

Item No.07:

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.93 of 2023(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**
based on the News Item in The Hindu,
Newspaper dt: 07.06.2023, titled "**Study
finds disturbing evidence of marine
plastic pollution off Kerala coast**".

And

The Member Secretary,
Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 07.07.2025.



CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. G. Prabhu for R1.
Mr. G. Vignesh represented
Mr. E.K. Kumaresan for R2.
Mrs. V.K. Rema Smrithi for R3.

ORDER

1. The learned counsel appearing for the Kerala SCZMA seeks additional time to file the report.

2. The report dated 03.07.2025 of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board is filed. It highlights the conduct of a mega beach cleanup drive undertaken as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day at locations including Veetukad, Kovalam, Veli, Shanmugham, and Pallithura. As part of this initiative, trash booms were installed at 15 locations, effectively preventing approximately 514 tonnes of waste from entering the sea. Additionally, a metal mesh structure was installed at Thakaraparambu. Monthly cleanup drives are also being carried out in the coastal regions of Attipra, Thiruvallom, and Vizhinjam.

3. The Kerala SPCB has also reported the collection of Rs.3,74,322/- as fines from 1,037 individuals for violations pertaining to improper disposal of plastic waste. Besides the Kerala SPCB, the Department of Fisheries and the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation have undertaken coordinated and sustained efforts to mitigate marine plastic pollution. It has also been noted that plastic nurdles washed ashore from the Liberian-flagged vessel *MSC ELSA-3* have been included in the scope of the beach cleanup initiative. The recovered plastic nurdles are presently stored at the Kollam Port godown, and the process of their removal is ongoing.

4. The efforts of the Fisheries Department and the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, in coordination with the Kerala SPCB, towards the mega beach cleanup drive—including the removal of plastic nurdles—are duly appreciated. It is expected that such efforts shall be continued in a sustained manner.

5. Post the matter on **28.08.2025**.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.93/2023(SZ)
07th July, 2025. Mn.

