

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 106/2024

News item titled "**Effluent seepage from dump yard pollutes drinking water sources**" appearing in the Times of India dated 19.12.2023

Date of hearing: 02.02.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Mr. Harish Jayakumar, Adv. for R - 2 (Through VC)
Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw, Adv. for R - 3 (Through VC)

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "**Effluent seepage from dump yard pollutes drinking water sources**" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 19.12.2023. The news item raises the issue relating to water pollution being caused due to seepage of effluent from the waste heaps into open wells and other drinking water sources at the landfill site in Mandara Village near waste dump yard of Mangaluru City Corporation at Pachanady, Karnataka. As per the news item, the residents of the village are worried about pollution of water in their wells as they are facing drinking water shortage. The report also reflects that cultivation of agricultural land in that area is affected and that contaminated water from the well even causes rashes on the skin and is creating health hazard.

2. The news item report raises a substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms.

3. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter in *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal*

Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.” reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

4. Hence, we implead following as respondents in this OA:

- i. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary.
- ii. Mangaluru City Corporation through its Commissioner.
- iii. Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Mangaluru.
- iv. Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary.

5. Mr. Harish Jayakumar and Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw, Advocates accept notice on behalf of the Respondents No. 2 and 3 and pray for time to file the response. Let notice be issued to Respondents No. 1 and 4 for filing their response atleast one week before the next date of hearing before the concerned Bench of the Tribunal.

6. Since the matter relates to the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai, therefore, the OA is transferred to the said bench for further appropriate action. Registry is directed to transfer the original record of this OA to Southern Zone Bench, Chennai.

7. List before the Southern Zone Bench at Chennai on 20.03.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 02, 2024
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DV.