

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No.239/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Tiled "What challenges are Kashmiri
Wetlands Facing?"

INDEX

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	Pages
1.	Additional Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.5/Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office-Chandigarh	1-11
2.	<u>Annexure R5/1</u> Copy of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017	12-19
3.	<u>Annexure R5/2</u> Copy of the order dated 19.08.2025	20-27
4.	<u>Annexure R5/3</u> Minutes of Meeting dated 25.08.2025	28-36
5.	<u>Annexure R5/4</u> Copy of Report dated 27.09.2025	37-115

Filed by:

Charu Singhal

[CHARU SINGHAL]

Advocate for MoEF&CC

Chamber No.228,

M.C. Setalvad Lawyer Block,

Supreme Court, New Delhi-110001

Mb.9810720565

Email: advcharusinghal@gmail.com

New Delhi;

Dated: 15.11.2025

1
BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 239/2024

News Item titled "*What challenges are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?*" appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024.

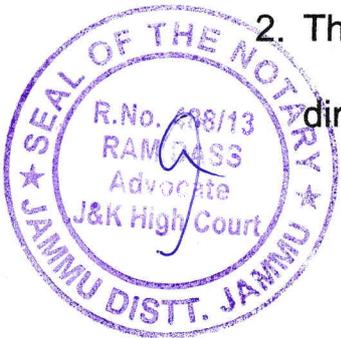
Additional Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office- Chandigarh

I, Khursid Alam Khan S/o Shri Hasnain Khan, aged about 37 years, presently working as Scientist 'C' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Sub Office, 379-A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu - 180004, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under : -

1. That, I am, the above-named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present affidavit.

2. That, vide order dated 21.08.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal observed/directed;

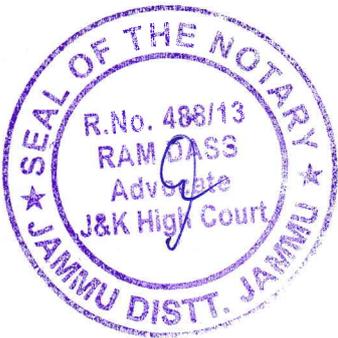
"8. Therefore, for preservation and protection of the wetland, the authorities are required to place on record full details of all the existing wetlands in J&K alongwith the original area of each



Khursid Alam Khan

2
of the wetland as per the old revenue entries and the present existing area of that wetland and the authority which is responsible for managing and protecting that wetland. Details of waste management by the residential and commercial establishments and by 910 house boats is also required to be disclosed.

9. The J&K PCC is directed to submit the water analysis Report of each of the wetland to disclose the updated quality of water in compliance with the water quality standards therein. Let the further Reports by Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K, MoEF&CC, UT of J&K and J&K PCC be filed within eight weeks disclosing by way of affidavit the above details and the number of drains and commercial establishments which are discharging sewage in the wetland.



10. Let the further Report by MoEF&CC and J&K PCC in the form of affidavit be filed disclosing the above information within eight weeks.

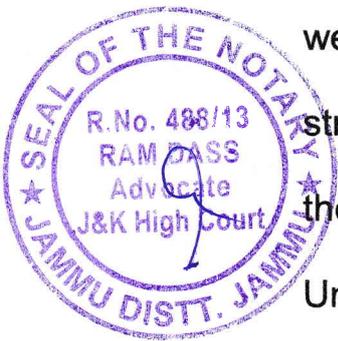
11. List on 18.11.2025."

3. That, for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the MoEF&CC, had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Singh", written over a horizontal line.

Management) Rules, 2017, superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 with decentralization of powers in view of the fact that "Water and Land" are subjects which come under the purview of the State List. Under these Rules, the State/Union Territories Wetland Authorities have been constituted, thereby, replacing the erstwhile Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority. The powers & functions of State/UT wetland authorities are outlined under Rule 5, while Rule 7 specifies the delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and UT Administrations for notification of the wetlands. The copy of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 is annexed as **Annexure/R5/1**.

4. That, as per Rule 5(4) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the State and UT Wetland Authorities exercise various powers and functions to conserve and protect wetlands within their respective jurisdictions. These include defining strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands; functioning as the nodal authority for all wetland-related activities within the State or Union Territory; issuing necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management to the concerned implementing agencies; and undertaking measures to enhance awareness among



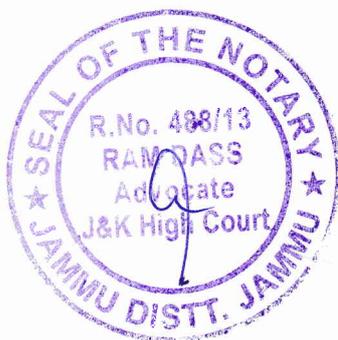
Kishor

stakeholders and local communities on the values and functions of wetlands.

5. That, it is pertinent to mention that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 19.08.2025, in the matter of Anand Arya vs. Union of India; WP(C) No. 304/2018, observed/ directed the following:

"3. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) would draw the attention of the Court that seven States namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Sikkim, Karnataka and Ladakh have achieved less than 50% and the States of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have achieved less than 40%. This would clearly indicate that the respective States Wetland Authorities seem to be moving at a snail's pace and the direction issued by this Court has not yielded positive results.

4. In that view of the matter, we direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today,

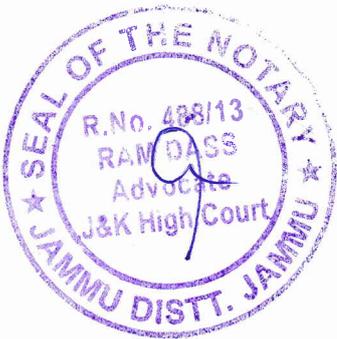


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "K. Singh", written in a cursive style.

failing which, the Secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this Court on next date of hearing. It is also made clear that inaction on the part of these State Wetland Authorities would compel this Court to pass coercive orders against such of those States which has failed to comply with the direction issued earlier as well as the direction issued by this order.

5. In the light of the wetlands having been identified, it is incumbent upon the State Wetland Authorities to publish the same in the respective State Governments' website indicating such of those Wetland which have been identified together with the areas, where ground truthing and demarcation of boundaries have been undertaken by distinctly and separately indicating the same, which exercise shall be undertaken before next date of hearing.

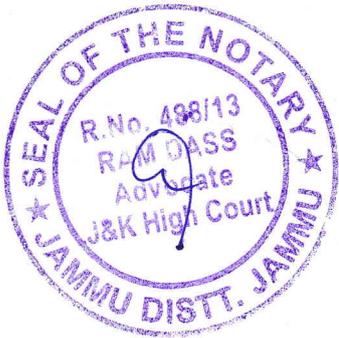
6. Let the affidavit of compliance be filed immediately after such an exercise being undertaken and at any rate before the next date of hearing.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ram Dass", written over the notary seal.

7. Union of India shall coordinate with the State Level Wetland Authorities and expedite the issuance of notifications for which the draft notifications are already in place which would reflect the pro-active action undertaken by such authorities and a meeting in this regard shall be conveyed by Union of India of all the State Level Wetland Authorities and make them aware of the situation and expedite the works which are required to be undertaken by them.

8. The statistics furnished today would also reflect that wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares are required to be identified as prescribed under the extant Rules and the affidavits of the State Governments of Wetland Authorities shall also dwelve upon as to the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect these wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares which according to the statistics is around 5,55,557 as mentioned in the Wetland Atlas".



The copy of order dated 19.08.2025 is annexed as **Annexure/R5/2**.

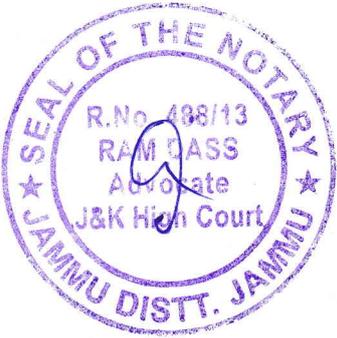
6. That, in compliance of direction issued in **Para 7 of order dated 19.08.2025**, a virtual meeting was convened on 25.08.2025 under the

[Handwritten signature]

chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC with the representatives of State/UT Wetlands Authorities and Knowledge Partners to review the compliance by the States & UTs to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the present matter, along with its connected matters. The Minutes of Meeting dated 25.08.2025 are enclosed as **Annexure/R5/3**.

7. That, vide the aforesaid meeting dated **25.08.2025**, the States/UTs were requested to furnish the compliance reports with respect to the following items:

"2.3. W.r.t the direction on expediting the ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands, as per the data uploaded by the States/UTs on the Wetlands of India Portal (<https://indianwetlands.in/>), out of the 2,31,195 wetlands inventoried in the SAC Atlas 2021, ground-truthing of 1,83,700 (79%) wetlands has been done, and boundaries of 95,404 (41%) wetlands have been demarcated. The States/UTs which are yet to complete the ground truthing and boundary demarcation including those States/UTs specifically directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide the above order are requested to expeditiously complete the same at the earliest, on top priority.



K. Singh

2.4. W.r.t the direction on publishing the details of the wetlands (including those for which ground truthing and boundary demarcation has been completed), on the respective State Government/UTs' website, the same needs to be complied by all the States/UTs and an affidavit in compliance in this regard needs to be filed before the next date of hearing i.e. 07.10.2025. All the States/UTs are requested to share the link of the said website to NCSCM and the wetlands division of the Ministry so as to provide all of them on the Wetlands of India Portal.

Further, as directed by the Hon'ble Court, the affidavits of States/UTs shall also specify the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect the wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares.

2.5. W.r.t the direction on notification of wetlands, based on the information received from 32 States/UTs, the Ministry in its affidavit dated 11.11.2024 had submitted the following:

- a. Number of wetlands identified for notification: 569
- b. Number of Wetlands notified: 92
- c. No. of wetlands with draft notifications: 65



[Handwritten signature]

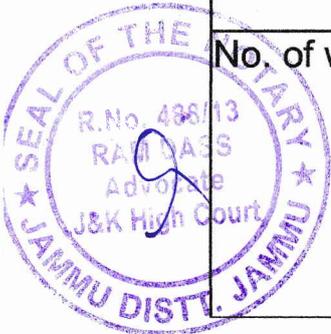
d. Number of Wetlands for which Brief Documents have been prepared: 1,965

e. No. of brief documents under development: 1,044

All the States/UTs are requested to submit the latest status of the above items w.r.t notification of wetlands including the timeline for final notification, to the Ministry by 21.09.2025 for compilation and submission to the Hon'ble Court."

8. That, with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 19.08.2025, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, through its report dated 27.09.2025, has furnished/ updated the following details:

Particulars	Nos
No. of wetlands (>2.25 ha) in the State/UT as per Space based Observation of Indian Wetlands, 2021 (SAC Atlas, 2021)	262 (307 out of which 45 are found across LOC)
No. of wetlands ground-truthed	258 (221 are present, 37 are absent)



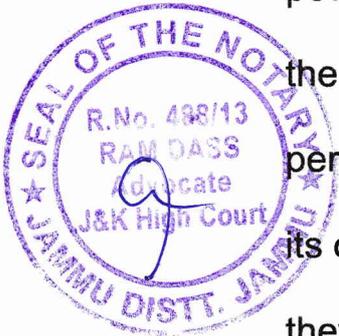
Handwritten signature

No. of additional wetlands (>2.25 ha and not covered in SAC Atlas) found through ground-truthing exercise, if any.	39
No. of wetlands for which boundary is demarcated after Ground-truthing.	114
No. of wetlands for which GIS maps are prepared after boundary demarcation (shape file/ KML format) and uploaded on the portal)	114 (yet to be uploaded on the portal)
No of transboundary wetlands present in the State/UT (after ground-truthing)	-

The Report dated 27.09.2025 is annexed as **Annexure/R5/4**.

9. That, the States/ State Wetlands Authorities are entrusted with the powers and responsibility to monitor and conserve wetlands within their jurisdiction. The subject matter of the present application pertains to the Union Territory Administration of Jammu & Kashmir & its concerned organizations and J&K Wetlands Authority; accordingly, they are required to take necessary action in the present matter.

10. That, the Respondent Ministry has undertaken an intensive mission to ensure completion of ground-truthing and boundary demarcation of



K. Singh

wetlands. The SAC Atlas, 2021¹¹ data has been shared with all States and Union Territories, and regular coordination meetings are being conducted to facilitate and monitor the progress made by them towards conservation and management of wetlands within their respective jurisdictions.

11. That, in view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass the order(s) as it deems appropriate.

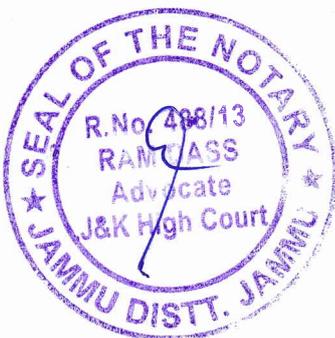


DEPONENT

Dr. Khursid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C' Sub-Office Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India

VERIFICATION

Verified at Jammu on the 12th of, November 2025 that the contents of Paragraphs of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.



Execution Admitted Hence Attested

Notary Public
Jammu Distt. JAMMU

12/11/2025



DEPONENT

Dr. Khursid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C' Sub-Office Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India

- (4) समिति के गैर-सरकारी सदस्यों को कार्यकाल तीन वर्ष से अनधिक का नहीं होगा।
- (5) समिति प्रत्येक छह मास में कम से कम एक बार बैठक करेगी।
7. **राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को शक्तियों और कार्यों का प्रत्यायोजन.**—(1) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन का सम्बद्ध विभाग इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से एक वर्ष की अवधि के भीतर अधिसूचित किये जाने हेतु अभिज्ञात प्रत्येक आर्द्रभूमि के लिए एक संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज तैयार करेगा, जिसमें निम्नलिखित का उपबंध होगा:—
- (क) निर्देशांकों सहित यथार्थ डिजिटल मानचित्रों द्वारा समर्थित और जमीनी सत्यापन द्वारा विधिमान्य आर्द्रभूमि का सीमांकन;
- (ख) इसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र का सीमांकन और डिजिटल मानचित्र में संकेतित उसका भूमि उपयोग और आच्छादित भूमि क्षेत्र;
- (ग) पारिस्थितिक-स्वरूप का विवरण;
- (घ) पूर्वतः विद्यमान अधिकारों तथा विशेषाधिकारों का लेखा;
- (ङ.) आर्द्रभूमि तथा इसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र के भीतर अनुज्ञप्त स्थल-विशिष्ट क्रियाकलाप की सूची;
- (च) आर्द्रभूमि और उसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र के भीतर विनियमित किये जाने वाले स्थल-विशिष्ट क्रियाकलापों की सूची; और
- (छ) विनियमों के प्रवर्तन की रीति;
- (2) प्राधिकरण, संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज के आधार पर, आर्द्रभूमियों को अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासन को सिफारिश करेगा।
- (3) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन संबंधित और प्रभावित व्यक्तियों से प्राप्त आक्षेपों, यदि कोई हों, पर विचार करने के पश्चात् प्राधिकरण द्वारा की गयी सिफारिश की तारीख से दो सौ चालीस दिन से अनधिक की अवधि के भीतर राजपत्र में आर्द्रभूमियों को अधिसूचित करेगी।
- (4) (क) केन्द्रीय सरकार सीमा-पार आर्द्रभूमियों के मामले में, संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज, जिसमें उप-नियम (1) में यथा सूचीबद्ध सूचना दी गई हो, को तैयार करने में संबद्ध राज्य सरकार और संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासनों के साथ समन्वय करेगी।
- (ख) संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज के आधार पर, राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति आर्द्रभूमि को अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को सिफारिशें करेगी।
- (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार संबद्ध और प्रभावित व्यक्तियों से प्राप्त आक्षेपों, यदि कोई हों, पर विचार करने के पश्चात् समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिश की तारीख से दो सौ चालीस दिन से अनधिक की अवधि के भीतर आर्द्रभूमियों को राजपत्र में अधिसूचित करेगी।
- (5) (क) केन्द्रीय सरकार आर्द्रभूमियों से संबंधित सूचना के लिए एक समर्पित वेब पोर्टल का सृजन करेगी।
- (ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार, राज्य सरकार और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन अपनी अधिकारिता में की आर्द्रभूमियों के विषय में, सभी संबंधित सूचना अपलोड करेगी।

[फा. सं. जे-22012/78/2003-सीएस(डब्ल्यू) पार्ट.V]

डॉ. ए. दुरैसामी, वैज्ञानिक 'जी'

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 26th September, 2017

G.S.R. 1203(E).—Whereas the wetlands, vital parts of the hydrological cycle, are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation, aesthetic enhancement of landscapes while simultaneously supporting many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage;

And whereas many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands;

And whereas clause (g) of article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;

And whereas the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a comprehensive legislation to provide protection and improvement of the environment, including *inter-alia*, wetlands, and for matters connected therewith;

And whereas the National Environment Policy, 2006 recognises the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and emphasizes the need to set up a regulatory mechanism for all wetlands so as to maintain their ecological character, and ultimately support their integrated management;

And whereas India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is committed to conservation and wise use of all wetlands within its territory;

And whereas the Central Government has published the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, vide number G.S.R. 951(E), dated the 4th December, 2010;

And whereas conservation and wise use of wetlands can provide substantial direct and indirect economic benefits to state and national economy, and thereby the Central Government stands committed to mainstreaming full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services in development planning and decision making for various sectors;

And whereas the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations need to take into account wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values likewise within their developmental programming and economic well-being, also taking into cognizance that land and water, two major ecological constituents of wetland ecosystems, are enlisted as State subjects as per the Constitution;

And whereas the Central Government considered it necessary to supersede the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country;

And whereas the Central Government had, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, published the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016, vide number G.S.R. 385 (E) dated 31st March, 2016 for information of the public likely to be affected thereby; and notice was given that the said draft rules would be taken into consideration by the Central Government after expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette notification is made available to the public;

And whereas the Central Government has received the suggestions and objections from the State Governments, Union Territories and its organisations, individuals and civil society organisations on the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016;

And whereas the suggestions and objections received in response to the above mentioned draft rules have been duly considered by the Central Government in consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules for conservation and management of wetlands, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—

- (1) These rules may be called the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- (2) These shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-
 - (a) "Act" means the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - (b) "Authority" means the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority, as the case may be;

- (c) "Committee" means the National Wetlands Committee referred to in rule 6;
 - (d) "ecological character" means the sum of ecosystem components, processes and services that characterise the wetlands;
 - (e) "integrated management plan" means a document which describes strategies and actions for achieving wise use of the wetland and the plan shall include objectives of site management; management actions required to achieve the objectives; factors that affect, or may affect, the various site features; monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management; and resources for management implementation;
 - (f) "Ramsar Convention" means the Convention on Wetlands signed at Ramsar, Iran in 1971;
 - (g) "wetland" means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes;
 - (h) "wetlands complexes" means two or more ecologically and hydrologically contiguous wetlands and may include their connecting channels/ducts;
 - (i) "wise use of wetlands" means maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through implementation of ecosystem approach within the context of sustainable development;
 - (j) "zone of influence" means that part of the catchment area of the wetland or wetland complex, developmental activities in which induce adverse changes in ecosystem structure, and ecosystem services.
- (2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Applicability of rules.—These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—

- (a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;
- (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:

Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

4. Restrictions of activities in wetlands.—(1) The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority.

- (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,-
 - (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
 - (iv) solid waste dumping;
 - (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
 - (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
 - (vii) poaching.

Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority.

5. Wetlands Authorities.—(1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely:—

- (i) Minister In-charge of the Department of Environment/Forests of the State Government or Minister In-charge of the Department handling wetlands - Chairperson;
- (ii) Chief Secretary of the State or Additional Chief Secretary equivalent - Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Director, State Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiii) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Member Secretary, State Biodiversity Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics to be nominated by the State Government; and
- (xviii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary.

(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely:—

- (i) Administrator or Chief Secretary of the Union Territory - Chairperson;
- (ii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Secretary in-charge of the Departments of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) Director, Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Member Secretary, Union Territory Pollution Control Committee - Member *ex-officio*;

- (xiii) Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of the UT - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xiv) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xv) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change- Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xvi) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics to be nominated by the Union Territory Administration; and
 - (xvii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary.
- (3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.
- (4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely:-
- (a) prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or Union Territory within three months from the date of publication of these rules;
 - (b) prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these rules; taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State Acts;
 - (c) recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;
 - (d) prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory to be updated every ten years;
 - (e) develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;
 - (f) recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;
 - (g) define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, groundwater recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced;
 - (h) review integrated management plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands which are harmonized with ecological character;
 - (i) in cases wherein lands within boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights, recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities;
 - (j) identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/Union Territory level development plans and programmes;
 - (k) ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;
 - (l) coordinate implementation of integrated management plans based on wise use principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;
 - (m) function as nodal authority for all wetland specific authorities within the State or Union Territory Administration;
 - (n) issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies;

- (o) undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and
- (p) Advise on any other matter *suo-motu*, or as referred by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.
- (5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.
- (6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute,—
 - (a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority; and
 - (b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;
- (7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.
- (8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.
- (9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years.

6. Constitution of National Wetlands Committee.—(1) The Central Government, hereby constitutes the National Wetlands Committee with the following members, namely:—

- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Chairperson;
- (ii) Special Secretary or Additional Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India-Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Additional Director General, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Adviser or Joint Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Joint Secretary , Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Director, Zoological Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiii) Director, Botanical Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Director, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Member, Central Water Commission - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) Adviser, Niti Aayog - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvii) Three representatives of State Government or Union Territory Administration on a rotational basis for a tenure of two years each;
- (xviii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning & socio-economics; and

- (xix) Director/Additional Director/Joint Director dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member Secretary.
- (2) The National Wetlands Committee may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.
- (3) The National Wetlands Committee shall perform the following functions, namely:-
- advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - evolve norms and guidelines for integrated management of wetlands based on wise use principle;
 - monitor implementation of these rules by the Authority;
 - advise the Central Government on proposals received from State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for omission of the prohibited activities as referred in sub-rule (2) of rule 4;
 - recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention;
 - recommend trans-boundary wetlands for notification;
 - review progress of integrated management of Ramsar sites and transboundary wetlands;
 - advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands; and
 - advise on any other matter *suo-moto*, or as referred by the Central Government.
- (4) The tenure of non-official members of the Committee shall not exceed three years.
- (5) The Committee shall meet at least once in every six months.
- 7. Delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.—**
- (1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing:—
- demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - demarcation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;
 - ecological character description;
 - account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
 - list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
 - list of site specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and
 - modalities for enforcement of regulation;
- (2) Based on the Brief Document, the Authority shall make recommendations to the State Government or Union Territory Administration for notifying the wetlands.
- (3) The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Authority.
- (4) (a) In case of trans-boundary wetlands, the Central Government shall coordinate with concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare the Brief Document containing information as listed in sub-rule (1).
- (b) Based on the Brief Document, the National Wetlands Committee shall make recommendations to the Central Government for notification of the wetland.
- (c) The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Committee.

- (5) (a) The Central Government shall create a dedicated web portal for information relating to wetlands.
- (b) The Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration shall upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction.

[F. No. J-22012/78/2003-CS (W) Pt. V]

Dr. A. DURAISAMY, Scientist 'G'

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition (Civil) No.304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)

I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001

IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)

IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Date : 19-08-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N.V. ANJARIA

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Ms. Rajlakshmi Singh, Adv.
Ms. Vidushi Srivastava, Adv.
Ms. Rambha Singh, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Sadhana Madhavan, Adv.
Ms. Kavana Rao, Adv.

Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR
Bipasa Tripathy, Adv.
Shlok Luthra, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR
Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Kunal Verma, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Ms. Swarupma Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
 Mr. Bhuvan Mishra, Adv.
 Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Aman Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Pratyush Srivastava, Adv.
 Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR
 Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR

Ms. Aakanksha Tiwari, Adv.
 Mrs. Priyanka Dwivedi, Adv.
 Mrs. Monika, Adv.
 Ms. Nazish Fatima, Adv.
 Mahipal Singh, Adv.
 Ravinder Pal Singh, Adv.
 Dilip Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Supriya, Adv.
 Kanchan Kumari, Adv.
 Javed Raza, Adv.
 Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR
 Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
 Ms. Purna Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR

Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
 Ms. Disha Singh, AOR

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
 Mrs. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
 Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
 Mr. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Pratyush Srivastav, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR

Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

Mr. Alok Sangwan, Sr. A.A.G.
 Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR
 Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Rajat Sangwan, Adv.

22
 Mr. Shikhar Narwal, Adv.
 Ms. Drishti Rawal, Adv.
 Ms. Drishti Saraf, Adv.
 Mr. Mayur Goyal, Adv.

Mr. Vishwanathan Iyer, Adv.
 Mrs. Shimpy Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Sandeep Jindal, AOR

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
 Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, A.A.G.
 Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
 Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
 Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Adv.

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
 Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv.
 Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.
 Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.
 Mrs. Devika A.L., Adv.

Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR

Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
 Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
 Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
 Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
 Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
 Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
 Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
 Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
 Ms. Yanmi Phazng, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Khanna, AOR
 Ms. Natasha Sahrawat, Adv.
 Mr. Gautam Barnwal, Adv.
 Mr. Rudraksh Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Deepali Bhanot, Adv.

Mr. Siddhant Sharma, AOR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.

Ms. Abhinandini Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Amogh Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR

Ms. Yashika Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR

Mr. M.F. Philip, Adv.

Mr. Karamveer Singh Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Togin M. Babichen, Adv.

Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR

Ms. Garima Prashad, Sr. A.A.G.

Mr. Sudeep Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.

Ms. Manisha, Adv.

Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.

Mr. K.M Nataraj, A.S.G.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Adv.

Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.

Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Gautam Kumar, Adv.

Mr. N Visakamurthy, aor, Adv.

Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.

Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Diksha Verma, Adv.

Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR

Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Ishita Bist, Adv.

Ms. Suveni Bhagat , AOR

Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR

Mr. Rishi Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Akash Vashishtha, Adv.

Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR
Mr. Kumar Abhishek, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Nikhil, Adv.
Mr. P. Venkatraju, Adv.

Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR
Mrs. Shashi Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Tripathi, Adv.
Ms. Shweta Jayshankar Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Smriti Singh, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
Mr. D.P. Singh, Adv.

Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Singh, GA
Mr. Sarad Kr. Singhania, AOR
Ms. Rashmi Singhania, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. This Court by order dated 11.12.2024 had taken note of the fact that prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area of more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503 and the latest ISRO data of the year 2021 reflected the figure having increased to 2,31,195. Hence, this Court was of the view that said figures will have to be checked at the ground level. The manner, method and mode in which this evaluation has to be undertaken has been traced to the Wetlands (Conservation of Management) Rules, 2017 namely identification of

such wetlands, which is described as 'Ground truthing'. This exercise ought to be undertaken by the respective States, same have been neglected by most of the States, except the State of Punjab to some extent and nothing have been done in that regard. Hence, Court vide order dated 11.12.2024 directed each of the State / Union Territory Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the wetland which have been identified by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021. A specific direction was issued by this Court that above said task was required to be expeditiously completed and at any rate within a period of three months from the date of the order.

2. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General assured that Union of India had undertaken the task of monitoring with each of the State and a detailed affidavit was agreed to be filed before the next date. Accordingly, an affidavit has been filed on 24.03.2025 and today, a brief note has also been furnished enclosing therewith a chart, which reflects the ground truthing and boundary demarcation undertaking by respective State Wetland Authorities. The comparative statement *via-a-vis* with reference to the ground truthing carried out as on 22.03.2025 and 21.07.2025 as well as the boundary demarcation carried out by the authorities would reflect the sorry state of affairs.

3. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) would draw the attention of the Court that seven States namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Sikkim, Karnataka and Ladakh have achieved less than 50% and the

States of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have achieved less than 40%. This would clearly indicate that the respective States Wetland Authorities seem to be moving at a snail's pace and the direction issued by this Court has not yielded positive results.

4. In that view of the matter, we direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today, failing which, the Secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this Court on next date of hearing. It is also made clear that inaction on the part of these State Wetland Authorities would compel this Court to pass coercive orders against such of those States which has failed to comply with the direction issued earlier as well as the direction issued by this order.

5. In the light of the wetlands having been identified, it is incumbent upon the State Wetland Authorities to publish the same in the respective State Governments' website indicating such of those Wetland which have been identified together with the areas, where ground truthing and demarcation of boundaries have been undertaken by distinctly and separately indicating the same, which exercise shall be undertaken before next date of hearing.

6. Let the affidavit of compliance be filed immediately after such an exercise being undertaken and at any rate before the next date of hearing.

7. Union of India shall coordinate with the State Level Wetland Authorities and expedite the issuance of notifications for which the draft notifications are already in place which would reflect

the pro-active action undertaken by such authorities and a meeting in this regard shall be conveyed by Union of India of all the State Level Wetland Authorities and make them aware of the situation and expedite the works which are required to be undertaken by them.

8. The statistics furnished today would also reflect that wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares are required to be identified as prescribed under the extant Rules and the affidavits of the State Governments of Wetland Authorities shall also dwell upon as to the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect these wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares which according to the statistics is around 5,55,557 as mentioned in the Wetland Atlas.

9. List on 07.10.2025.

IA No.203606/2022 in W.P. (C) No.230/2001:

Issue notice to the respondents in W.P. (C) No.230/2001, returnable on 07.10.2025. The petitioner(s) shall furnish requisite number of copies in the Registry for issuance of notice.

(NEHA GUPTA)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25.08.2025 to review the compliance by the States & UTs to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court & Hon'ble NGT and other aspects of wetlands conservation

A virtual meeting was convened on 25.08.2025 by the Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC, with the State/UT Wetlands Authorities and Knowledge Partners to review the compliance by the States & UTs to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court (in the matter titled as *Anand Arya vs. Union of India* (W.P.(C) No. 304/2018), along with its connected matters, i.e., *M.K. Balakrishnan vs Union of India & Ors.* (W.P.(C) No. 230/2001) and *Vanashakti Public Trust vs. Union of India* (W.P.(C) No. 302/2020)) & Hon'ble NGT (in the matter titled as *Raja Muzaffar Bhatt vs. UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.* (O.A. No. 351/2019) and other aspects of wetlands conservation. The following is the agenda of the meeting:

- a. Progress achieved in Ground Truthing and Boundary Demarcation of wetlands, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 11.12.2024 in W.P.(C) No. 304/2018 (*Anand Arya vs. Union of India*) & other connected matters.
- b. Status of notification of wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.
- c. Action taken by each State/UT in compliance of directions issued by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) vide final order/judgment dated 25.11.2021 in O.A. No. 351/2019 (*Raja Muzaffar Bhatt vs. UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.*)
- d. Preparation of Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.
- e. Proposals to be submitted for designation of Ramsar Sites.
- f. Issues pertaining to pending Utilization Certificates and funds utilization under NPCA.

2. At the outset, the Joint Secretary (Wetlands Division) & Member, National Wetlands Committee (NWC) welcomed the participants (**List of Participants is enclosed as Annexure 1**) followed by a brief overview of the meeting and its importance. It was noted with concern that in spite of the importance and urgency of the matter, some states/UTs have not joined for the meeting. The States/UTs were apprised of the following:

2.1. As you are all aware, that vide order dated 11.12.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia, directed that *each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the wetlands that have been identified for their state by Space Application Centre Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021, as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from 11.12.2024.*

2.2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 19.08.2025, observed that certain State/UT Wetland Authorities have made limited progress in ground-truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands within their jurisdictions, and inter-alia, directed:

*"3. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) would draw the attention of the Court that seven States namely, **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Sikkim, Karnataka and Ladakh** have achieved less than 50% and the States of **Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh** have achieved less than 40%. This would clearly indicate that the respective States Wetland Authorities seem to be moving at a snail's pace and the direction issued by this Court has not yielded positive results.*

4. In that view of the matter, we direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from

today, failing which, the Secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this Court on next date of hearing. It is also made clear that inaction on the part of these State Wetland Authorities would compel this Court to pass coercive orders against such of those States which has failed to comply with the direction issued earlier as well as the direction issued by this order.

5. In the light of the wetlands having been identified, it is incumbent upon the State Wetland Authorities to publish the same in the respective State Governments' website indicating such of those Wetland which have been identified together with the areas, where ground truthing and demarcation of boundaries have been undertaken by distinctly and separately indicating the same, which exercise shall be undertaken before next date of hearing.

6. Let the affidavit of compliance be filed immediately after such an exercise being undertaken and at any rate before the next date of hearing.

7. Union of India shall coordinate with the State Level Wetland Authorities and expedite the issuance of notifications for which the draft notifications are already in place which would reflect the pro-active action undertaken by such authorities and a meeting in this regard shall be conveyed by Union of India of all the State Level Wetland Authorities and make them aware of the situation and expedite the works which are required to be undertaken by them.

8. The statistics furnished today would also reflect that wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares are required to be identified as prescribed under the extant Rules and the affidavits of the State Governments of Wetland Authorities shall also dwelve upon as to the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect these wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares which according to the statistics is around 5,55,557 as mentioned in the Wetland Atlas".

2.3. W.r.t the direction on expediting the ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands, as per the data uploaded by the States/UTs on the Wetlands of India Portal (<https://indianwetlands.in/>), out of the 2,31,195 wetlands inventoried in the SAC Atlas 2021, ground-truthing of 1,83,700 (79%) wetlands has been done, and boundaries of 95,404 (41%) wetlands have been demarcated. The States/UTs which are yet to complete the ground truthing and boundary demarcation including those States/UTs specifically directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide the above order are requested to expeditiously complete the same at the earliest, on top priority.

2.4. W.r.t the direction on publishing the details of the wetlands (including those for which ground truthing and boundary demarcation has been completed), on the respective State Government/UTs' website, the same needs to be complied by all the States/UTs and an affidavit in compliance in this regard needs to be filed before the next date of hearing i.e. 07.10.2025. All the States/UTs are requested to share the link of the said website to NCSCM and the wetlands division of the Ministry so as to provide all of them on the Wetlands of India Portal.

Further, as directed by the Hon'ble Court, the affidavits of States/UTs shall also specify the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect the wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares.

2.5. W.r.t the direction on notification of wetlands, based on the information received from 32 States/UTs, the Ministry in its affidavit dated 11.11.2024 had submitted the following:

- a. Number of wetlands identified for notification: 569
- b. Number of Wetlands notified: 92

- c. No. of wetlands with draft notifications: 68
- d. Number of Wetlands for which Brief Documents have been prepared: 1,965
- e. No. of brief documents under development: 1,044

All the States/UTs are requested to submit the latest status of the above items w.r.t notification of wetlands including the timeline for final notification, to the Ministry by 21.09.2025 for compilation and submission to the Hon'ble Court.

3. The Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC also highlighted the following issues:

3.1. Designation of Ramsar Sites: As a follow up to the D.O. letter of Secretary, MoEF&CC to the Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs, it was urged to identify potential wetlands for Ramsar Site designation and also expedite the pending proposals by re-submitting them to the Ministry. It was noted that the number of Ramsar sites in India has increased by 250% over the past decade, reaching a total of 91. The Ministry also aims to support the development of model biodiversity-rich wetlands with sustainable ecotourism.

3.2. Comments on Amendment to the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017: Only 15 States/UTs have submitted their comments on the proposed amendments to the Wetlands Rules, 2017. All the remaining States/UTs were requested to submit their comments, at the earliest. Even if there are no comments, the same may also be communicated.

3.3. NPCA Scheme: The States/UTs whose Integrated management Plans (IMPs) are ongoing, are requested to implement the same as per the sanctioned timelines. The Ramsar Sites whose IMPs are yet to be prepared are requested to expedite the same. The IMPs may also be submitted to the Ministry for financial assistance under NPCA. The States/UTs having pending **Utilization Certificates (UCs)** were requested to submit the same to the Ministry, at the earliest. It was reiterated that States with pending UCs will not be eligible for further funding. Unsubmitted UCs may result in the withdrawal of previously sanctioned funds and their reallocation to other States.

4. The Member Secretary, NWC & Scientist 'F' (Wetlands Division), MoEF&CC presented the agenda and invited inputs from States/UTs, the salient points of which are as follows. **(The information received from 22 States/UTs w.r.t the agenda items are attached as Annexure 2)**

4.1. Andhra Pradesh informed that a formal reply will be submitted shortly, which was subsequently received. Seven wetlands have been identified for notification and are under review by the technical committee. Districts have been directed to prepare District Environment Plans in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT orders. SACON has been engaged for preparation of IMP for Kolleru Lake (Ramsar site). Koringa Wildlife Sanctuary is being proposed for Ramsar site designation. It was requested for adjustment of pending UC as unspent balance for further utilization. MoEF&CC observed that the State has not been attended the previous four meetings on pending UCs and requested to attend the next meeting scheduled on 09.09.2025.

4.2. Assam was requested to submit a formal reply to the agenda items by email, which is yet to be received. It has recently been decided to engage the Assam Space Applications Centre along with IIT Guwahati as the Knowledge partners. The unspent balance under NPCA has been deposited in the treasury.

4.3. Bihar suggested that similar to the provision of consultants by the Ministry for non-attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), the Ministry may consider providing consultants to the Ramsar sites. The approval for state share for the IMP of Gokul

Jalashay has been received, the central share received earlier shall be refunded and the same shall be requested through the current SNA-SPARSH. Pending UC issues are due to lack of coordination between SWA & UDHD, the concerned department for the execution of the Moti Jheel Project. The Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC advised direct correspondence with Urban Development & Housing Department (UDHD) in coordination with SWA, to fast-track the matter.

4.4. Chandigarh reported 100% completion of ground-truthing and boundary demarcation. Of 10 wetlands under protected areas, two were found non-existent. Seven additional man-made water bodies have been identified. No wetlands are presently suitable for Ramsar Site designation and are working with WWF and WII to identify suitable sites. An action plan for urban water bodies will be prepared as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions.

4.5. Chhattisgarh informed that ground-truthing and boundary demarcation are completed but require verification with revenue data. Gidhwa Parsida Wetland has been identified, in addition to Kopra Jalashay, as a potential Ramsar Site.

4.6. Goa confirmed that they would complete boundary demarcation within a month and shall update on the portal. Two Ramsar site proposals have been identified, one managed by the Forest Department. They raised concern over inconsistencies in SAC data and difficulty in mapping wetlands. An IMP has been approved by the State Wetlands Authority and will be submitted to MoEF&CC.

4.7. Haryana assigned District Wetland Authorities to complete the boundary demarcation by September 2025. No Ramsar proposal has been identified yet, but the State assured efforts are underway. Two IMPs have been submitted and are under revision as per the technical committee observations.

4.8. Himachal Pradesh will complete the boundary demarcation by September 2025. They raised concern regarding discrepancy between SAC data and State records. NCSCM clarified SAC's inclusion of river channels. Seventeen wetlands within protected areas have been identified for FMPs. Six sites have been proposed for Ramsar designation, with documentation in progress.

4.9. Jammu & Kashmir is preparing Ramsar Site proposals and has identified seven wetlands for notification. Coordination with the Pollution Control Board and Forest Department is ongoing. One IMP has been approved and will be submitted to MoEF&CC. Pending UCs are under consultation with the Finance Department.

4.10. Jharkhand was requested to submit a formal reply to the agenda items by email, which is yet to be received. It was informed that ground truthing and boundary demarcation of 46 wetlands was completed and brief documents prepared for 12 wetlands. Notification is under review by the technical committee. The State was requested to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation process given the very little progress.

4.11. Karnataka was requested to submit a formal reply to the agenda items by email, which is yet to be received. The boundary demarcation has also been completed for the ground truthed wetlands. The State was requested to upload the boundary demarcation data on the wetlands of India portal also. Proposals of 30 wetlands for notification are under review by the technical committee.

4.12. Kerala is undertaking boundary demarcation and has identified 40 wetlands for notification. The Joint Secretary requested for submission of pending UC of ₹38 lakhs.

4.13. Madhya Pradesh is coordinating with Forest and Water Resources Departments on Ramsar Site designations. One IMP has been submitted and Bhoj Wetland IMP is in progress.

They requested release of NPCA funds and assured clearance of pending UCs. IMP for Sirpur Wetland has been approved by the technical committee.

4.14. Maharashtra reported 100% boundary demarcation. Three Ramsar proposals are pending with the Forest Department. They assured submission of formal reply by the end of the day (received) and confirmed that UC was submitted on 13th June, 2025. The Joint Secretary observed that the ground-truthed wetlands are less than the boundary demarcated wetlands, which is not the case with all other States/UTs. It requires detailed discussion, subsequently.

4.15. Manipur completed ground-truthing for all the 132 wetlands and boundary demarcation for 71 wetlands. Seven wetlands have been identified for notification, of which four are already notified under Forest Conservation Rules. It is planned to propose one Ramsar site and sought support. Issues regarding editing of data on the Save Wetlands Campaign Portal and sanction for Loktak Lake were discussed.

4.16. Meghalaya faced challenges in demarcating river wetlands and sought expert guidance. Twenty-one wetlands have been identified for notification, and Ramsar proposals are under consideration. Governance issues were also highlighted.

4.17. Mizoram assured submission of formal reply, which was received. They raised difficulties in boundary demarcation due to inaccessible terrain and wetlands located on private fishponds. MoEF&CC has requested the same in writing also.

4.18. Nagaland cited change of personnel as reason for delay and reported similar issues as Mizoram. MoEF&CC has requested to update the contact details of nodal officers.

4.19. Odisha was requested to submit a formal reply to the agenda items by email, which is yet to be received. The State reported preparation of District Environment Plans and identification of five new Ramsar site proposals through the Chilika Development Authority. Six IMPs have been submitted, and six wetlands identified for notification, are under review by the technical committee.

4.20. Punjab informed identification of 73 wetlands for notification and submission of report to MoEF&CC. Meetings with the technical committee and State Wetland Authority are planned.

4.21. Rajasthan assured timely completion of boundary demarcation.

4.22. Sikkim highlighted inaccessibility of certain wetlands near the Line of Control (LOC) and sought NCSCM's support. Formal response and UC submission were assured by 31st August. Proposals for Ramsar sites are under consideration.

4.23. Tamil Nadu raised queries on the methodology for boundary demarcation, which were discussed. MoEF&CC requested NCSCM to compile the different methodologies adopted by States for the same.

4.24. Uttar Pradesh raised issues in preparing Ramsar Site proposals. RIS for four wetlands has been prepared by WWF. They requested prioritization of Ramsar Site proposals before World Wetlands Day 2026. The issue w.r.t naming of wetlands w.r.t SAC atlas and reference to revenue records was discussed.

4.25. West Bengal reported that demarcation is in progress and UC is pending with the Forest Department. They were requested to coordinate with the Department and update the portal data.

The meeting ended with the thanks to all.

S No.	States/UTs	Attendance (P=Present or A= Absent)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	P
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	A
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	A
4.	Assam	P
5.	Bihar	P
6.	Chandigarh	P
7.	Chhattisgarh	P
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	A
9.	Delhi	A
10.	Goa	P
11.	Gujarat	P
12.	Haryana	P
13.	Himachal Pradesh	P
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	P
15.	Jharkhand	P
16.	Karnataka	P
17.	Kerala	P
18.	Ladakh	A
19.	Lakshadweep	A
20.	Madhya Pradesh	P
21.	Maharashtra	P
22.	Manipur	P
23.	Meghalaya	P
24.	Mizoram	P
25.	Nagaland	P
26.	Odisha	P
27.	Puducherry	A
28.	Punjab	P

29.	Rajasthan	34	P
30.	Sikkim		P
31.	Tamil Nadu		P
32.	Telangana		A
33.	Tripura		A
34.	Uttar Pradesh		P
35.	Uttarakhand		A
36.	West Bengal		P

Attendees from Wetlands Division, MoEFCC & KPs		
S.No	Name (Shri. /Ms./Dr.)	Designation
1	Rajat Agarwal	Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC
2	Ramesh Motipalli	Scientist F, Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC
3	Pankaj Verma	Scientist F, Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC
4	Chandan Singh	Consultant, Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC
5	Muruganandam R	Scientist C, NCSCM
6	Gauri Vashist	Associate (Legal)-B, Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC
7	Manish Gupta	Software Developer (NCSCM), Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC
8	Rithish Ninan Alex	Project Associate, Wetlands International South Asia (WISA)
9	Aswin Krishna M V	Project Associate, WISA

Annexure 2- Responses received from States/UTs

S No.	States/UTs	Reply by Email (Y=Yes or N=No)	Remarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Y	
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	N	
4.	Assam	N	
5.	Bihar	Y	
6.	Chandigarh	Y	

7.	Chhattisgarh	Y	
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	N	
9.	Delhi	N	
10.	Goa	Y	
11.	Gujarat	N	
12.	Haryana	Y	
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Y	
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	Y	Only provided answer to (a) point
15.	Jharkhand	N	
16.	Karnataka	N	
17.	Kerala	Y	
18.	Ladakh	N	
19.	Lakshadweep	N	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Y	
21.	Maharashtra	Y	
22.	Manipur	Y	
23.	Meghalaya	Y	
24.	Mizoram	Y	
25.	Nagaland	Y	Only provided answer to (a) point
26.	Odisha	N	
27.	Puducherry	N	
28.	Punjab	Y	
29.	Rajasthan	Y	
30.	Sikkim	Y	
31.	Tamil Nadu	Y	
32.	Telangana	Y	
33.	Tripura	N	
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Y	
35.	Uttarakhand	Y	Provided answer to (a) and (c) points

36.

West Bengal

36_N

1243

0191-2546793/2579921

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India, New Delhi.

No.FST-Lit/171/2025(7654093)

Dated:27-09-2025

Subject:- Review Meeting with States/UTs and KPs on wetlands conservation.

Sir,

In reference to e-mail dated 11.08.2025, the reply in respect of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to the following issues are given as under for kind perusal and necessary action:-

Query raised by MoEF&CC	Reply
a. Progress achieved in Ground Truthing and Boundary Demarcation of wetlands, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 11.12.2024 In W.P.(C) No. 304/2018 (Anand Arya vs. Union of India) & other connected matters.	It is submitted that the 2 nd interim report regarding the progress achieved in Ground Truthing and Boundary Demarcation of wetlands already stands submitted to the MoEF&CC vide letter No.FST-Lit/563/2024(7592258) dated 21.08.2025 and also uploaded in the google sheet devised by the MoEF&CC (refer Annexure 'A').
b. Status of notification of wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.	In accordance with the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Brief Documents (BDs) for six (06) wetlands have been prepared by the concerned District Working Groups, out of which four [1. Ahansar-Waskursar Wetland Complex; 2. Sanasar Lake; 3. Khushalsar&Gilsar Lake (Complex) and 4. Anchar&Rakh-i-Kujar Complex)] have been submitted to J&K Wetland Authority and two (Manasbal Lake and Narkara are under the examination of the Technical Committee). Further, the notification of Wular Lake approved by the J&K Wetland Authority is under consideration/examination in the department.
c. Action taken by each State/UT In compliance of directions Issued by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal	The reply on behalf of Respondent No.1 were forwarded to Standing Counsel, Govt. of J&K for filing before the Hon'ble Tribunal vide letter No.FST-

(Principal Bench) vide final order/Judgment dated 25.11.2021 In O.A. No. 351/2019 (Raja Muzaffar Bhatt vs. UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.)	Lit/82/2025(7629435) dated 26.08.2025 and also communicated to MoEF&CC vide letter No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435) dated 26.08.2025 for kind information. Next date of hearing has been fixed on 21.11.2025 and the UT of J&K shall prepare and file updated report before the HNGT before next date of hearing (refer Annexure 'B').
d. Preparation of Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.	Regarding Preparation of Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, the department vide communication No.7488495-FST-plg/42/2024-02-FD dated: 25-08-2025 has submitted an IMP (for five years) under the CSS - "NPCA" to Director Wetlands, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi (refer Annexure 'C').
e. Proposals to be submitted for designation of Ramsar Sites.	No such proposal is under consideration of this department at present.
f. Issues pertaining to pending Utilization Certificates and funds utilization under NPCA.	With reference to the query regarding pending Utilization Certificates under NPCA, it is submitted that the requisite UC has been furnished by Chief Executive Director, Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), Kashmir directly to MoEF&CC vide their communication dated 01.09.2025 (refer Annexure 'D').

Yours faithfully,



(**Abid Khan**)

Under Secretary to the Government

Encls:A/A.

Copy to Scientist-F, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wetland Division), Government of India, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

1246

0191-2546793/2579921

39

Annexure 'A'

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi.

No.FST-Lit/563/2024(7592258)

Dated: 21-08-2025

Subject:- W.P. (C) No.304/2018- Anand Arya vs Union of India along with W.P. (C) No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court- Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by Ground Truthing.

Sir,

In continuation to this department's letter of even no. dated 21-03-2025 regarding the subject cited above, I am directed to furnish herewith the 2nd interim report, on the format devised by MoEF&CC, in respect of UT of J&K as tabulated below:-

Particulars	Nos
No. of wetlands (>2.25 ha) in the State/UT as per Space based Observation of Indian wetlands, 2021 (SAC Atlas 2021)	262 (307 out of which 45 are found across LOC)
No. of wetlands ground-truthed	258 (221 are present, 37 are absent)
No. of additional wetlands (>2.25 ha and not covered in SAC Atlas) found through ground-truthing exercise, if any No. of wetlands for which boundary is demarcated after ground-truthing	39
No. of wetlands for which boundary is demarcated after Ground-truthing	114
No. of wetlands for which GIS maps are prepared after boundary demarcation (shape file/KML format) and upload on https://indianwetlands.in/	114 (Yet to be uploaded on portal)
No. of trans boundary wetlands present in the State/UT (after ground-truthing) – Details to be filled in the separate sheet	

Yours faithfully,

(Abid Khan)

Under Secretary to the Government

Copy to Scientist-F, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wetlands Division), Government of India, New Delhi for information and necessary action.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi.

No.FST-Lit/563/2024(7592258)

Dated:21-03-2025

Subject:- W.P. (C) No.304/2018- Anand Arya vs Union of India along with W.P. (C) No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court- Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by Ground Truthing.

Sir,

I am directed to refer your Office Memorandum No.W/30/2024-WTL dated 20.12.2024 regarding the subject cited above, and to furnish herewith the requisite information, on the format devised by MoEF&CC, in respect of UT of J&K as tabulated below:-

Sl No.	Name of State/UT	No. of wetlands (>2.25 ha) in the State/UT as per Space based Observation of Indian wetlands, 2021 (SAC Atlas 2021)	No. of wetlands ground-truthed	No. of additional wetlands (>2.25 ha and not covered in SAC Atlas) found through ground-truthing exercise, if any	No. of wetlands for which boundary is demarcated after ground-truthing	No. of wetlands for which boundary is demarcated after ground-truthing	No. of wetlands for which GIS maps are prepared after boundary demarcation (shape file/KML format) and uploaded on https://indianwetlands.in/	No. of transboundary wetlands present in the State/UT (after ground truthing) – Details to be filled in the separate sheet
33	Jammu and Kashmir	307	183 (175 found present and 8 absent)	52	82	0	0	

Yours faithfully,

Ambika Bali
(Ambika Bali)JKAS

Under Secretary to the Government

Copy to Scientist-F, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wetlands Division), Government of India, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

0191-2546793/2579921

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India,
New Delhi

No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

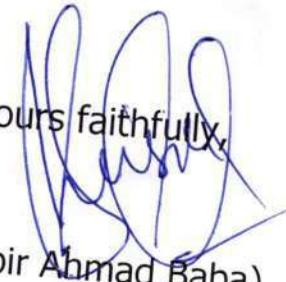
Dated:26-08-2025

Subject:- Re: Execution Application No.26/2025, in OA No. 351/2019, titled as Raja Muzaffar Bhat vs. Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors, before the Hon'ble N.G.T (Principal Bench).

Sir,

With reference to the e-mail dated 06.08.2025 on the subject captioned above, I am directed to say that the factual report/response on behalf of the Respondent No. 1, in compliance to the directions passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 23.04.2025 has been forwarded to the Standing Counsel, Government of UT of J&K in, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal-Principal Bench, New Delhi with the request to file the same before the HNGT. The requisite report/response is enclosed for kind perusal and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(Shabir Ahmad Baba)**Under Secretary to the Government**

Encls:A/A.


26/8/25

0191-2546793/2579921

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

Mr. Gautam Singh,
Advocate, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India,
(Standing Counsel, Government of UT of J&K) in,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal-Principal Bench,
New Delhi-110001.

No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

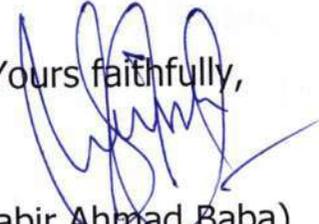
Dated:26-08-2025

Subject:- E.A No.26/2025 In O.A No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs UT of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Sir,

With reference to the subject captioned above, I am directed to enclose herewith the factual report/response on behalf of the Respondent No. 1, in compliance to the directions passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 23.04.2025 and request you to kindly file the same before the HNGT and attend the hearing on behalf of respondent No.1. The case is listed for hearing on 28.08.2025.

Yours faithfully,


(Shabir Ahmad Baba)**Under Secretary to the Government**

Encls:A/A.


26/8/25

Factual Report/Response on behalf of Respondent No.1 in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 23.04.2025, in the EA No.26/2025 In O.A No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

In compliance to the directions passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the matter of EA No.26/2025 In O.A No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors, it is humbly submitted as follows:

I. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to pass the following directions vide its Order dated 23.04.2025:

1. *By this execution application, applicant is seeking compliance of the order dated 25.11.2021 passed in OA No. 351/2019.*
2. *Learned counsel for the applicant had pointed out that the OA involved the issue of unscientific dumping of waste and encroachment on the wetland. He has submitted that the direction of the Tribunal contained in paragraph 15 has not been complied with. The Tribunal in paragraph 15 of the order had directed as under: -*

15. We have noted the stand of learned Chief Secretary, J&K that the execution of action plans will be overseen on regular basis by Secretary, Environment & Forest, J&K as well as by the Chief Secretary, J&K personally atleast once in a month for further continuous action. As regards the suggestions of the applicant, the same may be duly considered by the Chief Secretary, J&K, to the extent not already considered."

3. *Learned counsel has referred to the action plan on page 92 and has submitted that the action plan has not been implemented and in support of such a plea, he has referred to the photograph Annexure A/3 (Page 147) to show that the solid waste is lying dumped at the wetland. He has also referred to the photograph Annexure A/5 (Page 197) to show that a road is being constructed from the wetland. Learned counsel has also submitted that the direction contained in paragraph 16 and 17 of the order have also not been complied with.*

4. *Issue notice to the respondents for filing the compliance affidavit. Applicant is directed to serve the respondents and file the affidavit of service at least one week before the next date of hearing.*

5. *List on 28.08.2025.*

II. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with the PCCF(Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee and Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Kashmir vide letter No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435) dated 01.07.2025 (**Annexure 'I'**) with the request to take appropriate necessary action. A copy of order dated 23.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal was also forwarded to the Jal Shakti Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam/Bandipora/Pulwama with copy to Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation vide O.M/letter No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435) dated 03.07.2025 & dated 25.07.2025 (**Annexure 'II'**) with the request to take appropriate necessary action pursuant to the directions passed by the HNGT in the matter. The department sought Action Taken Report in the matter.

III. In reply, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee vide reference No.JKPCC/Sc./OA 351-2019/2025/835 dated 07.08.2025 (**Annexure 'III'**) intimated that fresh report was sought from Regional Director (Kashmir), regarding illegal dumping of unsegregated waste at Wular Lake and illegal mining in Hokersar wetland. In turn, Regional Director, J&K PCC, Kashmir have submitted his report vide No.PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/783-786 dated


Under Secretary to the Govt.
Forest, Ecology & Environment Deptt.

05.05.2025. The reports and findings of Divisional Officers J&K PCC Srinagar, Bandipora and Budgam are summarized as under:-

1. Dumping site is not fenced and provides an easy access to stray animals.
2. Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into nearby Nallah called Gadarkul which ultimately gets discharged into Wular Lake.
3. Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared from the dumped site.
4. No illegal mining has been observed in Hokersar wetland.

It has further submitted that accordingly, vide letter No.JKPCC/Sc./O.A 351-2019/2025/577-580 dated 30.06.2025, Chief Executive Director, Wular Conservation & Management Authority, Srinagar has been requested for taking immediate corrective measures for implementation of Action Plan for conservation of Wular lake, Bio-mining of legacy waste at Zalwan and scientific disposal of Solid Waste at an alternate suitable site.

IV. Further, Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Kashmir vide reference No.CED/WUCMA/2025/24-27 dated 06.08.2025 followed by reference No.CED/WUCMA/2025/28-30 dated 22.08.2025 (**Annexure 'IV'**) has furnished the response/compliance in the matter and the same is reproduced as under:-

1. Compliance with Direction on Implementation of Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP).

The activities presently undertaken within Wular Lake are being carried out strictly in accordance with the Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP), 2007, formulated by Wetlands International-South Asia in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K.

Major interventions under implementation include:-

- Desilting & dredging: Restoration of nearly 4.5 sq. km of critically silted areas.
- Hydrological restoration: Interventions in major inflow channels to improve connectivity.
- Solid Waste Management: Constitution of Waste Management Committee for Wular Lake; treatment of 25 inlets; manual removal of waste and weeds; feasibility for two 5 MLD STPs for Bandipora town; rural waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- Catchment Area Treatment: Afforestation and Soil & Moisture Conservation measures by Forest Territorial and Soil Conservation Departments; phased removal of willow plantations in the core zone.

The CMAP is currently under revision and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2025.

2. Monitoring by Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretary (Forests)

The implementation of CMAP and Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) is being regularly reviewed by the Chief Secretary, J&K and the Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology & Environment. Multiple reviews, inspections and compliance reports have ensured strict oversight in line with the Hon'ble Tribunal's directions.

3. Compliance Regarding Solid Waste Dumping at Zalwan, Bandipora

- The earlier solid waste dumping site at Zalwan (within proximity of Wular boundary) has been permanently closed and cleaned (**Annexure-1**).
- As per Municipal Committee Bandipora's communication No.MC/Bpr/Esst/20/1001-05 dated 04.08.2020, the present waste disposal site is located on 35 kanals at Bandipora Bund side, nearly 1,650 ft (~503 m) away from Wular's demarcated boundary, thus compliant with the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 (**Annexure-2**).

A new site measuring 20 kanals at Mader Kunan, Bandipora has also been identified by District Administration for future MSW disposal. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Bandipora, vide letter No.MC/BPR/G/2025/3293-96 dated 12.08.2025 (**Annexure-3**), has further reported that:

A new site at Kunan Bandipora has been earmarked for establishing a Solid Waste Management Plant. The site requires substantial financial investment for development, and the Council has sought reasonable time to finalize a permanent SWM facility away from the peripheries of Wular Lake.

The present site at Bandipora Bund side is a temporary arrangement, located 503 m outside both the wetlands demarcated and buffer boundaries. This clarifies that the dumping site inside the Wular boundary has been fully closed, and interim arrangements are located well outside both the core and buffer boundaries, while the process of shifting to a new site further away is under progress.

4. Compliance regarding observations of JKPC

With regard to the observations raised by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPC), the following clarifications and actions are submitted:

1. **Observation: The dumping site is not fenced and provides easy access to stray animals:** As already stated, the Municipal Council Bandipora is in the progress of identifying and shifting to a permanent solid waste site away from Wular Lake peripheries. CEO, Municipal Council, Bandipora has been requested to fence up the site vide letter No.Coord/WM/WUCMA/2025/205-07 dated 12.08.2025 (**Annexure-4**).
2. **Observation: Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into the nearby Gadarkul Nallah, which ultimately enters Wular Lake:** The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Bandipora, has been advised to immediately undertake corrective measures to ensure that no leachate from the current temporary site is discharged into Gadarkul Nallah.
3. **Observation: Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared from the dumped site:** The earlier waste dumped within the demarcated wetland boundaries has already been cleared and the site fully closed (**Annexure-1**).

Summary Compliance

- with CMAP 2007.
- All interventions in Wular Lake are in line with CMAP 2007.
 - Monitoring mechanisms by the Chief Secretary, J&K and Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment Department are fully operational.
 - Old Zalwan site has been closed.
 - Present Bandipora Bund site is temporary and lies outside both Wular's periphery and buffer.
 - Municipal Council Bandipora is in the process of establishing a new SWM facility at Kunalbanipura, completely away from Wular's peripheries.
 - JKPCC observations have been duly noted; corrective actions and clarifications have been provided.

V. PCCF(Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K also forwarded compliance status vide reference No.WLP-Legal/2025-26/05 dated 13.08.2025 (Annexure 'V').



The report is, accordingly, being placed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for kind consideration.

Under Secretary to the Govt.
Forest, Ecology & Environment Deptt.

1254

0191-2546793/2579921

47

Annexure I

email: csforestjk@gmail.com



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K

**MOST URGENT
NGT MATTER**

PCCF(Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden,
J&K

Chairman,
Pollution Control Committee,
J&K

Chief Executive Officer,
WUCMA, Kashmir

No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

Dated: 01.07.2025

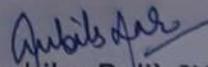
**Subject:- E.A No.26/2025 in OA No.351/2019 tiled Raja Muzaffar
Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.**

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of Order dated 23-04-2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the above-titled matter with the request to kindly take appropriate necessary action pursuant to the directions passed by the HNGT in the matter, at the earliest, treating the matter as "Most Urgent".

Yours faithfully

End: As above


(Ambika Bali) JKAS
Under Secretary to the Government

0191-2546793/2579921

email:csforestjk@gmail.com



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

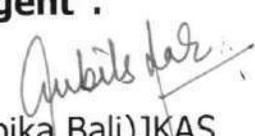
**MOST URGENT
TIME BOUND**

O.M.No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)
Dated. 03.07.2025

Subject: E.A.No.26/2025 in OA No. 351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of Order dated 23.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the above-titled matter to Financial Commissioner(ACS), Jal Shakti Department and Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department with the request to kindly take appropriate necessary action pursuant to the directions passed by the HNGT in the matter, at the earliest.

The matter may kindly be treated as "**Most Urgent**".


(Ambika Bali)JKAS

 Under Secretary to the Government

Financial Commissioner (ACS),
Jal Shakti Department.

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
Housing and Urban Development Department.

Encl: As above.

1256

49

0191-2546793/2579921

email:csforestjk@gmail.com



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
 Civil Secretariat, J&K

**MOST URGENT
 NGT MATTER**

Deputy Commissioner,
 Budgam/Bandipora/Pulwama,
 Kashmir.

No: FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

Dated: 03.07.2025

**Subject: E.A.No.26/2025 in OA No. 351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar
 Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.**

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of Order dated 23.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the above-titled matter with the request to kindly take appropriate necessary action pursuant to the directions passed by the HNGT in the matter, at the earliest, treating the matter as "**Most Urgent**".

Yours faithfully

Encl: As above

Ambika Bali
 (Ambika Bali)JKAS

Under Secretary to the Government

Copy for similar necessary action to Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Srinagar.

0191-2546793/2579921

50

1257

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

**NGT MATTER
TIME BOUND**

O.M.No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

Dated: 25.07.2025

**Subject:- E.A No.26/2025 in OA No.351/2019 tiled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs
State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.**

The undersigned is directed to invite attention of the Financial Commissioner (ACS), Jal Shakti Department and Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department to this department's O.M of even number dated 03.07.2025 (copy enclosed) regarding the subject cited above and again request them to take necessary action in the matter well before the **next date of hearing on 28.08.2025**, treating the matter as "**Most Urgent**".

Ambika Bali
(Ambika Bali) JKAS

Under Secretary to the Government

PS
25/7

Financial Commissioner (ACS),
Jal Shakti Department.

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
Housing & Urban Development Department.

Encl: As above.

1258

0191-2546793/2579921

51



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in

**REMINDER
NGT MATTER
TIME BOUND**

Deputy Commissioner,
Budgam/Bandipora/Pulwama,
Kashmir.

No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

Dated: 25.07.2025

**Subject:- E.A No.26/2025 in OA No.351/2019 tiled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs
State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.**

Sir,

I am directed to this department's letter of even number dated 03.07.2025 (copy enclosed) regarding the subject cited above and again request you to take necessary action in the matter well before the **next date of hearing on 28.08.2025**, treating the matter as "**Most Urgent**".

Yours faithfully,

(Ambika Bali) JKAS

Under Secretary to the Government

AS
25/7

Encls:As above.

Copy for similar necessary action to Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Srinagar.

0191-2546793/2579921

52

1259

email: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

**REMINDER
NGT MATTER
TIME BOUND**

PCCF(Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden,
J&K.

Chairman,
J&K, Pollution Control Committee.

Chief Executive Officer,
WUCMA, Kashmir.

No.FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)

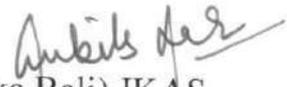
Dated: 25.07.2025

**Subject:- E.A No.26/2025 in OA No.351/2019 tiled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs
State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.**

Sir,

I am directed to this department's letter of even number dated 01.07.2025 (copy enclosed) regarding the subject cited above and request you to kindly furnish Action Taken Report in the matter to this department, within five days positively, treating the matter as "**Most Urgent**".

Yours faithfully,


(Ambika Bali) JKAS

Under Secretary to the Government

Encls:As above.


/25/7

1260

53

Annexure III

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

0191 – 2472881, 2476925



Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180 006
Silk Factory Road
Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

**Commissioner/Secretary to Government,
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment,
Civil Secretariat,
Jammu/ Srinagar.**

No.: JKPCC/Sc./OA 351-2019/2025/835

Date: 07-08-2025

Sub: O.A No. 351-2019 titled "Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of J&K & Ors".

Madam,

Kindly refer to your office No. *FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435)*; dated: 31.07.2025. In this connection, I am directed to submit that fresh status Report was sought from Regional Director (Kashmir), regarding illegal dumping of unsegregated waste at Wular Lake and illegal mining in Hokersar wetland vide this office No. JKPCC/Sc./O.A 351-2019/2025/223; dated: 05.05.2025.

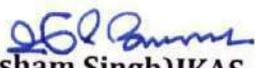
Regional Director J&K PCC Kashmir have submitted his Report vide No.PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/783-786; dated: 18.06.2025 (copy enclosed). Municipal Council Bandipora is still dumping waste at Zalwan Bandipora near embankment area of Wular Lake. The Reports and findings of Divisional Officers J&K PCC Srinagar, Bandipora and Budgam are summarized as under:

1. Dumping site is not fenced and provides an easy access to stray animals.
2. Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into nearby Nallah called Gadarkul which ultimately gets discharged into Wular Lake.
3. Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared form the dumped site.
4. No Illegal mining has been observed in Hokersar wetland.

26/8/25

Accordingly, Chief Executive Director, Wular Conservation & Management Authority Srinagar has been requested for taking immediate corrective measures for implementation of Action Plan for conservation of Wular lake, Bio-mining of legacy waste at Zalwan and scientific disposal of Solid Waste at an alternate suitable site vide this office No. JKPCC/Sc./O.A 351-2019/2025/577-580; dated: 30.06.2025 (copy enclosed). However, Action Taken Report is still awaited from WUCMA.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh)JKAS
Member Secretary 7.8.25

1262

Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committeechairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

0191 - 2472881, 2476925



55

NWTSA
NEW DELHI 2024Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180
006Silk Factory Road
Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

Chief Executive Director,
Wular Conservation and Management Authority,
Srinagar.

No.: JKPCC/Sc./OA 351-2019/2025/577-580

Date: 30-06-2025

Sub: O.A No. 351-2019 titled "Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of J&K & Ors".

Ref: i) Hon'ble NGT order dated 23.04.2025.

ii) JKPCC/NGT/3313-21; dated: 18.05.2024.

Sir,

Please refer to the subject and reference cited above. In this connection, I am to convey that Hon'ble NGT have made following observations in the matter of O.A No. 351/2019 vide order dated 23.04.2025.

"Learned counsel for the applicant had pointed out that the OA involved the issue of unscientific dumping of waste and encroachment on the wetland. He has submitted that the direction of the Tribunal contained in paragraph 15 has not been complied with. The Tribunal in paragraph 15 of the order had directed as under: -

'15. We have noted the stand of learned Chief Secretary, J&K that the execution of action plans will be overseen on regular basis by Secretary, Environment & Forest, J&K as well as by the Chief Secretary, J&K personally atleast once in a month for further continuous action. As regards the suggestions of the applicant, the same may be duly considered by the Chief Secretary, J&K, to the extent not already considered.'

Learned counsel has referred to the action plan on page 92 and has submitted that the action plan has not been implemented and in support of such a plea, he has referred to the photograph Annexure A/3 (Page 147) to show that the solid waste is lying dumped at the wetland. He has also referred to the photograph Annexure A/5 (Page 197) to show that a road is being constructed from the wetland. Learned counsel has also submitted that the direction contained in paragraph 16 and 17 of the order have also not been complied with."

As such, spot inspection was conducted by Divisional Officer JKPCC Bandipora and inspection report (copy enclosed) indicate complete violation of the directions issued from this office vide NO. JKPCC/NGT/3313-21; dated: 18.05.2024. It has been reported that rampant dumping of mixed waste at Zalwan Bandipora is being carried out near embankment area of Wular Lake which can lead to seepage of leachate into the lake.

56

1263

You are therefore, requested again to take immediate corrective measures w.r.t implementation of Action Plan for conservation of Wular Lake, bio-mining of legacy waste at Zalwan and scientific disposal of solid waste at an alternate suitable site and share an updated Action Taken Report in this regard with J&KPCC by or before 10.07.2025.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh)JKAS
SK Member Secretary 30.6.25

Copy to:

1. DC Bandipora for favor of Information.
2. Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora for information and similar necessary action.
3. Regional Director, Kashmir for information and necessary action.

1264

57



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
J&K POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR - KASHMIR

PCC Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Rajbagh, Near Government Silk Factory, Srinagar-190008
 www.jkspcb.in Email: regionaldirectorkmr@gmail.com, Tel/fax 0194-2311842

The Member Secretary,
 JK Pollution Control Committee,
 Jammu.

No: PCC/RDK/LS (NGT)/2025/ 783-786.

Date:- 18-06-2025.

Subject: - O.A No. 351-2019 titled, "Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of J & K & Ors."

Reference: - Your letter No. JKPC/Sc./OA 351-2019/2025/437 dated 10-06-2025.

Sir,

In context with the subject and reference cited above, the updated status reports with respect to illegal dumping of unsegregated Municipal Solid Waste at Wullar Lake & illegal mining in Hokersar Wetland along with substantiative documents and site photographs as sought from the respective Divisional Officers, PCC, (Bandipora/Srinagar/&Budgam) are annexed herewith as (Annexure-A/1;A/2), Annexure-"B" and Annexure-"C" for kind perusal and further course of necessary action required in the afore-titled OA please.

Encls: - (39).

Regional Director,
 Kashmir.
 18.06.2025

Copy to:-

1. Sh. Faiz Ahmad, Divisional Officer, PCC, Srinagar for information. This takes reference to the report submitted vide No. JKPC/DO/Sgr/NGT/2025/261 dated 13-06-2025.
2. Sh. Irshad Ahmad Khan, Divisional Officer, PCC, Bandipora for information. This takes reference to the reports of even number dated 26-05-2025 as well 13-06-2025.
3. Sh. Mohammad Ashraf Khanday, Divisional Officer, PCC, Budgam for information. This takes reference to the report submitted vide No. JKPC/DO/BUD/2025/211 dated 26-05-2025.

AKof

SC(A)(A)

24.6.25





Government of Jammu & Kashmir



Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee
Office of the District/Divisional Officer Bandipora

The Regional Director
JK PCC Kashmir

(Through e-mail)

No:- PCC/Bpr/NGT/2025/1104

Dated:- 26/05/2025

Subject:- O.A.No.351-2019 titled "Raja Muzzafar Bhat V/S UT of J&K & Ors".

Reference:- Regional Director JK PCC Kashmir No:-PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/678-80,dt:-
24.05.2025(Recieved on,26/05/2025)

Sir,

In compliance to your instructions under reference regarding subject matter, undersigned would like to apprise your good self that dumping of Solid Waste by Municipal Council Bandipora is still being practiced at Zalwan Bandipora near embankment area of Wular lake. Dumping site is not fenced, waste is being dumped without any treatment or segregation. Dumping site has easy access to stray animals. Leachet from the waste gets discharged into nearby nalla called Gadar Kul which ultimately gets discharged into Wular lake thereby affecting water quality parameters of the lake. Photographic evidence is attached for reference. Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared by MC Bandipora from the site.

Submitted for information and necessary action please.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten Signature
District Officer
PCC Bandipora

59

P-2 of Annex-A/1.

1266

37.



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,

Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633228°

26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

60

P-3 of Annex-A/1

1267

36.



GPS Map Camera

Nusso
Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Nusso, 193502,
Lat 34.40377° Long 74.633566°
26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

1268

61

P-4 of Annex - A/1

35



GPS Map Camera

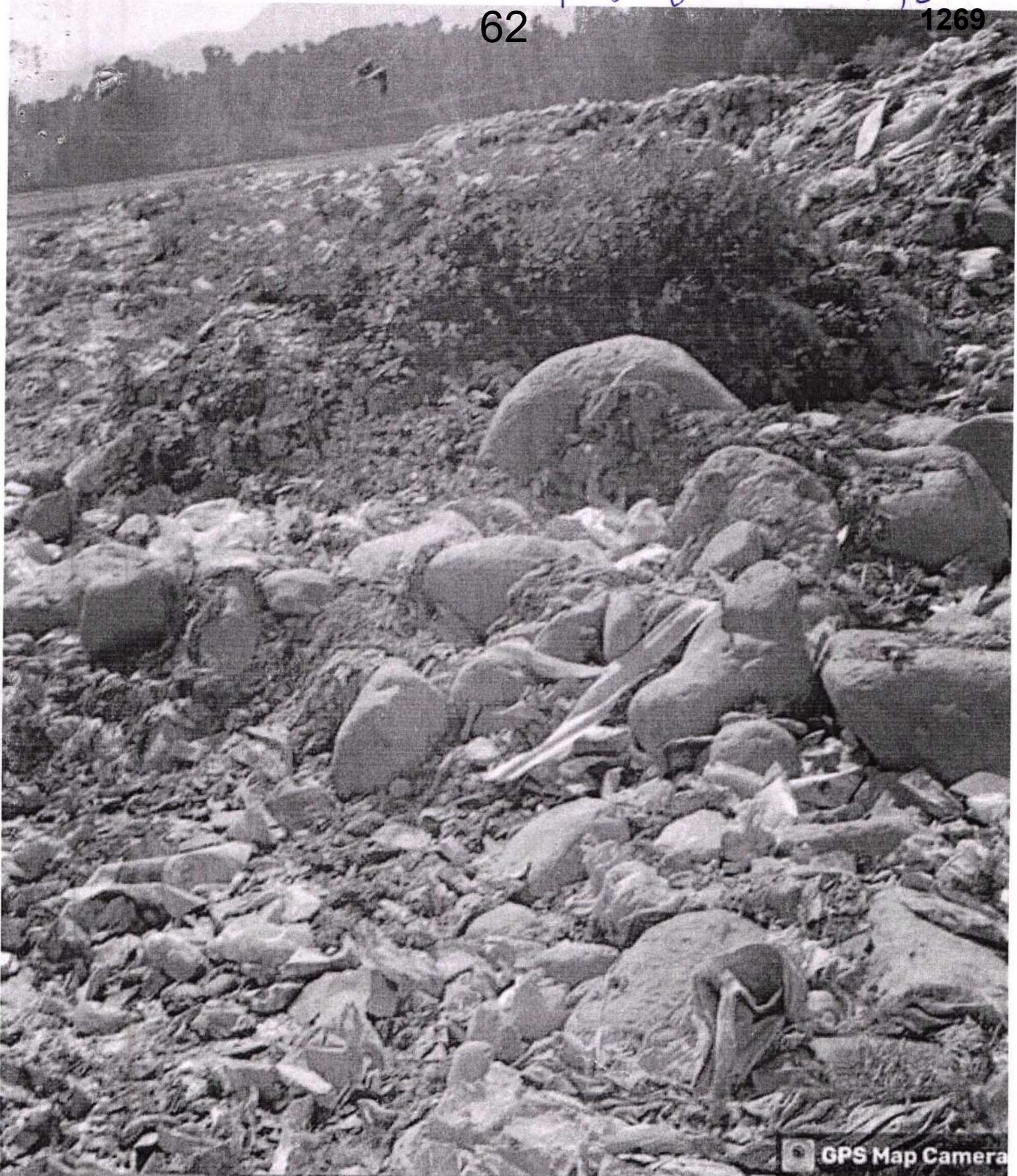
NUSSO

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Nusso, 193502,

Lat 34.40388° Long 74.633618°

26/05/25 03:55 PM GMT +05:30

Google



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,

Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633227°

26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

1270

63

P-6 of Annex-A/1

33



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,

Lat 34.403564° Long 74.633279°

26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

32



GPS Map Cam

Qazipora Patushi
 Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,
 Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633224°
 26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

1272

65



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,

Lat 34.402506° Long 74.631444°

26/05/25 03:50 PM GMT +05:30



Google

66 P-9 of Annex-A/1273



GPS Map Ca

Qazipora Patushi

Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,

Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633228°

26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

P-10 of Annex - A/1
67

1274



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi

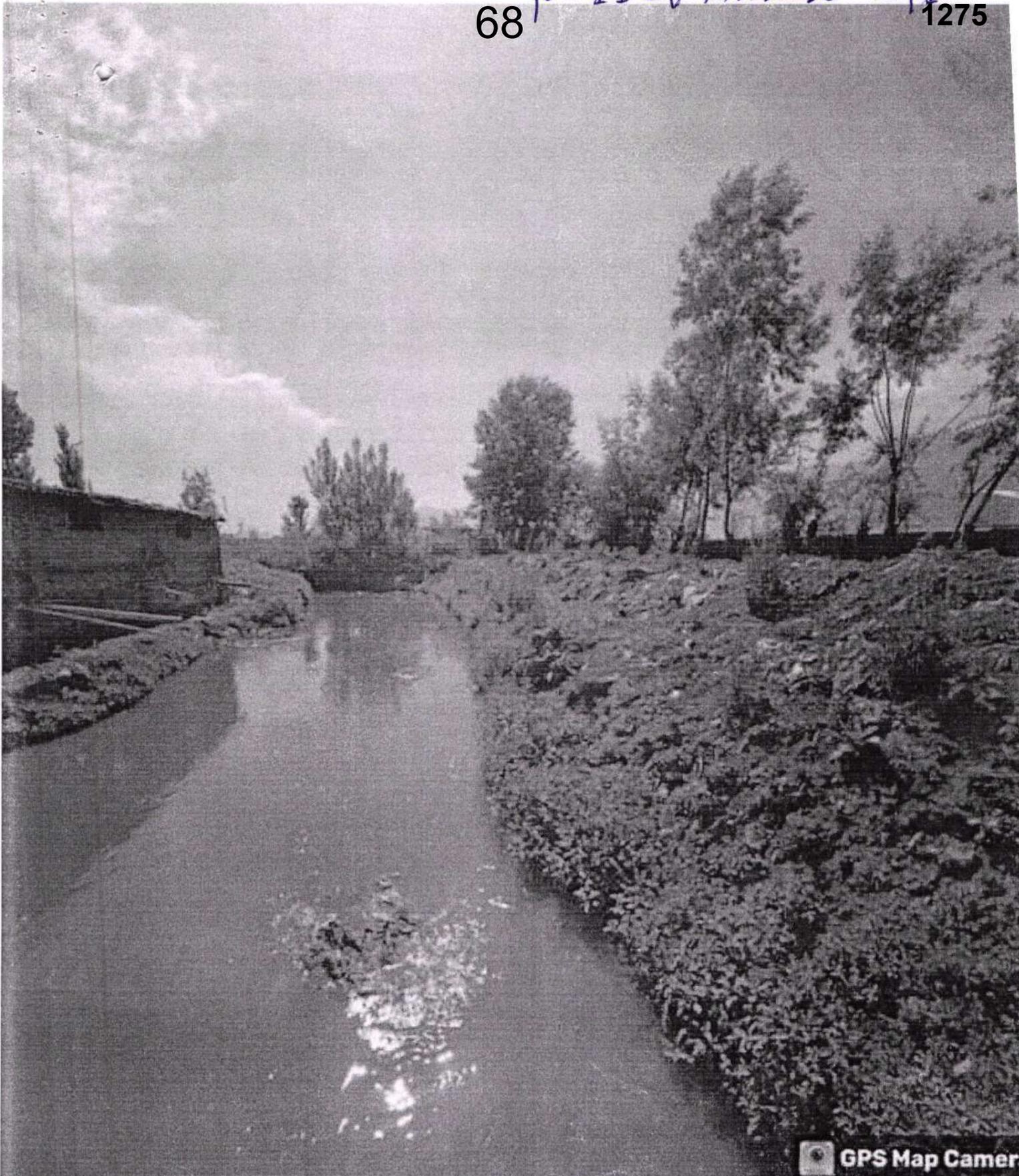
Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,
Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633227°
26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

68

P-11 of Annex-A/1

1275



GPS Map Camera

null

Cj4q+g9f, , 193502,
 Lat 34.406852° Long 74.638091°
 26/05/25 03:47 PM GMT +05:30

Google

1276

69

P-12 of Annex-A/1.



GPS Map Camera

null

Cj4q+g9f, , 193502,

Lat 34.406852° Long 74.638091°

26/05/25 03:47 PM GMT +05:30

Google



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi
Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,
Lat 34.403564° Long 74.633279°
26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

71 p-14 of Annex-A/1

1278



GPS Map Camera

Nusso
 Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Nusso, 193502,
 Lat 34.40377° Long 74.633566°
 26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

25

72

P-15 of Annex-A1

1279



GPS Map Camera

Qazipora Patushi
 Bandipora Zalwan Rd, Qazipora Patushi, 193502,
 Lat 34.403469° Long 74.633224°
 26/05/25 03:56 PM GMT +05:30

Google

24

1280

73

Annexure - "A/2"



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee
 Office of the District/Divisional Officer Bandipora

The Regional Director,
 JKPCC Kashmir

(Through e-mail)

No:- PCC/Bpr/Estb./2025/ 11/2

Dated:- 13 /06/2025

Subject:- O.A.No.351-2019 titled "Raja Muzzafar Bhat V/S UT of J&K & Ors".

Reference:- Regional Director JK PCC Kashmir No: PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/754-757, Dt:- 11-06-2025

Sir,

In continuation to this office earlier report vide No:- PCC/BPR/NGT/2025/1104, Dt:-26/05/2025 mailed on 26/05/2025 it is submitted that dumping of MSW by Municipal Council Bandipora is still being practiced at Zalwan Bandipora near embankment area of Wular lake. Dumping site is not fenced, waste is being dumped without any treatment/segregation. Dumping site has an easy access to stray animals. Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into nearby nalla called Gadar Kul which ultimately gets discharged into Wular Lake thereby affecting water quality parameters of the lake. Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared from the dumping site to any other place by Municipal Council Bandipora. Photographic evidence attached for reference.

Submitted for information and necessary action.

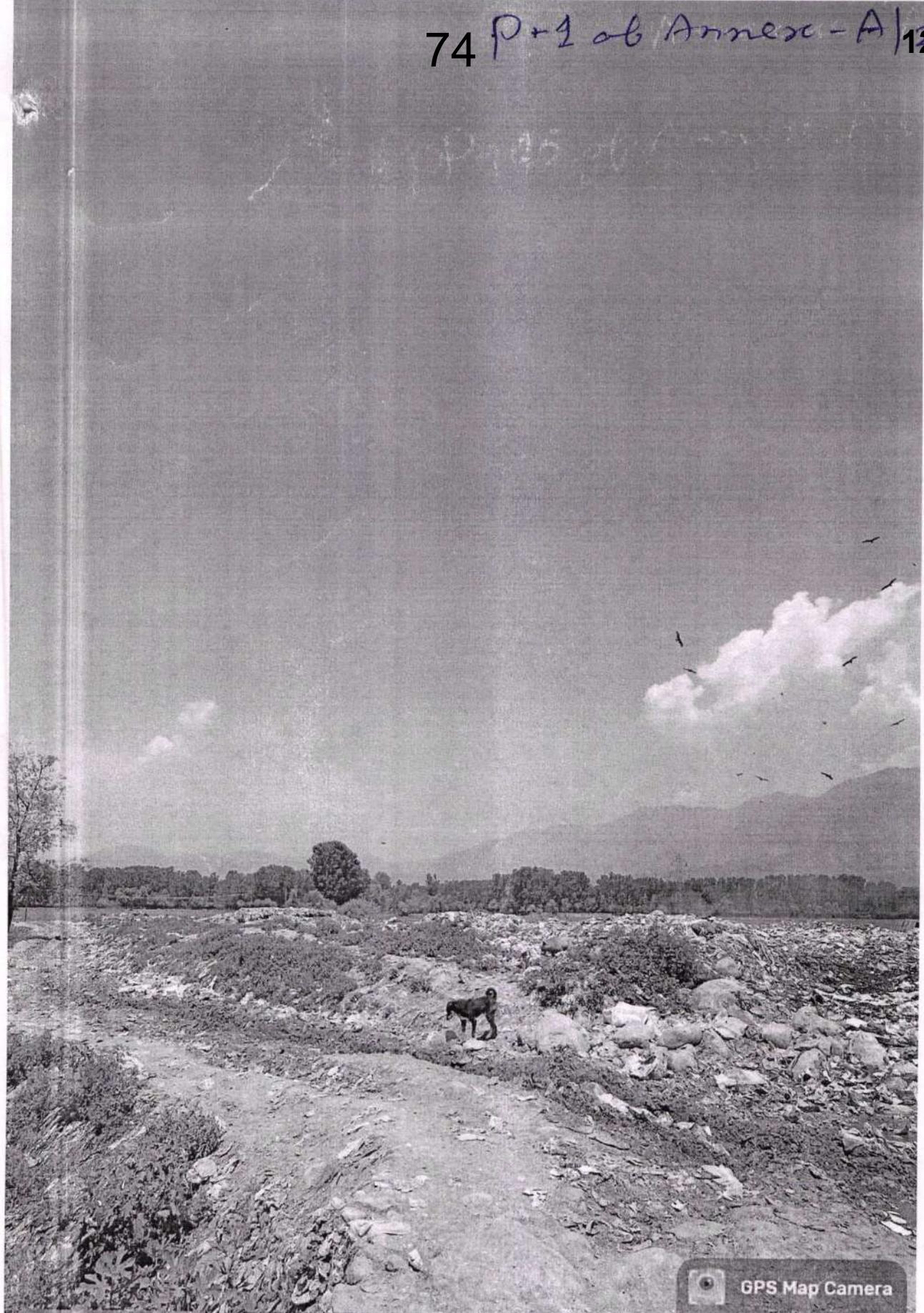
Yours faithfully

Ys Ahmad 13/6/25

District Officer
 PCC Bandipora

23

74 P+1 of Annex - A / 1281



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Kulus Gurdal Road, Bandipora, Bandipore, -- --, Loading...

Lat 34.427429, Long 74.624494

06/13/2025 11:27 AM GMT+05:30

Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

22.

1282

75 P-2 of Annex - A/2



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Bandipora Srinagar Road, Bandipora,
Bandipore, --, Loading...

Lat 34.426464, Long 74.625860

06/13/2025 11:08 AM GMT+05:30

Not Captured by GPS Map Camera

21.

76 p-3 of Annex - A/1283



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Bandipora Srinagar Road, Bandipora,
Bandipore, --, Loading...

Lat 34.426464, Long 74.625860

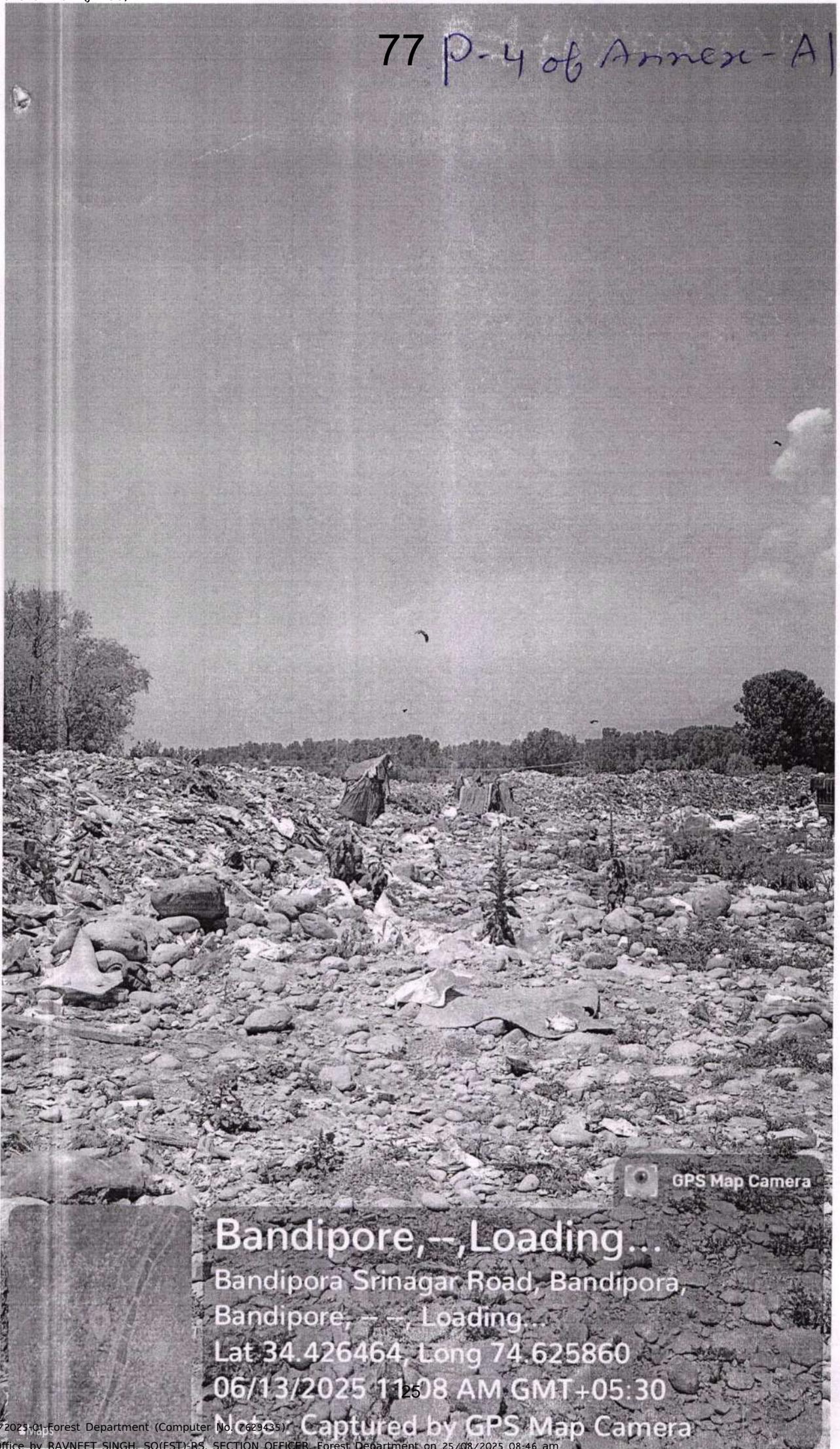
06/13/2025 11:08 AM GMT+05:30

Captured by GPS Map Camera

201

1284

77 p-4 of Annex-A/2



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Bandipora Srinagar Road, Bandipora,
Bandipore, --, Loading...

Lat 34.426464, Long 74.625860

06/13/2025 11:08 AM GMT+05:30

Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

19.

78 p-5 of Annex-A 1285



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Bandipora Srinagar Road, Bandipora,
Bandipore, --, Loading...

Lat 34.426464, Long 74.625860

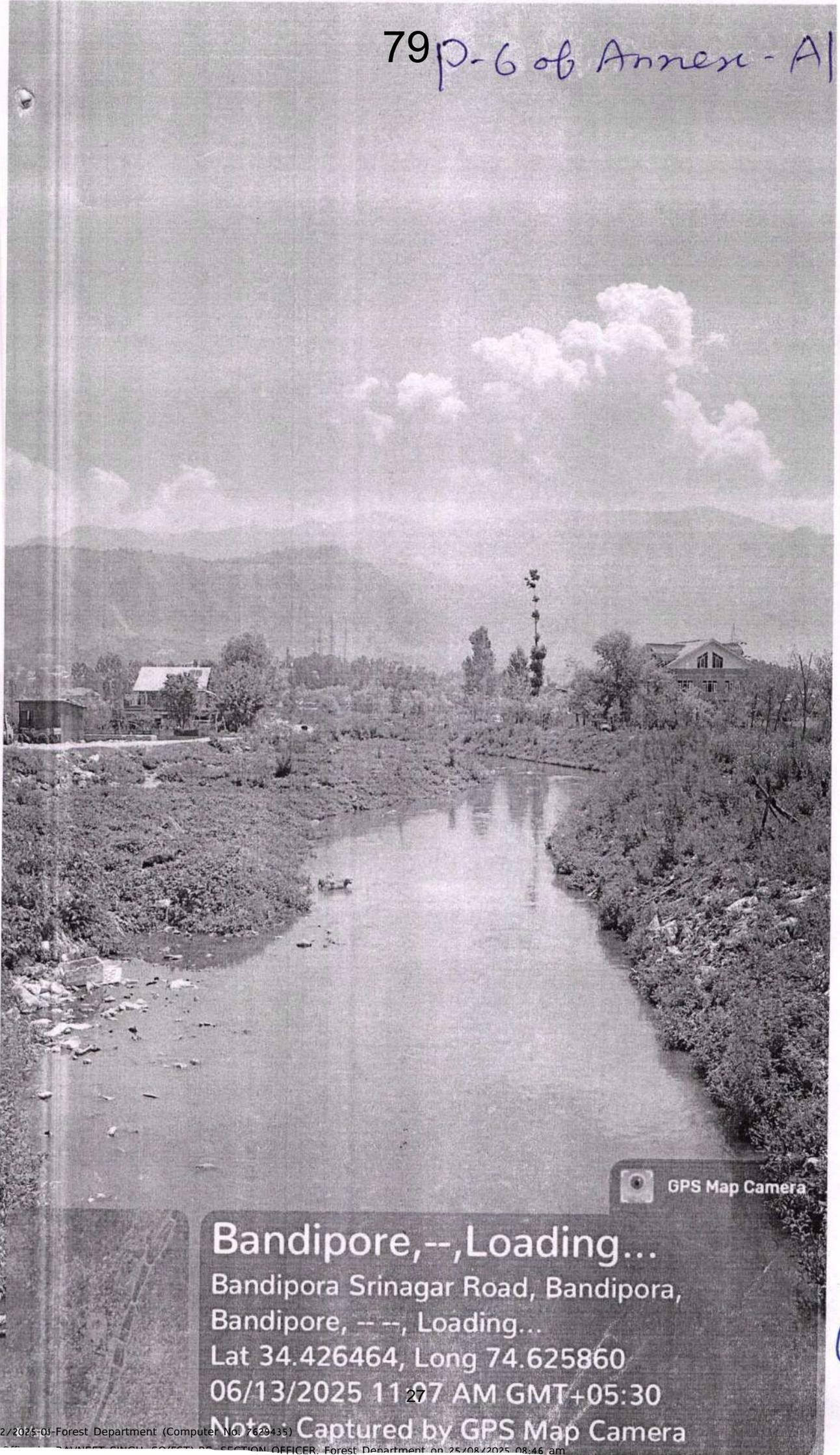
06/13/2025 10:58 AM GMT+05:30

Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

18.

1286

79 p-6 of Annex - A/2



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Bandipora Srinagar Road, Bandipora,
Bandipore, -- --, Loading...

Lat 34.426464, Long 74.625860

06/13/2025 11:27 AM GMT+05:30

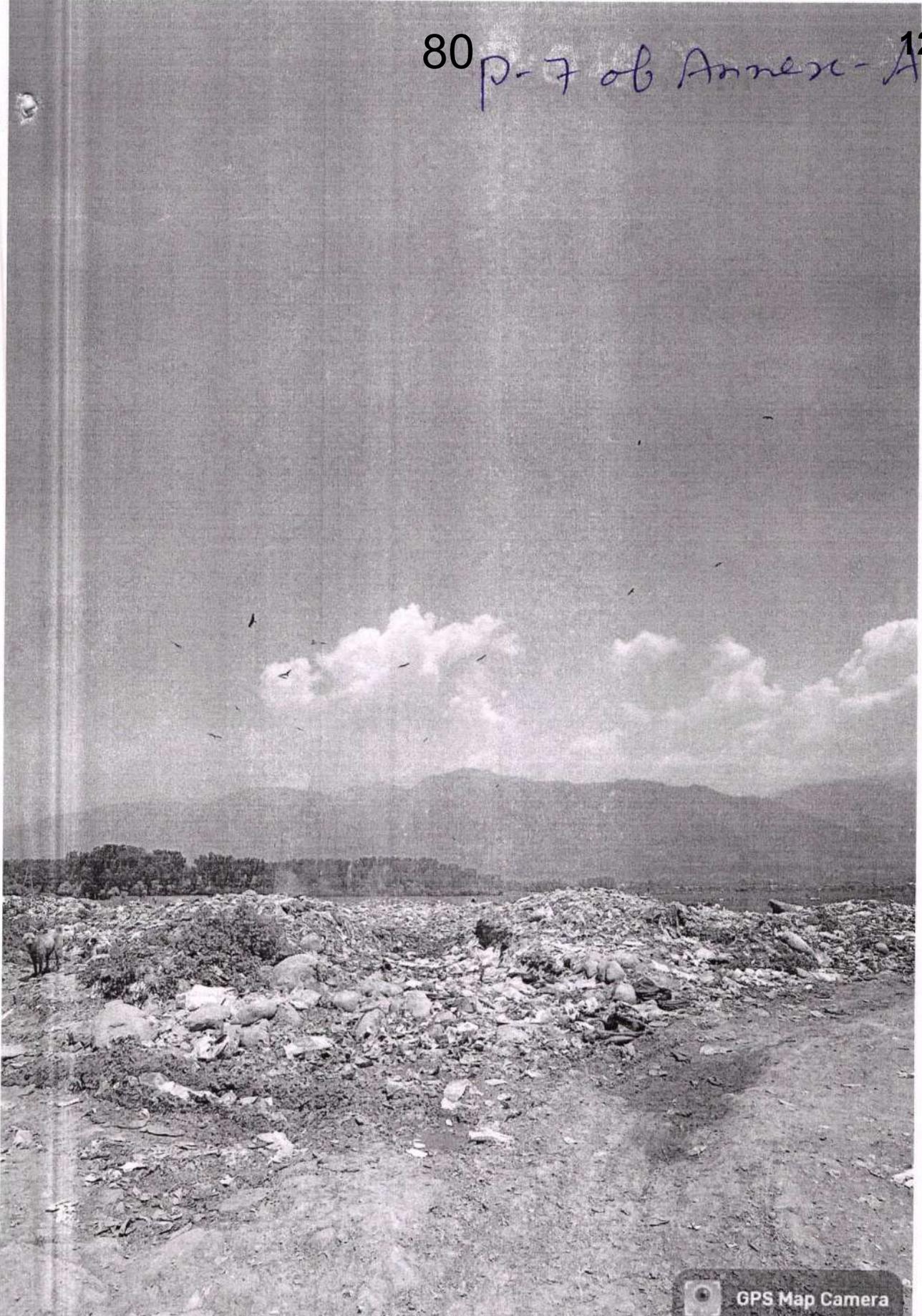
Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

17.

80

p-7 of Annex-A/2

1287



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore,--,Loading...

Kulus Gurdal Road, Bandipora, Bandipore, -- --, Loading...

Lat 34.427429, Long 74.624494

06/13/2025 11:17 AM GMT+05:30

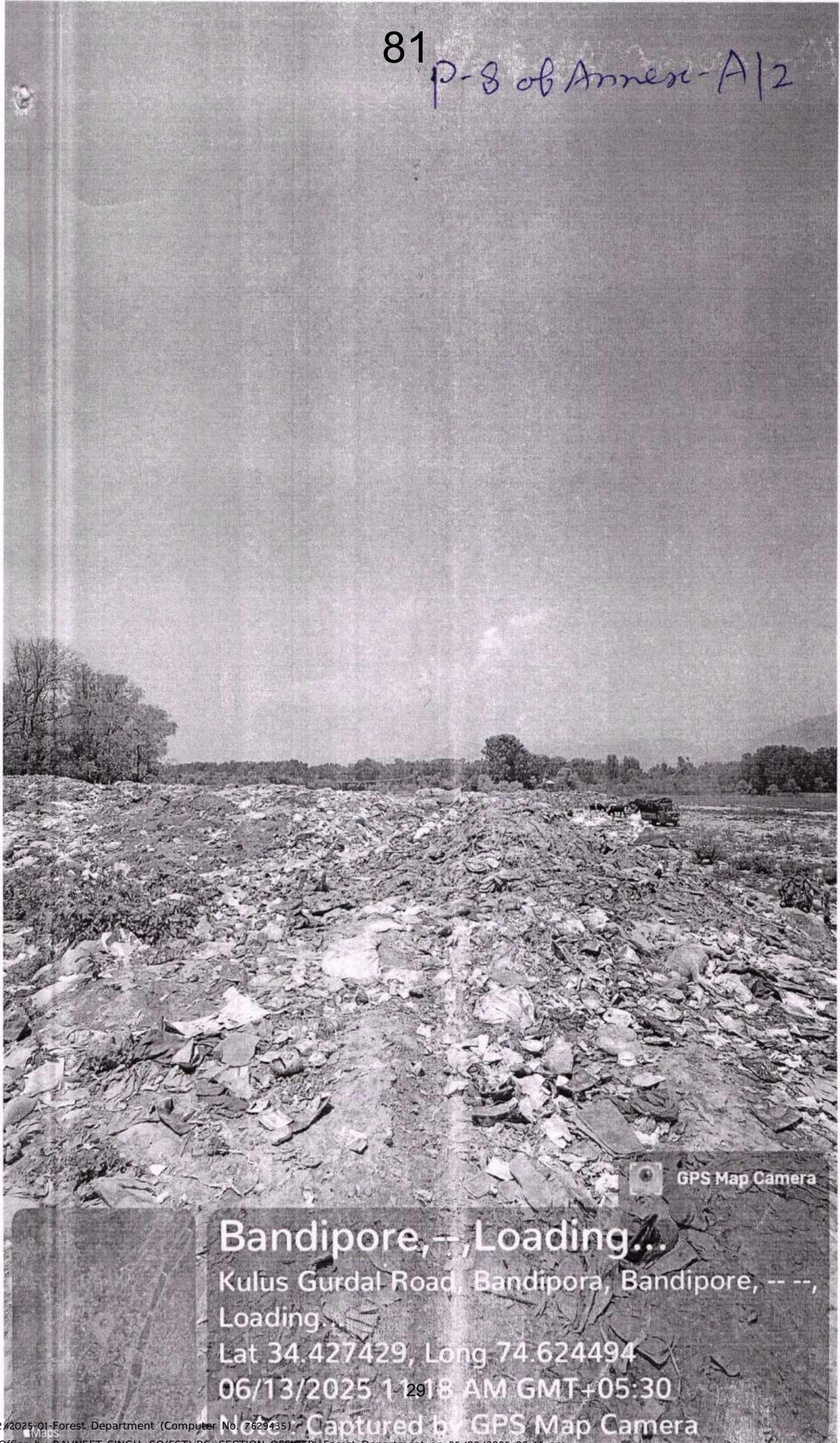
Note : Captured by GPS Map Camera

16.

1288

81

p-8 of Annex-A/2



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, --, Loading...

Kulus Gurdal Road, Bandipora, Bandipore, -- --, Loading.

Lat 34.427429, Long 74.624494

06/13/2025 1:29:18 AM GMT+05:30

Captured by GPS Map Camera

15

82 P-9 of Annex-A/2 1289



GPS Map Camera

Bandipore, -- Loading...

Kulus Gurdal Road, Bandipora, Bandipore, -- --, Loading...

Lat 34.427425, Long 74.624494

06/13/2025 10:30 AM GMT+05:30

Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

14.

1290

Annexure IV



Office Address:-
Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Silk Factory Road)
Email:cedwucma10@gmail.com

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WULAR CONSERVATIONS & MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, KASHMIR

The Commissioner / Secretary to Government,
Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment,
Jammu and Kashmir.

No.CED/WUCMA/2025/ 24-27

Dated:- 06 - 08 -2025

Subject:- E.A.No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs
State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Reference:-FST-Lit/82/2025 (7629435) Dated:-01-07-2025

Madam,

Kindly find enclosed herewith the response / compliance pertaining to Wular Conservation and Management Authority with regard to the E.A.No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors. For the favor of information and further necessary action at your end, please.

Yours faithfully,

(Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar), JKAS,
Chief Executive Director,
Wular Conservation and Management Authority,
Kashmir.

Copy to the:-

1. Member Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee for favor of information and necessary action at his end.
2. Project Coordinator, CAT WUCMA for information.
3. Coordinator, Water Management, WUCMA for information.



84

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Coordinator Water Management
Wular Conservation and Management Authority Kashmir
Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190008

**The Chief Executive Director,
Wular Conservation and Management Authority,
Kashmir**

No.Coord/WM/WUCMA/2025/ 186

Dated:- 06 - 08 -2025

Subject:- E.A. No.26/2025 in O.A No.351 / 2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Sir,

In reference to the order issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the case of E.A. No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351 /2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors, the response / compliance with regard to the points / paras pertaining to Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir is as hereunder:-

1. Compliance with Direction on Implementation of Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP)

The activities presently undertaken within Wular Lake are being carried out strictly in accordance with the Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) for Wular Lake, which was formulated and uploaded in 2007 by Wetlands International – South Asia in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of J&K.

The following major activities have been undertaken in alignment with the Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP):-

- Desilting and dredging: Restoration of nearly 4.5 sq. km of critically silted areas.
- Restoration of hydrological inflow: Interventions in major feeding channels.
- For Solid Waste Management the Government has constituted a Waste Management Committee for Wular Lake to oversee waste-related issues in the region. The Committee has held two meetings and initiated key actions, including the treatment of 25 inlets to trap solid waste and silt, and the manual removal of solid waste and aquatic weeds from the lake through a tendered contract. A feasibility assessment for sewage treatment in Bandipora town concluded the need for two Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), each with a capacity of 5 MLD. Meanwhile, solid waste management in adjoining rural areas is being carried out by the Rural Development Department under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), ensuring a coordinated approach to protect the ecological health of the lake.

- Ecotourism Development:- To promote ecotourism and enhance local livelihoods, Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) has initiated the development of eco-tourism infrastructure around Wular Lake. This includes the establishment of eco-parks, nature trails, and bird-watching sites that showcase the lake's rich biodiversity and scenic beauty.
- Catchment area treatment is being undertaken through afforestation and Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures implemented by the Forest Territorial Department and the Soil and Water Conservation Department. These interventions aim to reduce soil erosion, siltation, and runoff into the lake, thereby improving its hydrological and ecological functions. Additionally, in line with conservation objectives, willow trees within the core zone of Wular Lake are being removed in a phased manner to restore the natural wetland character, enhance water holding capacity, and support the revival of native aquatic biodiversity.
- Biodiversity conservation:- Protection and monitoring of bird habitats and native aquatic species.
- The Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) is currently under revision and expected to be finalized by the end of 2025.

2. Compliance with Monitoring by Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretary (Forests)

Multiple reviews and inspections have been carried out by the Hon'ble Chief Secretary and the Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology & Environment to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) and Annual Plans of Operations (APOs).

Regular assessments and reports have ensured robust oversight and compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

3. Compliance Regarding Solid Waste Dumping at Zalwan, Bandipora

That has already submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 351/2019, the earlier solid waste dumping site at Zalwan, Bandipora has been closed (photographs enclosed as **annexure-1**)

As per communication from the Municipal Committee Bandipora vide letter No. MC/Bpr/Esst/20/1001-05 dated 04-08-2020, and field inspection solid waste dumping is now carried out at the Bandipora Bund Side site, comprising 35 Kanals of land allocated by the District Administration.

The current site lies approximately 1,650 feet (\approx 503 meters) from the demarcated boundary of Wular Lake, in compliance with Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. (enclosed as **Annexure-2**)

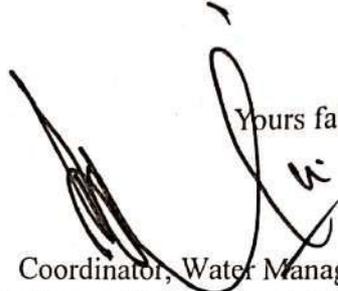
Additionally, a new site measuring 20 Kanals at Mader Kunan, Bandipora has been identified for future municipal solid waste disposal in coordination with the District Administration.

The attached Annexure-2 map confirms the spatial location of the current site relative to Wular Lake's boundaries.

In summary:-

- All interventions in Wular Lake are as per Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP)2007.
- Monitoring mechanisms led by the Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretary are fully active.
- The Zalwan waste dumping site has been shifted to a compliant location outside the wetland boundary.

Yours faithfully,



Coordinator, Water Management,
Wular Conservation and Management Authority,
Kashmir.



Annexure-I

Before

After



✓

Annexure-2



2

1296



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority
Kashmir

The Commissioner/Secretary to Government,
 Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment,
 Jammu and Kashmir.

No. CED/WUCMA/2025/ 28-30

Dated:- 22-08-2025

Subject: E.A. No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Madam,

In continuation to this office letter No: CED/WUCMA/2025/24-27 dated: 06-08-2025, kindly find enclosed herewith the updated response/compliance with regard to the subject matter pertaining to Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir for favour of information and further necessary action please.

Yours faithfully,

(Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar), JKAS,
 Chief Executive Director,
 Wular Conservation & Management Authority,
 Kashmir.

Copy to the:

1. Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee for favour of information please.
2. Coordinator, Water Management, WUCMA for information.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority
Kashmir

The Chief Executive Director,
 WUCMA.

No. Coord/WM/WUCMA/2025/ 238

Dated:- 22-08-2025

Subject: E.A. No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Sir,

In continuation to this office letter No: Coord/WM/2025/186 dated: 06-08-2025, the updated response/compliance pertaining to Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir is submitted as under:

1. Compliance with Direction on Implementation of Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP)

The activities presently undertaken within Wular Lake are being carried out strictly in accordance with the Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP), 2007, formulated by Wetlands International-South Asia in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K.

Major interventions under implementation include:

- Desilting & dredging: Restoration of nearly 4.5 sq. km of critically silted areas.
- Hydrological restoration: Interventions in major inflow channels to improve connectivity.
- Solid Waste Management: Constitution of Waste Management Committee for Wular Lake; treatment of 25 inlets; manual removal of waste and weeds; feasibility for two 5 MLD STPs for Bandipora town; rural waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- Catchment Area Treatment: Afforestation and Soil & Moisture Conservation measures by Forest Territorial and Soil Conservation Departments; phased removal of willow plantations in the core zone.

The CMAP is currently under revision and is expected to be finalized by end of 2025.

2. Monitoring by Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretary (Forests)

The implementation of CMAP and Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) is being regularly reviewed by the Hon'ble Chief Secretary and the Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology & Environment.

Multiple reviews, inspections, and compliance reports have ensured strict oversight in line with the Tribunal's directions.

3. Compliance Regarding Solid Waste Dumping at Zalwan, Bandipora

• The earlier solid waste dumping site at Zalwan (within proximity of Wular boundary) has been permanently closed and cleaned (photographs enclosed as Annexure-1).

• As per Municipal Committee Bandipora's communication No. MC/Bpr/Esst/20/1001-05 dated 04.08.2020, the present waste disposal site is located on 35 kanals at Bandipora Bund side, nearly 1,650 ft (~503 m) away from Wular's demarcated boundary, thus compliant with the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 (Annexure-2).

1298

91

A new site measuring 20 kanals at Mader Kunan, Bandipora has also been identified by District Administration for future MSW disposal. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, vide letter No. MC/BPR/G/2025/3293-96 dated 12.08.2025, has further reported that:

A new site at Kunan Bandipora has been earmarked for establishing a Solid Waste Management Plant. The site requires substantial financial investment for development, and the Council has sought reasonable time to finalize a permanent SWM facility away from the peripheries of Wular Lake.

The present site at Bandipora Bund side is a temporary arrangement, located 503 m outside both the wetlands demarcated and buffer boundaries. This clarifies that the dumping site inside the Wular boundary has been fully closed, and interim arrangements are located well outside both the core and buffer boundaries, while the process of shifting to a new site further away is under progress.

4. Compliance Regarding Observations of JKPCC

With regard to the observations raised by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), the following clarifications and actions are submitted:

1. Observation: The dumping site is not fenced and provides easy access to stray animals: As already stated, the Municipal Council Bandipora is in the process of identifying and shifting to a permanent solid waste site away from Wular Lake peripheries. CEO municipal council Bandipora has been requested to fence up the site vide this office letter no. Coord/WM/WUCMA/2025/205-07 dated 12.08.2025 Annexure 4.

2. Observation: Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into the nearby Gadarkul Nallah, which ultimately enters Wular Lake: The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, has been advised to immediately undertake corrective measures to ensure that no leachate from the current temporary site is discharged into Gadarkul Nallah.

3. Observation: Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared from the dumped site: The earlier waste dumped within the demarcated wetland boundaries has already been cleared and the site fully closed (as shown in Annexure-1).

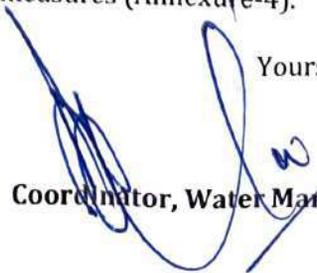
Summary of Compliance

- All interventions in Wular Lake are in line with CMAP 2007.
- Monitoring mechanisms by the Chief Secretary and Commissioner/Secretary are fully operational.
- Old Zalwan site has been closed.
- Present Bandipora Bund site is temporary and lies outside both Wular's periphery and buffer.
- Municipal Council Bandipora is in the process of establishing a new SWM facility at Kunalbanipura, completely away from Wular's peripheries.
- JKPCC observations have been duly noted; corrective actions and clarifications have been provided.

Encls:

1. Photographs of closed Zalwan site (Annexure-1).
2. Map showing location of current Bandipora Bund site relative to Wular boundary (Annexure-2).
3. Copy of CEO, MC Bandipora letter dated 12.08.2025 (Annexure-3).
4. Copy of communication to CEO, MC Bandipora for corrective measures (Annexure-4).

Yours faithfully,

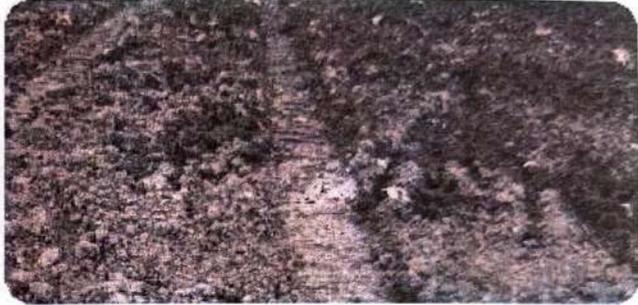

Coordinator, Water Management,
WUCMA.

Annexure-1

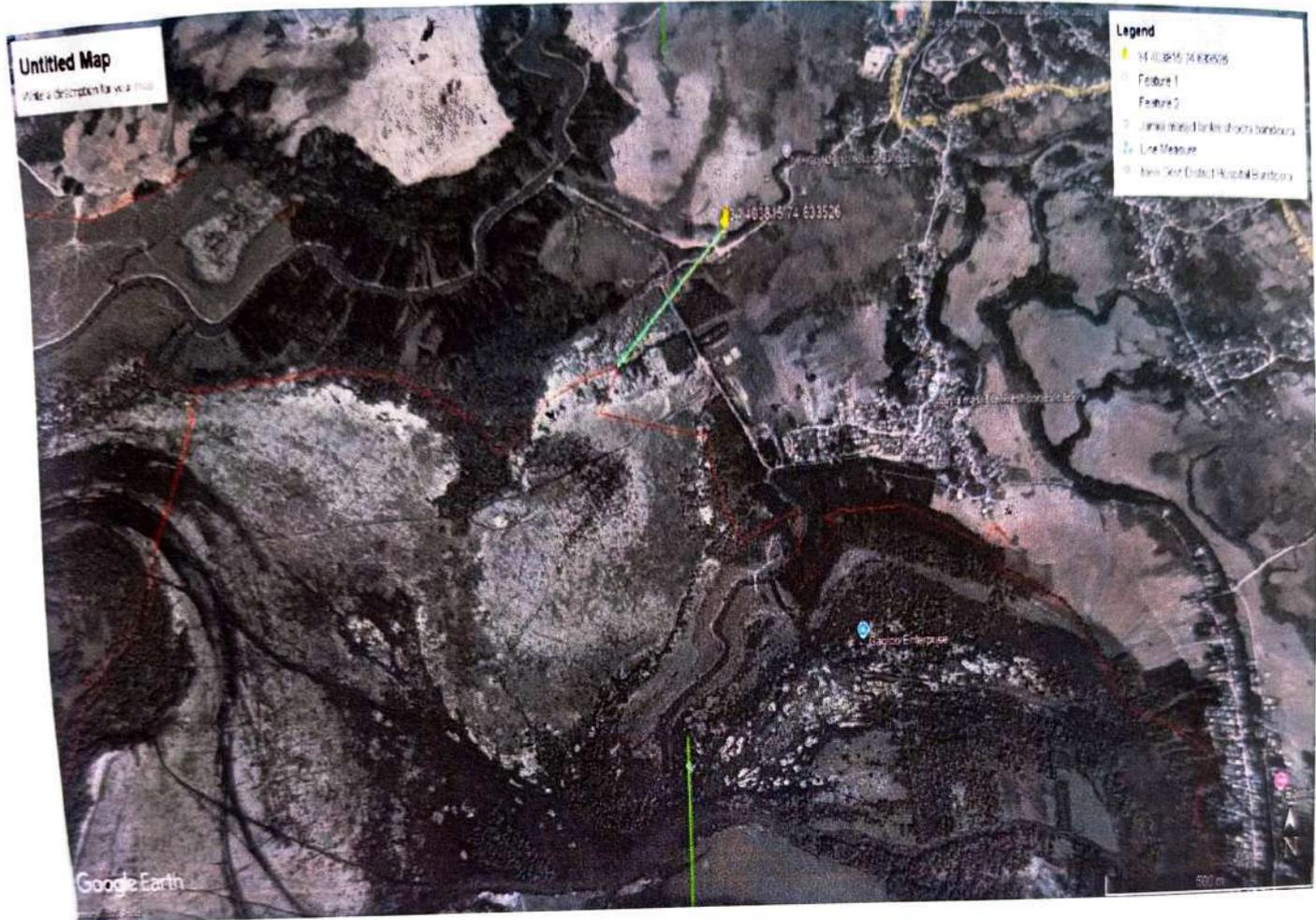
Before



After



Handwritten signature or mark in blue ink.



Map showing distance of new dumping site from nearest demarcation line of water lake which is approx 503 m away.



e-mail: epmcbandipora@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANDIPORA

ITUW TSA
NEW DELHI 2024

**The Assistant Commissioner Revenue
Bandipora.**

No.: MC/Bpr/G/2025/3293-96

Dated: 12/08/2025

Subject: E.A. No. 26/2025 OA No. 351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu & Kashmir & others.

Reference: Your Letter No. DCB/Legal/2025/563 dated. 30/07/2025

Sir,

With reference to your above-mentioned communication, the Municipal Council, Bandipora, respectfully submits the following Compliance / Action Taken Report regarding the implementation of the Action Plan as directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 24.04.2025:

1. Status of Action Plan Implementation:

The Municipal Council, Bandipora, has initiated necessary measures to address the issue of unscientific dumping of waste at Zalwan.

Regular inspections are being conducted to ensure adherence to the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

A new site has been identified at Kunon, Bandipora, for the establishment of a Solid Waste Management (SWM) plant. However, the site requires huge amount for development of the site and reasonable time is required for locating a feasible land for SWM facility.

2. Remedial Measures Taken:

• Waste Management:

Public awareness campaigns have been initiated to discourage illegal dumping.

The management and bio-remediation of legacy waste have already been tendered out at the Director level, and the process is currently underway.

• Encroachment Removal:

There are no encroachments at Zalwan within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council, Bandipora.

1302

95

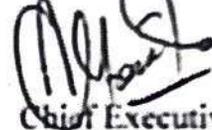
▼ A road already exists on the periphery and no new road is being constructed inside the wetland.

3. Monitoring Mechanism: A dedicated committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan. Monthly progress reports are being regularly submitted to the District Administration and the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, J&K.

4. Future Actions: The Municipal Council, Bandipora, will continue to ensure full compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Periodic updates and reports will be submitted to the concerned authorities in accordance with the established protocol.

The matter is being treated with the utmost urgency and seriousness, and all necessary efforts are being made to ensure full and time-bound compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Bandipora

Copy to:

1. Deputy commissioner, Bandipora for information
2. Director, Urban local bodies kasmir for information
3. Regional Director PCC, for information



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority
Kashmir

**The Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council Bandipora.**

No: Coord/WM/ WUCMA/2025/ 205-07

Dated: 12/08/2025.

Subject: O.A. No. 351-2019 titled "Raja Muzaffar Bhat V/s UT of J&K & Ors.

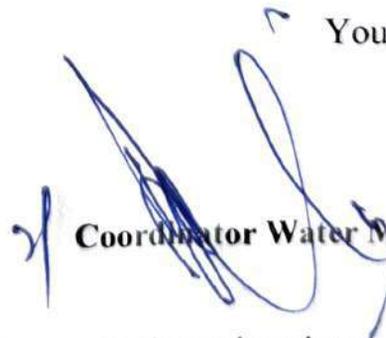
Sir,

With reference to the subject matter, it is submitted that Member Secretary, Pollution Control Committee vide communication No: JKPCC/Sc./OA 351-2019/2025/835 dated: 07-08-2025 has raised certain observations which are reproduced as under:

1. Current dumping site is not fenced and provides an easy access to stray animals.
2. Leachate from crude dumping gets discharged into nearby Nallah called Gadarkul which ultimately gets discharged into Wular Lake.
3. Earlier dumped waste has not been cleared from the dumping site.

It is requested to take immediate corrective measures in the matter so that higher ups are apprised accordingly. Needless to mention here that Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, and New Delhi in its order dated: 23-04-2025 has sought compliance in the matter as per Action Plan for Conservation of Wular Lake.

Yours faithfully,


**Coordinator Water Management,
WUCMA.**

Copy submitted to the:

1. Chief Executive Director, WUCMA for favour of information please.
2. Dy. Commissioner, Bandipora for favour of information please.
3. Regional Director, J&K, Pollution Control Committee for favour of information.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/
Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K
Silk Factory Road Rajbagh Srinagar/ Wildlife Complex, Manda Jammu

The Commissioner/ Secretary to Government,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
Civil Secretariat, J&K.

No: WLP-Legal/2025-26/ 05

Dt: 13 -08-2025

Subject: E.A No.26/2025 in OA No.351/2019 tiled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Reference: Letter No: FST-Lit/82/2025 (7629435) dated 01.07.2025 from Administrative Department.

Madam,

With reference to the above matter, kindly find enclosed compliance status in respect of the directions issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide Order dated 23.04.2025 for submission on behalf of the Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K Government.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: Compliance Note


(Sarvesh Rai IFS)

PCCF/ Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jammu & Kashmir

Copy to :

1. Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir

**Subject: Compliance Note in Response to Hon'ble NGT Order dated 23.04.2025
Execution Application No. 26/2025 in Original Application No. 351/2019 Raja
Muzaffar Bhat V/s State of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.**

1. Legal Standing and Governance Framework:

- The wetlands in question, including Hokersar and Kranchoo-Chandhara, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K Government.
- These wetlands are notified as Conservation Reserves under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and are not under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, which statutorily excludes wetlands located within forest areas or managed by the Wildlife Department.

2. Compliance with Direction at Para 15, Point No. 2

Execution of Action Plan and Oversight Mechanism

2.1 Integrated Management Action Plan (IMAP)

- An Integrated Management Action Plan has been formulated and adopted for eight designated wetlands under the Department's jurisdiction, including four wetlands in District Pulwama (Kranchoo, Freshkhooori, Manibugh, and Chattalum).
- The IMAP encompasses:
 - Habitat restoration
 - Ecological conservation
 - Channel maintenance
 - Pollution abatement
 - Biodiversity enhancement
 - All interventions are strictly within the ambit of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

2.2 Annual Plans of Operation (APOs)

- APOs are prepared annually based on the IMAP, outlining year-wise prioritized interventions.
- Key components include:
 - Demarcation of wetland boundaries
 - Restoration of natural feeding channels
 - Plugging of breaches

- Removal of floating vegetation
- Manual and mechanical clearance of solid waste
- Deployment of watch and ward teams
- Monitoring of aquatic bird populations
- Monitoring of water quality indicators

2.3 Supervision and Monitoring

- A multi-tiered monitoring system is in place:
 - Field-level: Wildlife Guards and Foresters
 - Mid-level: Block Officers and Range Officers
 - Divisional-level: Wildlife Warden

3. Compliance with Direction at Point No. 3

Clarification on Photographs in Annexures A/3 and A/5

3.1 Annexure A/3 – Solid Waste near Hokersar Entry Gate

- The waste depicted near Hokersar's entry gate is not due to local or legacy dumping, but is transported via the Doodh Ganga spillover channel, the primary hydrological feeder.
- Waste accumulates at the trash barrier during high flows and is cleared regularly.

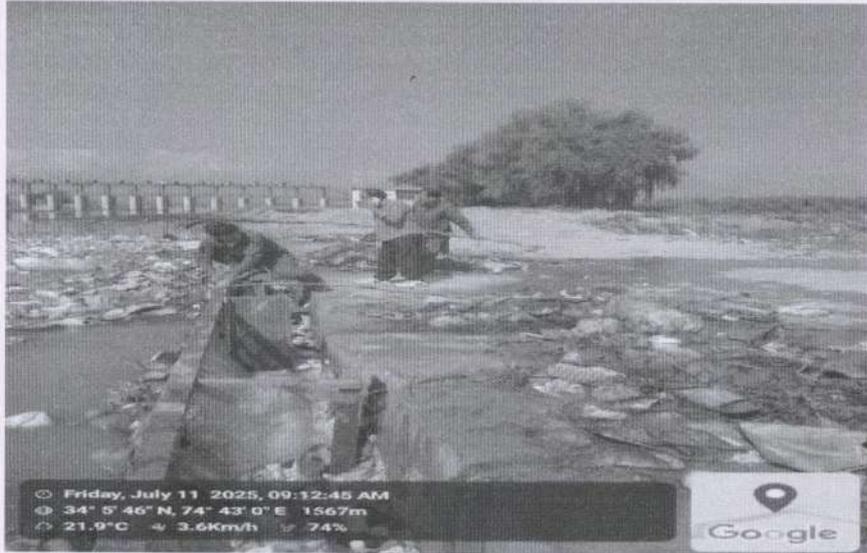
Intervention Measures:

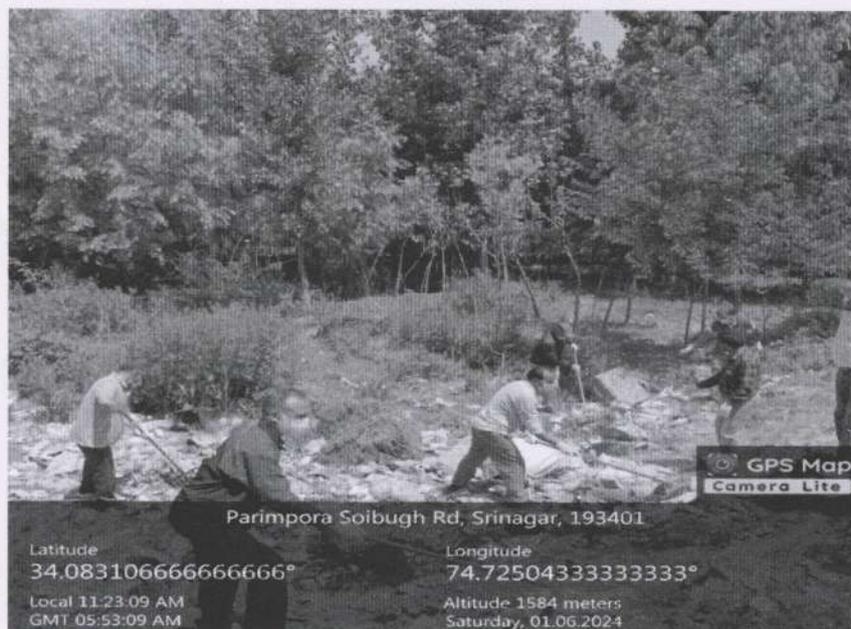
- Manual and semi-mechanized clearance drives are conducted every 7–10 days.
- In FY 2024–25: 313 clearance drives were conducted, with Hokersar receiving top priority.
- In FY 2025–26 (ongoing): 62 drives have already been completed.
- Waste is extracted using:
 - Boats (core wetland areas)
 - Tractors/trucks in collaboration with Municipal Committees (peripheral zones)

Clarification:

- The photograph reflects a temporary accumulation during an intervention cycle.

- No unauthorized or legacy dumping occurs within wetland boundaries.





3.2 Annexure A/5 – Road Construction in Kranchoo-Chandhara Wetland

- The road shown is an old cart track predating 2013, and lies outside the formally acquired wetland area.
- In 2013, the Department took possession of 128 Kanals and 19 Marlas of land; an additional 267 Kanals are under acquisition but not yet transferred.

Protection Measures:

- No new road construction has been permitted within the acquired wetland boundaries.
- Coordination is maintained with the District Administration, Pulwama.

- No infrastructure has been allowed within the notified Conservation Reserve.
Summary of Compliance
- All wetlands under the Department's jurisdiction are managed as Conservation Reserves under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Interventions are aligned with the approved IMAP and APOs, with robust monitoring and rectification mechanisms.
- Solid waste at Hokersar is a hydrological inflow issue, not a case of unauthorized dumping, and is being effectively managed.
- The road in Kranchoo-Chandhara is an existing track outside the Department's formal jurisdiction, with no new construction permitted within the protected wetland boundary.

State of Jammu and Kashmir & Co.

Reference: Letter No. JAW/2023/3762/2023 dated 01.07.2023
Addressed to the Director

Muziris

With reference to the letter No. JAW/2023/3762/2023 dated 01.07.2023
in respect of the compliance report for the Jammu & Kashmir
Tribunal (NWT) vide letter dated 25.06.2023 in connection with the
Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K Government.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Compliance Officer

(Signature)

Chief Wildlife Warden,
Jammu & Kashmir

Copy to:

1. Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir

1310

103

Annexure 'C'

Ph.: 0191-2546793/2579921

e-mail: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K

Director Wetlands
Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
Government of India, New Delhi.

No: 7488495-FST-plg/42/2024-02-FD

Dated: 25-08-2025

Subject: Submission of Integrated Management Plan under CSS "National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-Systems (NPCA)" for the five year w.e.f. 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Sir,

Kindly find enclosed herewith a copy of the Integrated Management Plan under CSS "National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-Systems (NPCA)" for the five year w.e.f. 2025-26 to 2029-30, for an amount of ₹ 7399.50 lacs as per the category / wetland-wise breakup as given below;

S. No.	Name of the Protected Area	Amount (₹ in lacs)
1	Hokersar, Hygam, Shallbugh, Mirgund and Chatlum with their adjoining wetland Reserves	5280.00
2	Surinsar Mansar wetland Reserve	1619.50
3	Gharana Wetland Reserve	500.00
	TOTAL	7399.50

In this regard, I am directed to request you to kindly consider the said IMP for accord of Administrative Approval and release of funds as early as possible. Further, the said IMP has been prepared as per the latest guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI.

Yours faithfully

(Subash Chander)

Joint Director Planning
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department

Copy to the:

1. PCCF (WL)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K for favour of information.
2. Private Secretary to the Commissioner /Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department for favour of information of the Commissioner /Secretary.

Telephone: 0194-2312453



e-mail: pewucma@gmail.com



Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY KASHMIR
 Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190008

Pankaj Verma
 Scientist-F,
 Ministry of Env. Forest & Climate Change, (Wetlands Division)
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003

No: PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025/826-30

Dated: 01/09/2025.

Sub: Revised MoU of Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA)
 Ref: 1. F.No J-22012/25/87-CS(W).Pt.III Dated:- 22.07.2025
 2. PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025/817-22 Dated:- 29.08.2025

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, kindly find enclosed herewith the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), after incorporating the correction please.

This is submitted for your kind information and further necessary action, please.

Yours faithfully,

Project Coordinator, CAT
 Wular Conservation and Management Authority

Copy submitted to the

1. Chief Executive Director, WUCMA for favour of information please.
2. Director Finance, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, J&K for favour of information please.
3. Joint Director, Planning O/o PCCF & HoFF, J&K for favour of information and further necessary action.
4. Coordinator, Water Management, WUCMA for favour of information.

1312

Telephone: 0194-2312453

105
Government Of India

e-mail: pcwucma@gmail.com



Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY KASHMIR
Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190008

Pankaj Verma
 Scientist-F,
 Ministry of Env. Forest & Climate Change, (Wetlands Division)
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003

No: PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025/817-22

Dated: 29/08/2025.

Sub: Submission of Utilization Certificate and request for financial assistance for conservation & management of Wular Lake in Srinagar (J&K) for conducting the activities and preparation of revised Detailed Project Report (DPF)-release of grant thereof.

Ref: F.No J-22012/25/87-CS(W).Pt.III Dated:- 22.07.2025

Sir,

With reference to the captioned subject matter, I am directed to enclose herewith the detailed information regarding the release of grants for development works under the scheme "National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems" for wetlands in Jammu & Kashmir in respect of WUCMA for information and further necessary action at your end please. The abstract of detailed information is given hereunder:-

Tripartite MoU	Enclosed as annexure-A.
Geo-tagged photograph	Enclosed as annexure-B
Physical & Financial Progress Report	Enclosed as annexure-C
Utilization certificate of Rs. 2.1937 Crore	The Utilization Certificate (UC) under NPCA in respect of WUCMA has already been submitted to the Administrative Department; with a copy endorsed to the Wetlands Division of the Ministry vide this Authority No. PC/CAT/WUCMA/25-26/443-47 dated 12.06.2025. However, certain variations were noticed between the transactions recorded on the PFMS portal and the bank statements. These discrepancies have since been reconciled, and revised UCs have been submitted to the Administrative Department vide this Office No. PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025/776-80 Dt:- 21.08.2025

It is further submitted that the revised utilization certificates for the year 2023-2024 & 2024-25 upto ending March-2025 has been generated on the basis the Bank statements and is herewith copy enclosed for kind perusal and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


 Project Coordinator, CAT
 Wular Conservation and Management Authority

Copy submitted to the

1. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Department of Forests Govt. of J&K Srinagar for favour of information please.
2. Chief Executive Director, WUCMA for favour of information please.
3. Director Finance, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, J&K for favour of information please.
4. Joint Director, Planning O/o PCCF & HoFF, J&K for favour of information and further necessary action.
5. Copy to the Coordinator, Water Management WUCMA for favour of information.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING(MOU)

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE UTOF JAMMU & KASHMIR
AND

THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(IA) -WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY
(A Govt. of J&K Undertaking)

This MoU provides a framework of commitments by stakeholders concerned not only for successful implementation of the project “ Integrated Management Plan for Wular managed by Wular Conservation and Management Authority” in Kashmir, but also for proper operation and maintenance of the physical assets/equipment beyond the tenure of the project. This agreement lays down the conditions, which the State Government and the Implementing Agency will undertake on the basis of the financial support provided by Government of India through the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change(MoEF&CC).

This Agreement is made on this..... day of2025 between

the Government of India, through the MoEF&CC

AND

the UT of J&K- the Implementing Agency (IA)

1314

WHEREAS

107

The MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, will provide financial support to the State Government in their efforts for "Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Wular Conservation and Management Authority" in J&K under their jurisdiction.

The Government of J&K has committed to provide the State's share of the capital cost of the project.

NOW, THE PARTIES WITNESSED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs.38.2823 crore (Rupees Thirty Eight Crore Twenty Eight Lacs and Twenty Three Thousand only) without Flexi funds (FF) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) 100% central share between the Govt. of India and the UT Govt. of J&K. Since Jammu & Kashmir is a Union Territory and not a State, the provision of State share is not applicable.
2. The physical asset and equipment/instruments purchased under the project shall be operated and maintained by the State/UT Government beyond the tenure of the project and till the serviceable life of the asset/equipment. The fixed assets created under this grant shall not be disposed without approval of the MoEF&CC.
3. Fund management regulations / guidelines stipulated by department of Expenditure from time to time shall be binding on each party of the MoU and all necessary action for compliance of the provisions of the guidelines/rules shall be made within the stipulated timeline for smooth fund monitoring and effective management.
4. All the rates considered in the estimate are as per the SoR, Government of J&K whereas applicable.
5. Any excess costs overrun, for whatever reasons, over and above the sanctioned cost shall be borne by the State/UT Govt. (Grantee)/IA. Grantee/IA has to take this into this into account while incurring expenditure on different components approved under the project.
6. The project works shall be completed within 60 months (5 years) from the date of sanction. The time schedule shall be strictly adhered to. Any increase in cost due to time overrun shall be borne by the government of J&K/ Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, J&K/Implementing Agency (IA).
7. The IMP shall be implemented as per the guidelines of NPCA – 2022, and as and when amended and recommendations of appraisal report of IIT, Roorkee.
8. The Govt. of India reserves the right to withdraw the sanction at any stage, if it is convinced that the amount released has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.

9. The sanction of the President is also conveyed for the release of funds of Grant – in - aid amounting to Rs 9.00 Crore (rupee crore only) as GoI share in the project, to WUCMA as 1st installment during the 1st year of implementation of the project.

108

1315

Financial Aspects

10. On receipt of the grant, the State Govt./Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, J&K, shall also contribute its corresponding share of expenditure immediately and confirm the same to this Ministry. Further instalment of grants would be released only after such contribution, however since Jammu and Kashmir being a UT is entitled to avail 100% centre share.
11. The amount released shall be used for implementation of different components approved under the project and not to be diverted to any other works.
12. The expenditure incurred should be as per the allocation of funds. If the IA does not use the fund for the purpose for which it was given, it has to refund the same with interest.
13. There should not be any overlapping of activities under the project with the activities of ongoing schemes of the central and/or the State Government and or from other sources.
14. It shall be ensured that the funds are utilized fully and no funds are lapsed.
15. Payments are to be made by the bank transfer and no cash payment is to be made.
16. GFR along with the economic instructions issued by the government of India from time to time should be followed by IA.
17. The funds released for the project should be operated through a separate interest earning bank account. The interest thus earned should be credited to the project and reflected in the utilization Certificate (UCs) from time to time. The interest accrued shall be refunded to the Government of India as per the prevailing rules/guidelines issued by MoEF&CC/Department of Expenditure, Government of India.
18. Evidence of deposit of TDS/Service Tax in case of contract payment and CST in case of leviable goods is obtained and shall be submitted along with UC and compliance of DBT scheme has to be ensured.
19. The IA is not permitted to seek or utilize funds for the same purpose from any other organization (Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous/Private).
20. IA shall ensure that the assets are exclusively used for the purpose for which the grant is sanctioned and to maintain the assets and their records properly. The fixed asset created out of this grant shall not be disposed of without approval of this Ministry.
21. UC is to be submitted on quarterly basis as prescribed in GFR 19A. UCs in the prescribed format shall be signed and stamped by the Head of the Organization, Head

1316

109

of the Accounts Department and field level functionary at Executive Engineer level/Principal Investigator as applicable.

22. IA shall furnish quarterly expenditure statements in the prescribed format from the commencement of the project. These should be submitted by the 20th of the following month for the preceding quarter.
23. Physical Progress Reports (PPRs) in the prescribed format shall be submitted on a quarterly basis signed by at least two designated officers of the IA, one of whom will be Chief Engineer/Head of the Department.
24. The UC with PPF and Satellite Photos (KML file format) shall be uploaded on the website of the IA for public access. The same shall also be submitted to this Ministry.

Audit

25. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India at his discretion shall have the right of access to the books and accounts of the IA receiving the funds from the Government of India (through State/UT Government) for the purpose of Audit.
26. The books of accounts of the grantee, relating to this grant, shall be open to audit by the internal audit wing of this Ministry.
27. IA shall furnish annually a consolidated report of its work within three months, and its audited statement of accounts within nine months of the next financial year. The report shall clearly detail the impact (in measurable parameters) of expenditure incurred on various activities/components vis-à-vis as envisaged in the IMP.
28. The accounts of the project under the NPCA scheme shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG(DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry whenever it is called upon.

Project Management, Monitoring and Inspection

29. Time and cost overrun leading to delay in implantation of projects is viewed with a serious concern by the Government and as per instructions contained in Cabinet Secretary's D.O. letter No.261/1/10/2000-Cab dated June 4, 2001 read with Planning Commission's (presently NITI Aayog) D.O. letter No.O-14015/2/98-PAMD dated 19-8-1998, mandatory Review of the Schemes must be carried out from time to time, to assess the expenditure trend and time schedule of the schemes and appropriate action against those responsible for delays shall be taken.
30. Inter-Departmental Monitoring Committee shall be set up at the State/UT and Divisional/District levels. State Level Committee will be chaired by Principal Secretary of the Department concerned and a balanced and representative composition of representatives of all Departments and agencies concerned for ensuring time limits

31. District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) shall be constituted under the chairmanship of District Collector to enhance accountability, transparency and to ensure effective implementation and time completion of the project.
32. The Government of India/IRO MoEFCC, Shillong may depute any person(s) to visit IA/Project for the purpose of monitoring its work. Requisite facilities shall be provided by IA to the persons deputed for inspection by the Government of India.
33. The UC with PPR and Satellite photos with physical deliverables with date and latitude-longitude coordinates before and after completion of work be obtained and uploaded on the website of the IA for public access. The same shall also be submitted to this Ministry.

Miscellaneous

34. Any staff that may be employed for preparation, execution or operation of the project by the IA are not to be treated as employees of the Government of India. They shall be governed solely by the rules of the grantee with respect to all matters including terms and tenure of service. The deployment of such staff at the time of completion or termination of the project will not be the concern or responsibility of the Government of India. In case of employment through contract, copy of PF & ESI contributions of employees shall be obtained wherever applicable.
35. The four-pronged approach being followed for rejuvenation and restoration ensures comprehensive and outcome-oriented planning. The brief document and health card help outline the major threats to the wetland and Integrated Management Plans are to ensure that these threats are addressed along with others.
36. Details of beneficiary and persons hired/mandays generated for carrying out proposed conservation and management activities approved should clearly be indicated in the Expenditure Statement. Number and names of beneficiary in category of Scheduled Tribes and Schedule Castes should also be indicated.
37. In case of violation of any of these conditions of the grant or in case of closure or dissolution of the grantee organization, the Government shall take possession of all the assets of the organization acquired out of the Government grants and use them in any manner deemed appropriate or to recover from the organization the value of such assets at its discretion.
38. As per the revised guidelines on FF, the fund to the tune of 25% may be set aside for FF. However, State who want to avail the FF facility should constitute a State Level Sanctioning Committee(SLSC) to sanction project or activities under the FF component. Participation of the concerned Central Ministry would be mandatory in the SLSC before the FF fund is invoked under any Central Scheme.

1318

SIGNATORIES

111

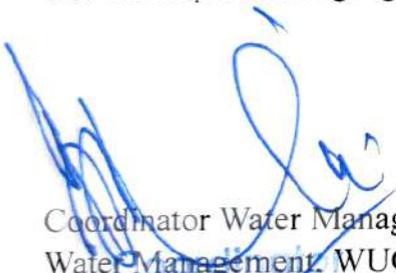
For Government of India, through Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

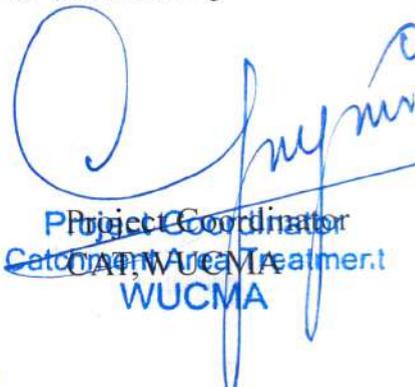
(Name, Designation, Signature, Seal)

For the State Government of J&K.

(Name, Designation, Signature, Seal)

For the Implementing Agency - WUCMA, A Govt. of J&K Undertaking.


 Coordinator Water Management
 Water Management, WUCMA
 Water Management
 WUCMA


 Project Coordinator
 Catchment Area Treatment
 WUCMA


 Chief Executive Director
 Chief Executive Director
 Wular Conservation and Management Authority
 Wular Conservation & Management Authority,
 (WUCMA), Srinagar.

WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WUCMA)

Revised Progress Report/Summary Expenditure during 2024-2025 upto ending March-2025 under NPCA Scheme
(Rs. in lacs)

S.No.	Component/Activity	Approved works plan	Expenditure upto Ending March-2023	Amount Released during 2024-25	Total Expdt. During 2024-25 upto ending March-2025	Total Cumm. Expdt. upto ending March-2025 (inc. Previous year)	Remarks
1	Boundary Consolidation & Preparation of DPR/CCMP						
	Preparation fo fresh DPR/CCMP for wular lake (<i>Integrated hydrological investigations and sedimentation studies of wular lake</i>)		300.00		0.00	300.00	Study NIH Roorki
	Chain Link Fencing of Track-6 Ninglee Sopore (L=1490 mts) during 2024-25	400.00	0.00		58.86	58.86	Work Completed
	Chain Link Fencing of Sports Stadium Tarzoo (L=490 mts. (2024-25)		0.00		19.72	19.718	Work Completed
	sub-total:	400.00	300.00		78.58	378.58	
2	Catchment Conservation						
2.1	Construction of protection wall, Anicut structures, and allied drainage line treatment wors (19km)	950.00	0.00		190.00	190.00	Work Outsourced by I&FC Bandipora
	sub-total:	950.00	0.00		190.00	190.00	
3	Water Management			555.68			
3.2	Lake water quality improvement (control of pollution)						
3.2.1	Establishment of integrated waste management plants and other SWM activities in the peripheral towns and rural clusters	100.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
3.2.2	Establishment cost of water quality and sediment monitoring station	300.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	sub-total:	400.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
4	Biodiversity Conservation						
4.1	Habitat Improvement works (100ha)	500.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
4.2	Establishment of Anti-poacting Camp (2 No's)	60.00	0.00		25.264	25.264	Work Completed
4.3	Studies/Monitoring/Census etc	20.00	17.43		1.586	19.016	
	sub-total:	580.00	17.43		26.85	44.28	
5	Eco-toursim Development & sustainable livelihood generation						
5.1	Alternate livelihoods/skill development for people living in notified villages of wular lake (10 No's)	50.00	0.00	9	0.00	0.00	

Telephone: 0194-2312453

114



e-mail: pcwucma@gmail.com

1321



Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY KASHMIR
 Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190008

REVISED UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE FOR FOREST GRANT
(WULLAR LAKE)
NAME OF SITE: JAMMU & KASHMIR

S.N o.	Letter No. & Date	Amount (Rs in lacs)	Certified that out of Rs. 900.00 Lacs of grant sanctioned/released in favour of Chief Executive Director WUCMA, an amount of Rs. 344.32 Lacs has been utilized during 2023-24 by Wular Conservation and Management Authority for the purpose for which it was sanctioned by end of March-2024. An amount of Rs.555.68 as remained unspent for the year 2024-25
01.	Release of Funds under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) vide No:- J-22012/25/87-CS(W) Pt.III, Dated:- 31.03.2023 by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wetlands Division)	Rs. 900.00 lacs	

Certified that the executing agency has satisfied himself that the conditions on which the grants-in-aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled and that the implementing agency have exercised following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

1. Release of amount as per approved works programme.
2. Adherence strictly to Govt. of India guidelines and other codal formalities during execution of works.

[Signature]
 Coordinator Water Management
 WUCMA

[Signature]
 Project Coordinator,
 CAT, WUCMA

[Signature]
 Chief Executive Director
 Wular Conservation & Management Authority
 (WUCMA), Srinagar.

1322

Telephone: 0194-2312453

115



Government Of India

e-mail: pcwucma@gmail.com

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

WULAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY KASHMIR
Forest Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Near Silk factory) -190008



REVISED UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE FOR FOREST GRANT
(WULLAR LAKE)
NAME OF SITE: JAMMU & KASHMIR

S.No.	Letter No. & Date	Amount (Rs in lacs)	Certified that out of available unspent balance of Rs. 555.68 Lacs released in favour of Chief Executive Director WUCMA during 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 338.78 Lacs has been utilized during 2024-25 by Wular Conservation and Management Authority for the purpose for which it was sanctioned by end of March-2025. An amount of Rs.219.378 has remained unspent during the year 2024-25
01.	Release of Funds under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) vide No:- J-22012/25/87-CS(W) Pt.III, Dated:- 31.03.2023 by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wetlands Division)	Rs. 900.00 lacs	

Certified that the executing agency has satisfied himself that the conditions on which the grants-in-aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled and that the implementing agency have exercised following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

1. Release of amount as per approved works programme.
2. Adherence strictly to Govt. of India guidelines and other codal formalities during execution of works.

[Signature]
Coordinator Water Management
WUCMA
 Water Management
 WUCMA

[Signature]
Project Coordinator,
CAT, WUCMA
 Catchment Area Treatment
 WUCMA

[Signature]
Chief Executive Director
Wular Conservation and Management Authority
 Wular Conservation and Management Authority
 (WUCMA) Srinagar.
 Kashmir