

VERDICTUM.IN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.V.BHATTI

&

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE BASANT BALAJI

Tuesday, the 14th day of March 2023 / 23rd Phalguna, 1944

WP(C) NO. 7844 OF 2023(S)

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001.
2. KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, PARK AVENUE ROAD, MARINE DRIVE, KOCHI - 682 011.
3. KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, HEAD OFFICE, PATTOM P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 004.
4. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, DISTRICT COLLECTORATE, KAKKANAD, ERNAKULAM- 682 030.
5. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, KERALA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES, HEADQUARTERS, FIRE FORCE JUNCTION, PULIMOODU P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001.
6. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF, KERALA POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, INDIA - 695 010.

ADDL. R7 IMPLEADED

7. THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA.

ADDL. R7 IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER

DATED 07/03/2023 IN WPC

ADDL. R8 IMPLEADED

8. KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD,
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
VYDUTHI BHAVAN, PATTOM-695 004.

ADDL. R8 IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER

DATED 10/03/2023 IN WPC.

P.T.O.

This Suo Motu writ petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition, this Court's orders dated 13/03/2023 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI.K. GOPALAKRISHNA KURUP, ADVOCATE GENERAL for R1, R4, R6 & R7, SRI.K. JANARDHANA SHENOY, STANDING COUNSEL for R2, SRI.T. NAVEEN, STANDING COUNSEL for R3 and of SRI.UNNIKRISHNAN, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R5, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



S.V. BHATTI & BASANT BALAJI, JJ.

W.P.(C) No.7844 of 2023

Dated: 14th March 2023

ORDER

S.V.Bhatti, J

The District Collector and the Secretary, Cochin Municipal Corporation, both from the inputs they have received and what they have seen in the physical inspection undertaken on 13.03.2023, place a statement before the Court that the fire is completely contained and put out by 100%. The smouldering is not visible to the naked eye. By placing the statement on record, we notice that the first of the problems taken up by the *suo motu* writ petition is answered as stated by the Officers.

2. To reach this stage, this Court is of the view that this Court and the citizens of Cochin place on record their appreciation for discharging a herculean task of putting out the fire at the site at this time of the year by the Personnel of the Fire Department. We are conscious that either the failure to control the fire or allowing the fire to spread to the neighbourhood would have led to unimaginable consequences. We record our recognition, satisfaction, and appreciation to the Personnel of the Fire Department for all their efforts. We also record the same appreciation for the contribution of the Civil Defence Volunteers in putting out the fire.

2.1 We call upon the Director General, Kerala Fire and Rescue Services/5th respondent, to convey our appreciation now placed on record to each one of the Personnel who has worked without differentiating the day and the night. At the

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appropriate stage of the proceedings, this Court would also observe suitable rewards and recognition by the State Government to the frontline firefighters.

Handover copy.

Sd/-
S.V. BHATTI
JUDGE



Sd/-
BASANT BALAJI
JUDGE

jjj 14/03/2023