

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI.

Original Application No. 1046/2024

In The Matter of:

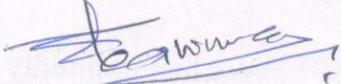
*News Item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024
Titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against
Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Deptt.
Take challenge."*

I N D E X

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FILED BY:

21.04.2025


G.M.Kawoosa
Advocate
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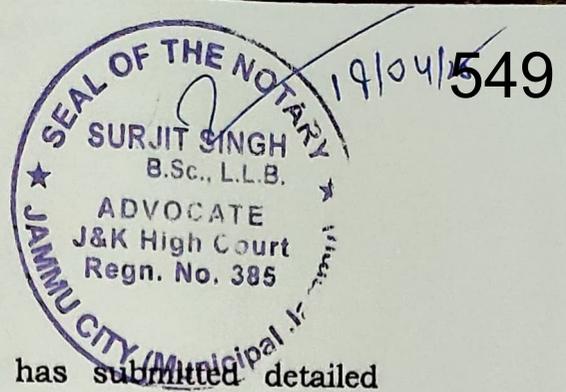
***News Item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024
Titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against
Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Deptt.
Take challenge."***

**Affidavit on behalf of RESPONDENT No.8 (Director Rural
Sanitation)**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH AS UNDER:

1. I, **Anoo Malhotra**, presently posted as Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K do hereby solemnly affirm as under:-
2. I say that I have gone through the contents of above OA pending adjudication before this Hon'ble Tribunal & in response to the same, I submit as under:-
3. That upon receipt of order dated 02.01.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, a detailed report was sought from ACP Ganderbal concerning the issues involved in above OA. That pursuant to said communication, Block

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Development Officer, Gund has submitted detailed report dated 12.04.2025 wherein it has been submitted that the natural habitat of Himalayan Brown Bear is the Thajwas (Baltal) Wildlife Sanctuary which is located at a distance of 105- Kilometer North East from Srinagar. The said sanctuary lies between 34°37' N Latitude and 74°29' to 74°36' E Longitude and covers an altitudinal range of 3,015 m to 5,466 m above mean sea level. Further, it comprises of forest compartment numbers from 56/S to 62/S of Sindh Forest Division. That the main faunal attraction of this area is the Kashmir Musk Deer and Himalayan Brown Bear.

4. It is submitted that aforementioned Thajwas (Baltal) and Sonamarg regions fall under the jurisdiction of Sonamarg Development Authority and Wild Life Department, J&K and disposal and treatment of solid waste in and around Thajwas and Sonamarg is being carried out by Sonamarg Development Department.
5. That in so far as the Directorate of Rural Sanitation is concerned, it manages sanitation related activities in and around Baltal axes upto Holy Cave during annual Amarnath Ji Yatra and in this regard waste is collected

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and disposed off scientifically in conformity with the rules/guide lines laid down in the S.O. 2002 (E), dated 16.05 2024 and in accordance with Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. A copy of the report dated 12.04.2025 is annexed as Annexure-A.

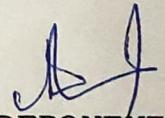
6. That the answering respondent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file further affidavit as and when directed to do so by this Hon'ble Tribunal.



DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified that the contents of above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material is concealed therefrom.



DEPONENT



Execution Admitted hence Attested

NOTARY PUBLIC

19/04/25



Twitter: ACPGANDERBAL1

E-mail: acpganderbal@gmail.com

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PANCHAYATS GANDERBAL
(Mini Secretariat Complex Duderhama)

**The Deputy Director Rural Sanitation,
Kashmir.**

No: -ACP/Gbl/291-93

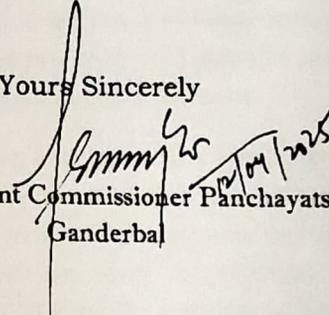
Dated: 12-04-2025

Subject: Original application number 1046/2024 news item appearing in India com dated 27-7-2024 titled saving Kashmir brown bears in a race against time wildlife SOS and JK wildlife protection department take challenge.

Sir/Madam,

Apropos the subject, in this connection it is submitted that a detailed report has been sought from Block Development Officer Gund vide letter No:- BDO/SBM-G/2025-26/111-13 dated: -12-04-2025 and is hereby enclosed for favour of information and kind perusal.

Yours Sincerely


 Assistant Commissioner Panchayats
 Ganderbal

Copy to the: -

1. District Development Commissioner Ganderbal for favour of information.
2. Director General Rural Sanitation J&K Jammu for favour of information

Handwritten initials/signature in blue ink.

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER GUND
EMAIL_bdogund@gmail.com

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The
Assistant Commissioner Panchayats,
Ganderbal.

No.BDO/Gund/Estt/2024-25/111-13

Dated: 12/04/2025.

Subject: Original Application No. 1046/2024 News Item appearing in India.com dated:
27-07-2024 titled saving Kashmir Brown Bears in a race against time Wild Life
SOS and J&K Wild Protection Department take Challenge.

Reference: Your communication letter NO. ACP/Gbl/Pyts/7268-70 dated: 19-03-2025

Sir,

Apropos to the subject and reference cited above, in this connection it is to submit that Sonamarg and Thajwas region falls under the jurisdiction of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) and Wild Life Department, J&K and disposal and treatment of solid waste in and around Sonamarg and Thajwas is being carried out by Sonamarg Development Authority.

Furthermore, the natural habitat of Himalayan Brown Bears is the Thajwas(Baltal) Wildlife Sanctuary which is located at a distance of 105-kilometer North-East from Srinagar. The sanctuary lies between 34°37' N Latitude and 74°29' to 74°36' E Longitude and covers an altitudinal range of 3,015 m to 5,466 m above mean sea level. It comprises of forest compartment numbers from 56/S to 62/S of Sindh Forest Division. The main faunal attraction of this area is the Kashmir Musk deer (*Moschus cupreus*) and Himalayan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*). The sanctuary is connected with other important wildlife areas, like Aru, Upper Dachigam and the Sindh Forest. The Wildlife Sanctuary is flanked by the large snow laden peaks of 'Sonamarg' and the Sindh River, which is famous for its Trout and Mahseer population. Thajwas glacier is one of the tourist attractions visited by tourists in the summer months.

However, the Directorate of Rural Sanitation manages sanitation related activities in and around Baltal axes upto Holy Cave during annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) and proper solid waste management is put in place to ensure sustainable and zero landfill Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and waste is collected and disposed off scientifically in conformity with the rules/guidelines laid down in the S.O. 2002(E), dated: 16 May,2024 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and in accordance with the Solid Waste Management

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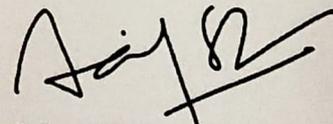
Rules 2016, and the rules made there under. During the last year (2024) over 7,000 sanitation workers were hired by the department who actively maintained cleanliness across the pilgrimage routes, with the ambitious goal of upholding a zero-landfill policy. The sanitation drives were performed in multiple shifts to ensure round the clock cleanliness from Baltal to holy cave. Last year's sanitation strategy reflects a holistic approach, integrating the principles of Men, Machinery, Mechanism, Maintenance, Monitoring, and Motivation—a comprehensive framework designed to ensure efficient waste management and preserve the natural beauty of the sacred route.

The eco-friendly initiatives undertaken during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2024 go beyond waste management—they reflect a shift towards a sustainable future for religious tourism. By integrating technology, manpower, and motivation, the Directorate of Rural Sanitation has set a benchmark for managing large-scale events with an environmental focus. During the yatra period, 197.34 tonnes of waste was collected on Baltal axes, which was processed in different categories- Dry Waste, Wet Waste and Inert. The breakdown of waste management efforts was particularly noteworthy. Of 197.34 tonnes, 170.82 tonnes of waste were processed.

In light of the above, this office assures your good-self of its tireless efforts towards sanitation, solid waste management and proper disposal of waste in and around Baltal axes upto Holy Cave and the Yatra enroute area falling under the jurisdiction of this office.

Hence, submitted for favour of information and further necessary action at your end please.

Yours faithfully



Block Development Officer
Gund

Copy to the:

1. Director General Rural Sanitation Jammu for favour of kind information.
2. Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir for favour of kind information.

