the interim report was filed by NEERI as early as February 2024, the PowerPoint presentation thereafter has still not been made. The APPCB appears to have taken the matter very lightly, despite the alarming issues concerning Kolleru Lake and the metal content in the water allegedly causing mysterious diseases, which were taken up *suo motu* by this Tribunal. The reasons stated for the delay are themselves mysterious, notwithstanding the fact that the matter has been listed on several occasions and the APPCB has repeatedly sought time to obtain the report from NEERI.

4. Despite the passage of five years, the actions expected to be taken by the authorities are very disappointing. Today, the interim report has been filed through the APPCB, which refers to the instructions issued to NEERI for inclusion in the final report and to the management plan, dated 03.01.2026.

5. Therefore, we direct Respondent No. 2, namely the Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology, to convene a meeting with all stakeholders, including the APPCB and NEERI, to whom the studies have been entrusted, at the earliest, and in any event **on or before 21.01.2026**, and to file an action plan report on the next date of hearing (i.e. 09.02.2026), without fail.

6. Post the matter on 09.02.2026.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.259/2020(SZ) &
O.A. No.02/2021(SZ) &
O.A. No.23/2023(SZ)
05th January, 2026. AD.

