

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, KALAS MAHAL, CHENNAI
OA 118/ 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item published in Deccan Herald dated 01.03.2023 under the caption "Unregulated tourism pushing Gokarana to the Edge"

... .. APPLICANT

VERSUS

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors

...RESPONDENTS

Previous D.o.H: 10.04.2024

Next D.o.H: 01.05.2024

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THROUGH COUNSEL:



MUKESH KUMAR

RESPONDENT KSPCB
Environmental Officer
Karnataka State Pollution Control
Board, Karwar.

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Place: Karwar
Date: 30.04.2024

... APPLICANT

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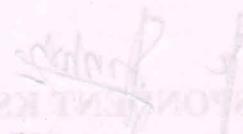
... RESPONDENTS
Karnataka State Pollution Control
Board and Ors

Next D.O.H: 01.05.2024

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RESPONDENT KSPCB
Environmental Officer
Karnataka State Pollution Control
Board, Karwar

THROUGH COUNSEL

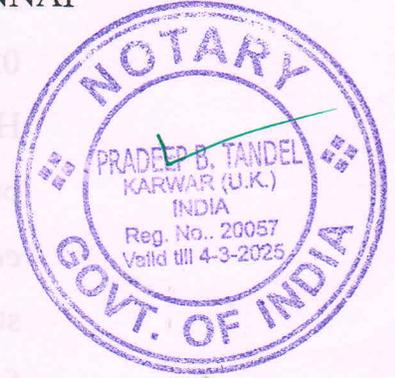
MUKESH KUMAR

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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OA 118/ 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item published in Deccan Herald dated 01.03.2023 under the caption "Unregulated tourism pushing Gokarana to the Edge"

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VERSUS

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors

...RESPONDENTS

**AFFIDAVIT ON INSPECTION REPORT
ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.
1 KSPCB**

I, B. K. Santosh, son of late B. Krishnappa, aged about 55 years, currently posted as Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), "Parisara Bhavan", New K.H.B Colony, Habbuwada, Karwar-581 301, Uattara Kannada District, Karnataka, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That the deponent is working with Respondent KSPCB, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent KSPCB.

NO OF CORRECTIONS *lll*
3 0 APR 2024
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lll

2. That the instant Affidavit on Inspection Report is being filed in compliance to the directions/ Order dated 02.02.2024 passed by this Southern Zone Bench of this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in respect of news published "*Unregulated tourism pushing Gokarna to the edge*" in Deccan Herald news paper on 01.03.2023. It was stated that the unregulated waste is generated during the festival time.
3. That on the factual background it is submitted that Gokarna, a holy place, is administered by the Gokarna Gram Panchayat, which falls under the jurisdiction of Kumta Taluk in Uttara Kannada district having a population of 13,539 and about 3052 families as per 2011 census and has an area of 1700.14 hectares.
4. That the Hon'ble Principal Bench of this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had registered a Suo Motu case vide OA No. 234/2023 and issued a notice on 20.03.2023 initially to Gokarna Town Municipal Council Kumta as against PDO Gram Panchayat Gokarna, which was later rectified. It was mentioned therein that unregulated tourism has turned Gokarna, known for its prestine beaches, into garbage and sewage dump yard with medical reports decalring water from local sources unfit for consumption. Documents and GPS tagged photographs submitted by conservationists show blatant violations in managing the garbage and sewage generation in residential houses as well as the home stays that have mushroomed in the 'village' over the last 10years. Activists have written to the Hon'ble National

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Green Tribunal seeking an urgent intervention to avoid a crisis.

5. That Gokarna is administered by a gram panchayat despite a population about 30,000 and an average floating population of 5,000 to 10,000. Tourist foot fall goes further up in December and January, with no system in place to bear the pressure. Hence, the local office of the answering respondent KSPCB inspected the Gokarna Gram Panchayat area on 29.03.2023 and issued the show cause notice to Gram Panchayat, Gokarna vide no. 18 & 19 dated 13.04.2023. The area was again inspected by the local office of the answering respondent KSPCB on 02.09.2023, which was followed by another Show Cause Notice no. 748 dated 4.09.2023 to the Gram Panchayat Gokarna. The inspection report dated 05.09.2024 was forwarded by the local office to its Board Office on 5.09.2023.

6. That consequently, the Gram Panchayat Gokarna called a meeting on 7.10.2023 chaired by CEO, Zilla panchayat and on same day a meeting was called by Deputy Commissioner to discuss about development of Gokarna including solid and sewage management. In the said meeting certain directions were issued for the Gokarna Gram Panchayat to submit its compliance report on Solid Waste Management and sewage management. In the said meeting Zilla Panchayat presented about "**Green Gokarna Project**" – An effort towards Green and Clean village.



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7. That in another complaint from Kushi Parisara vide email dated 18.10.2023, the Member Convenor, NGT-SLC, Parisara Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru forwarded the same on 10.11.2023 to the answering respondent KSPCB and directed to submit compliance report in respect of the Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management & notifications issued there under, C & D Waste Management Rules, E-Waste and all other Environment laws.
8. That in response to the directions of this Hon'ble NGT, the PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna has submitted compliance report to Member Convenor, NGT-SLC vide letter no. 88, dated 18.11.2023 with the email copy marked to this office.
9. That the office of the answering respondent KSPCB again inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 4.12.2023 in presence of Secretary, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and Smt. Ana A. S. President, Kushi Parisara to verify the compliance submitted and based on the inspection observation, the KSPCB Office issued notice to the PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna vide letter no. 1007, dated 11.12.2023 for the non-compliances observed under *Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, Plastic Waste Management Rules & notifications* issued there under, *C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016* and E-Waste in Gokarna Gram Panchayat and directed to submit compliance report against earlier non-compliances

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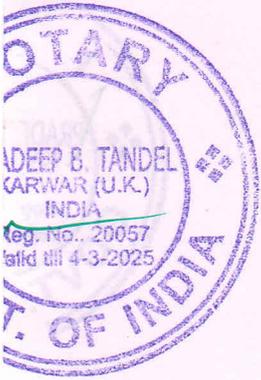
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observed during inspection of the KSPCB office as well as in compliance to the directions issued by this Hon'ble NGT.

10. That in response to several complaints received against Gram Panchayat Gokarna for poor management in the Plastic Waste disposal, and as it was evident during inspection of the Gram Panchayat identifying improper disposal of solid and plastic wastes, it was decided to declare the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna as the "plastic free zone". As per the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012 dated 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E) dated 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022. The Deputy Commissioner, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District has issued an order to **ban the single use plastic** within the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna vide Order dated 11.01.2024.

11. That in response to directions issued by the Member Secretary of the answering respondent KSPCB regarding action for waste management during the upcoming Mahashivratri Festival, the Member conveyor Hon'ble NGT (SLC) vide letter No. 6025 dated 26.02.2024 ensured to do the needful keeping in view the number of visitors/tourists and devotees that would be attending the festival at Gokarna till 12th March, 2024. In view of this, the Office of the answering respondent KSPCB issued a notice No.1346 dated 05.03.2024 to the PDO Grama Panchayat, Gokarna and directed them to take the action in



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and around Gokarna by submitting compliance report along with photos/videos after conclusion of the festival. In continuation to this, the PDO, Gram Panchayat Gokarna has submitted the proposed action for waste management and compliance vide letter No.255 dated 05.03.2024 and have made the following arrangements to manage the solid wastes:

- 1) They have provided the additional vehicles, laborers to collect, segregate and dispose the solid waste during the festival season.
- 2) They have identified the drainages and stagnated water bodies to which the bleaching powder and phenyls were poured and sprayed to avoid the insects and infections.
- 3) Authorities informed that they will impose fines on single use plastic.
- 4) Audio (voice over) will be play at crowded area near the temple and other area and also announcement through garbage collecting vehicles.

12. That in view of the above, the Office of the answering respondent KSPCB inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14.03.2024 in presence of PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and the following observations were made:

- a) During inspection, it was observed that, Gokarna Grama Panchayat (GP) has constructed GI sheet wall around the identified site for processing the solid waste. It was learnt that a preliminary approval from

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the forest department is obtained for the identified site at Forest land bearing sy no. 1492/A/1A in their GP limits and paid necessary payment towards the land but, the same is yet to be notified. PDO, GP-Gokarna informed that, amount has sanctioned for installation of screening machine, conveyors, bailing machine etc for segregation and processing the waste (plant and machineries) under blue plack programme from World Bank.

b) Gram Panchayat has established a Solid Waste Management centre at its own premises. Grama Panchayat has established wet waste composting machine in the GP premises for the Management of wet solid waste of around 200 Kg/day and dry waste of about 600 Kg/day from Gokarna town. At the time of inspection, it was learnt that, Gram Panchayat itself operating the unit and generating manure from the wet waste but, they are claiming no demand for the manure and hence, huge quantity stored in the shed. Apart from they have established a small sheltered place for segregation of waste. Authorities informed that, during the period of Mahashivaratri festival from 4th march to 15th March 2024 the dry waste collected was about 1500Kg and wet waste of about 450 Kg. They have made provision of containers for both wet and dry waste during festival and regularly collected waste from these hotspots. However, during inspection solid waste collection heaps were noticed including beach area and at sangam nala area.



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- c) Waste which were non-recyclable being collected daily basis were dumped adjacent to GI sheet wall on up side and south-east direction of the site. During inspection firing/fumes coming from these dumps noticed and it was directed to estinguish the same immidiatly and to provide CC TV in this waste processing area to monitor and to restrict such kind of actvirty. Not installed any plant and machineries for processing the solid waste at this new site.
- d) It was noticed that, GP are being collecting separately the wet and dry waste from entire Gram Panchayat Gokarna. However, during inspection accumulation of municipal solid wastes on the beach area, bank of the Raja Kaluve and sangam nala near sea, sangam place, Ramatheertha area and entire stretch in main beach were observed. Entire waste which may enters the sangam or any nala in city limit finally stagnated at Sangam place near sea. Deposition of solid waste and plastic bottles noticed at these place and solid waste are collected near sea shore at the entrance of the main beach. Further, authority informed that, in many house holds wet wastes were being feeding to cow as a fooder and also being used as manure/composting in their kitchen garden and hence, they are receiving only 200kg of wet waste.
- e) During inspection, open burning of solid waste was observed beside the MSW site and also few old mark of burning of solid waste in the above newly identified landfill, street and beach areas was observed. Gram

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Panchayat authorities were informed to spread mass awareness among shop keepers, public, pourakarmikas regarding open burning and its consequences. Further, informed to take action against open burning of plastic / any kind of solid waste. Authorities were informed to provide CC camera at newly identified SWM collection and segregation site and also many hotspots within the Gokarna Gram Panchayat limit including sangam nala, kudle beach and main beach area.

f) They are collecting solid waste on daily basis from hotspots and provided bin and container facility in main area where generation of solid waste is more. However, Gram Panchayat authority practicing very poor segregation and management of collected solid waste and hence, deposition of waste were notice within the barricade of newly identified area and also in old solid and liquid waste processing facility within gram panchayat premises.

g) For waste collection, they have 2 Nos. small tippers, they have appointed 9 workers for sweeping and door to door collection including drivers and 9 workers for segregation of collected dry waste and mixed waste and composting of wet waste. There is no weighbridge however; GP has 250kg weighing scale at the site, a bailing machine for segregated plastic waste, cutting machine and sanitary napkin incinerator of capacity 25 pad / cycle. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they



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are claiming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it's quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Not maintained proper register regarding dialy collection of waste and bifurcation of different category of solid waste.

- h) There is a pond (pushkarani) by name Kothiteertha belongs to Mahabaleshwara Temple and this pushkarani is being used for Hindu religious activity from ancient time. During these religious rituals devotees generally disposing materials carried during pooja. Gram Panchayat has placed cement tank at the entrence of the pond to collect these materials. Pushkarni was clean and not observed dumped solid waste and littering around. Based on public oral compliant and as per SEO direction pushkarni was inspected on 10.07.2023 and water sample was collected for analysis. Water sample is falls under Class- 'C' (Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection) of the CPCB Water Quality Criteria for designated best use. Further, it was informed by the authority that, they are planning to provide aerators to pushkarni to increase oxygen level and tender will sought shortly. In view of providing the floating aerators to the Kothiteertha pushkarni as per the directions of the SEO -Mangalore, this office inspected the Kotitheertha tank on 10/07/2023. This Office forwarded a letter vide No.669, dated:09/08/2023 to M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli provide 2 No.s floating aerators to the tank



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under CSR/CER program. In continuation to the above, on 19th January 2024, Kotitheertha pushkarni was inspected by Officers of this Office along with the technical experts from M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli. After a detailed visit and discussions, M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli has agreed to sponsor for 1nos. Floating sprinkler system of capacity 5HP under CSR to the Gram Panchayat Gokarna vide letter No.ZZR/Environment Cell/KSPCB/15/130, dated:22/01/2024.

- i) Gokarna Grama Panchayat does not have any UGD system ending in terminal Sewage treatment plant. A Nala (Raja Kaluve) passes in the centre of the town, sewage and sullage from few house hold finally joins this Nala and ultimately it joins the sea in the main beach area. The Nala is called Sangam Nala, during high tide, the water from the sea enters this Nala and its full, but, during low tide, as water resides, all the dumped solid wastes and stagnated liquid waste can be seen in the nala with bad smell. House holds of about 334 numbers is being discharging grey water to sangam nala and during inspection it was observed that in the Sangama nala there was stagnation of water and this water may joins the Arabian sea during high tide. Apart from this discharge of grey water into sangam nala, littering of solid waste including plastic bottles notice on either side of the sangama nala. As per the information furnished during last visit by the PDO, GP, Gokarna has around 3234 houses, out of which around



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1000 houses are in town area, remaining houses are in the rural area. There are also many commercial complexes and the hotels big and small in the town area. As per the GP, they have provided septic tank and soak pit, but, looking to the tourist population and commercial activities in the area, the septic tank or soak pit will not work for hotels, lodges and resorts. Further, authorities were informed to provide gradings at each nala especially at Sangam nala to collect unavoidable solid waste in the nala. PDO informed that, 140 lakh DPR prepared by Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department for rejuvenation (Improvement works to Gokarna Local Nala) and once approval works will start. Further, they have allotted Green gokarna project under World Bank fund and during implementation of project they are planning to conduct cleaning and to provide treatment system atleast primary treatment to grey water and water at Sangam nala.

- j) Department of Tourism has provided public toilet facility of about 7 numbers, 10 numbers of bathrooms and 3 urinals for tourist at main beach area. Tourism Department has provided septic tank and soak pit for disposal of sewage being generated from these facilities. Apart from this, Gokarna Gram Panchayat has developed 9 toilet blocks, 10 bathrooms and 2 urinals and are provided with septic tanks for disposal of sewage water. Gokarna Gram Panchayat has newly constructed bathrooms and toilets about 200 meter

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disposing to vendors as informed during inspection. But, not maintained proper documents/records in this regard. No separate provision for collection of E-waste and not disposing through authorized recycler and is being treated as scrap materials.

- o) Plastic wastes being collected along with solid waste on daily basis are segregated, bailed and packed and stored in the premises. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they are claiming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it is quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Banners were provided in many prominent places and awareness on ban on single use plastic being conducted through garbage collecting vehicles. This office conducted plastic raid on 29/03/2023 in presence of Gram Panchayat authority and noticed usage of banned plastic items. Further, directed Gram Panchayat authorities to conduct frequent raids and aware shop keepers on ban on single use plastic items. Based on above and as this Office received many complaints on Gram Panchayat Gokarna for poor management in the Plastic Waste disposal. Hence, the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna has been declared as the "plastic free zone". As per the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic



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(SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022, Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District has issued an order on ban on single use plastic dated 11/01/2024 in the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna.

- p) No separate area enmarked for collection and processing of C & D waste and also no planning approval mechanism from Gokarna Gram Panchayat to generators. At present C & D waste is being used for filling low lying area and leveling the existing premises. Authorities were directed to identify separate area for collection and treatment/processing of C & D Waste as per C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

13. That in view of the above, following recommendations are suggested:

- (1) Gram Panchayat shall collect solid waste from entire Gram Panchayat limit on daily basis. Dry waste shall be segregated and handed over to authorized recyclers. Wet waste shall be composted scientifically so that, there shall not be any fly or odour nuisance during composting activity. Regarding marketing of generated manure, authorities communication shall be made with Government Departments like, Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture etc.,
- (2) Gram Panchayat shall prepare detailed project report regarding water consumption, waste water generation, characteristics of sewage and under ground drainage



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system with terminal STP. Till such time Gram Panchayat shall adopt temporary treatment measures like phyto / bioremediation treatment technology and it was directed to include all these in development project under Green Gokarna funded by World Health Organization.

- (3) Solid waste dumped in Raja kaluve / drain and solid waste carried during rainy season to Raja kaluve finally enters Arabian Sea. The entry of solid waste to Arabian sea shall be controlled / stopped by providing gradings in regular intervals at entire Raja kaluve / drain and collected plastic & other garbages shall be remove and treat regularly.
- (4) Sewage/sullage from many places in Gokrana enters the Raja Kaluve and finally stagnated at Sangama Nala. Hence, authority shall provide UGD with terminal STP and till such time they have provided temporary treatment system like phytoremediation/bioremediation/any primery treatment. Entry of solid waste especially plastic waste and cloths shall be avoided by providing gradings in each nala from which waste enters the Raja Kaluve.
- (5) Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat shall give necessary directions and Technical expert in the field environment Management shall be employed for scientific Management of solid waste and sewage.
- (6) Gokarna is one of the famous tourist places in Uttar Kannada District and there are many home stays and resorts established in Gokarna city limit and entire



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Gokarna Gram Panchayat area. Department of Tourism shall strictly enforce the solid and liquied waste Management in all these home stays and resorts and conditions may be stipulated while issuing permission to these homestays.

- (7) Gokarna Gram Panchayat shall develop scientific landfill site with adequate man power to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and scientific Management of solid waste and to maintance asthetic beauty of Gokarna. Identified land shall be developed to handle all these solid waste at the earliest.
- (8) Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) shall be strictly implemented and not to allow any kind of activity in the beach area as per CRZ notifications.
- (9) For the above non-compliances with respect to solid waste Management in the main beach, on either side of the sangama nala and as the Gram panchayat not taken any steps towards laying of under ground drainage and terminal sewage treatment plant, Regional Office, KSPCB, Karwar has issued Show cause notice to Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and same is here with enclosed.
- (10) Gram Panchayat shall implement the project of "Green Gokarna" funded by World Health Organisations in scientific way by keeping in mind of all these issues and separate Environmental Engineer from DMA shall be deployed for supervision and implementations of all Environmental laws and also provide additional funds from Government/Zilla Panchayat.



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- (11) Gram Panchayat shall identify site for collection and processing C & D waste well in advance to avoid future nuisance.
- (12) Gram Panchayat shall establish separate cell to look into all these aspects. Entry of plastic items shall be restricted at the Gokarna entrance itself and strictly implement the "plastic free zone" order as per Deputy Commissioner Order based on the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022.
- (13) Open burning shall be prohibited in solid waste handling area and other areas in panchayat limit and it shall be achieved by providing mass awareness and installation of CCTV in SWM handling and other hot spots.
- (14) Authority shall establish adequate facility for processing of solid waste after collection so that, accumulation of solid waste for longer period can be avoided.

14. That it is respectfully submitted that the answering respondent KSPCB will be obliged to provide any additional information if so required by this Hon'ble Tribunal and hereby submit this affidavit for kind consideration.

NO OF CORRECTIONS
3 0 APR 2024

Notary

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KARWAR, (U.K.)



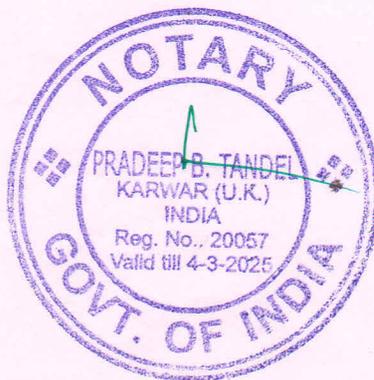
- 15. That I have read and understood the contents of the this Affidavit. The same has been drafted by my counsel under my instructions and the same are true and correct as per the official records made available to me and same has been understood by me.
- 16. That the contents of the accompanying Report dated 14/03/2024 true copy of its original along with its ANNEXURES, which may be read as part and parcel of this affidavit and the same are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



[Signature]
DEPONENT 30/04/24
 Environmental Officer
 Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Karwar.

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Karwar on this 30th day, April' 2024 that the contents of the above Affidavit are true and correct on the basis of my knowledge and official documents. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



[Signature]
DEPONENT 30/04/24
 Environmental Officer
 Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Karwar.

"SWORN BEFORE ME"

NO OF CORRECTIONS *[Red mark]*
 30 APR 2024
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 Notary

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NOTARY REG NO
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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾರವಾರ
"ಪರಿಸರ ಭವನ", ನ್ಯೂ ಕೆ.ಎಚ್.ಬಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿ,
ಹಬ್ಬುಬಾಡಾ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581 306, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಫೋನ್ / ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08382-227058
ಇಮೇಲ್ : karwar@kspcb.gov.in
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : <https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in>

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Karwar-581 306 Uttara Kannada District.
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Email : karwar@kspcb.gov.in
Website : <https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in>



towards a cleaner Karnataka

No. PCB/EO/RO-KWR/2023-24/ 1436

Date:

To,

30 MAR 2024

The Member Secretary
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
"Parisara Bhavan", Church Street
Bangalore.

Kind Attn: "Legal Cell"

Sir,

- Sub: submission of inspection report with respect to M/s. Gram Panchayat, Gokarna-reg
Ref: 1. Letter received from Member Secretary, KSPCB, Member Conveyor Hon'ble
NGT(SLC), No. NGT-SLC/2023-24/6025, dated: 26/02/2024.
2. This Office letter to The Panchayat Development Officer, Gram Panchayat,
Gokarna, Letter No.1346, dated:05/03/2024.
3. Letter received from Gram Panchayat, Gokarna to this office, dated: 05/03/2024.
4. This office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14/03/2024.

With reference to the above subject, it is to be informed that, several compliant have been received predominantly concerning the Solid Waste Management at Gokarna. In view of the above this Office received a letter from Member Secretary, KSPCB, Member conveyor Hon'ble NGT (SLC) vide ref (1) constituted as per Hon'ble NGT regarding action for waste management during the Mahashivratri Festival guaranteed from the perspective of the number of visitors/tourists and devotees that attend the festival at Gokarna, up to 12th March, 2024. In view of this, the PDO Grama Panchayat, Gokarna is strictly directed to take the measures during festival and issued a notice to submit the compliance report vide ref (2).

Accordingly PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna has submitted the compliance report to this Office vide ref (3). In continuation to this, the Officers of this office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14/03/2024 vide ref (4) in presence of PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna to verify the compliance. The Inspection report along with photographs, copy of notice issued to Gram Panchayat Gokarna, and necessary documents are here with submitted for kind perusal and needful.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Environmental Officer
KSPCB, RO, Karwar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾರವಾರ
"ಪರಿಸರ ಭವನ", ನ್ಯೂ ಕೆ.ಎಚ್.ಬಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿ,
ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581 306, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಫೋನ್ / ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08382-227058
ಇಮೇಲ್ : karwar@kspcb.gov.in
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : <https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in>

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Regional office, Karwar

"Parisara Bhavan", New K.H.B. Colony, Habbuwada,
Karwar-581 306 Uttara Kannada District.
Phone/Fax : 08382-227058
Email : karwar@kspcb.gov.in
Website : <https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in>



towards a cleaner Karnataka

No. PCB/EO/RO-KWR/2023-24/

Date:

To,

The Member Secretary
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
"Parisara Bhavan", Church Street
Bangalore.

Kind Attn: "Legal Cell"

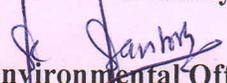
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Yours faithfully,


Environmental Officer
KSPCB, RO, Karwar

No. PCB/EO/RO-KWR/IR/2023-24/

Date:

**INSPECTION REPORT OF SRI B.K. SANTOSH, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER,
KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, REGIONAL OFFICE, KARWAR.**

Sl No.	Details	Particulars
1	Name of the Unit	M/s. Gram Panchayat Gokarna, Kumta Taluk, Uttar Kannada-District.
2	Officer Accompanied	Dr. Ganapati Hegde- DEO
3	Date of Inspection	14/03/2024
4	Person Contacted	Sri. Vinaykumar, PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna

Preamble:

Gokarna Gram Panchayat falls under the jurisdiction of Kumta Taluk in Uttara Kannada district has a population of 13,539 and about 3052 families as per 2011 census and has an area of 1700.14 hectares.

News published "Unregulated tourism pushing Gokarna to the edge" in Deccan Herald news paper on 1/03/2023. Gokarna is administered by a gram panchayat despite having a population of about 30,000 and an average floating population of 5000 to 10,000. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has registered Suo Motu case vide OA No. 234/2023 and issued notice on 20.03.2023 however, in the said OA No. instead of PDO Gram Panchayat Gokarna Town Municipal Council Kumta was considered hence, requested to change the same. It was mentioned that, unregulated tourism has turned Gokarna, known for its prestine beaches, into garbage and sewage dump yard with medical reports decalring water from local sources unfit for consumption. Documents and GPS tagged photographs submitted by conservationists show blatant violations in managing the garbage and sewage generation in residential houses as well as the home stays that have mushroomed in the 'village' over the last 10years. Activists have written to the National Green Tribunal seeking an urgent intervation to avoid a crisis. Gokarna is administered by a gram panchayat despite a population about 30,000 and an average floating population of 5,000 to 10,000. Tourist foot fall goes further up in December and January, with no system

in place to bear the pressure. Hence, Board office directed to this office to inspect the Gokarna Gram Panchayat area. This office received email from Sri. Manjunath Pattabhi Shastry on 25th March 2023 regarding Water, Air and Solid Waste related pollution at Gokarna and same email received from Board Office on 27th March 2023 with a direction to take necessary action on compliant points. Gram Panchayat, Gokarna area was inspected by this office on 29/03/2023 and based on observations made during inspection show cause notice issued to Gram Panchayat, Gokarna vide no. 18 & 19, dated: 13/04/2023 and inspection report, show cause notice copy, analysis report forwarded to Board Office vide no. 83, dated: 29/04/2023. Further, this Office received Office note from SEO, Zonal Office, KSPCB, Mangaluru vide no. 272, dated: 31/08/2023 and it was directed to submit latest status report along with photographs to the Board Office as the matter is scheduled before Hon'ble NGT on 6/09/2023. Based on above direction, Gram Panchayat Gokarna area inspected on 2/09/2023 and show cause notice issued to PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna vide no. 748, dated: 4/09/2023 and report submitted to Board Office on 5/09/2023. In continuation Gram Panchayat Gokarna called meeting 7/10/2023 chaired by CEO, Zilla panchayat and on same dated meeting called by Deputy Commissioner to discuss about development of Gokarna including solid and sewage management. In the said meeting observations are discussed and directed Gokarna Gram Panchayat to submit compliance report on Solid Waste Management and sewage management. In the meeting Zilla Panchayat presented about "Green Gokarna Project" – An effort towards Green and Clean village. Further, this office received a letter from Member Convenor, NGT-SLC, Parisara Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru on 10/11/2023 based on complaint made by Kushi Parisara through email dated 18/10/2023 and directed to submit compliance with the Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management & notifications issued there under, C & D Waste Management Rules, E-Waste and all other Environment laws. Based on above Hon'ble NGT directions this office email on 10/11/2023 and also notice issued vide no. 942, dated 16/11/2023 and directed PDO, Gram Panchayat Gokarna to submit compliance report. In view of the Hon'ble NGT letter SEO, Zonal Office Mangaluru has issued memo vide no. 414, dated: 16/11/2023 and received by this office on 20/11/2023. Accordingly PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna has submitted compliance report to Member Convenor, NGT-SLC vide letter no. 88, dated: 18/11/2023 with a copy through email to this office.

In continuation, this office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 4/12/2023 in presence of Secretary, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and Smt. Ana A. S. President, Kushi Parisara to verify the compliance submitted and based on the inspection observation, this Office issued notice to the PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna vide letter no. 1007, dated: 11/12/2023 for the non-compliances observed under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Solid

Waste Management Rules, 2016, Plastic Waste Management Rules & notifications issued there under, C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016 and E-Waste in Gokarna Gram Panchayat and directed to submit compliance report non-compliances observed during inspection and to directions issued by Hon'ble NGT.

Further, several complaints were received on Gram Panchayat Gokarna for poor management in the Plastic Waste disposal. During visit to Gram Panchayat, Gokarna, it was evident of improper disposal of solid, plastic wastes. Hence, the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna has been declared as the "plastic free zone". As per the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022. Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District has issued an order on ban on single use plastic dated 11/01/2024 in the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna.

Further, as per the directions from Member Secretary, KSPCB, Member conveyer Hon'ble NGT (SLC) vide letter No. 6025, dated: 26/02/2024 regarding action for waste management during the Mahashivratri Festival guaranteed from the perspective of the number of visitors/tourists and devotees that attend the festival at Gokarna, up to 12th March, 2024. In view of this, this Office issued a notice to the PDO Grama Panchayat, Gokarna PDO Grama Panchayat, Gokarna vide notice No.1346, dated:05/03/2024 and directed to take the action in & around Gokarna and submit the compliance report after the festival along with photos/videos. In continuation to this, the PDO, Gram Panchayat Gokarna has submitted the proposed action for waste management and compliance vide letter No.255, dated:05/03/2024 and have made the following arrangements to manage the solid wastes.

- ✓ They have provided the additional vehicles, laborers to collect, segregate and dispose the solid waste during the festival season.
- ✓ They have identified the drainages and stagnated water bodies to which the bleaching powder and phenyls were poured and sprayed to avoid the insects and infections.
- ✓ Authorities informed that, they will impose fines on single use plastic.
- ✓ Audio (voice over) will be play at crowded area near the temple and other area and also announcement through garbage collecting vehicles.

In view of the above, this Office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14/03/2024 in presence of PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and the following observations were made:

1. During inspection, it was observed that, Gokarna Grama Panchayat (GP) has constructed GI sheet wall around the identified site for processing the solid waste. It was learnt that a preliminary approval from the forest department is obtained for the identified site at Forest land bearing sy no. 1492/A/1A in their GP limits and paid necessary payment towards the land but, the same is yet to be notified. PDO, GP-Gokarna informed that, amount has sanctioned for installation of screening machine, conveyors, bailing machine etc for segregation and processing the waste (plant and machineries) under blue plack programme from World Bank.
2. Gram Panchayat has established a Solid Waste Management centre at its own premises. Grama Panchayat has established wet waste composting machine in the GP premises for the Management of wet solid waste of around 200 Kg/day and dry waste of about 600 Kg/day from Gokarna town. At the time of inspection, it was learnt that, Gram Panchayat itself operating the unit and generating manure from the wet waste but, they are claiming no demand for the manure and hence, huge quantity stored in the shed. Apart from they have established a small sheltered place for segregation of waste. Authorities informed that, during the period of Mahashivaratri festival from 4th march to 15 March 2024 the dry waste collected was about 1500Kg and wet waste of about 450 Kg. They have made provision of containers for both wet and dry waste during festival and regularly collected waste from these hotspots. However, during inspection solid waste collection heaps were noticed including beach area and at sangam nala area.
3. Waste which were non-recyclable being collected daily basis were dumped adjacent to GI sheet wall on up side and south-east direction of the site. During inspection fireing/fumes coming from these dumps noticed and it was directed to estinguish the same immidiatly and to provide CC TV in this waste processing area to monitor and to restrict such kind of actvirty. Not installed any plant and machineries for processing the solid waste at this new site.
4. It was noticed that, GP are being collecting separately the wet and dry waste from entire Gram Panchayat Gokarna. However, during inspection accumulation of municipal solid wastes on the beach area, bank of the Raja Kaluve and sangam nala near sea, sangam place, Ramatheertha area and entire stretch in main beach were observed. Entire waste which may enters the sangam or any nala in city limit finally stagnated at Sangam place near sea. Deposition of solid waste and plastic bottles noticed at these place and solid waste are collected near sea shore at the entrance of the main beach. Further, authority informed that, in many house holds wet wastes were being feeding to cow as a fooder and also being used as manure/composting in their kitchen garden and hence, they are receiving only 200kg of wet waste.

5. During inspection, open burning of solid waste was observed beside the MSW site and also few old mark of burning of solid waste in the above newly identified landfill, street and beach areas was observed. Gram Panchayat authorities were informed to spread mass awareness among shop keepers, public, pourakarmikas regarding open burning and its consequences. Further, informed to take action against open burning of plastic / any kind of solid waste. Authorities were informed to provide CC camera at newly identified SWM collection and segregation site and also many hotspots within the Gokarna Gram Panchayat limit including sangam nala, kudle beach and main beach area.
6. They are collecting solid waste on daily basis from hotspots and provided bin and container facility in main area where generation of solid waste is more. However, Gram Panchayat authority practicing very poor segregation and management of collected solid waste and hence, deposition of waste were notice within the barricade of newly identified area and also in old solid and liquid waste processing facility within gram panchayat premises.
7. For waste collection, they have 2 Nos. small tippers, they have appointed 9 workers for sweeping and door to door collection including drivers and 9 workers for segregation of collected dry waste and mixed waste and composting of wet waste. There is no weighbridge however; GP has 250kg weighing scale at the site, a bailing machine for segregated plastic waste, cutting machine and sanitary napkin incinerator of capacity 25 pad / cycle. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they are claming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it's quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Not maintained proper register regarding dialy collection of waste and bifurcation of different category of solid waste.
8. There is a pond (pushkarani) by name Kothiteertha belongs to Mahabaleshwara Temple and this pushkarani is being used for Hindu religious activity from ancient time. During these religious rituals devotees generally disposing materials carried during pooja. Gram Panchayat has placed cement tank at the entrence of the pond to collect these materials. Pushkarni was clean and not observed dumped solid waste and littering around. Based on public oral compliant and as per SWEO direction pushkarni was inspected on 10.07.2023 and water sample was collected for analysis. Water sample is falls under Class- 'C' (Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection) of the CPCB Water Quality Criteria for designated best use. Further, it was informed by the authority that, they are planning to provide aerators to pushkarni to increase oxygen level and tender will sought shortly. In view of providing the floating aerators to the

Kothiteertha pushkarni as per the directions of the SEO –Mangalore, this office inspected the Kotitheertha tank on 10/07/2023. This Office forwarded a letter vide No.669, dated:09/08/2023 to M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli provide 2 No.s floating aerators to the tank under CSR/CER program. In continuation to the above, on 19th January 2024, Kotitheertha pushkarni was inspected by Officers of this Office along with the technical experts from M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli. After a detailed visit and discussions, M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli has agreed to sponsor for 1nos. Floating sprinkler system of capacity 5HP under CSR to the Gram Panchayat Gokarna vide letter No.ZZR/Environment Cell/KSPCB/15/130, dated:22/01/2024.

9. Gokarna Grama Panchayat does not have any UGD system ending in terminal Sewage treatment plant. A Nala (Raja Kaluve) passes in the centre of the town, sewage and sullage from few house hold finally joins this Nala and ultimately it joins the sea in the main beach area. The Nala is called Sangam Nala, during high tide, the water from the sea enters this Nala and its full, but, during low tide, as water resides, all the dumped solid wastes and stagnated liquid waste can be seen in the nala with bad smell. House holds of about 334 numbers is being discharging grey water to sangam nala and during inspection it was observed that in the Sangama nala there was stagnation of water and this water may joins the Arabian sea during high tide. Apart from this discharge of grey water into sangam nala, littering of solid waste including plastic bottles notice on either side of the sangama nala. As per the information furnished during last visit by the PDO, GP, Gokarna has around 3234 houses, out of which around 1000 houses are in town area, remaining houses are in the rural area. There are also many commercial complexes and the hotels big and small in the town area. As per the GP, they have provided septic tank and soak pit, but, looking to the tourist population and commercial activities in the area, the septic tank or soak pit will not work for hotels, lodges and resorts. Further, authorities were informed to provide gradings at each nala especially at Sangam nala to collect unavoidable solid waste in the nala. PDO informed that, 140 lakh DPR prepared by Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department for rejuvenation (Improvement works to Gokarna Local Nala) and once approval works will start. Further, they have allotted Green gokarna project under World Bank fund and during implementation of project they are planning to conduct cleaning and to provide treatment system atleast primary treatment to grey water and water at Sangam nala.
10. Department of Tourism has provided public toilet facility of about 7 numbers, 10 numbers of bathrooms and 3 urinals for tourist at main beach area. Tourism Department has provided septic

tank and soak pit for disposal of sewage being generated from these facilities. Apart from this, Gokarna Gram Panchayat has developed 9 toilet blocks, 10 bathrooms and 2 urinals and are provided with septic tanks for disposal of sewage water. Gokarna Gram Panchayat has newly constructed bathrooms and toilets about 200 meter from the entrance of main beach and they were opened for public usage and are provided with septic tank and soak pit.

11. Solid waste disposal and poor lifting/cleaning mechanism noticed in and around Sangam nala-Ramatheertha road area. Further, directed to collect and lift the littered solid wastes including clothes in Ramatheertha, main beach area & towards north directions of the beach and also on both side of the sangam nala'area.
12. During inspection authority of Gram Panchayat, Gokarna informed that, they have conducted awareness programme on solid waste Management to educate the public regarding segregation of solid waste through IEC and audio clippings in solid waste collection vehicles. Hoardings and display board noticed in main beach area and many places in Gokarna. One more complaint on these hoarding/banner provided by authority that, they are using flex instead cloth or eco friendly materials. It was directed to provide awareness/hoardings/banner in cloth or any ecofriendly materials instead flex as it was banned during 2016 itself by state government.
13. During inspection visited Om beach, Kudle beach area and observed that, all these beaches were clean apart from small stored quantity in few places on upper side of the Kudle beach.
14. E-waste being collected during daily solid waste collection vehicle and kept in separate place and being disposing to vendors as informed during inspection. But, not maintained proper documents/records in this regard. No separate provision for collection of E-waste and not disposing through authorized recycler and is being treated as scrap materials.
15. Plastic wastes being collected along with solid waste on daily basis are segregated, bailed and packed and stored in the premises. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they are claiming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it is quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Banners were provided in many prominent places and awareness on ban on single use plastic being conducted through garbage collecting vehicles. This office conducted plastic raid on 29/03/2023 in presence of Gram Panchayat authority and noticed usage of banned plastic items. Further, directed Gram Panchayat authorities to conduct frequent raids and aware shop keepers on ban on single use plastic items. Based on above and as this Office received many complaints on Gram Panchayat Gokarna for poor management in the Plastic Waste disposal. Hence, the jurisdiction of Gram

Panchayat Gokarna has been declared as the “**plastic free zone**”. As per the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022, Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District has issued an order on ban on single use plastic dated 11/01/2024 in the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna.

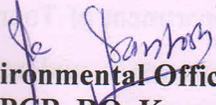
16. No separate area enmarked for collection and processing of C & D waste and also no planning approval mechanism from Gokarna Gram Panchayat to generators. At present C & D waste is being used for filling low lying area and leveling the existing premises. Authorities were directed to identify separate area for collection and treatment/processing of C & D Waste as per C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Recommendations:

1. Gram Panchayat shall collect solid waste from entire Gram Panchayat limit on daily basis. Dry waste shall be segregated and handed over to authorized recyclers. Wet waste shall be composted scientifically so that, there shall not be any fly or odour nuisance during composting activity. Regarding marketing of generated manure, authorities communication shall be made with Government Departments like, Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture etc.,
2. Gram Panchayat shall prepare detailed project report regarding water consumption, waste water generation, characteristics of sewage and under ground drainage system with terminal STP. Till such time Gram Panchayat shall adopt temporary treatment measures like phyto / bioremediation treatment technology and it was directed to include all these in development project under Green Gokarna funded by World Health Organization.
3. Solid waste dumped in Raja kaluve / drain and solid waste carried during rainy season to Raja kaluve finally enters Arabian Sea. The entry of solid waste to Arabian sea shall be controlled / stopped by providing gradings in regular intervals at entire Raja kaluve / drain and collected plastic & other garbages shall be remove and treat regularly.
4. Sewage/sullage from many places in Gokarna enters the Raja Kaluve and finally stagnated at Sangama Nala. Hence, authority shall provide UGD with terminal STP and till such time they have provided temporary treatment system like phytoremediation/bioremediation/any primary treatment. Entry of solid waste especially plastic waste and cloths shall be avoided by providing gradings in each nala from which waste enters the Raja Kaluve.

5. Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat shall give necessary directions and Technical expert in the field environment Management shall be employed for scientific Management of solid waste and sewage.
6. Gokarna is one of the famous tourist places in Uttar Kannada District and there are many home stays and resorts established in Gokarna city limit and entire Gokarna Gram Panchayat area. Department of Tourism shall strictly enforce the solid and liquied waste Management in all these home stays and resorts and conditions may be stipulated while issuing permission to these homestays.
7. Gokarna Gram Panchayat shall develop scientific landfill site with adequate man power to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and scientific Management of solid waste and to maintance asthetic beauty of Gokarna. Identified land shall be developed to handle all these solid waste at the earliest.
8. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) shall be strictly implemented and not to allow any kind of activity in the beach area as per CRZ notifications.
9. For the above non-compliances with respect to solid waste Management in the main beach, on either side of the sangama nala and as the Gram panchayat not taken any steps towards laying of under ground drainage and terminal sewage treatment plant, Regional Office, KSPCB, Karwar has issued Show cause notice to Gram Panchayat, Gokarna and same is here with enclosed.
10. Gram Panchayat shall implement the project of "Green Gokarna" funded by World Health Organisations in scientific way by keeping in mind of all these issues and separate Environmental Engineer from DMA shall be deployed for supervision and implementations of all Environmental laws and also provide additional funds from Government/Zilla Panchayat.
11. Gram Panchayat shall identify site for collection and processing C & D waste well in advance to avoid future nuisance.
12. Gram Panchayat shall establish separate cell to look into all these aspects. Entry of plastic items shall be restricted at the Gokarna entrance itself and strictly implement the "plastic free zone" order as per Deputy Commissioner Order based on the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022.

13. Open burning shall be prohibited in solid waste handling area and other areas in panchayat limit and it shall be achieved by providing mass awareness and installation of CCTV in SWM handling and other hot spots.
14. Authority shall establish adequate facility for processing of solid waste after collection so that, accumulation of solid waste for longer period can be avoided.


**Environmental Officer,
KSPCB, RO, Karwar**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕಾರವಾರ
"ಪಲನರ ಭವನ", ನ್ಯೂ ಕೆ.ಎಚ್.ಬಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿ,
ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581 306, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಫೋನ್ / ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08382-227058
ಇಮೇಲ್ : karwar@kspcb.gov.in
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Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Regional office, Karwar

"Parisara Bhavan", New K.H.B. Colony, Habbuwada,
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towards a cleaner Karnataka

NO.PCB/EO/RO-KWR/2023-24/ 1441

Date: 30 MAR 2024

To

The Panchayat Development Officer
Gram Panchayat, Gokarna,
Kumta Taluk,
Uttara Kannada- District.

Sir,

Sub: Non-compliances under the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, e Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 & notifications issued there under, C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016, E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and all other Environment laws including sewage management in Gokarna Gram Panchayat- reg.

- Ref:** 1. Letter received from Member Secretary, KSPCB, Member Conveyor Hon'ble NGT(SLC), No. NGT-SLC/2023-24/6025, dated: 26/02/2024.
2. This Office letter to The Panchayat Development Officer, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna, Letter No.1346, dated:05/03/2024.
3. Letter received from Gram Panchayat, Gokarna to this office, dated: 05/03/2024.
4. This office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14/03/2024.

With reference to the above subject, it is to be informed that, several compliant have been received predominantly concerning the Solid Waste Management at Gokarna. In view of the above this Office received a letter from Member Secretary, KSPCB, Member conveyor Hon'ble NGT (SLC) vide ref (1) constituted as per Hon'ble NGT regarding action for waste management during the Mahashivratri Festival guaranteed from the perspective of the number of visitors/tourists and devotees that attend the festival at Gokarna, up to 12th March, 2024. In view of this, the PDO Grama Panchayat, Gokarna is strictly directed to take the measures during festival and issued a notice to submit the compliance report vide ref (2).

Accordingly PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna has submitted the compliance report to this Office vide ref (3). In continuation to this, the Officers of this office inspected the Gram Panchayat Gokarna on 14/03/2024 vide ref (4) in presence of PDO, Gram Panchayat, Gokarna to verify the compliance submitted and following observations were made.

1. During inspection, it was observed that, Gokarna Grama Panchayat (GP) has constructed GI sheet wall around the identified site for processing the solid waste. It was learnt that a

preliminary approval from the forest department is obtained for the identified site at Forest land bearing sy no. 1492/A/1A in their GP limits and paid necessary payment towards the land but, the same is yet to be notified. PDO, GP-Gokarna informed that, amount has sanctioned for installation of screening machine, conveyors, bailing machine etc for segregation and processing the waste (plant and machineries) under blue plack programme from World Bank.

2. Gram Panchayat has established a Solid Waste Management centre at its own premises. Grama Panchayat has established wet waste composting machine in the GP premises for the Management of wet solid waste of around 200 Kg/day and dry waste of about 600 Kg/day from Gokarna town. At the time of inspection, it was learnt that, Gram Panchayat itself operating the unit and generating manure from the wet waste but, they are claiming no demand for the manure and hence, huge quantity stored in the shed. Apart from they have established a small sheltered place for segregation of waste. Authorities informed that, during the period of Mahashivaratri festival from 4th march to 15 March 2024 the dry waste collected was about 1500Kg and wet waste of about 450 Kg. They have made provision of containers for both wet and dry waste during festival and regularly collected waste from these hotspots. However, during inspection solid waste collection heaps were noticed including beach area and at sangam nala area.
3. Waste which were non-recyclable being collected daily basis were dumped adjacent to GI sheet wall on up side and south-east direction of the site. During inspection fireing/fumes coming from these dumps noticed and it was directed to estinguish the same immidiatly and to provide CC TV in this waste processing area to monitor and to restrict such kind of actvirty. Not installed any plant and machineries for processing the solid waste at this new site.
4. It was noticed that, GP are being collecting separately the wet and dry waste from entire Gram Panchayat Gokarna. However, during inspection accumulation of municipal solid wastes on the beach area, bank of the Raja Kaluve and sangam nala near sea, sangam place, Ramatheertha area and entire stretch in main beach were observed. Entire waste which may enters the sangam or any nala in city limit finally stagnated at Sangam place near sea. Deposition of solid waste and plastic bottles noticed at these place and solid waste are collected near sea shore at the entrance of the main beach. Further, authority informed that, in many house holds wet wastes were being feeding to cow as a fooder and also being used as manure/composting in their kitchen garden and hence, they are receiving only 200kg of wet waste.

5. During inspection, open burning of solid waste was observed beside the MSW site and also few old mark of burning of solid waste in the above newly identified landfill, street and beach areas was observed. Gram Panchayat authorities were informed to spread mass awareness among shop keepers, public, pourakarmikas regarding open burning and its consequences. Further, informed to take action against open burning of plastic / any kind of solid waste. Authorities were informed to provide CC camera at newly identified SWM collection and segregation site and also many hotspots within the Gokarna Gram Panchayat limit including sangam nala, kudle beach and main beach area.
6. You are collecting solid waste on daily basis from hotspots and provided bin and container facility in main area where generation of solid waste is more. However, Gram Panchayat authority practicing very poor segregation and management of collected solid waste and hence, deposition of waste were notice within the barricade of newly identified area and also in old solid and liquid waste processing facility within gram panchayat premises.
7. For waste collection, they have 2 Nos. small tippers, they have appointed 9 workers for sweeping and door to door collection including drivers and 9 workers for segregation of collected dry waste and mixed waste and composting of wet waste. There is no weighbridge however; GP has 250kg weighing scale at the site, a bailing machine for segregated plastic waste, cutting machine and sanitary napkin incinerator of capacity 25 pad / cycle. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they are claming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it's quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Not maintained proper register regarding dialy collection of waste and bifurcation of different category of solid waste.
8. There is a pond (pushkarani) by name Kothiteertha belongs to Mahabaleshwara Temple and this pushkarani is being used for Hindu religious activity from ancient time. During these religious rituals devotees generally disposing materials carried during pooja. Gram Panchayat has placed cement tank at the entrence of the pond to collect these materials. Pushkarni was clean and not observed dumped solid waste and littering around. Based on public oral compliant and as per SWEO direction pushkarni was inspected on 10.07.2023 and water sample was collected for analysis. Water sample is falls under Class- 'C' (Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection) of the CPCB Water Quality Criteria for designated best use. Further, it was informed by the authority that, they are planning to provide aerators to pushkarni to increase oxygen level and tender will sought shortly. In view of

providing the floating aerators to the Kothiteertha pushkarni as per the directions of the SEO – Mangalore, this office inspected the Kotitheertha tank on 10/07/2023. This Office forwarded a letter vide No.669, dated:09/08/2023 to M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli provide 2 No.s floating aerators to the tank under CSR/CER program. In continuation to the above, on 19th January 2024, Kotitheertha pushkarni was inspected by Officers of this Office along with the technical experts from M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli. After a detailed visit and discussions, M/s. West Coast Paper Mill Ltd., Dandeli has agreed to sponsor for 1nos. Floating sprinkler system of capacity 5HP under CSR to the Gram Panchayat Gokarna vide letter No.ZZR/Environment Cell/KSPCB/15/130, dated:22/01/2024.

9. Gokarna Grama Panchayat does not have any UGD system ending in terminal Sewage treatment plant. A Nala (Raja Kaluve) passes in the centre of the town, sewage and sullage from few house hold finally joins this Nala and ultimately it joins the sea in the main beach area. The Nala is called Sangam Nala, during high tide, the water from the sea enters this Nala and its full, but, during low tide, as water resides, all the dumped solid wastes and stagnated liquid waste can be seen in the nala with bad smell. House holds of about 334 numbers is being discharging grey water to sangam nala and during inspection it was observed that in the Sangama nala there was stagnation of water and this water may joins the Arabian sea during high tide. Apart from this discharge of grey water into sangam nala, littering of solid waste including plastic bottles notice on either side of the sangama nala. As per the information furnished during last visit by the PDO, GP, Gokarna has around 3234 houses, out of which around 1000 houses are in town area, remaining houses are in the rural area. There are also many commercial complexes and the hotels big and small in the town area. As per the GP, they have provided septic tank and soak pit, but, looking to the tourist population and commercial activities in the area, the septic tank or soak pit will not work for hotels, lodges and resorts. Further, authorities were informed to provide gradings at each nala especially at Sangam nala to collect unavoidable solid waste in the nala. PDO informed that, 140 lakh DPR prepared by Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department for rejuvenation (Improvement works to Gokarna Local Nala) and once approval works will start. Further, they have allotted Green gokarna project under World Bank fund and during implementation of project they are planning to conduct cleaning and to provide treatment system atleast primary treatment to grey water and water at Sangam nala.

10. Department of Tourism has provided public toilet facility of about 7 numbers, 10 numbers of bathrooms and 3 urinals for tourist at main beach area. Tourism Department has provided septic tank and soak pit for disposal of sewage being generated from these facilities. Apart from this, Gokarna Gram Panchayat has developed 9 toilet blocks, 10 bathrooms and 2 urinals and are provided with septic tanks for disposal of sewage water. Gokarna Gram Panchayat has newly constructed bathrooms and toilets about 200 meter from the entrance of main beach and they were opened for public usage and are provided with septic tank and soak pit.
11. Solid waste disposal and poor lifting/cleaning mechanism noticed in and around Sangam nala-Ramatheertha road area. Further, directed to collect and lift the littered solid wastes including clothes in Ramatheertha, main beach area & towards north directions of the beach and also on both side of the sangam nala area.
12. During inspection it was informed that, you have conducted awareness programme on solid waste Management to educate the public regarding segregation of solid waste through IEC and audio clippings in solid waste collection vehicles. Hoardings and display board noticed in main beach area and many places in Gokarna. One more complaint on these hoarding/banner provided by authority that, they are using flex instead cloth or eco friendly materials. It was directed to provide awareness/hoardings/banner in cloth or any ecofriendly materials instead flex as it was banned during 2016 itself by state government.
13. During inspection visited Om beach, Kudle beach area and observed that, all these beaches were clean apart from small stored quantity in few places on upper side of the Kudle beach.
14. E-waste being collected during daily solid waste collection vehicle and kept in separate place and being disposing to vendors as informed during inspection. But, not maintained proper documents/records in this regard. No separate provision for collection of E-waste and not disposing through authorized recycler and is being treated as scrap materials.
15. Plastic wastes being collected along with solid waste on daily basis are segregated, bailed and packed and stored in the premises. The authorities have sold to local vender and it was directed to handover bailed materials to authorized recycler or to cement plants however, they are claiming that, as a small Gram Panchayat it is quite difficult to manage the transportation cost. Banners were provided in many prominent places and awareness on ban on single use plastic being conducted through garbage collecting vehicles. This office conducted plastic raid on 29/03/2023 in presence of Gram Panchayat authority and noticed usage of banned plastic items. Further, directed Gram Panchayat authorities to conduct frequent raids and aware shop keepers

on ban on single use plastic items. Based on above and as this Office received many complaints on Gram Panchayat Gokarna for poor management in the Plastic Waste disposal. Hence, the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna has been declared as the “**plastic free zone**”. As per the directions mentioned in the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022, Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District has issued an order on ban on single use plastic dated 11/01/2024 in the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Gokarna.

16. No separate area enmarked for collection and processing of C & D waste and also no planning approval mechanism from Gokarna Gram Panchayat to generators. At present C & D waste is being used for filling low lying area and leveling the existing premises. Authorities were directed to identify separate area for collection and treatment/processing of C & D Waste as per C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016.

The above act of yours in many observations reveals that, you are not series in complying with the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, e Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 & & notifications issued there under, C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016, E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and Hon'ble NGT directions.

In view of the above, you are hereby directed to implement following directions/actions and to submit compliance to Hon'ble NGT directions:

1. Gram Panchayat shall collect solid waste from entire Gram Panchayat limit on daily basis. Dry waste shall be segregated and handed over to authorized recyclers. Wet waste shall be composted scientifically so that, there shall not be any fly or odour nuisance during composting activity. Regarding marketing of generated manure, authorities communication shall be made with Government Departments like, Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture etc.,
2. Gram Panchayat shall prepare detailed project report regarding water consumption, waste water generation, characteristics of sewage and under ground drainage system with terminal STP. Till such time Gram Panchayat shall adopt temporary treatment measures like phyto / bioremediation treatment technology and it was directed to include all these in development project under Green Gokarna funded by World Health Organization.
3. Solid waste dumped in Raja kaluve / drain and solid waste carried during rainy season to Raja kaluve finally enters Arabian Sea. The entry of solid waste to Arabian sea shall be

- controlled / stopped by providing gradings in regular intervals at entire Raja kaluve / drain and collected plastic & other garbages shall be remove and treat regularly.
4. Sewage/sullage from many places in Gokrana enters the Raja Kaluve and finally stagnated at Sangama Nala. Hence, authority shall provide UGD with terminal STP and till such time they have provided temporary treatment system like phytoremediation /bioremediation/any primary treatment. Entry of solid waste especially plastic waste and cloths shall be avoided by providing gradings in each nala from which waste enters the Raja Kaluve.
 5. Gram Panchayat shall seek necessary direction and Technical expert in the field environment Management from Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat for scientific Management of solid waste and sewage.
 6. Gokarna is one of the famous tourist places in Uttar Kannada District and there are many home stays and resorts established in Gokarna city limit and entire Gokarna Gram Panchayat area. Department of Tourism shall strictly enforce the solid and liquid waste Management in all these home stays and resorts and conditions may be stipulated while issuing permission to these home stays and Gram panchayat shall conduct co-ordination with Department of Tourism on above issue.
 7. Gokarna Gram Panchayat shall develop scientific landfill site with adequate man power to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and scientific Management of solid waste and to maintenance aesthetic beauty of Gokarna. Identified land shall be developed to handle all these solid waste at the earliest.
 8. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) shall be strictly implemented and not to allow any kind of activity in the beach area as per CRZ notifications.
 9. Gram Panchayat shall implement the project of "Green Gokarna" funded by World Health Organizations in scientific way by keeping in mind of all these issues and separate Environmental Engineer from DMA shall be deployed for supervision and implementations of all Environmental laws and also provide additional funds from Government/Zilla Panchayat.
 10. Gram Panchayat shall identify site for collection and processing C & D waste well in advance to avoid future nuisance.
 11. Gram Panchayat shall establish separate cell to look into all these aspects. Entry of plastic items shall be restricted at the Gokarna entrance itself and strictly implement the "plastic free zone" order as per Deputy Commissioner order based on the directions mentioned in

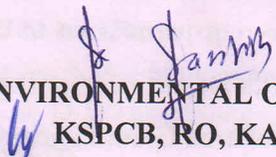
the Notification No. FEE 17 EPC 2012, dated: 11.03.2016 and Notification No. G.S.R 571 (E), dated: 12th August 2021 which mandates banning of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items with effect from 1st July 2022.

12. Open burning shall be prohibited in solid waste handling area and other areas in panchayat limit and it shall be achieved by providing mass awareness and installation of CCTV in SWM handling and other hot spots.
13. Shall establish adequate facility for processing of solid waste after collection so that, accumulation of solid waste for longer period can be avoided.

In view of the above, you are hereby directed to submit compliance report to the above non compliance observed during inspections along with detailed action plan and photographic evidences and also called upon to "SHOW CAUSE" within 15days from the date of receipt of this notice.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this notice.

Yours faithfully,


ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
KSPCB, RO, KARWAR

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, KALAS MAHAL, CHENNAI
OA 118/ 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item published in Deccan Herald dated 01.03.2023 under the caption "Unregulated tourism pushing Gokarana to the Edge"

... .. APPLICANT

VERSUS

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors

...RESPONDENTS

VAKALATNAMA

I, B. K. Santosh, Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), "Parisara Bhavan", New K.H.B Colony, Habbuwada, Karwar-581 301, Uattara Kannada District, Karnataka, do hereby appoint and retain Sh **Mukesh Kumar, Advocate**, Enrolment No. D/1944/2012, to act and appear for me/us in the above Application/ Petition/ Appeal and on my/ our behalf to conduct and prosecute (or defend) or withdraw the same and also proceedings that may be taken in respect of any application connected with the same or any decree or order passed therein, including proceedings in taxation and application for Review, to file and obtain, return of documents and to deposit and receive money in my/ our behalf in the above Suit/ Petition/ Appeal and Application for Review, and to represent me/ us and to take all necessary steps on my our behalf in the above matter. I/ We agree to ratify all acts done by the aforesaid Advocate, in pursuance of this authority.

Dated this 30th day of April' 2024.

Accepted/ Identified/ Certified

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B. K. Santosh 30/4/24
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
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RESPONDENT NO
Environmental Officer
Karnataka State Pollution Control
Board, Karwar.

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