



THE PLACHIMADA STRUGGLE
Over the years...



1886 May 8

An American pharmacist named John Stith Pemberton experimented and developed a liquid solution of Carbonate mixture with water. It came to be known as 'Coca Cola' and started to be produced for markets.

1892

Aasa Griggs Candler, from Atlanta, Georgia brought out the formula and brand of Coca Cola from John Pemberton and founded 'The Coca Cola' company.

1958

Coca Cola started its production in India at a bottling Plant in New Delhi. The Indian Franchise of Coca Cola was "Pure Drinks".

1974 January 1

The Government of Indira Gandhi established the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973 in India to control over and restrict the foreign exchanges.

1977

Coca Cola Company voluntarily withdrew from India adhering to the new Act of Foreign Exchange Regulation.



1991 July 24

The union finance minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh proclaimed the neoliberal policies in his budget in favor of foreign companies to make investments all over the nation without any regulations.

1993 October 24

Coca Cola Company restarted their service in India after the changes in foreign policies and they rebuilt their bottling plant in Agra, New Delhi.

1997 February 14

On behalf of the Company Act of 1956, “Hindustan Coca Cola Bottling South West Private Limited” registered as the subsidiary company of Coca Cola.

1999 August 31

A person named V Kishan bought 34 acres and 41 cents for building a bottling plant of Coca Cola. The company had entered Kerala only after the assurance for getting enough water and electricity (for the sake of company’s operations) from the LDF government; when EK Nayanar was the chief minister and Susheela Gopalan was the minister of Industry.



1999 October 8

An application had been submitted for the construction of a bottling plant in Plachimada by V Kishan Perumatti on behalf of Hindustan Coca Cola South West Private Limited.

1999 October 12

The name of 'Hindustan Coca Cola Bottling South West Private Limited' was changed to 'Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Private Limited'.

2000 January 25

Perumatti Panchayath grants permission to construct the bottling plant of Hindustan Beverages Private Limited. Panchayath declared the consent with the site approval of Palakkad District Medical Officer on the basis of the conditions about public health.

2000 February 19

The State Pollution Control Board granted permission for the functioning of the plant under the Water Act (sections 25 and 26), till 31st December 2001 based on 9 conditions. KSPCB gave consent for the discharge of 8 lakh liters of waste water per day from the plant.



2000 March

Coca Cola started its production in Plachimada. Between 250 and 300 workers on daily wages and 135 permanent laborers were employed in the plant. The solid waste produced by the plant was distributed to the local farmers by convincing them it was manure.

2001 January

Noticing the absence of children in school from the locality of Coca Cola plant, a local school master Narendra Nath realized that water scarcity was the reason. He then gathered information on the issues related to the company and presented a detailed report at the district workshop in Palakkad conducted by an environment group.

2001 March

A report had been brought out under the leadership of Dr. Satheesh Chandran on behalf of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The team brought out that, more than 750 families of Plachimada, Vijayanagar, Velur, Madhavan Nair colonies in PerumattiPanchayath, and Rajeev Nagar, ThottichiPathi colonies in Pattancheri Panchayath (these colonies are mainly inhabited by people belonging to SC/ST categories), were struggling with acute water starvation and were compelled to drink polluted and distasteful water after the coca Cola plant had begun production.



2001 March/April

As the Coca Cola plant continues production Plachimada villagers burst out a struggle in front of the bottling plant led by Varadarajan, ward member of Nellimedu, demanding the supply of distilled water. This was under the circumstances of increased pollution, foul smell and taste of well waters that were causing a range of health issues in the region. The company management negotiated with the people in the meeting presided by the former MLA of Chittoor, K Krishnankutti and the strike was called to an end. Despite this, the company went back on their word and refused to supply water as per the negotiation.

2001 October 22

The state commercial-industrial director abandoned the request of the company to withdraw the state tax.

2002 January

The residents of Plachimada approached the labour contractors in order to get some jobs in the bottling plant, but were humiliated. The company manager informed the people that a bottling plant like that of CocaCola is expected to create problems related with pollution in the area where it is functioning.



2002 February

Adivasi Samrakshana Sangham, a tribal organization in the area demonstrated a strike against the pollution caused by the bottling plant. The strike had been conducted as an extension of a march leading to Meenakshipuram Police aid post demanding the arrest of culprits who had beaten tribal people who were fishing from the Kambalathara dam.

2002 March 4

The medical analysis report of Sargam metals laboratory, Chennai confirmed that two wells in the Vijayanagar colony were polluted and should not be used for drinking purposes.

2002 March 20

The villagers drafted a complaint before the District Collector, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kerala State Human Rights Commission and Chief Minister against the pollution caused by the factory.

2002 April 2

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board renewed the consent for the company to function up to December 2004, even in the middle of several allegations against the company.



2002 April 22

C.K.Janu, leader of Adivasi Gothramahasabha, inaugurated the Anti Coca Cola struggle before the Coca Cola factory at Plachimada. It demanded permanent closure of the factory and compensation for the pollution caused by the Company.

2002 April 26

Morris Wilson, General Manager of the Coca-Cola Company filed a case against the people who were in leadership of the struggle committee.

2002 May 2

The company started collecting water from various places of Perumatti and Pattancheri villages for their purpose of production. More than 50 tanker lorries (one lorry can load 12000 liters of water) continuously supplied water per day.

2002 May 26

The Anti CocaCola struggle committee organized an all-party meeting. None of the political parties attended the meeting except the CPI.



2002 June

An organization named Jananeethi came forward with a report about the environmental damage caused by the company in the region. The group's findings revealed that the bottling plant had deleterious effects on the environment and demanded immediate shut down of the plant and compensation for the natives under Polluter Pays Principle.

2002 June 7

The Anti CocaCola struggle committee led a march to the Perummatty Panchayath office, demanding the cancellation of the Factory's license. The protestors threw cow dung at the office building as a symbolic act of purification of the local administrative system.

2002 June 8

Trade union leaders in the region conducted a public meeting in which representatives of CPI(M), Congress, BJP and Janata Dal participated. The meeting unanimously proclaimed that the Company will be protected at any cost since it provides job opportunities. Participants stated that the factory does not cause any pollution in the region.

2002 August 1

The Kerala Legislative Assembly passed the Ground Water Regulation Act of 2002, to protect the groundwater resources of the State and to gain control over the usages of it.



2002 August 24

The District Deputy Medical Officer of Palakkad visited Plachimada and investigated on the allegations against the company. The enquiry report clearly pointed out that the well water of Vijayanagar colony turned into a foul taste and changed its colour. The reason for this as the report says is the ignorance people had towards the well water, when they started depending on the tanker lorry water supply of the company. “The solid waste distributed by the company was good manure, therefore no point in taking legal actions against the company”, the report says.

2002 October 2

According to the report of RN Athavale, a scientist at the Hyderabad National Geophysical Research Institute, ground water exploitation has not happened in Plachimada and the functioning of CocaCola plant does not contribute to the degradation of the water quality in the region. This report was, in fact, prepared on the request of the company to study about the ground water usage of its plant in Plachimada.

2002 November

The Kerala State Ground Water Department states that the functioning of CocaCola bottling plant cannot be considered the factor behind the pollution problem faced in the region.



2002 November 8

An enquiry report of *Yuvajanavedi* states that the government machineries failed in checking or restricting the extraction of ground water by the CocaCola plant in Plachimada, a region which faces water scarcity. The report was prepared by a committee led by Dr. A. Achuthan, that studied the problems caused by pollution and environmental issues resulteng from the functioning of CocaCola plant in Plachimada and Pepsi plant in Puthusserry.

2003 January

The Kerala State Ground Water Department published its report on the ground water usage of CocaCola plant in Plachimada. The study was done based on the water level and quality of water in 20 wells in the region. Among those wells, it was found that the water level in four wells had depleted and water quality had declined in three wells. The report states that the company had not approached the Department before starting to function.

2003 January 15

Environment Committee of Kerala Legislative Assembly led by George J Mathew expressed its concerns over the ground water exploitation by the CocaCola plant that in future may led to severe drought in the area. It criticized the Ground Water Authority for acting irresponsibly as it failed to produce a report on the Plant's ground water exploitation as per the request of the committee. It opined that there are no substantial facts in the allegations against the Company except ground water



exploitation. The committee informed that it will suggest a national level agency to conduct a scientific study about the ground water exploitation.

2003 January 26

The National Alliance for People's Movement (NAPM) started its Ayodhya march from Plachimada against globalization and communalism, led by Medha Patkar. It helped attract nation-wide attention towards the Plachimada movement.

2003 February 7

Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala State Secretary of CPI(M) stated that the Plant may be temporarily closed. K.E. Ismail, the Revenue Minister stated that no consent was given for the Company under the Kerala Land Utility Act and had no role in issuing license for the Company.

2003 February 10

The Directorate of Industrial Unit decided to grant State Investment Subsidy of 20 lakhs to the Company under the Kerala State Industrial Policy, 2001. Subsidy was granted under the Investment Subsidy Scheme of the State government. (This was revealed by the Company in a reply to the show cause notice of Perumatty Panchayath on 18th September 2003.)



2003 March 31

License of the Company issued by Perummatty Panchayath expires.

2003 April 7

Perumatty Panchayath decides not to extend the license of Plachimada Coca Cola bottling plant, as its operations cause depletion of ground water level and severe drought in the area.

2003 April 9

Special Grade Secretary of Perumatty Panchayath sends a show cause notice to the Company informing the decision of Panchayath not to extent the license for Plachimada bottling plant as its operations caused depletion of ground water level which led to increasing water scarcity in the region. Panchayath seeks explanation from the company on the issues raised in the notice within 15 days.

2003 April 13

Plachimada Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee seizes the Plant which continued its operation without a license. Police forcefully remove the agitators from the place.

2003 April 16

Company approaches Kerala High Court against the show cause notice issued by Perummatty Panchayath.



2003 April 22

Kerala High Court Justice K.K. Dineshan suggests that the Company gives an explanation on the show cause notice and continues the status-quo until the Panchayath considers it.

2003 April 30

Company gives explanation on the show cause notice issued by the Panchayath, stating that it has not violated any conditions in the license agreement, and that the decision of Panchayath denies natural justice to the Company and is out of its jurisdiction. Company also states that the agitation against the Company is without a scientific basis and so Panchayath cannot cancel the license as per their demands.

2003 May 13

The primary health center of Perumatty warns against the usage of water in the three wells near to the plant for drinking purposes based on its water analysis report.

2003 May 15

Perumatty Panchayath cancels the license of the plant based on various observations. Order of Special Grade Secretary states that the ground water level and the quality of water in the region has declined due to the exploitation by the Company and has resulted in several environmental and health issues. It also stated that the evidence produced by the Company as an explanation to the notice were against the facts.



2003 May 16

Kerala High Court Justice K. Thankappan advised the company to approach the Local Self-Governance Department against the cancellation of the license.

2003 May 22

The company filed an appeal before the secretary of Local Self-Governance Department against the cancellation of the license.

2003 June 5

Center for Science and Environment (based in Delhi) published a report which states that the presence of pesticide residues in the cola products are beyond the permissible limit.

2003 June 12

The Local Self Governance Department issued a stay order on the appeal filed by the company.

2003 July 25

BBC reports that heavy metals like Cadmium and Lead are found above the permissible limit in the solid waste distributed by the company as manure. John Waite, reporter of BBC had visited Plachimada to collect samples of well water and the solid waste and analysed those samples from Exeter University laboratory Britain as part of “Face the fact” program in BBC Radio 4.



2003 July 28

Health Minister P.Sankaran declares that Indulal, the Member Secretary of Kerala State Pollution Control Board, will enquire about the presence of Cadmium and Lead in the solid waste distributed by the company.

2003 August 4

LSGD Minister Cherkkulam Abdulla stated in the Legislative Assembly that industrial projects like CocaCola cannot be opposed on the basis of allegations that emerge from blind political hostility.

2003 August 7

Kerala State Pollution Control Board in its analysis reports 201.8 mg/kg of Cadmium content in the solid waste from the Plachimada plant. KSPCB Member Secretary informs the company to stop the distribution of solid waste as the heavy metal content exceeds the permissible limit under Hazardous Waste Management Rules.

2003 August

Paul Thatchil, Chairman of KSPCB, declares the findings of analysis report in a press conference.

2003 August 19

Plachimada Anti-Coca cola struggle committee conducts a march on the 486th day of protest to the residence of K. Achuthan, Chittoor MLA, against his objectionable silence on the issue.



2003 August 22

Joint Parliamentary Committee presided by Sharad Pawar was constituted to enquire about the quality measures of soft drinks.

2003 September 12

The Gramasabha meeting of the 8th ward of Perumatty Panchayath places its demand to the Government of Kerala to close down the Plachimada bottling plant and to give compensation for those who are affected.

2003 September 13

The struggle committee conducts a protest march to the Ground Water Department Office Palakkad, accusing that the study report of the department stands in favour of Coca Cola Company.

2003 September 14

Plachimada Adivasi Oorukoottam demands the closure of the factory and to take legal actions against the management. Kannadasan, head of the oorukoottam, presented the topic.

2003 September

Central Groundwater Department published its report which enquired about the condition of ground water in and around the coca cola bottling plant in Plachimada.



2003 September 18

Panchayath issued second show cause notice to the company in compliance with its duty to protect the traditional water resources and other drinking sources in the region. Panchayath points out that the company has violated the Land Utility Act of 1967 as it converted cultivable land for the construction of buildings. The Company also did not possess the permit to use motors to extract ground water through bore wells. The notice also points out its responsibility to stop the operation of the plant as it would impact the wellbeing of people.

2003 September 29

PCB member secretary who was appointed by the Health Minister to study the issue issued a press release: 'Water in the wells close to the plant and land where the solid waste was used as fertilizer are not affected by the presence of Cadmium and Lead. As the presence of Cadmium and Lead in the solid waste distributed from the plant is below the permissible limit, it cannot be considered as hazardous waste under Hazardous Waste Management Rules. But it cannot be used as fertilizer and should be dealt with utmost care.'

2003 October 6

The Company approaches Kerala High Court against the second show cause notice issued by the Panchayath.



2003 October 8

Following the court order, company gives explanation on the second show cause notice issued by the Panchayath. It states that explanations for the issues mentioned in the notice were already submitted by the company. And that while it is under the consideration of Local Self-Governing Department, the Panchayath cannot seek explanation from the company on the same issues. Company reminded that the notice sent by the Panchayath is against the industrial policy of Kerala government and it will severely affect the economic growth of the State. It repeatedly denied any kind of illegal actions from its side and requested the Panchayath to wait for the final decision of LSGD.

2003 October 13

P. Kamal Kutty, secretary of Local Self-Governance Department advised Perumatty Panchayath to appoint a special enquiry commission which consists of experts from Ground Water Department, Health Department and Pollution Control Board to investigate the allegations raised against the company, as the decision taken by the Panchayath holds no scientific basis.

2003 October 29

Panchayath files a petition against the Local Self-Governance Department in the High Court.



2003 November

The Central Pollution Control Board finds that Cadmium content in the solid waste distributed from the plant is 338.8 mg/kg. The study was conducted as per the request of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

2003 November 14

Kerala High Court judgment rejects the appeal filed by the company against the show cause notice issued by the Panchayath. It also issued a notice on the petition filed by Panchayath against the decision of Local Self-Governance Department.

2003 November 26

The company submits an appeal against the High Court verdict on 14th November.

2003 December 16

Kerala High Court single bench judgement came out with an emphasis on Public Trust Doctrine. According to the verdict, ground water is for the public, a company cannot demand a large portion of it. It states that as the state government is only a trustee of natural resources it does not have the authority to allow one private individual to extract a large amount of ground water. Justice K Balakrishnan Nair advised the Panchayath to renew the license of the company if it manages to get water from other resources.



2003 December 16

First meeting of India Advisory Board of Coca-Cola Company decided to form India Environment Council to give suggestions regarding environmental issues. B.N. Kripal, former chief justice of Supreme Court, was appointed as the President of the council. The decision was taken in a board meeting led by Naresh Chandra, former cabinet secretary.

2003 December 17

Company filed an appeal before Kerala High Court division bench against the single bench judgment.

2003 December 19

Kerala High Court division bench observed that the government suggestion to Panchayath to form an enquiry commission of experts is prima facie right and entrusted the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management(CWRDM), Kozhikode, with the task of studying about the ground water availability in Plachimada.

2003 December 27

Activists of Yuvajanathadal, youth wing of the political party Janathadal, protested against the biased report of KSPCB by putting cola bottles around the neck of Indulal, member secretary of KSPCB.



2003 December 29

Clashes break open at the public hearing of Kerala Legislative Assembly subject committee in Trivandrum.

2004 January 7

PCB rejected the application of the company for the consent under Hazardous Waste Management Rules due to the absence of sufficient waste management system in the plant.

2004 January 17

Coca Cola company pays 6,70,000 rupees, on behalf of the beneficiary committees in the Jalanithi project in the 8th ward of Pattanchery Panchayath. Project Manager issues a notice to the beneficiary committees stating that the project can be continued only if they return back the amount to the company.

2004 January 18

People from Plachimada, Sivaganga and Thungoor in Karnataka held an anti-Coca Cola protest in the Mumbai world social forum.

2004 January 21 to 24

World Water Conference in Plachimada. More than 60 foreign delegates attended the conference. The conference proclaimed statements against the privatisation of water by corporate companies like Pepsi and Coca-Cola and demanded coal companies to quit India.



2004 January 29

Panchayath filed an appeal against the verdict of Kerala High Court division bench.

2004 February 4

Joint Parliament Committee published its report on the pesticide content in the soft drinks. Committee handed over the pollution issue in Plachimada to Supreme Court Monitoring Committee which studies industrial pollution.

2004 February 6

Opposition leader of Kerala V.S.Achuthanandan inaugurated the assembly march demanding action to close down cola companies on the basis of the JPC report.

2004 February 17

The company files a request in the Panchayath to renew the license for five years. State cabinet meeting decides to shut down the company till the monsoon period based on the note from the Palakkad District Collector which reported severe water scarcity in the region.

2004 February 21

The government of Kerala issued a circular to shut down the coca cola plant till the monsoon season as part of its drought relief measures.



2004 February 22

Palakkad District Development committee meeting presided by Palakkad District Collector Sanjeev Kaushik requests to the State government to shut down the Coca Cola plant in Plachimada and the Pepsi plant in Puthussery.

2004 February 23

PCB once again refuses consent under Hazardous Waste Management Rules since the company failed to build proper arrangements for waste disposal.

2004 February 26

Company filed a writ appeal in the high court against the government decision to close down the plant till the monsoon season. Company does not implement government's decision.

2004 February 27

Perummatty Panchayath President requested the Palakkad District Collector to act upon state government's decision which prohibited ground water usage by the company.

2004 march

Central Ground Water Authority and State Ground Water Authority jointly notified 151 blocks all over the country which includes Chittoor as a highly exploited zone on the basis of study carried out by the Central Ground Water Board.



2004 march 6

The struggle committee activists detained 3 water tank lorries of the company which got filled from private lands without considering the government order. Water in the lorries were poured out into dry farm lands in the region.

2004 march 8

Kerala High Court division bench of justice Syriac Joseph and Justice Pathmanabhan Nair agree to the decision of state government to close down the plant.

2004 march 9

Coca Cola plant in Plachimada stopped its operation following the government order.

2004 march 11

Perumatty Panchayath agreed to renew the consent in the case if company gets water for the production purposes from sources outside the Panchayath, stops discharge of deadly wastes and can convince the Panchayath authority that the products of the company do not contain any kind of hazardous materials.

2004 march 30

Panchayath issues an order to close down the plant.



2004 April 1

State government grants a stay on Panchayath's decision to close down the plant.

2004 April 6

Panchayath files a petition before the High Court division bench against the stay order of the State government.

2004 May 19

KSPCB Member Secretary instructs the company to build a land fill as per the guidance of Central Pollution Control Board.

2004 June 24

Central Health Ministry postponed any legal action against Coca Cola Company for 1 year by sitting Joint Parliamentary Committee report on the pesticide content in soft drinks as unscientific.

2004 August

Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on industrial pollution visited Plachimada and instructed the company to supply drinking water to the affected people in the region and to install reverse osmosis system for wastewater management.



2004 August 23

PCB instructed the company to close down its plant until it follows Hazardous Waste Management Rules and to supply drinking water to the affected people under the instructions of the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee.

2004 September 7

PCB instructs the company to install reverse osmosis system for the wastewater management as per the instructions of Supreme Court Monitoring Committee.

2004 September 14

PCB constitutes a Local Area Environment Protection Committee following the instructions of Supreme Court Monitoring Committee to find families affected by the operation of the plant and to assure that company supplies them drinking water.

2004 November 6

State government withdrew the police guards deployed before the plant to provide protection since the company failed to pay the due of Rs. 37 lakhs to the government.

2004 November 14

PCB chairman instructed the company to supply drinking water to the 341 households in the 8th and 9th wards of Perumatty Panchayath through pipe line. PCB's order was on the basis of the findings of LAEPC.



2004 December 17

Company requests the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee to revisit its instruction to PCB. SCMC had instructed not to allow the plant to restart its operation unless the company started supplying pipe water for the 341 affected households.

2005 February 9

Officials of the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management visited Plachimada and analysed water quality under police protection as per the judicial order. Police protection was arranged as the visit was previously interrupted by Karshaka Samrakshana Samithi, an organisation of farmers in the region.

2005 February 11

CWRDM submits its complete report on the need and availability of ground water in plachimada before the High Court. It allows the company to extract a maximum of 5 lakhs of litres of ground water per day.

2005 March 11

B.N. Kripal, former Chief Justice of India, and Environmental Council President of Coca Cola Company express their personal disagreement on the High Court's decision not to grant stay on state government's instruction to close down Plachimada plant of Coca Cola.



2005 March 29

Struggle Committee declares that it will continue the protest until the company shut down its plant in Plachimada after providing compensation for the affected people. Company management approaches the High Court to allow it to continue its operation in Plachimada.

2005 April 1

Perumatty Panchayath filed a report of CSE (Centre for Science and Environment) in the High Court which points out that CWRDM report favours the company in a biased and unscientific way.

2005 April 1

The Geological Assistant of the Ground Water Department, Palakkad filed an affidavit before the High court against the report of CWRDM.

2005 April 7

Kerala High Court division bench instructed Perumatty Panchayath to renew the license of the company in its judgment. Judgment was based on the expert committee report which allows company to extract 5 liters of ground water per day for the functioning of its Plachimada plant. The bench consisting of Justice M. Ramachandran and Justice K. Balachandran observed that a land owner cannot be restricted from extracting ground water from the land and the decision of Panchayath not to renew the license without any scientific basis cannot be justified.



2005 April 12

Panchayath filed an affidavit seeking stay on the order of the High Court division bench.

2005 April 13

Company submits application to the Panchayath to renew the license.

2005 April 26

Panchayath rejects the company's application.

2005 May 7

Panchayath informs the company that the application is not complete as it lacks the required details.

2005 May 7

PCB informed the company that its argument of possessing deemed license under the Water Act is baseless and the application filed for the renewal of license is incomplete.

2005 May

Company approached the court against the Panchayath states that it is violating the court order. It requests the court to direct the Panchayath to renew its license.

2005 June 1

High Court division bench consisting of Justice M. Ramachandran and Justice K. Balachandran instructed the Panchayath to renew the license for the company within a week, otherwise, the company will be granted with deemed license for two years.



2005 June 3

Company applies to the Panchayath for the renewal of its license as per the instructions of the High Court.

2005 June 6

Panchayath granted license for the company under 13 conditions for 3 months.

2005 July 1

Pollution Control Board issues a show cause notice to the company as it did not install Reverse Osmosis system in the plant and the application was incomplete.

2005 July 7

Gokul Prasad, a resident of Nellimedu, Chittoor, sent a notice to the Pollution Control Board to inform his decision to file a complaint in the High Court against the company under section 24 of Water Act.

2005 July 22

Gokul Prasad informs PCB that he possessed some strong evidence against the company.

2005 August 8

News Papers report that company did a trial run in its Plachimada plant. The company management informed media about their decision to restart the operation of the plant within few days.



2005 August 19

PCB cancelled the permit of the Plachimada plant under sections 25(4), 27 (2), 33A of Water Act for the company did not disclose the source of Cadmium in the solid waste, and as there is strong evidence against the company in the pollution issues.

2005 October 2

A Krishnan, former President of Perumatty Panchayath, files a complaint before the High Court chief justice against Coca Cola company, stating that the company offers bribes to High Court judges in order to attain a favourable judgment.

2005 October 9

PCB Member Secretary filed a counter affidavit in the appeal filed by the company before the High Court. In the appeal company had requested the court to clarify its statement on the issuance of deemed license to the company as per its order on 1st June.

2005 October 13

Gokul Prasad filed a petition against the company before the first class judicial magistrate court of Chittoor under the Water Act.

2005 November 16

Company approached the High Court against the decision of the Panchayath to reject the application of the company to renew the license. The High Court stated in its judgment that the Panchayath should consider the Company's application the next time before issuing the license.



2005 November 19

The Water Resource Department declared Chittoor block as notified area under the Kerala Ground Water Regulation Act.

2005 November 28

The company informed V.K. Ibrahim Kunju, the Minister for Industry, its decision to continue in Plachimada if the region is declared as Industrial zone or to find some other place to operate. The suggestion was a result of the meeting held with the representatives of state government and the District Industrial Centre of Palakkad. Company requested the government to continue the relaxations in sales tax even if it shifted its area of operation.

2005 December 7

Company filed an application in the Panchayath to renew the license as directed by the High Court.

2005 December 9

Pollution Control Board files a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court judgment of 16th November.

2005 December 20

Perumatty Panchayath administration decides to use all the water and ground water resources inside the Panchayath for drinking, domestic and agricultural purposes only in the time span from February to middle of the June as the region faces acute water scarcity.



2006 January 3

Perumatty Panchayath expresses its disagreement in declaring Plachimada as an industrial zone in order to allow Coca Cola company to continue its operation. Panchayath in its letter to the principle secretary of Industrial Department agreed with the decision to shift the plant to somewhere else. But if the company chooses to continue its operation in Plachimada it won't allow it to extract ground water: the Panchayath made its stand clear.

2006 January 4

The Panchayath decides to renew the license for 3 months under strict conditions on the basis of public trust doctrine and the decision of the Panchayath administrative board. As per the conditions groundwater within the Panchayath cannot be extracted for industrial based production and the company should supply one lakh litres of drinking water per day in the suggested areas.

2006 January 5

K. Suresh, president of Puthussery Panchayath, informs the media that they will not allow the company to operate inside the Panchayath. He added that Pepsi company in Puthussery continue its operation with the support of state government even though the Panchayath cancelled its license and informed Panchayath's decision to approach High Court against this.

2006 January 11

Company in its letter to the Panchayath said that the issuance of license under strict conditions is illegal and violation of court order.



2006 January 16

Panchayath in its reply to the company upholds its power to control or ban the usage of water for the well-being and interests of the larger population. It states that it won't issue license unless the company obey these conditions.

2006 January 16

Plachimada Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee and Solidarity Committee send a letter to T. Balakrishnan, special secretary of Industrial Department expressing their disagreement with the decision of the department to hold a meeting on the memorandum submitted by CocaCola management which requests to declare Plachimada as an industrial zone or to shift the operation of the plant to a new location.

2006 January 20

The Struggle committee passed a resolution by demanding the reassessment of all the study reports on Plachimada by various government departments or other agencies and to appoint a new committee of experts to assess the extent of damage done by the plant in Plachimada.

2006 March 2

Company submits a fresh request in the Panchayath for the renewal of license.

2006 March 15

PCB informs the company about the relaxation on its decision to shut down the plant which was based on the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee.



2006 March 31

Panchayath renews the license again for 3 months under the same set of strict conditions.

2006 April 9

Company expresses its gratitude towards PCB as it allowed relaxation in the order to shut down the plant.

2006 May 26

Veloor Swaminathan, general convener of Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee, submits a request to Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan to take immediate action to settle the struggle.

2006 May

State Ground Water Department publishes a report on Plachimada. According to the report, operation of CocaCola bottling plant is the reason for the water scarcity and pollution experienced in the region.

2006 June 2

The company again submits a request to the Panchayath for the renewal of the license.

2006 June 14

Chief Minister V.S.Achuthanandan announces that the government will take immediate actions to solve the issues in Plachimada.

2006 June 30

Panchayath renews the license of the company for the period of 3 months under the same set of strict conditions.



2006 August 10

Cabinet Ministry of Kerala government decides to ban the sales and production of Pepsi and CocaCola products in Kerala.

2006 August 5

The state government withdrew all criminal cases registered against the activists of Anti Coca Cola movement.

2006 August 11

The Struggle Committee declared that it will continue the protest till the company closes down its plant after paying the compensation.

2006 August 12

The ban of Pepsi and Coca Cola products came to prevail in the state under section 7 (4) of Food Safety Rules.

2006 August 19

Adivasi Samrakshana Sangham announce their decision to stop the struggle. Coca Cola and Pepsi file petitions against the ban in the High Court.

2006 September 2

The Struggle Committee conducted a strike in front of the Palakkad Pollution Control Board office demanding criminal actions against the company.



2006 September 19

The Struggle Committee conducted a march towards the Palakkad District Groundwater office. The Committee questions the capability of the department to protect the water resources of Kerala as it failed to take legal actions against Coca Cola company which caused ground water depletion and pollution in Plachimada.

2006 September 20

State Health Minister P.K. Sreemathi shares at the legislative assembly that the report from the government laboratory shows pesticide content in Pepsi and Coca Cola to be more than the permissible limit.

2006 September 22

High Court bench of Justice V.K. Bali and Justice M. Ramachandran cancel the ban on CocaCola and Pepsi products.

2006 September 25

State government appointed the agriculture university to enquire about the agricultural- environmental problems caused by the operation of CocaCola bottling plant in Plachimada.

2006 October 12

Food Inspector of Trivandrum mobile vigilance squad file a petition before the first class judicial magistrate court of Trivandrum as the presence of pesticide residues were found in soft drink samples collected in a raid in the Coca Cola go down in Peroorkkada, Trivandrum.



2006 November 1

Janakeeya Jalaadhikaara day proclaims the rights of indigenous people over the natural resources including drinking water.

2006 November 10

The human development report of UN states that Coca Cola plant in Plachimada caused water scarcity and pollution in and around the region.

2006 December 5

The government of Kerala submitted a request to the Supreme Court against the High Court judgment which cancels the ban on Cola products.

2006 December 10

The company officials try to evacuate the machines and goods from the plant premises; but the struggle committee does not allow that to happen.

2007 January 24

Petition submitted by the Struggle Committee to the Environment Committee of the Legislative Assembly states that, even though issues like water pollution and water level depletion occurred in Plachimada, government institutions like Kerala Ground Water Authority and Pollution Control Board failed to address and resist the issue. The Struggle Committee proposed to make immediate and radical amendments in Kerala Ground Water Act, Hazardous Waste Management Act, Panchayath Raj Act and Environmental Protection Act.



2007 February 24

Committee formed by the Kerala Ground Water Authority to study Plachimada issue visits the region.

2007 February 26

Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee and Solidarity Committee jointly submit a complaint to the subject committee of Kerala Legislative Assembly proposing criminal action against the company under the Pollution Control Act, Water Act, SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act and to permanently close down the plant after seeking compensation from the company.

2007 March 7

Solidarity Committee sent a letter to the Ground Water Authority demanding to take further steps on the issue.

2007 March 10

Struggle Committee and Solidarity Committee jointly conducted Janakeeya Jalaadhikara Yatra from Kasargod to Trivandrum. The march carried slogans like 'water for life, water sovereignty for the people' and demanded the permanent closure of the plant, criminal action against the company and emphasized on the sovereign power for people over the natural resources.

2007 March 15

Considering the demands in the letter submitted by the Struggle Committee, meeting of Kerala Ground Water Authority decides to appoint the ground water department of Palakkad district to make detailed enquiries about the water scarcity in Plachimada.



2007 April 4

Janakeeya Jalaadhikara Yatra reaches Trivandrum and submits petition to the chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan.

2007 April 22

A relay hunger strike starts in Plachimada lasting for 100 days demanding compensation and deportation of the Company.

2007 June 22

The struggle committee submits a request to the Palakkad district officer of the ground water department for further actions on the declaration of Chittoor block as a notified area under Kerala Ground water Regulation Act of 2002.

2007 August 10

Medha Patkar requests Kerala government to take political decision on Plachimada issue rather than waiting for solution from courts. All India Solidarity Convention was held in Plachimada in solidarity with the indefinite hunger strike.

2007 August 18

After a meeting with the Samara Samithy, the Chief Minister promised that he would stand by the people in obtaining the compensation from the Coca Cola company and that he would take further action after consulting the reports of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board and the Kerala State Ground water Department.



2007 August 18

The Kerala State Groundwater Department appointed its members C. N. Sasidaran and V. S. Madhavan Nair to visit Plachimada and prepare a report. On September 24th the committee visited Plachimada and the Struggle Solidarity Committee handed over a petition.

2007 September 27

As it has already been discovered that the level of cadmium in solid waste discharge from the plant and wells in the locality is above the permissible rate, and since it is the company's waste that is polluting the wells and since the company consciously distributed the waste despite knowledge about the repercussions, the Pollution Control Board sends a notice to the company demanding why the company shall not face trial according to the articles 43 and 47 of the Water Act.

2007 October 18

The company replies to the notice saying that the PCB cannot place the company on trial as the company is already facing a trial on the water pollution issue on a case registered by Gokul Prasad under Water Act and that the company cannot be placed on trial for the same issue more than once.

2007 October 23

In a meeting presided over by the principal secretary K. Jayakumar, it was decided that further study about the ground water is unnecessary since the Coca Cola plant has stopped functioning and that action in the issue of



compensation and distribution will be advocated at the government level. The authority also decided to ask the government to form a committee to make amendments to the Kerala Groundwater Regulation and Control act of 2002.

2008 April 22

As part of the 7th anniversary of the Anti Coca Cola Struggle, a relay hunger strike and National Solidarity Convention are organized. Medha Patkar, Aruna Roy, Sandeep Pandey and others participate, and call for cultural boycott of criminal colas.

2008 August 26

The Solidarity Committee informs the Groundwater Department that the report submitted by the committee appointed by the Kerala Groundwater Authority to investigate at Plachimada is completely baseless and irresponsible.

2008 August 27

Kerala Groundwater Authority appoints a subcommittee for the detailed study of the Plachimada issue.

2008 August 27

The case registered by Gokul Prasad is shifted to the Palakkad C. J. M. Court.



2008 September 23

The Groundwater Authority is informed of the sub committee's direction to set up a High Power Committee to study on the compensation issue.

2008 October 13

The Groundwater Authority meeting presided over by Additional Chief Secretary K. Jayakumar decides to estimate the losses on the basis of the report submitted by the subcommittee about the problems caused in the Plachimada area due to the Coca Cola plant and to determine the rate and also to recommend to the government to appoint a High Power Committee including representatives from various departments.

2009 January 1

As part of the Social Studies Tour of the children of Plachimada a petition was handed over to the Chief Minister asking to expedite the actions in regards to the tribunal bill.

2009 February 24

The Plachimada Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee and Solidarity Committee march to Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan's residence in protest against the L.D.F. government who had yet to take any action against the company even after having proclaimed during the elections to deport Coca Cola.



2009 March 29

The report submitted to the High Power Committee by the PCB says that in 2003 the level of Cadmium was excess in a particular well, in 2004 four wells showed excess in the level of Lead, and in 2007 and 2009 no wells showed excess in the amounts of Lead and Cadmium. The PCB also proclaims that in 2007 the wells have regained its previous state.

2009 April 17

Order issued by the Water Resources Department including the topics considered by the High Power Committee to study the extent and nature of the losses in Plachimada due to the Coca Cola plant. There was no reaction on the part of the PCB after that.

2009 May 23

Order issued by Additional Chief Secretary K. Jayakumar appointing the expert members in the High Power Committee.

2009 July 09

The Adivasi Samrakshana Samiti and the Struggle Committee jointly hand over a petition to the High Power Committee.



2009 September 28

The Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee and the Solidarity committee jointly hand over a letter to the Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan asking him to instruct the High Power Committee, after studying the extent and nature of the losses in Plachimada caused by the Coca Cola plant, to also collect evidence to criminally charge the Coca Cola company for the losses and also to formulate the procedures to put the company on trial according to law and obtain compensation and distribute them to the people and include them in the High Power Committee report.

2009 September 29

The General Sales Manager of Coca Cola sends a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary and the Kerala State Groundwater Department questioning the authenticity of the High Power Committee.

2010 January 13

Palakkad District Pollution Control Board notifies the company that all the solid waste stored at the temporary land fills at the Plachimada plant should be completely transferred to the T.S.D.F. at Ambalamedu.

2010 January 14

The Pollution Control Board Chairman S. D. Jayaprasad's report suggests that the pollution caused by the company is spreading to further distances.

2010 March 27

Chairman of the Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee, Vilayodi Venugopal, is attacked during a protest march in



relation to the water pipe connection to the colonies in Plachimada, to the Perumatty Gram Panchayath office. In connection to the incident a case was registered at the police station against the former Panchayath President Suresh.

2010 March 30

In connection with the Vilayodi Venugopal attack, anti-socials destroyed two houses in Plachimada colony and set fire to the tent set up by the protestors. A case was registered against the perpetrators under the SC/ST Atrocities Act.

2010 April 22

The High Power Committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary K. Jayakumar submitted its report to the government. The report suggested that according to the Polluter Pays Principle the Coca Cola Company may be charged a total of Rs. 216.26 Crores as compensation for the impact created at Plachimada due to excessive exploitation of groundwater and pollution and that a Tribunal or state authority may be set up for the same.

2010 May 25

The Secretary of the Department of Industry and Commerce, T. Balakrishnan, commented at a seminar organized at Kozhikode that the only gain from the closure of the Coca Cola plant at Plachimada was the loss of jobs for 500 people. Minister of Industries Elamaram Kareem was present at the seminar. The Department of Industries and Commerce had earlier presented a note in the cabinet suggesting that the report of the High Power Committee did not hold any legal validity and that the setting up of a



tribunal to obtain compensation from the company was against the interests of the department and also that the area has not been as severely affected as suggested in the High Power Committee report.

2010 June 30

The Kerala state cabinet decides to set up a tribunal to obtain compensation from Coca Cola. The Samara Samithy and the Solidarity Committee jointly staged a protest in front of the District Industries Centre against the approach of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

2010 July 3

Kerala Water Resource Department order announcing the decision to set up a tribunal according to the suggestion of the High Power Committee after discussions with the Department of Industries and Commerce and the Social Justice Department.

2011 February 24

Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill is passed in the Legislative Assembly without opposition.

2011 March 29

The Secretary to the Governor of Kerala forwards the bill to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the receiving the assent of the President. The state Governor had notified the Ministry of Home Affairs that the state government cannot make the bill law, as some parts of the bill has repugnancy with the Environment Protection Act, 1986; Water Act, 1981 and the Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The bill is being



sent to the central ministry according to the recommendation of the Law Department.

2011 April 1

The Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill under the consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2011 April 13

The Ministry of Home Affairs sends the bill to other ministries for their suggestions.

2011 May 4

The Rural Development Ministry notifies the Ministry of Home Affairs that there is no occlusion in the Central Government granting assent to the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill.

2011 May 16

The Ministry of Agriculture replies to the Ministry of Home Affairs that it has no suggestions regarding the constitutional legitimacy of the tribunal bill.

2011 May 18

The Social Justice Department replied to the Ministry of Home Affairs that it has no objection to the tribunal bill receiving the assent of the President of India.

2011 June 26

Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, K. V. Thomas, inaugurates the Coca Cola company project to distribute drinking water to government hospitals at Ernakulam General Hospital. It



is during the time when the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill is under the consideration of the Ministry of Agriculture that a Minister of State inaugurated the project which is a part of the Coca Cola Company's corporate social responsibility. The district MLA Hibi Eden was also present at the function.

2011 July 8

The Ministry of Home Affairs asked for an explanation from the State Government regarding the legal advice received by the Coca Cola company. It is senior advocate Fali S Nariman's legal advice that the State Legislative Assembly does not have the authority to pass the bill, which the Ministry of External Affairs sent to the state.

2011 July 12

The Water Resources Department forwarded the suggestions that could be included in the Tribunal Bill to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2011 July 12

Ministry of Home Affairs return the bill to the State government seeking an explanation on the legal advice of Fali S Nariman.

2011 July 26

The Adivasi Samrakshana Sangam and the Samara Samithy sent a letter to the President requesting her to grant permission for the Bill.



2011 July 29

As the topics of discussion considered in the Tribunal Bill do not fall under its ambit, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries replied to the Ministry of Home Affairs clarifying that it has no suggestions regarding the Bill.

2011 August 25

Protest march to Plachimada under the leadership of the Struggle Committee and the Solidarity Committee in protest against the devious attempts of the Coca Cola company to overthrow the bill.

2011 August 30

C.P.I.(M) State Secretary Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that it was in accordance with the party policy and programmes that ministers including him voiced their opinions during a meeting regarding foreign investment with American officials. The response was in reaction to the controversy that arose after Wikileaks released records showing that Pinarayi Vijayan had opined to the American officials that American companies should not withdraw from investing in Kerala due to the problems faced by the Coca Cola company at Plachimada and that the problems at Plachimada is not against American companies but rather a regional environmental problem.

2011 September 23

High Power Committee member S. Faizy gave an explanation to Home Affairs Minister P. Chidambaram



regarding the legal advice received by the Coca Cola company.

2011 October 3

The Samara Samithy sent a letter to the Law Department Minister, Water Resources Minister, Revenue Minister and the Opposition Leader and the Chief Minister pointing out that the State Government had failed to forward the replies given by S. Faizy to the questions raised by Coca Cola's attorney and warning that if no action is taken the protest will move to the seizure of company assets.

2011 October 23

Democratic Convention organized at Plachimada.

2011 November 17

Law Department Secretary C. P. Ramaraja Prema Prasad forwards the government's explanation regarding the tribunal bill to the State Governor's secretary and in accordance the State Government sends an explanation to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2011 December 15

The Solidarity Committee organizes a Tender Coconut Convention and Country Drinks Fair at Trissur calling for the tribunal bill to be enforced and poisonous colas to be deported.



2011 December 17

22 arrested after the public confiscated Coca Cola Company's assets. The arrested were imprisoned and declined bail. The protest proclaimed that the company's assets in Plachimada had become public property.

2011 December 19

Water Resource Minister P. J. Joseph tells the arrested protestors that the government is committed to enforce the tribunal bill. He also told the members of the struggle that the government has informed the Centre the explanations and suggestions that it had demanded. Protest Meeting staged in front of the secretariat protesting the arrest of the members of the struggle and demanding the enforcement of the tribunal bill.

2011 December 24

Chittoor Magistrate Court released 17 people arrested for confiscating the Coca Cola company's assets on bail. The members of the struggle call off the hunger strike that was on at Viyyur Jail after the government informed that it is committed to enforce the tribunal Bill.

2012 March 31

The Samara Samithy and the Solidarity Committee sends a letter to President Pratibha Patil alleging that Coca Cola company's sharing its opinion directly to the Ministry without considering with the State Government and the Ministry's decision to ask for an explanation from the state government was not just unnatural but also unlawful and that the Home Minister was turning a blind eye to the Coca



Cola company by not informing the President the state government's explanation regarding the same.

2012 April 22

Democratic protest gathering and media gathering at Plachimada as part of the 10th anniversary of the Plachimada struggle.

2012 August 21

The Palakkad CJM Court adjudges to acquit the company in the case registered by Gokul Prasad against the company according to the Water Act due to the lack of evidence.

2013 March 11

The Industry and Commerce director accords the Coca Cola company a tax concession certificate for Rs. 5,26,08,033.

2013 June 10

K. Krishnankutty alleges that M. P. Veerendra Kumar had approached him and offered two crore rupees and a house in Bangalore in order to take a favourable stance for the Coca Cola company with regard to starting a mango pulp factory at Plachimada. M. P. Veerendra Kumar denied the allegations.

2013 July 13

The Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee told the media that Socialist Janatha leader M. P. Veerendra Kumar had approached them for the Coca Cola company regarding the opening of a mango pulp factory rather than closing down



the factory at Plachimada. Vilayodi Venugopal alleged that it was during the time when the state government had agreed to set up a high power committee to study the ravages created at Plachimada by the Coca Cola Company that M. P. Veerendra Kumar tried to make them approve the suggestion of a mango pulp factory. The Samara Samithy informed that earlier when K. Krishnankutty had put forward the suggestion, everyone had opposed and that it was under K. Krishnankutty's initiative that the Samara Samithy held a meeting with M. P. Veerendra Kumar at the Indraprastha Hotel at Palakkad.

2013 August 15

In protest against the complacency of the central-state governments in enforcing the tribunal bill and to expose the left-right-BJP fronts' supportive stance towards the company, the Plachimada Struggle Committee subjected the political parties to a people's trial.

2013 November 28

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mullanpally Ramachandran said that neither the Chief Minister, nor any other minister or officer from the Kerala Government had approached him regarding the President's assent for the tribunal bill. He also said that the officers including the resident commissioner to the Kerala Government were not interested in interfering in popular issues in Delhi.



2014 February 21

The members of the struggle held a meeting with the Chief Minister Oommen Chandy. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy promised that there would be action regarding the president's approval of the tribunal bill within 15 days.

2014 July 17

The Plachimada Samara Samithy and the Solidarity Committee handed over a petition to the Home Minister Rajnath Singh asking him to enforce the tribunal bill.

2014 November 5

Solicitor General Ranjith Kumar gave legal advice to the Ministry of Home Affairs saying that the state government does not have the authority to approve the bill and that the National Green Tribunal should be approached regarding the Plachimada compensation.

2014 December 1

The Ministry of Home Affairs sent a letter to the state governor asking for the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal to be withdrawn. The Ministry informed the state that after a meeting with the Social Justice Department and on the basis of the legal advice of the Solicitor General, the opinion that was generated was that the State Legislative Assembly does not have the authority to approve the bill.

2015 March 20

Palakkad District Police Superintendent Thangavelu registers a complaint asking for criminal action to be taken against the Coca Cola company according to the



SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act for consciously polluting their water resources and also to confiscate the company's assets in Plachimada and Kochi. Citing the same reasons the residents of Vijayanagar and Plachimada colonies also registered a joint complaint.

2015 July 9

Since the state government was not prepared to withdraw the bill the central government sent back the bill.

2015 November

The Ministry of Home Affairs informed the State Governor that the President has disapproved the bill.

2016 January 18

The State Governor's secretary informed the Law Department secretary that the President has disapproved the bill.

2016 February 11

Protestors waved black flags at the Home Minister Rajnath Singh alleging that the President had decided to disapprove the Plachimada Tribunal Bill due to the suggestion of the Ministry of Home Affairs to help the Coca Cola company.

2016 February 19

Those including Thangavelu submit a petition to the Kerala State SC/ST Commission and the Central Scheduled Tribe Commission. The demands are that action be taken against the police officers as a complaint was submitted on March 2015 but no case was registered and a special investigation team be appointed to investigate the case.



2016 June 9

The police filed an F.I.R (No. 308) according to the SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act on the basis of the complaints of Thangavelu and the others. The F.I.R. was registered against the Coca Cola Company Plachimada plant head, Kerala regional head headquartered at Kochi and the All-India head, headquartered at Noida, Delhi.

2016 November 12

The Travancore Devaswam Board granted the monopolized tender for the soft drinks during the 2016-17 Sabarimala festival season to the Coca Cola Company. Since the High Court had banned water and soft drinks in plastic bottles in Sabarimala, Coca Cola had won the tender to sell soft drinks through vending machines and tin bottles. The State Food Safety Department later banned the sale of Coca Cola at Sabarimala through vending machines since the company's vending machines did not possess a license.

2017 February 23

Speaker Sreeramakrishnan informed the media ahead of the fourth congress of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly that the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill sent back by the Central Government will be presented again in the legislative assembly after the defects are resolved.

2017 March 16

Water Resource Minister Mathew T. Thomas said in reply to the questions received during the fourth session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly that he had received legal



advice that since the subject in the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill falls under the ambit of the Green Tribunal of 2010, the bill cannot be re-presented in the State Legislative Assembly. The minister informs that examination is on-going on whether there is a legal way to obtain compensation from the company.

2017 March 1

Although the Kerala Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samithi decided to boycott Coca Cola soft drinks in the state, the district leadership withdrew saying that it is not practical. It is in the context of the boycott of cola by a section of merchants in Tamil Nadu due to the Jallikettu agitation and drought that the Samithy had decided to implement the same in the State.

2017 March 27

The Coca Cola Company signs a contract with the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India to provide expert training to street food vendors regarding food safety, cleanliness and sanitation. The project implemented through the social responsibility fund of the company will be implemented at fifty thousand street food stalls across major cities in the country.

2017 April 22

The Plachimada agitation passed 15 years. Indefinite strike has started before the Palakkad Collectorate. The demands of the strike are to follow up action on the case registered against Coca Cola according to SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act and to make the Plachimada Compensation Tribunal Bill a reality.



2017 June 15

On the 54th day of indefinite strike the representatives of Plachimada Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee and Solidarity Committee met with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as the Palakkad District Collector informed the committee about the state government's willingness to have a negotiation on the issue. Struggle committee demanded that (1) the company should be prosecuted for violations of various Acts, (2) state laws such as Panchayath Raj Act, Ground Water Act, Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, should be amended so the Gramasabhas will have the command over ground water and other natural resources, (3) company should be made to pay compensation to the affected people.

2017 June 16

The Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee called off the strike as the Chief Minister agreed to act on the issues related with Plachimada Tribunal Bill and the case registered under SCST Atrocities (Prevention) Act without any delay. To accomplish this government requested to wait for 3 more months.

2017 July 13

Supreme Court bench disposed the appeals pending before it as the Counsel for Coca Cola Company informed the court that his party does not intend to operate the plant in Plachimada. The matter came up to the Supreme Court when the company and Perumatty panchayath started a legal war over the debate on a local self-governing body's power to cancel the license of an industrial unit.



Courtesy

Plachimada Anti Coca Cola Struggle Committee

Plachimada Struggle Solidarity Committee

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