

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH

NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 640 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled “News reveals extent of microplastic pollution in Ashtamudi Lake” appearing in the Hindu dated 24.05.2024.

REPORT FILED BY THE RESPONDENT STATE OF KERALA

FILED BY: NISHE RAJEN SHONKER FOR STATE OF KERALA

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Report filed by the 1st Respondent in compliance with the Order dated 28.5.2024 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Suo Motu in OA No 640 of 2024

It is submitted that in compliance with the direction of this Tribunal in OA 147/2022, State Wetland Authority Kerala has given direction to Kollam Municipal Corporation to revise its project in accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. The project entitled 'Jeevananu Ashtamudi, Jeevikkanam Ashtamudi' - Rejuvenation of Ashtamudi Water body by Kollam Municipal Corporation is a major intervention in the case of removal of sludge and wastes near the Asramam area of the Ashtamudi Ramsar wetland. Officials from SWAK visited the Asramam region of Ashtamudi and observed physical progress of the project in the wetland on 3.10.2023. The silt and waste materials near the Asramam link road were removed using silt pusher. Directions were also given to all the Local Self Governments near the wetland to make sure that

- 1.No wastes are deposited in the wetlands, invoking the statutory provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

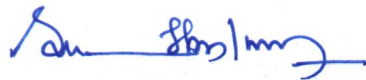
2. It is submitted that during field visit conducted by the State Wetland Authority serious waste dumping was observed at Ashtamudi Estuary near Sree Mangalam Kadavu, Perinad P.O., Kollam. The wastes include plastic bottles, ceramic waste, etc and pose threat to the wetland ecosystem and environment. State Wetland Authority Kerala has directed Kollam Municipal Corporation to take necessary action for the removal of waste. Also, they were directed to identify similar pockets in the wetland and clean up the same and



strictly ensure that no waste dumping is done in the future.

3. It is submitted that the Kerala State Pollution Control Board conducted a preliminary meeting through video conference on 24.06.2024 with the researchers of Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala. The researchers explained about the study in the six sample locations and their analytical method to identify micro plastics. The Board has no existing facility for identification of micro plastics with Board's laboratories. Possibility of outsourcing micro plastic identification is exploring. Certain agencies/institutions have facility to do FTIR and Raman spectra analysis such as MG University, Kottayam, Sophisticated Test and Instrumentation Centre, CUSAT, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, etc. Following decisions were taken during the above said meeting.

- (a) possibility of outsourcing test on micro plastic in the place where FTIR and Raman spectra analysis
- (b) to appraise the matter to the District Collector, who is the chairman of District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC).
- (c) to issue instruction to Kollam Corporation seeking information regarding authorized collectors (Haritha Karma Sena-HKS), MCF, RRF, actions taken in the problematic area, and Enforcement Squad.
- (d) to issue instruction to the Harbour Department seeking the details regarding the plastic collected as part of Suchitwa Sagaram campaign.
- (e) To conduct sampling in routine sampling stations near to the five locations from which the samples were collected for the study of micro plastics.



4. In order to bring the attention of District Administration and other departments concerned about the seriousness of micro plastic pollution and its possible sources, the details of O.A was discussed in the 17th District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) meeting conducted on 24.07.2024. Also report regarding the proximity of MCF/RRF or any garbage vulnerable points in the catchment of Ashtamudi Lake was sought from the local self institutions around the lake. Kollam Corporation and 12 other Grama Panchayats - Chavara, East Kallada, Panayam, Perayam, Perinadu, Munrothuruthu, Neendakara, Thekkumbhagam, Thevalakkara, Thrikkariva, Kundara, West Kallada are sharing the bank of Ashtamudi. No garbage vulnerable points were reported in the catchment of Ashtamudi from the Grama Panchayats. Also reported that they have practiced door to door collection of plastic waste material and other non-biodegradable waste materials (**Details are marked as Annexure I**).

5. It is submitted that a joint inspection was conducted by the Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Joint Director (WM Cell) Local Self government Department) and Suchitwa Mission along with representative of Kollam Corporation for verification of the solid and liquid waste management facilities. During the inspection conducted on 29.07.2024, garbage vulnerable points were identified and heap of mixed waste materials were also noticed. The Secretary, Kollam Corporation was directed to rectify the defects noticed vide letter dated 27.08.2024. Copy of the same is attached and marked as **Annexure II**. Based on Board's direction, action has been taken to remove the waste.



6. It is submitted that as part of National Water quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), water samples collected from 5 different points in Ashtamudi Lake for analysis of 32 physical and chemical parameters. Sampling stations cover both urban and rural areas and estuary near Neendakara. In addition, the Board has initiated sampling from additional stations near to the five locations from which the sample and the original study area where samples collected for the study of micro plastics. Since the sophisticated testing facilities FTIR-ATR, Raman Spectrum, SEM-EDAX are not available with the Board laboratories, possibility of outsourcing the micro plastic analysis was explored. In collaboration with educational institutions action is being initiated by the Board to collect samples from at least 10 stations and doing analysis of micro plastics.

7. It is submitted that the use of single use plastic has been banned in the State vide GO(Ms) No 7/2019/Envnt dated 17.12.2019(Copy of the Government order is marked as Annexure- 3)

Thus it is requested that the above report may kindly accepted.

Dated this the 11th September 2024



SANTHOSH KUMAR. L.T.
PEN 101730
Additional Secretary to Govt.
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Government Secretariat
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Details of Non-biodegradable Waste Handling in 12 Grama Panchayats Surrounding Ashtamudi Lake

Sl No	Local Body	Door-to-door Collection	Total MCFs/ RRFs	No. of wards near Ashdamudi Lake	MCFs/ RRFs near Ashdamudi Lake	Garbage Vulnerable Points	Remarks
1	Chavara Panchayath	-	-	5 wards	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Backwater cleaning campaign was conducted by the members of the Panchayath, Kudumbasree, CDS, Harithakarmasena & others. Monthly monitoring & fine imposition for dumping waste into lake.
2	East Kallada Panchayath	72%	MCF-1 Mini MCF-15 RRF-1	4 wards	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Regular monitoring ensured to prevent dumping of plastics into lake. Appointed Harithakarmasena for collecting accumulated plastic waste from lake.
3	Kundara Panchayath	80%	MCF-1 Mini MCF-17	1 ward	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena
4	Munroethuruth Panchayath	-	Mini MCF -18 MCF-1 (temporary)	13 wards	Mini MCF -18 MCF-1 (temporary)	Nil	Plan proposal taken for new MCF.
5	Neendakara Panchayath	100%	MCF-1 Mini MCF-23	4 wards	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena.
6	Panayam Panchayath	80%	RRF-1 MCF-1 Mini MCF-13	7 wards	MCF=0 RRF=0	-	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena

7	Perayam Panchayath	-	2 MCF	9 wards	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena. Implemented various projects like ODF Plus, Nirmalatheeram, etc.
8	Perinadu Panchayath	-	-	-	-	-	Not Responded
9	Thekkumbhagam Panchayath	-	-	-	-	-	Not Responded
10	Thevalakkara Panchayath	-	-	-	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena. Conducted awareness classes.
11	Thrikkaruva Panchayath	-	-	-	-	-	Regular inspection & fine imposition for use of banned plastics. Conducted awareness classes to public.
12	West Kallada Panchayath	-	3 MCF	1 ward	MCF=0 RRF=0	Nil	Plastic waste from lake is collected by Harithakarmasena.

General: 0471- 2312910, 2318153, 2318154, 2318155 Chairman: 2318150 Member Secretary: 2318151
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KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്



Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004
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File No. KSPCB/198/2023-AE-10

Dated: 27-08-2024

From
The Member Secretary

To
The Secretary
Kollam Corporation

Sub:- Hearing Notice- Action plan in OA 147/2022 -reg

Ref:- 1. Lr No. LSGD/PD/27498/2024-SWAG1 dated 27.07.2024 from ACS LSGD
2. Joint inspection conducted on 29-7-2024 in Kollam Corporation and areas near the Ashtamudi lake

Sir,

Attention is invited to the subject matter. A joint inspection was conducted on 29.7.2024 in Kollam Corporation and areas near the Ashtamudi lake as per ref(1). The following lapse in waste management practices of both liquid and solid waste were observed during the visit.

1) In **Asramom link road**, dredged material heaps of unsegregated solid wastes including biodegradable waste, plastic, diapers, syringes was found in areas where Manichithodu joins to the lake. Manichithodu was seen covered with plastic wastes.

2) In **Shanthi Nagar**, floating wastes including plastic bottles and other banned plastics were seen in Manichithodu

3) In **Pullikada Colony**, the outlets from toilets of residential area were seen directly discharged to Manichithodu

4) In **Alakkukadavu**, washed water was found directly discharged to Manichithodu, for which facility for waste management are to be provided.

5) Aerobins were not operated

6) In **Five wards in Fishing Harbour area**, large stretch of heaps of unsegregated solid wastes was seen and no facility for solid waste disposal has been provided. Wastewater from areas in five wards were also not treated and the same discharged into the sea through gutter in harbour.

6) In **Pallithottam Road**, the solid wastes was seen disposed along the banks of Kollam thodu (TS Canal). There was no fencing provided along the banks of Kollam thodu for

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preventing throwing of wastes from the road.

Please report the details of existing waste management facilities with their status of operation and proposed projects with time line for implementation for rectifying the issues mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,

MEMBER SECRETARY

Copy To:

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer- Regional Office, Trivandrum Please conduct a meeting and submit report
2. The Environmental Engineer- District Office Kollam
3. The EE3, Head office

Signed by

Sheela A M

Date: 27-08-2024 22:13:43