

Item No.04:

**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: 13.01.2026.



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. Satheesh represented
Mr. G. Prabhu for R3.
Mrs. Nivedita S Menon represented
Mrs. V.K. Rema Smrithi for R4.
M/s. Amitava Majumdar & Deepanshi
Kapoor Ashwini Vaidialingam & Rishabh
Saxena for R8.

ORDER

1. Earlier, the Indian Coast Guard (Respondent No. 6) filed its report. The averments specific to the container vessel MV WAN HAI 305 are that a detailed plan for the recovery of containers containing hazardous material was submitted by Salvor to DG Shipping, but a copy of the plan was not shared with the Indian Coast Guard. It is also stated that the assistance of the ICG has not been sought so far.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the owner of the ship, who was impleaded as the 8th Respondent, has stated that they are yet to file their reply. The learned counsel further stated that on 02.07.2025, the vessel that involved in the accident was thrown away beyond the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As on 24.08.2025, the ship is at Jabal Ali. Admittedly, about 232 containers fell off the ship, the contents of which are not made public.

3. Therefore, we direct the owner of the ship to declare and dispose of the contents of the 232 containers that fell in the high seas of the Arabian Sea and also to state the measures or steps taken to retrieve them. They are further directed to indicate the potential consequences if these containers remain at the bottom of the sea in the long term.

4. Let the report of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority also be filed in the meantime. If there is any other litigation in this regard pending before either the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala or any other forum, copies of the affidavits filed and the orders passed therein may also be furnished.

5. Post the matter on **12.03.2026**.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.97/2025(SZ)
13th January, 2026.AD.

