

**Item No.06:**

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

**Original Application No.97 of 2025(SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**  
based on the News Item in '*The Hindu*'  
Newspaper Edition dt: 10.06.2025,  
**"Container Vessel on fire off Kerala  
Coast"**.

*And*

Ministry of Ports,  
Shipping and Waterways and Ors.



...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 12.03.2026.**

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**HON'BLE DR. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented  
Mr. E.K. Kumaresan for R2, R5 to R7.  
Mr. G. Prabhu for R3.  
Mrs. Rema Smrithi for R4.  
Mrs. Ashwini Vaidialingam &  
Rishabh Saxena for R8.

## ORDER

1. The report dated 05.07.2025 filed by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the report dated 12.03.2026 filed by the 8<sup>th</sup> Respondent are taken on record.

2. It is noted that the vessel was carrying approximately 1,754 containers, of which, according to the 8<sup>th</sup> Respondent, only 32 containers sank and one empty container was floating and drifting. The vessel was subsequently towed to Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 24.08.2025. It is therefore stated that the vessel is no longer in Indian waters, being beyond 44 nautical miles.

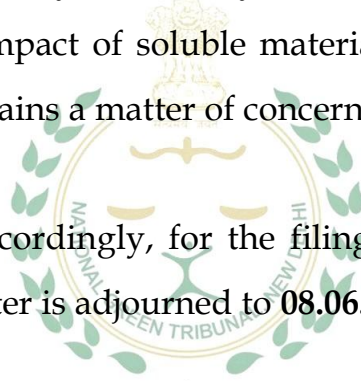
3. The 8<sup>th</sup> Respondent has also produced a report from TMC (Marine Consultants) Limited regarding the containers lost overboard as a result of the fire and explosion. The list of contents of the containers appears to include food items, air conditioners, sofas, toys, AC induction motors, LED display panels, etc., which do not appear to be hazardous.

4. However, the report filed by the Kerala SPCB has given a longer list of containers about 143. Therefore, the 8<sup>th</sup> Respondent is directed to file a further detailed report providing complete particulars of the contents of the containers, including whether any of them are hazardous in nature and the likely environmental impact, even if they are stated to have sunk to a depth of about 700 meters.

5. The report shall also address the adverse impact in the event that the containers open up and any soluble material contained therein leaks into the water and dissolves, including whether such leakage would affect the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) or Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and the consequent impact on marine life.

6. The Coast Guard has already filed a report stating that none of the containers have been reported to have washed ashore and that the likelihood of such containers reaching the shore and causing environmental damage is low, as the drift pattern would carry them away from the Indian coast. However, the potential impact of soluble materials from the containers on marine life remains a matter of concern.

7. Accordingly, for the filing of the aforesaid detailed report, the matter is adjourned to **08.06.2026**.



**Sd/-**  
**Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM**

**Sd/-**  
**Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM**

**O.A. No.97/2025(SZ)**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. AD.**