

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, AT CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 118/2023**

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

Versus

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors ...RESPONDENTS

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Filed by



Date: 22.08.2025

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**ACTION PLAN ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 7 FILED BY THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT, KARWAR**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken *Suo Moto* cognizance, following the captioned newspaper report highlighting pollution arising out of tourism in Gokarna.
2. This Report is being filed pursuant to the orders dated 04.06.2025 and 03.07.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal calling for an action plan to remedy the issue of pollution arising out of tourism in Gokarna.
3. In this regard, it is submitted as follows:

PROGRAMS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION AT PRESENT:

- i. An SWM unit has been constructed for solid waste collection and segregation under the Swachh Bharat Mission Rural Scheme in the Gram Panchayat limits.
- ii. An FSTP unit has been constructed for fecal waste disposal under the Swachh Bharat Mission Rural Scheme.
- iii. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Rural Scheme, community toilets have been constructed for public use near the beach and bus stand.



- iv. An OWSE Composting Unit has been constructed in partnership with third party near the Gram Panchayat for the disposal of raw waste.
- v. An agreement has been signed with M/s Pedigree Industries, Mangalore for the disposal of food waste, which is carrying and steps have been taken for the disposal of the said waste.
- vi. Currently, 12 sweepers and 6 SHG members are being hired for daily cleaning of chariot street Road corners and steps are being taken for cleanliness every day.
- vii. Arrangements are being made for the disposal of scientifically segregated waste by entering into an agreement with a private individual.
- viii. Every year, the Raja canal become filled with silt and the liquid waste does not flow smoothly, causing problems. For this, silt removal work is also being done from the 14th financial year of the Gram Panchayat.
- ix. A grant of Rs. 1 crore has been reserved by the Minor Irrigation Department for the year 2024-25 for the desilting of the Raja canal, and the work of dredging is in progress.
- x. Places where waste is constantly dumped have been identified and awareness has been created to prevent waste from being dumped again at such places. CCTV has also been installed at such places.
- xi. Dust bins have been installed for waste disposal for tourists and the general public visiting the Gram Panchayat.
- xii. Nameplates have been installed for tourists and the public regarding the plastic ban and joining hands for the implementation of Green Gokarna.
- xiii. The Solid Waste Management By-laws have been approved in the Gokarna Gram Panchayat as per the Disposal Rules 2016 through the meeting dated 30.11.2018.



- xiv. In view of the scarcity of space for the construction of solid and liquid waste disposal units, 2.20 acres of forest land has been sanctioned by incorporating information through Parivesh software for land allocation in Forest Land Survey No. 1492/A. In addition, the government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19 lakhs as compensation to the Forest Department for the allotment of the said land.
- xv. SWM consultants with engineering degrees were deputed by the Zilla Panchayat for a period of one year from 04.01.2020 to collect information on the comprehensive cleanliness of Gokarna and prepare an action plan for SWM and LWM implementation. The SWM consultant to work at the district level was initially appointed to the Gokarna Gram Panchayat for a training period of one year. Further, along with the SWM consultant, IEC, HRD, MIS, SHP consultants working at the district level also visit Gokarna once a week and take action regarding the cleanliness of Gokarna.
- xvi. A meeting was organized in the Gram Panchayat on 7-10-2023 to discuss the issue of maintaining overall cleanliness of Gokarna and provide advice, instructions and directions to take action for the comprehensive implementation of the Green Gokarna program. Thereafter, steps have been taken to implement the *Green Gokarna Program* in a phased manner. To create awareness among the public about the ban on single-use plastic, awareness has been created through loudspeakers at bus stands, beaches and public places, through wall writings, board and hoardings, awareness about cleanliness has been created, initially a grant of one crore has been allocated through the Minor Irrigation Department for dredging of the Raja Canal. Steps have been taken to establish FSTP, MRF unit.
- xvii. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission scheme for establishment of SWM, FSTP, MRF units and comprehensive cleanliness from 2018-19 to 2024-25, a total of Rs. 3.32 Crores have been allocated under MGNREGA, 14th and 15th Financial Plans, Gram Panchayat Fund.



- xviii. Cleanliness drives and rallies have been organized from time to time by the District Panchayat and Gram Panchayats to create awareness among the public about cleanliness.
- xix. As per the order of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the ban on single-use plastic in the Gokarna Gram Panchayat, the use of plastic has been banned in the entire Gram Panchayat including Mahabaleshwar and Mahaganapati temples. Steps have also been taken to impose fines under the single-use plastic ban in public places as well.

PROPOSED PROGRAMS/ACTION PLAN TO BE UNDERTAKEN

4. The following programs/actions are proposed to further prevent pollution at Gokarna:
- i. Under the K-shore project, a project for comprehensive Gokarna cleanliness, Material Recovery Facility, LWM under Raja canal improvement, and a plastic recycling unit with a grant of Rs 8.20 Crores have been prepared and submitted to the government for approval.
 - ii. A proposal has been submitted to the government for release under the Swachh Bharat Kosh CSR grant for the purchase of a VEHICLE MOUNTED JATAYU MACHINE to collect waste dumped in road culverts and black spots within the jurisdiction of Gokarna Gram Panchayat.
 - iii. A sucking and jutting machine is required for the maintenance of the FSTP unit, and a proposal for the purchase of the said machine has been submitted to the Honorable District Collector for the release of grant under the CSR grant.
5. It is submitted that in addition to the above, a project report namely "Green Gokarna" has been prepared by the answering Respondent which *inter alia* envisages the following:
- i. Declaring temple area, main beach, kudle and OM beach areas as plastic free zone;


- ii. Ban on selling and usage of single use plastics at local shops and implication of penalty to violators;
 - iii. 100 % fee in the form of tax for collection of garbage (Both dry and wet) from resorts, hotels and households;
 - iv. Involvement of local community leaders, temple administrative members and various stake holders for their supports like supply of man power in emergency situations and to conduct IEC activities to create awareness among locals;
 - v. Correspondence letters have been sent to concerned departments for the fund requirement for Sangamanala project, MRF unit and Jatayu sucking machine;
6. It is submitted that tender process has been conducted for the construction of the MRF unit. A proposal has been submitted to the State Government from the Swachh Bharat Mission kosa for approval. The said proposal has been submitted by the State Government to the Central Government for approval.
7. True copy of the Green Gokarna project is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-1**.
8. Besides the above, the following projects are to be carried out in Gokarna:


S.No	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Rupees)	Implementing agency	Remarks/ Timeline
1	Purchase of additional garbage vehicle for village panchayat.	20,00,000-00	SBM, PRED	It needs to be implemented at the government level. (Estimated 2 years of duration)
2	Identifying an area of 2 acres to scientifically dispose of garbage Getting on a lease base	15,00,000-00	SBM	Identify the space and obtain the grant of the Forest Ministry



	from the Forest Department			of Forestry through Parvesh Tantra A (Estimated 4 years)
3	A Fecal sludge treatment plant (including Sucking Machine and Tipper)	36,26,000-00	SBM	Action to be released by the Clean India Mission Project (Estimated 3 years)
4	In order for waste sorting Setting up of MRF(material recovery facility 10 TPD)	5,38,00,000-00	KSHORE PROJECT (RWSAGENCY)	At least 2 years after the release of grants from the government
5	Gray Water Management System In Gokarna Raja Kalule, Section to Prevent Plastic Entering to The Ocean.	2,98,00,000-00	(RWS AGENCY)	At least 2 years after the release of grants from the government
6	Separate the garbage of already households 75% of the collection is required to make an additional 5 staff for a 100% progress, and in the evening the garbage hut is required for 5 more staff on the main beach.	18,00,000-00 (FOR EVRY YEAR)	Gram panchayat	1 year

9. The above report including is hence placed on records for the consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.


CEO
Zilla Panchayath, Uttara Kannada
On behalf of
Principal Secretary
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ZILLA PANCHAYAT, UTTAR KANNADA,
KARWAR

Filed By

Darpan KM
Standing Counsel
State of Karnataka

Date:22.08.2025



Government of Karnataka

Zilla Panchayat Uttara Kannada, Karwar



“Green Gokarna”- An Effort towards Green and Clean village

September 2023

Submitted by:

Zilla Panchayat Uttara Kannada, Karwar

The concept of Green-Gokarna

The Green Gokarna scheme is a program that aims to establish sustainable rural communities. The program focuses on activities such as: Tree planting, Organic farming, conserving biodiversity, scientific management of solid and liquid waste, Shifting towards renewable energy sources and ban on single use plastic i.e creating plastic free environment. The program also aims to improve the quality of life for residents. The program is planned to establish in regions away from large cities and offers a curriculum tailored for youth living in rural community. The program aims to have 100% open defecation-free village, 100 % Plastic free village, scientific management of solid and liquid waste, shift to renewable energy sources and increased green cover.

It is important to have localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) based on Theme Clean and Green Village. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. Viewed from this perspective, theme Clean and Green Village is closely related to SDG-6 on Water and Sanitation; SDG-7 on Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG-12 on Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG-13 on Climate Action; and SDG-15 on Life on Land. The SDGs could be met by enforcing the concept of green village at village scale. Such practices help to align the policies of Government to achieve the goals by 2030.



Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals

Gokarna- The brief profile

Gokarna is a small town on the Arabian Sea, in the south-western Indian state of Karnataka. On administrative ground it is located in Kumta Taluka of Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka state, with total 3038 families residing. The Gokarna town has population of 13539 of which 6827 are males while 6712 are females as per Population Census 2011. It is one of the popular pilgrimage destination for Hindus, where Atmalinga of lord shiva is present. It is known for sacred sites like Mahabaleshwar Temple, which has a shrine dedicated to the deity Shiva. Nearby, Koti Teertha is a temple tank where devotees take bath in the holy waters. The town is also home to beaches such as palm-lined Gokarna, in the center, plus Kudle and Om beaches on other sides.

Every year, more than 1 lakh Devotees come from all over Karnataka and other Indian states during the Maha-shivaratri event. During weekends the tourists number goes up to 10,000 to 12,000. And during the new year evening this number goes up to 25,000. On an average everyday 5000-7000 tourists visit Gokarna for pilgrimage as well as for rejuvenation.

Known for its beautiful beaches attracts tourists from all over the country and even from overseas.



Figure 3: Gokarna village map

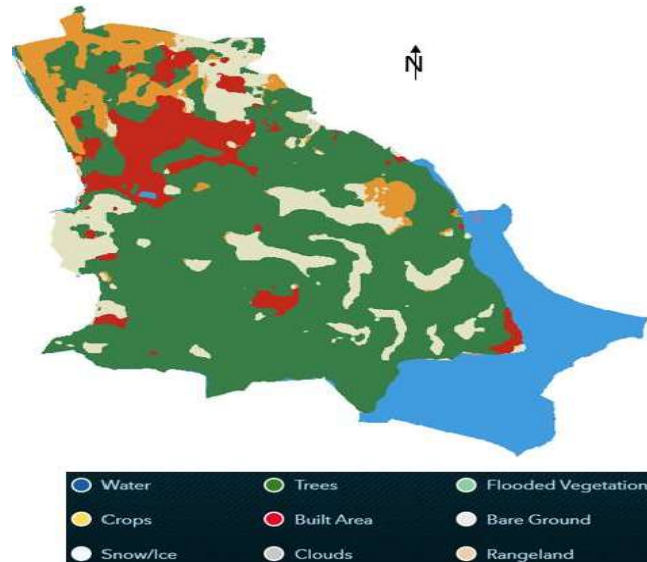


Figure 2: Land use/ cover map of Gokarna village

Table 1: Land use/ cover details

Cover	Area (Hectare)
Water body	339.71
Vegetation	1137.79
Mangrove Vegetation	1.1
Crops	142.66
Built Area	168.64
Bare land	1.4
Rangeland	242.72

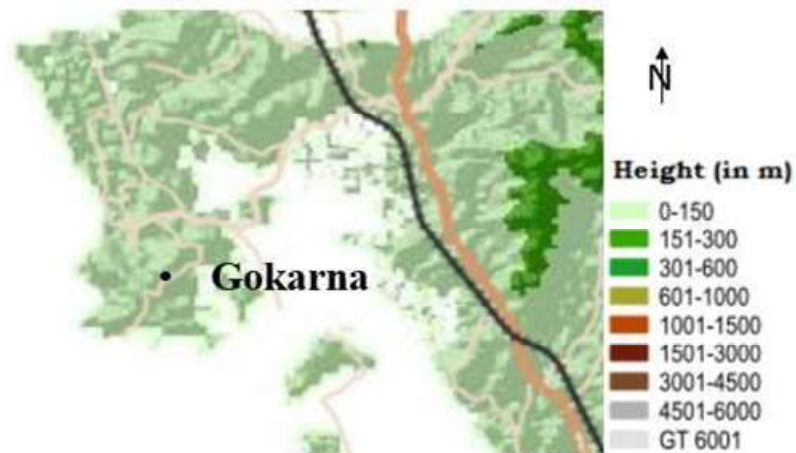


Figure 4: Elevation profile of Gokarna

(Curtesy: ISRO-Bhuvan)

Pilgrim sites and Tourist spots in Gokarna

Mahabaleshwar Temple: This ancient Shiva temple is one of the most important religious sites in Gokarna. The temple's architecture and religious significance make it a must-visit place.

Maha Ganapathi Temple: Dedicated to Lord Ganesh, this temple is located near the Mahabaleshwar Temple and is known for its unique idol of Lord Ganesh.

Kotitheertha: This sacred pond is located in the heart of Gokarna and is believed to be the source of the Aghanashini River. It is a significant religious site and a place for rituals and ceremonies.

Gokarna Viewpoint: Located on a hill, this viewpoint offers panoramic views of the town, beaches, and the Arabian Sea. It's a great spot for watching the sunrise or sunset.

Gokarna Main Street:

Beach Activities: Gokarna offers various water sports and activities such as parasailing, jet-skiing, and banana boat rides for adventure enthusiasts.

Trekking and Hiking: There are several trekking and hiking trails around Gokarna, including the Gokarna Beach trek that takes you through beautiful landscapes.



Figure 5: Tourist and Historical attractions in and nearby Gokarna

Table 2: General Information of Gokarna Village and Gram Panchayat

Total area of GokarnaVillage (in Ha) :	420
Total Cultivated Area of GokarnaVillage (in hectare):	18
Number of Anganwadis :	21
Number of Primary Schools : (Junior Primary Schools: 011 and Senior Primary Schools: 11)	16
Number of high schools :	03
Number of Colleges :	1
Number of Yatri Nivas :	00
Number of veterinary hospital :	01
Number of Primary health center :	01
Number of fair price shop :	01
Number of revenue dept office :	01
Number of farmer contact center :	1
Number of Grama one center :	01
Number of post office :	2
Number of Banks :	5
Number of Gram Panchayat Sabha Bhavan :	01
Total number of shops under gram panchayat :	125
Solid and liquid waste management unit	Present
fresh and dry waste Management	segregated at the source
Garbage collection vehicle working status	Yes
Duration of garbage collection	Daily
Coverage of houses by garbage vehicle to collect garbage	(1280)
Total amount of dry waste generated per day :	800
Total number of households having soak pits :	1880
Total number of households without soak pits :	94
Number of Units not having kitchen gardens :	80

Declaration Status of open defecation free village	declared
Declaration Status of pollution free village	Not yet declared
Presence of drainage system	Present
Implementation status of jal jeevan mission	Completed
Total estimated cost of the JJM project	9.5 crores
Total number of House holds	183
Status of 100% community contribution	Paid 53 %
Number of drinking water sources	03
Status of GWSA division	Formed
Number of units having rain water harvesting system	Nil
Status of Amrit Sarovar	Nil
Status of MGNREGA job card	100 %
Presence of Computer set ups in all Schools	Yes
Presence of Play grounds in all schools	Yes
Number of households having rain water harvesting facility:	00
Status of tax collection	60 %
Tax reform status	Regular
Status of LPG gas connection to house holds	100 %
Status of cremation sites	present
Number of Burial sites developed	3
Number of Community Toilets in Gokarna Village:	4

Gokarna is administratively run by Gram panchayat with the staff strength of 9 members and 10 numbers of sweepers who works on daily wage basis. And the Gram Panchayat consists of 34 elected members including President and vice-president. Since it is the major Pilgrimage and tourist hub, maintaining the sanitation, especially solid and liquid waste management, and such a huge population with lesser man force is one of the challenging task facing by gram panchayat. Management is being carried out with the assistance of local stake holders.

Focuses of green Gokarna

If a Gram Panchayath (GP) gokarna resolves to transform itself into a Clean and Green Village, it should focus on:

- Awareness generation amongst the citizens on the importance of reducing wastage, ensuring sustainable production and consumption, reducing the adverse impact on environment.
- Promotion of measures within the GP that would reduce environmental pollution, such as reducing the use of plastics within the GP area and all along the coastline if present.
- Taking steps to create an in-depth understanding of the term climate change and its impact among the Gram Sabha, Panchayat committees and other community volunteers.
- Mapping land use pattern, water bodies, forest, hill slopes, wetlands, degraded forest within the GP.
- Developing appropriate norms for sustainable utilisation of resources from common lands, water bodies and forests on materials like non-timber forest produce, sand, fish and water.
- Assessing the water needs, sources, schemes, solid and liquid waste being generated.
- Settling the water and sanitation goals and targets for the GP.
- Selection of appropriate technology for water supply and sanitation in the GP, based on participatory and area assessment.
- Ensuring maintenance of toilets, of public spaces, including those in markets and GP premises.
- Developing a comprehensive energy programme based on need assessment.

Objective of Scheme

This scheme is developed with an aim to develop awareness generation amongst the citizens on the importance of reducing wastage, ensuring sustainable production and consumption, reducing the adverse impact on environment. It also serves the purpose of reducing environmental pollution, such as reducing the use of plastics within the village area.

Components of a Green-Village

The Green Village initiative focuses on activities that promote environmental sustainability, and other activities such as:

- Single use plastic free village.
- Open Defecation Free Village.
- Clean and Green- School and Anganwadi.
- Scientific Management of Solid Waste.
- Wastewater Management.
- Affordable and Clean Energy.
- Greening Development.
- Promotion of Organic Farming & Progressive Reduction of Chemicals.
- Celebrate Clean and Green Living.
- Strengthening Local Committee & Enhance Larger Participation.

Why it is to be chosen for Green- Gokarna scheme?

As mentioned above, because of higher population and regular tourists flow, lot of challenges are being faced by local village body i.e gram Panchayat. And regular complaints are being registered by locals regarding the public littering and lack of sanitation and even print and electronic medias raises the issues as well. Acknowledging all these components, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat jointly decided to take some affirmative actions regarding solving of such complaints. The concept of Green-Gokarna came into existance

As a part of this, Various meetings were conducted under chairmanship of Chief Executive officer, Zilla Panchayat, Karwar, Along with Nodal officer of Swach Bharat Mission, Executive officer Taluk Panchayat, kumta, Panchayat Development Officer, Gokarna and all the consined consulants and Subject experts. Apart from that, various stake holders such as officials from Forest department, Department of Minor irrigations, Rural drinking water and sanitation department and Panchayat raj and Engineering Department, and members of local temple administration, Gram panchayat members and other concerned people were also consulted to initiate the program.

Various visits, sudden Spot inspections, inspections by various subject experts were also planned. After all the meetings and inspections, Key focus areas were identified and plannings were made to execute the program in identified key focus areas.

Finally one meeting was scheduled at Gokarna Gram panchayat where all the concerned officials from different department along with all the local stake holders and even public were also invited for discussion under one roof.

The stepwise activities steered to develop Green- Gokarna are listed below:

1. **Visit and Inspection made by CEO, Karwar and SBM nodal officer to Gokarna** - A visit to the various places of Gokarna and key facilities available within the village. A quick inspection on MRF site was performed.



CEO Visit to MRF site



SBM Nodal officer visit



2. **Brainstorming Session at CEO Office-** A team was designed which exclusively works on Green-Village. The structure, roles and responsibilities of the team and the members as well were discussed. The team so framed consists of experts, resource persons and DPMS to ideate Gokarna to attain the place of Green-Village.



Glimpses of Brainstorming session at CEO Office

Door-to-Door Survey- Door to Door survey conducted by members of the team collected primary data and facilities related to the village.

3. **AC meeting about Swacch Gokarna**-Details related to implementing SwacchGokarna were discussed in AC meeting.



AC meeting about Swacch Gokarna

4. **CEO meeting about Green Gokarna**- CEO, ZP Karwar took meetings and details related to implementing green Gokarna were discussed in detail.



Meeting conducted at CEO office with various department officials





Various activities taken up after meetings and fields visits by official



Visit to Gokarna by Deligates of world bank



Special gram sabha related to Green Gokarna

Concerns for Gokarna to declare as Green-Village

1. Solid Waste Management and sanitation
2. Pollution free water bodies
3. Conservation practices for fauna and flora
4. Public amenities such as parks and plantations

Ongoing Govt. Schemes applicable to Gokarna village

- MGNREGA
- JJM
- SBM
- NRLM

Several base line surveys are conducted by a Green-Village Survey team identified several gaps and scope for enhancements for the endeavours.

Gaps Identified in Gokarna Village

- Lack in awareness on ecology and conservation among the visitors
- Mismanagement of dustbins. The Dustbins are provided in few locations across the village
- Mis-management of plastic waste disposal
- Plastic pollution in streets and beaches
- No provision to collect and transfer the waste from the existing dust bins
- No provision for effective collection, segregation & environmentally safe disposal of solid waste generated from village.
- Scope for renewable energy especially solar energy need to be explored.
- Scope for the use of ecofriendly materials in most of the construction works like village paths, pavers.
- Scope for an inhouse native sapling nursery for promoting afforestation
- A very few economic strengthening activities from tourism

Planned interventions:

- Majorly, key locations were identified and it was decided to collect the wastes and carrying out sanitation works atleast 3 times in a week. And earlier the garbage was collected from key locations 1 time in a day and directions has been given to Gram panchayat by CEO to collect the garbage and generated wastes 2 times in a day. From there onwards, the Swach vahini vehicle is being used

twice in a day to collect the wastes.

- An official memorandum was issued by CEO to install the dustbins in the key locations, beach cleaning drive, jathas by school kids to create awareness and importance of sanitation, displaying of hoardings at key locations, playing of Jingles to create awareness, increase in number of IEC activities, and penalty collection from violators.
- An official agreement was made with a Proprietor, who looks after plastic recycling unit from Udupi. Earlier the collected garbage was being dumped at collection yard. after the tie-up, the issue has been solved. Now, he collects the generated plastic waste and recycles it.



Collection of garbage twice in a day



Installation of dustbins



Hoarding displayed at Main road

- In order to stop the usage of single use plastics, self help group (SHG) mart is planned. The efforts have been made to provide jute bags to the customers instead of plastic carry bags.
- Establishment of MRF and FSTP units were planned and currently the works are ongoing and in process. Both the works are expected to be completed by the year end.
- Survey of sangam nala project is under progress. The plan has been prepared to install the jally on both sides of sangam nala. The estimation has been prepared and sent for approval.
- Letter has been communicated to RDPR Department for fund request to purchase JATAYU machine.



Proposed jatayu machine



Ongoing FSTC work

Plan of actions

- Declaring temple area, main beach , kudle and OM beach areas as plastic free zone.
- Ban on selling and usage of single use plastics at local shops and implication of penalty to violators
- 100 % fee in the form of tax for collection of garbage (Both dey and wet) from resorts, hotels and households.
- Involvement of local community leaders, temple administrative members and various stake holders for their supports like supply of man power in emergency situations and to conduct IEC activities to create awareness among locals.
- Correspondence letters have been sent to concerned departments for the fund requirement for Sangamanala project, MRF unit and Jatayu sucking machine.

Table 2: Number of PD generations from Green- Gokarna program

Sl. No.	Details of works	Number of works	Estimated cost	Labour Wage	Material wage	Number of PD generation
1	SWM unit	1	20,00,000	-	-	-
2	Kotiteertha Desilting and Cleaning (State Govt. Special Funds)	1	1,50,00,000	-	-	-
3	FSTP	1	7,35,00,000	-	-	-
4	Individual Soak pit works	149	19,37,000	7,84,000	11,62,200	756
6	Bio Gas units	1	8,00,000	-	-	-
7	Drainage work and Desilting of Sangama nala	8	28,00,000	-	-	-
	Total	161	2,73,67,000	7,84,000	11,62,200	756

Concluding Remarks

Gokarna, a town of immense heritage and tourism importance located in the coastal stretch of Uttara Kannada district, is a suitable place for the Green-Gokarna program. The town can be developed to promote sustainable development through environmentally responsible practices. These activities will also boost eco-tourism, providing sustainable livelihoods for the stakeholders and villagers. The proposed Green-Gokarna is expected to generate 756 person-days of employment, providing a livelihood for a significant portion of the village.

Challenges

- Lack of funds for the developmental works
- Minimizing plastic pollution in beaches
- Lack of awareness on Sanitation amongst the residents of village
- Limited IEC activities across the village
- Unprecedented crowd management during weekends and during holy days such as the month of shravana, shivarathri
- Basic amenities for nurturing tourism in and around the village

Future Plans

- **Efficient waste disposal strategy and minimizing plastic waste**-Maintaining green beaches, pollution free surroundings.
- **IEC activities to be increased**- scope to create awareness and disseminate information regarding the benefits available under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry and to guide the citizens on how to access them are immense.
- **Support from locals, representatives**-A comprehensive participatory approach consisting of local people and representatives of assembly and other governing bodies is to be thought for the inclusive development of village
- **Support from state governments**-Vibrant schemes are to be introduced for the sustainable development