

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**I.A. NO. 531/2025**

**IN**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1119 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted Trout Habitat Threatened In Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024

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**Filed by**



**Advocate Vikrant Pachnanda  
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

Place: Delhi

Dated: 15.05.2026

**Progress Report in compliance to the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 09.02.2026. in the matter of Original Application No. 1119/2024 (IA No 531/2025); News Item Titled "Sindh Nalla Polluted Trout Habitat Threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024**

**1. Background and the Orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal:**

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, while considering the report of CPCB dated 06/02/2026 of observed at Para 04 of the Order dated 09/02/2026(**Annexure-1**) as below:

**Para 04:** *The above observations reveal that the STPs are either not functioning or under construction. The under construction STP of 1.2 MLD at Sonamarg even does not have the CTE from the J&KPCC. The report further reveals that there are three drains which merge in Sindh Nala and the garbage dump was also observed near natural drain – Gund Nalla which is a tributary of Sindh Nalla. Though the report mentions that EC of Rs. 222.65 Lacks has been imposed upon the BDO, Kangan, but there is no disclosure about the recovery of the said EC. Alongwith the report, CPCB has enclosed the water quality data of Sindh Nala, but it is based upon the samples taken in December 2025 when the tourist influx in the area was minimum. Hence, CPCB must take the sample in the month of April and ascertain the status of the water quality in Sindh Nala. ...”*

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the order dated 09/02/2026 directed CPCB as below:

**Para 06:** *The CPCB is also directed to file a fresh report keeping in view the observations made above atleast one week before the next date of hearing.*

## 2. Progress made by CPCB for compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order:

- i. CPCB was directed to take samples in the month of April, 2026. Accordingly, CPCB Regional Directorate, Chandigarh planned visit for sampling from various locations of Sindh Nalla during April 4-8, 2026. However, sampling could not be undertaken due to extensive landslides at multiple locations in J&K during that period.
- ii. CPCB Regional Directorate again co-ordinated with J&K PCC for conducting sampling during May 3-4, 2026 (**Annexure-2**). Accordingly, the sampling was conducted on 04/05/2026.
- iii. Total 11 samples were collected including 07 samples from various locations of Sindh Nalla and 04 identified drains leading to Sindh Nalla. The sampling locations alongwith Geo-Co-ordinates are summarized in **Tables 1A & 1B**.

**Table 1A: Details of Sampling Locations in Sindh Nalla monitored by CPCB Team on May 4, 2026**

S. No	Station Code	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Time of sampling	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)
1	SN-01	Whail Bridge	34.27528	74.80858	10:40 hrs	11.5	9.6
2	SN-02	Kangan Akhal Bridge	34.26149	74.89994	1120 hrs	13	9.0
3	SN-03	JKTDC HAUT Mammer	34.22721	74.99271	1230 hrs	11	9.1
4	SN-04	Gagangi	34.29515	75.20606	1315 hrs	10	8.6
5	SN-05	Shulkadi Bridge d/s	34.30401	75.26242	1340hrs	10	8

		of Sonmarg					
6	SN-06	Sindh Nallah Sonmarg	34.30843	75.27668	1435hrs	9	8.5
7	SN-07	U/s of Sonmarg near Fish Pond	34.29633	75.32087	1510hrs	8	9

**Table 1B: Details of Sampling Locations in the Identified Drains leading to Sindh Nalla monitored by CPCB Team on May 4, 2026**

S.No	Station Code	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Time of sampling
1	DSN-01	Kangan Drain	34.26215	74.89979	1115 hrs
2	DSN-02	Drain Adjacent to Hotel Glacier/Tajwas, Sonmarg (Leading to Sindh Nallah)	34.30763	75.27945	1430 hrs
3	DSN-03	Drain near Army Transit Camp, Sonmarg (Leading to Sindh Nallah)	34.30265	75.28858	1500 hrs
4	DSN-04	Wussen Village drain near IOCL pump leading to Sindh Nallah	34.28363	74.84648	1730 hrs

- iv. The spatial distribution of the sampling location is shown in **Annexure-3**.
- v. In-situ measurement of temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) was performed for all seven sampling locations at the time of collection and the results are summarized in **Table 1**.
- vi. The collected samples were preserved at site and sent to CPCB Head Office Laboratory for analysis on 06/04/2026.

- vii. The 1.2 MLD STP, Sonamarg was found still under installation and it was informed by the representatives of the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) that it'll take 02 months' time to complete the installation of STP. The SDA has not yet obtained Consent to Establish (CTE) from J&K PCC.

**3.0. Submission:**

The analysis of water samples collected by CPCB is under progress and the results of analysis are expected by May 30, 2026.

In view of the above, it is humbly submitted that the aforesaid progress/status report of CPCB may kindly be taken on record and 03 weeks may be granted for submission of the final report along with status of water quality of Sindh Nalla.



**Nazimuddin**  
**Scientist 'F'**  
**Central Pollution Control Board**  
**15.05.2026**

Item No. 15

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 1119/2024  
(IA No 531/2025)

News Item Titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted Trout Habitat Threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024

Versus

Central Pollution Control Board &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 09.02.2026

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondents: Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv. for UT of J&K (Through VC)  
Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda, Adv. with Mr. Nazimuddin (Through VC),  
Scientist 'F', CPCB  
Dr. R. Gopinath, Member Secretary, J&K PCC (Through VC)

**ORDER**

1. In this original application, the Tribunal is examining the issue of pollution in Sindh Nala in Ganderbal District of Kashmir affecting the trout fish farming in that area especially in reference to the fact that the Sindh Nala was a source of fresh water for trout fish farming.

2. The latest report dated 06.02.2026 filed by the CPCB states that Sindh Nala is a major tributary of Jhelum River in Kashmir valley stretching about 108km in length. Its details are given in the report as under:

**“2. ACTION TAKEN IN COMPLIANCE TO THE DIRECTIONS OF  
HON'BLE NGT**

**2.1 About Sindh Nallah**

*Sindh Nallah is a major tributary of the Jhelum river in the Kashmir Valley, stretching about 108 km in length. It originates from the Machoi glacier near Sonamarg at an elevation of approximately 4,800 meters. Flowing through Sonamarg, Kangan, and Ganderbal, the river ultimately joins the Jhelum river at Shadipura. Sindh Nallah plays a vital role in the region by supplying water for drinking, irrigation, and*

hydroelectric power generation. Schematic diagram of Sindh Nallah is shown in Fig 1.

3. The report states that a joint visit of Sindh Nala from Wayil to Sonamarg was conducted by the team of CPCB and J&KPCC on 18.12.2025 and during the said joint visit, following was observed:

**“3.0 Findings/Observations of CPCB Team regarding sources of pollution and remedial actions taken:**

1. *Solid Waste Treatment Facility is installed at Chinner village, Panchayat Halqa Wussan (B), Kangan Block, which is located in close proximity to Sindh Nallah. The facility was found non-operational.*
2. *Solid Waste Management Facility is installed at Surfraw-B, Gund Block, which located near Sindh Nallah. The facility was found non-operational.*
3. *Solid Waste Management Facility is installed at Sarbal, Sonamarg, which is located near Sindh Nallah. The facility was found operational. The condition of the facility indicated that it is not operated regularly therefore regular monitoring is required.*
4. *Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Sonamarg of 1.2 MLD capacity, based on MBBR technology, for treatment of sewage generated from Sonmarg was found under construction. The Consent to Establish (CTE) from J&K PCC for this project was not obtained.*
5. *J&K PCC has identified three (03) drains merging into Sindh Nallah namely (i) drain near 254 transit camp, Sonamarg (ii) drain near Thajwas hotel (iii) drain from main market Kangan. At the time of inspection, no water polluting activity was observed in and around these drains. However, accumulation of garbage was observed during visit in the drain merging into Sindh Nallah near Thajwas hotel.*
6. *Garbage dumping was observed near natural drain - Gund Nallah, which is a tributary/drain contributing to Sindh Nallah.*
7. *After the site visit, CPCB vide letter dated 29.12.2025 requested J&K PCC to furnish the additional information regarding Waste Management; Updated status of actions taken by various agencies, STPs details and Analysis report of identified drains. Copy of the letter is enclosed as Annexure II*
8. *In response, J&K PCC has submitted response vide letter dated 29.01.2026 which furnished, i.) names and geo-coordinates of identified drains; ii.) J&K PCC order dated 03.12.2025 for levying Environmental Compensation of Rs*

*222.65 Lakhs to BDO Kangan; and iii.) water quality data of Sindh Nallah. Copy of response submitted by J&K PCC is enclosed as Annexure-III.*

9. *The water quality data of Sindh Nallah, as provided by J&K PCC is given in Annexure IV. The water quality report of Sindh Nallah for the month of December, 2025 at five locations namely i.) Wayil; ii.) Mammarr; iii.) Gagangeer; iv.) Sonamarg d/s and v.) Sonamarg u/s, as provided by J&K PCC indicates the compliance with water quality criteria specified for uses Drinking Water Source without conventional treatment but after disinfection (Class A), Outdoor bathing (Organized) (Class B), Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection (Class C) and Propagation of Wild life and Fisheries (Class D). The water quality criteria specified by CPCB for various uses based on pH, concentration of Dissolved Oxygen, BOD and Total Coliform is enclosed as Annexure-V.”*

4. The above observations reveal that the STPs are either not functioning or under construction. The under construction STP of 1.2 MLD at Sonamarg even does not have the CTE from the J&KPCC. The report further reveals that there are three drains which merge in Sindh Nala and the garbage dump was also observed near natural drain – Gund Nallah which is a tributary of Sindh Nallah. Though the report mentions that EC of Rs. 222.65 Lacks has been imposed upon the BDO, Kangan, but there is no disclosure about the recovery of the said EC. Alongwith the report, CPCB has enclosed the water quality data of Sindh Nala, but it is based upon the samples taken in December 2025 when the tourist influx in the area was minimum. Hence, CPCB must take the sample in the month of April and ascertain the status of the water quality in Sindh Nala. The report of the CPCB makes following suggestions:

***“4.0 Suggested remedial actions to prevent pollution in Sindh Nallah:***

*The following remedial measures are suggested to prevent pollution of Sindh Nallah:*

1. *The Solid Waste Treatment Facilities at Chinner (Kangan Block) and Surfraw-B (Gund Block) shall be made operational on priority with adequate trained manpower, and the Solid Waste Treatment Facilities at Sarbal (Sonamarg) shall be operated regularly. Segregation of waste at source and proper*

*processing shall be ensured in as per the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016.*

2. *The concerned local bodies shall ensure scientific collection, processing, and disposal of solid waste and prevent dumping in or near Sindh Nallah and its tributaries.*
3. *Garbage dumping near Gund Nallah and garbage accumulated in the drain merging into Sindh Nallah near Thajwas hotel shall be removed immediately, and preventive measures such as fencing, signage, and regular surveillance shall be put in place.*
4. *The STP at Sonamarg (1.2 MLD) shall be installed and operated after obtaining CTE and CTO respectively from J&K PCC, to ensure Time-bound completion and compliance with prescribed standards.*
5. *Water quality monitoring of Sindh Nallah may be carried out regularly by J&K PCC to assess effectiveness of remedial measures and ensure compliance with water quality standards. The identified drains merging into Sindh Nallah may also be monitored by J&K PCC to detect discharge of sewage or waste and take remedial action.”*

5. The Member Secretary, J&KPCC appearing virtually submits that the above recommendations will be duly complied with. Hence, we require the J&KPCC to submit the compliance report atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

6. The CPCB is also directed to file a fresh report keeping in view the observations made above atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

7. List on 19.05.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 09, 2026  
Original Application No. 1119/2024  
(IA No 531/2025)  
dv



Annexure2  
487

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, चण्डीगढ़  
Central Pollution Control Board  
Regional Directorate, Chandigarh

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA)

CPCB/RD/CHD/NGT/26/178

29 अप्रैल, 2026

सेवा में,

सदस्य सचिव,  
जम्मू एवं कश्मीर प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति (J&KPCC)  
परिवेश भवन, वन परिसर, ग्लैडनी, ट्रांसपोर्टनगर, नरवाल, जम्मू  
जम्मू और कश्मीर 180012  
ईमेल: [membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com](mailto:membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com)

**विषय:** माननीय राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय के OA संख्या 1119/2024 के मामले में दिनांक 09/02/2026 के आदेशों का अनुपालन।

**Subject:** Compliance of the orders of Hon'ble NGT dated 09/02/2026 in the matter of OA No. 1119 of 2024; News Item Titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted Trout Habitat Threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir dated 19.08.2024

महोदय/Sir,

यह माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण के दिनांक 09/02/2026 के आदेश के संदर्भ में है, जो OA संख्या 1119/2024 के मामले में है, जिसमें माननीय NGT ने CPCB और J&KCC द्वारा प्रस्तुत रिपोर्टों पर विचार करते हुए निम्नलिखित टिप्पणियां की हैं:

This has reference of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 09/02/2026 in the matter of OA No. 1119 of 2024, wherein Hon'ble NGT while considering the reports filed by CPCB and J&KCC has made the following observations:

**Para 04:** *The above observations reveal that the STPs are either not functioning or under construction. The under construction STP of 1.2 MLD at Sonamarg even does not have the CTE from the J&KPCC. The report further reveals that there are three drains which merge in Sindh Nala and the garbage dump was also observed near natural drain – Gund Nallah which is a tributary of Sindh Nallah. Though the report mentions that EC of Rs. 222.65 Lacks has been imposed upon the BDO, Kangan, but there is no disclosure about the recovery of the said EC. Alongwith the report, CPCB has enclosed the water quality data of Sindh Nala, but it is based upon the samples taken in December 2025 when the tourist influx in the area was minimum. Hence, CPCB must take the sample in the month of April and ascertain the status of the water quality in Sindh Nala. The report of the CPCB makes following suggestions:.....”*

29/04/26

*Para 05: The Member Secretary, J&KPCC appearing virtually submits that the above recommendations will be duly complied with. Hence, we require the J&KPCC to submit the compliance report atleast one week before the next date of hearing.*

माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण ने दिनांक 09/02/2024 के आदेश में निम्नलिखित निर्देश जारी किए हैं:

The following directions have been issued by Hon'ble NGT in the order dated 09/02/2024:

*Para 06: The CPCB is also directed to file a fresh report keeping in view the observations made above atleast one week before the next date of hearing.*

The CPCB team, during visits in other matters related to OA No. 74 of 2026 and OA No. 93 of 2026 from 04/04/2026 to 08/04/2026, could not undertake sampling due to extensive landslides at multiple locations in J&K. Accordingly, in compliance with the above orders of the Hon'ble NGT, a CPCB team comprising Dr. Narender Sharma, Regional Director; Er. Shubham Kumar, Scientific Assistant; and Shri Arman Sudan, Field Attendant, will visit Sindh Nalah from **03-04 May, 2026** to collect samples from various locations, including the five sites monitored by J&K PCC during December 2025 namely (i) Wayil, (ii) Mammarr, (iii) Gagangeer, (iv) Sonamarg downstream, and (v) Sonamarg u/s.

In this regard, you are requested to kindly depute concerned official (s) of J&K PCC looking after the area under reference to join CPCB team on **May 4, 2026** for assisting the team in locating the sampling points besides verification of other points mentioned in compliance to the orders of Hon'ble NGT.

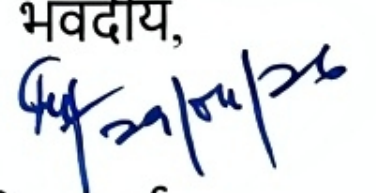
नियुक्त अधिकारी/अधिकारियों के संपर्क विवरण कृपया मोबाइल नंबर 9814004377 और ईमेल: narendersharma.cpcb@gov.in पर भेजें।

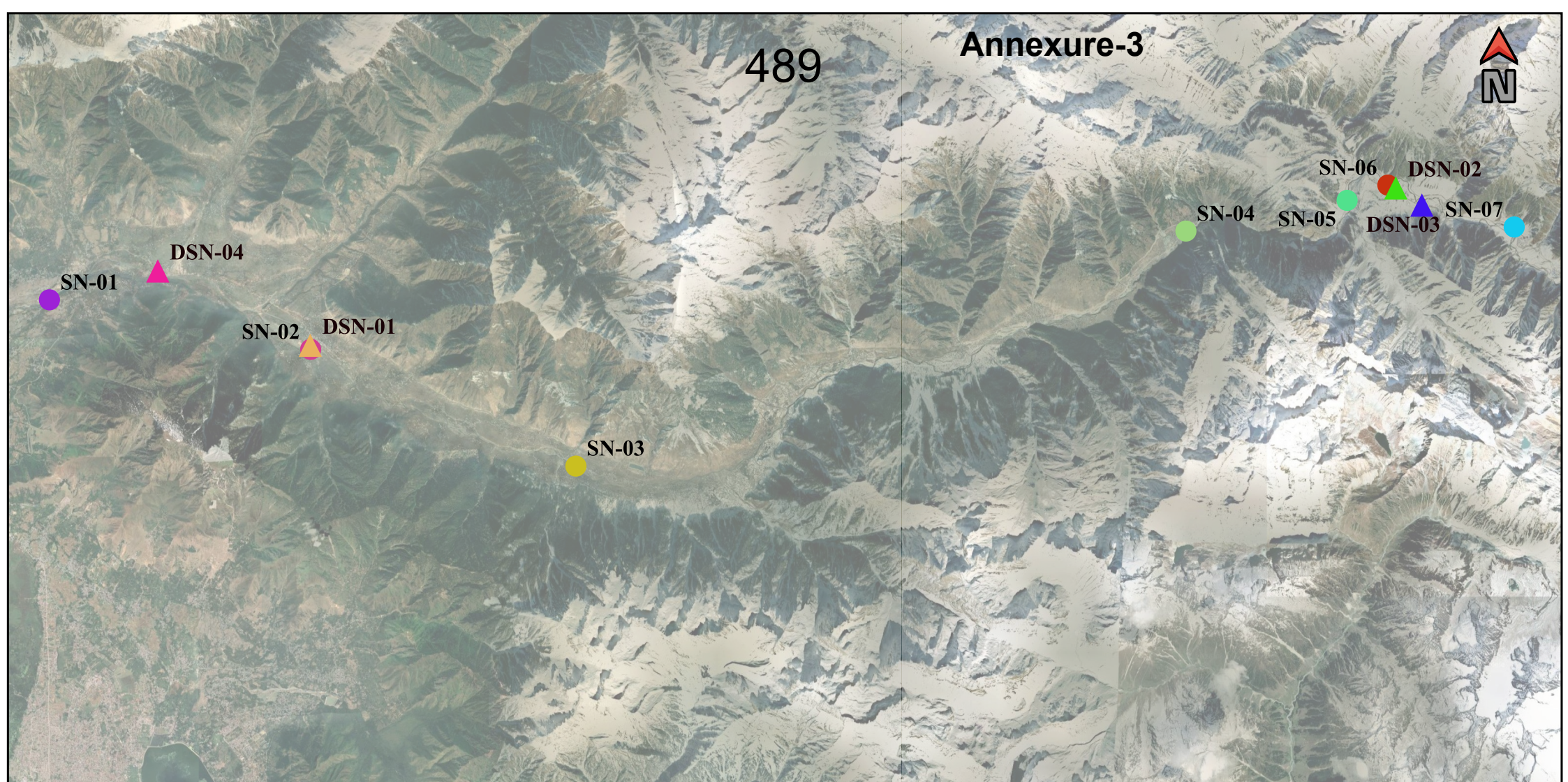
The contact details of the deputed official (s) may please be communicated at Mobile No. 9814004377 and Email: [narendersharma.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:narendersharma.cpcb@gov.in).

कृपया इसे अत्यंत अत्यावश्यक माना जाए, क्योंकि यह एनजीटी का समयबद्ध मामला है।

This may kindly be treated as **Most Urgent**, being a time bound NGT Matter.

धन्यवाद ,

भवदीय,  
  
 (डॉ. नरेंद्र शर्मा)  
 क्षेत्रीय निदेशक



**Sampling Locations across Sindh Nallah**

- SN-01 Whail Bridge
- SN-02 Kangan Akhal Bridge
- SN-03 JKTDC HAUT Mammer
- SN-04 Gagangir
- SN-05 Shutkadi Bridge d/s of Sonmarg
- SN-06 Sindh Nallah Sonmarg
- SN-07 U/s of Sonmarg near Fish Pond

**Drains Leading to Sindh Nallah**

- ▲ DSN-01 Kangan Drain
- ▲ DSN-02 Drain Adjacent to Hotel Glacier/Tajwas, Sonmarg (Leading to Sindh Nallah)
- ▲ DSN-03 Drain near Army Transit Camp, Sonmarg (Leading to Sindh Nallah)
- ▲ DSN-04 Wussen Village drain near IOCL pump leading to Sindh Nallah

Basemap (Google Satellite)