

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

Original Application No. 695/2023

In re: News item appearing in Daijiworld dated 26.10.2023 titled  
**“Mangaluru: Illegal stone quarry mining – Contractor  
threatens local residents”**

Date of hearing: 24.11.2023

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

Respondent: Mr. Darpan K.M. Adv. for the State of Karnataka (Through VC)

**ORDER**

1. This OA is registered in *suo motu* exercise of power on the basis of the news item published in ‘Daijiworld’ dated 26.10.2023 titled **“Mangaluru: Illegal stone quarry mining – Contractor threatens local residents”**.

2. As per the said news item report, illegal stone quarry mining is going on for last three years in the outskirts of Neerumarga Gram Panchayat. Residents are witnessing sounds of explosives which are used even during the night and more than 20 houses and nearby mosque have developed cracks due to huge sound generated by the explosives. It is also stated that the glasses of window panes have been broken in many houses. The report discloses that one stone quarry was given permission for just a year in 2017, but even though the permission was cancelled, the quarry is working unabatedly for last three years. In spite of the complaints, no action has been taken.

3. The news item discloses that substantial issue relating to compliance of environmental laws is involved in the matter.

4. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter in *suo-motu* exercise of power 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.

5. Having regard to the above, we deem it proper to implead the following as respondents in this OA:

- i. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary.
- ii. Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka.
- iii. The Secretary, Mining Department, State of Karnataka.

6. Registry is directed to issue notice to the above respondents.

7. The standing Counsel for State of Karnataka appearing on advance notice has informed that the inspection was done on 25.10.2023 and the mining activity in the area concerned has been stopped and machines JCBs, etc. lying on the spot have been seized.

8. Since the matter relates to Southern Zone Bench, of the Tribunal, therefore, the OA is transferred to the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai for further appropriate action in accordance with law. Registry is directed to transfer the original record of this OA to the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai.

9. List before the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai on 05.01.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 24, 2023  
Original Application No. 695/2023  
DV