

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.32 OF 2024

*In re: News item appearing in Hindu Burueau dated 17.10.2023 titled "Beach-goers
stunned as sea in Puducheryy turns red*

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THROUGH

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION (SZ) NO. 32 of 2024

(PB OA No. 691 of 2023)

**In re: News item appearing in Hindu Bureau dated 17.10.2023 titled
“Beach-goers stunned as sea in Puducherry turns red”**

**ADDITIONAL REPORT FILED BY THE MEMBER SECRETARY,
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDER OF HON'BLE NGT (SZ)
DATED 23.08.2024 IN OA. NO. 32 of 2024**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) vide order dt. 22.11.2023 in O.A. No. 691 of 2023 had issued directions to form a committee comprising of Nominee of Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Member Secretary, PPCC and one nominee of the HOD of Marine Biology Department of University of Puducherry and nominated Sr. Scientist by the Director, Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Parangipettai, Tamil Nadu. The Member Secretary, PPCC shall act as nodal agency. The Committee shall visit the site, collect the present sample as also the sample analysis report of the samples which were collected on 16th October, 24th October and 1st November, 2023 and also ascertain the cause of such a colour changed in the sea and the remedial action to prevent such incident.

Accordingly a committee has been constituted vide. No. 4424 /PPCC /SEAWTR /NGT /MS /2023 /1180 dt. 08.12.2023 and a report was filed on 15.03.2024.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the Order dated 19.03.2024 directed to file an additional report regarding the existence of the Effluent Treatment Plant in M/s. Aurobindo Handmade Paper Unit and also the action to be taken for arresting.

The Puducherry Pollution Control Committee filed a report on the Effluent Treatment Plant in M/s. Aurobindo Handmade Paper Unit on 15.05.2024 before the Hon'ble NGT.

The Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 23.08.2024 directed the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee to file a report with the Hon'ble NGT seeking the exact cause for the red coloration and the steps taken to ensure that the same does not happen again. The Hon'ble NGT also wanted to know that if the red colouration is caused by Algal bloom, then what prompted the optimum conditions for the same and the steps taken to prevent that.

The incidents of the red coloration of the coastal water at Kuruchikuppam occurred during 16th October-16th November 2023, after the rainfalls. The sea colour change happened due to the bloom of a plankton Noctiluca scintillans.


Conducive temperature, nutrition availability and other micro meteorological conditions prevalent in the months of October and November would have caused the algal bloom and the red coloration of the sea. Such algal bloom has not been observed since in any of the surrounding region. No specific cause could be assigned

to the formation of the algal bloom. The authorities and particularly PPCC continues to stay vigilant and monitor the area for any such unnatural or abnormal activity.

The discharge of the treated effluent from M/s. Aurobindo Handmade Paper Unit into the adjacent canal which reach's the sea has been completely stopped. The Unit has been a Zero Discharge Unit with treatment facilities within the Unit for different kind of effluents.

In compliance with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) order dated 24.11.2022 in O.A No. 606 of 2018, the Government of Puducherry is constructing of 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) near the coast. The STP would be commissioned before 2025. The untreated sewage currently reaches the Kuruchikuppam canal would be diverted to the STP, thus no untreated sewage will reach the sea after 2025.

Date : 18.09.2024
Place : Pondicherry


(Dr. N. Ramesh)
Member Secretary
PPCC

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No.32 of 2024 (SZ)

In the Matter of

*In re: News item appearing in Hindu
Bureau dated 17.10.2023 titled "Beach-
goers stunned as sea in Puducherry
turns red"*

**Additional Report in compliance
with order dated 23.08.24**

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