



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL
(MINI SECRETARIAT, DUDERHAMA)

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No. DDC/GBL/PS-01/2384

Dated: -06-08-2025

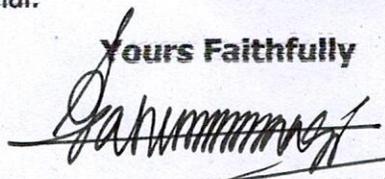
In the matter of:- Action Taken Report on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal (Respondent No.4) in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 08.04.2025 passed in O.A No. 1119 of 2024 titled News Item "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024.

Sir,

Pursuant to the matter titled above, I am directed to enclose herewith the Action Taken Report as well as Application for revocation of the Hon'ble Tribunal order dated 08.04.2025 duly signed by the Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal (Respondent No.4) with a request that the same be filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi well in time so as to avoid any adverse orders from the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Encl:-A/A

Yours Faithfully


 Syed Faheem Binaqi (JKAS) 6/8/25

Additional Deputy Commissioner
Ganderbal

Copy for favour of information to the:-

1. Principal Secretary to Govt. Agriculture Production Department, J&K .
2. Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Civil Secretariat, J&K.
3. Secretary to Govt. Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, J&K .
4. Member Secretary, JK Pollution Control Committee, Jammu.
5. PA to Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal

**Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi**

Original Application No. 1119 of 2024

In the case of:- News Item titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024.

In the matter of:- Action Taken Report on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal (Respondent No.4) in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 08.04.2025 passed in O.A No. 1119 of 2024 titled News Item "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024.

May it please your Lordship:-

1. That, the answering respondent is a responsible functionary of the Government and as such have the highest regard and respect for the law and the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal who cannot as such conceive of committing any contempt whatsoever.
2. That, the office of answering respondent received an email from Consultant Judicial-NGT(P.B) on Jan 03, 2025 along with a copy of order dated 11.12.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant Original Application, however, Notice & order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal prior to the order dated 11.12.2024 have not been received in the office of answering respondent.
3. That, immediately after receipt of the order dated 11.12.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, the matter was taken up by the office of answering respondent with the following officers vide communication No. ADM/GBL/PS/2025/160-165 Dated 10.01.2025:-
 - i) Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Sonamarg.
 - ii) Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal.
 - iii) District Officer, Pollution Control Board, Ganderbal.
 - iv) Assistant Director, Fisheries, Ganderbal.


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4. That, this Hon'ble Tribunal has been pleased to pass another order dated 08.04.2025 whereby the answering respondent has been directed to apprise the Hon'ble Tribunal about Action taken to remediate the problem of the pollution of Sindh Nallah.

In this behalf, it is respectfully submitted that the necessary remedial measures have been taken up by the answering respondent No.4 through the concerned departments/officers in order to prevent & protect the immaculate health of Nallah Sindh as submitted hereinbelow:-

5. That, the Regional Director, JK PCC, Kashmir has communicated as under:-
- a. Solid waste / Plastic waste has been found littered and dumped in open at various spot on the bank of Sindh Nallah from Wayil to Sonamarg.
 - b. Solid Waste Management shed have been established at Surfaw-Gund, but not been used for storage of solid waste.
 - c. Legal notices have been issued to Block Development Officers of Gund & Kangan Blocks of district Ganderbal vide No. JKPCC/ROK/LS/M SW/2024/672-74; dated 14.10.2024
 - d. Water Analysis Report shows that water quality of all spots of the Sindh Nallah from Wayil to Sonamarg qualifies class-B water quality criteria except for few locations, which do not meet class-B criteria for Microbiological parameters.
6. That, regarding the recent observations made by this Hon'ble Tribunal over the alarming pollution levels in the Sindh Nallah, it is reported that the locals, tourists, business establishments have been frequently dumping garbage on the banks of Nallah Sindh. Plentiful tourists are visiting district Ganderbal daily and dumping waste in open areas mainly along the banks of Nallah Sindh and such practices have been deteriorating the water quality, harming aquatic life and endangering the Trout habitat for which the Nallah is famous.

It is submitted that in the instant matter, the District Administration has taken various initiatives like regular cleaning drives, periodic cleaning campaigns, public awareness and



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education campaigns for local populace , tourists, hoteliers etc. and explained the importance of clean environment and the risk posed by pollution to aquatic life. Daily cleanliness drives have been conducted during Swachta Pakhwada by the Government employees, students, Panchayat bodies, NGOs along Sindh Nallah.

As the Nallah Sindh is of significant importance for irrigation, drinking water, power generation and Trout culture in the region, therefore, preserving its cleanliness, ecological balance is very much important. In this connection, the District Administration has taken up various measures like regular cleaning drives, public awareness and education campaigns, enforcement of strict penalties against the person(s) who are caught dumping the garbage into the Nallah Sindh, afforestation drives along the river, establishment of proper waste disposal sites and improved waste management system, as such, tremendous efforts have been taken up in order to preserve and protect the immaculate health of the Nallah Sindh. The efforts in the matter carried out by the District Administration Ganderbal have also been brought into the notice of Directorate of Fisheries, J&K by the Assistant Director, Fisheries Department Ganderbal vide several office communications.

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7.

That, on the basis of reports from Regional Director, J&K PCC and Fisheries Department, J&K, necessary directions in the matter have been issued to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tourism Development Authority, Sonamarg and the Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal. Further, vide letter No.DCG/ADC-PS/2025/1383-1384 Dated 19.05.2025, the Chief Executive Officer, Tourist Development Authority Sonamarg and Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal have been advised to operationalize the Solid Waste Management Treatment Plant(s) under his supervision immediately to ensure effective waste management, minimize environment impact and to comply with regulatory requirements.

8.

That, the Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority Sonamarg has communicated that the authority has taken significant actions to mitigate environmental damage and ensured the preservation of Eco-system in estate Sonamarg including River Sindh. The authority has installed a Solid Waste Management Plant

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at Sarbal which is operational now wherein wastage is properly treated and disposed of scientifically, thereby preventing any adverse impact in tourist destination Sonmarg including river side. Sonamarg Development Authority has issued multiple notices to the hoteliers explicitly warning them against dumping waste along the river banks of River Sindh. Work on Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Sonamarg is in progress with 70% work executed, which will reduce the discharge of untreated sewage into the River Sindh, thereby mitigating pollution and safeguarding aquatic life. Additionally, the individual STP sheds have been installed by the hoteliers on their premises to ensure proper management of waste water. These measures are aimed at preventing any contamination of the Sonmarg area and maintaining its ecological balance.

9. That, on the basis of instructions imparted, the Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal vide letter No.ACP/GBL/Legal/989-93 Dated 15.05.2025 read with letter No.ACP/GBL/Legal/1029-37 Dated 17.05.2025 has submitted the Action Taken Reports as furnished by the Block Development Officer, Kangan vide letter No. BDOK/SBM/2025-26/1297 and Block Development Officer, Gund vide letter No. BDO/Gund/SBM-G/2025-26/544-46 Dated 14.05.2025. The Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal has reported that both the Block Development Officers have taken a serious note of the persisting problem. The Block Development Officer, Kangan has framed a DPR for construction of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) for which land has already been identified at Panchayat Wussan (B) block Kangan and the said DPR has been framed and submitted to the higher authorities for accord of necessary approval. As soon as the DPR is administratively and technically approved, the work will be got executed and the problem will be resolved accordingly. However, till the accord of necessary approval, the concerned Secretary Panchayat has been directed to make the necessary awareness among the general public for safe disposal of the untreated sewage from the surrounding villages and hotels. Moreover, Block/District awareness camps were organized from time to time. For treatment of the sewage 35- community soak pits have been already constructed in the block and more 23-soak pits have been assigned to the block during the current financial

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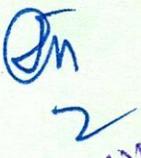
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year. Regarding solid/plastic waste management, the block Kangan is collecting the solid waste/plastic waste from door to door households twice a week from all panchayats of Block Kangan which is taken to the dumping site presently being operated at Chinner, Panchayat halqa Wussan (B) where Plastic waste management unit has been constructed at the same site/location and manual segregation of the waste is being carried out by the EOI agency. Regarding garbage / plastic waste dumped near the bank of the Nallah Sindh by some unknown miscreants , same is cleared immediately when it comes into the notice of the concerned authorities.

Regarding, untreated sewage from the surrounding houses/hotels, the Block Development Officer, Gund has acted upon on the issue and for liquid/grey water management, community soak pits have been constructed in all Gram Panchayats of Block Gund under SBM Scheme and 1674 individual house hold soak pits have also been constructed under MGNREGA Scheme throughout the Block Gund. Regarding Solid and Plastic Waste Management, Block Gund has engaged sanitation/garbage collection vehicles and hired sanitation workers for door-to-door collection of domestic waste and from other establishments which is being dumped at Solid Waste Management Unit at Surfraw-B constructed by the department where the same is stored, segregated and disposed of manually by the EOI agency, however, the PWMU constructed at Surfraw by the department is non-functional due to non-availability of skilled manpower. Sometimes, some mischievous persons during odd hours are dumping their garbage/waste on the bank of Nallah Sindh which is being cleared immediately when it comes into the notice of the Department. For making the PWMU fully functional, the Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal has been instructed to take immediate necessary measures on priority basis.

The Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Ganderbal has also communicated that the department is taking every step for safe disposal of the waste in all Gram Panchayats of the District. Clear instructions have been given to the Block Development Officers that there should be no legacy waste dumped near the water bodies and to ensure that whenever the legacy waste is dumped


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near the Nallah by mischievous persons, the same should be disposed scientifically immediately and the action as warranted under rules be taken against the violators. Regarding the untreated sewage waste, 107 community soak pits have been already constructed in the District under SBM scheme for safe disposal of the grey water/liquid waste and also 90-more community soak pits sanctioned in the current year's Annual Action Plan (AIP 2025-26) have been assigned to the Blocks and are being constructed during the current financial year. The department is giving every thrust on scientific disposal of the waste and has issued clear cut instructions to the field staff in the matter and the department is taking every effort to make the Solid Waste Management Programme successful in the district.

- 10.** With regard to the issue of illegal mining in the Sindh Nallah, it is respectfully submitted that as communicated by the District Mineral Officer, Ganderbal vide No.DMO/DGM/GBL/ND+GT/2025-26/567-68 Dated 17.05.2025 read with letter No. DMO/DGM/GBL/NDGT/2025-26/591-92 Dated 19.05.2025, it is submitted that the department of Geology and Mining, Ganderbal is taking utmost care to avoid any illegal mining along river Sindh. The department is working diligently in the best interest of administration and effective implementation of MMDR Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Efforts to curb illegal mining activities include seizures, late night patrolling, dismantling of ramps /approaching roads with the assistance of Police Department. The district Ganderbal has two e-auctioned leases with mining operations being conducted exclusively within below two blocks :-

i. Block No.04

Description of location: Under construction Bridge to Arch Downstream Sindh River in Tehsil Ganderbal.

ii. Block No.08

Description of location: Wussan Bridge to Chinner U/S Bramsar Nar Tehsil Kangan.


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11. That, in light of the aforementioned submissions, the answering respondent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to make such other and further submissions as and when the context may so arise and this Hon'ble Tribunal may so direct by amending the present response or by filing additional/supplementary reply/affidavit or this Hon'ble Tribunal may so direct/permits.

12. That the reply is supported by an Affidavit duly sworn.

In the premises, it is therefore respectfully prayed that the Action Taken Report may kindly be taken on board on behalf of the answering respondent No.4 (Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal).


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**Answering Respondents
Through Counsel.**

**(Gautam Singh)
Advocate
For UT of J&K, New Delhi**

**Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi**

Original Application No. 1119 of 2024

In the case of:- News Item titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024.

In the matter of:- Affidavit in support of Action Taken Report on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal (Respondent No.4) in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 08.04.2025 passed in O.A No. 1119 of 2024 titled News Item "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024.

I, Jatin Kishore, presently posted as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That whatever has been stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.
2. That, I further solemnly affirm that this affidavit is true and no part of this is false and nothing has been concealed therein.


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DEPONENT
Ganderbal

Verification:-

Verified on 06/08/2025 at Ganderbal, that the averments made in this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed thereof.


DEPONENT
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Ganderbal

Certified that the above statement has been made by
by Jatin Kishore
So Deputy Commissioner
Ro Ganderbal
on oath today on 08/08/2025 before
me, who is identified by [Signature]


Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Ganderbal

