
SHRC seeks report on microplastics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The state human rights commission on Tuesday took suo motu cognisance of a TOI report on microplastics in the Sabarmati. Citing the news report, 'Invisible microplastics polluting Sabarmati' the commission sought a report from the chief secretary within 30 days.

On Monday, TOI reported a study on microplastics, minute plastic fibres and particles, barely visible to the naked eye, in water of the Sabarmati. The study was conducted by the Earth Sciences students and faculty member at IIT, Gandhinagar, and was led by professor Manish Kumar. In this first-

ever study in the state, the researchers isolated two groups of microplastics, small and large, with sizes from 75 micrometres (μm) to 212 μm and 212 μm to 4 millimetres (mm), respectively from the Sabarmati river sediment. A micrometre is a millionth of a metre.

The most startling fact was that microplastics begin showing up in the river when it passes through Ahmedabad city. The highest amount of microplastics was detected when the river passed the Pirana dump and the sewage discharge point near it. The team found 47.1 milligram of microplastics in the large category and 4g of the small category at the Pirana-Gyaspur riverbank.

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