

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

**Original Application No.
543/2024**

In the matter of:

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Petitioner

V/S

MoEF

Respondents

IN THE MATTER OF:- Response for and on behalf of Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the above titled OA no. 543/2024 in terms of the order dated 18.07.2025.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS:-

The respondent Corporation herein humbly submit as under:

1. That it is submitted that the above titled Original Application which is pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal deals with the issue of improper waste management within the limits of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. In this regard it is submitted that the averments made in the Original Application are exaggerated and do not represent the actual state of affairs of waste management within the limits of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. In this regard the respondent Corporation submits the instant response in the form of the Action Plan as developed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation for the effective management of Solid Waste within its municipal limits.
2. That it is respectfully submitted that Latest report dated 16.07.2025 filed by Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) reflects the following status:-


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- i. *The site comprises of three waste cells. The first and third cell was found uncapped, with approximately 500 MT/day of waste is being dumped there.*
 - ii. *No segregation activity observed at site during the visit. The Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) for leachate management was nonfunctional, and the waste segregator was also found non operational.*
 - iii. *Around 30 rag pickers were seen working at the dumping area and it has been observed that rag pickers were picking manually recyclable materials such as plastic and discarded aluminium 2 cans/tins. As per inputs from the rag pickers, each individual collects approximately 30 kg of waste daily.*
 - iv. *The civil work of extension part of segregation shed has been completed. However, no functional machinery has been found installed yet. Only non-operational equipment was found at the site. The legacy waste found still unprocessed and continues to accumulate."*
3. That it is respectfully submitted that order dated 18.07.2025 passed in **Original Application No. 543/2024** the operative portion whereof reads as under:-

Learned Counsel appearing for respondent no.9-Srinagar, Municipal Corporation seeks four weeks' time to respond to the report of the J&KPCC.

Learned Counsel for the applicant submits that along with rejoinder dated 17.07.2025, applicant has placed on record relevant material indicating the violation by Srinagar, Municipal Corporation.

It will be open to the Srinagar, Municipal Corporation to respond to the material disclosed in the rejoinder also within four weeks.

Four Weeks' time to file the reply by the other respondents is also allowed.

4. That it is respectfully submitted that this Compliance report is being filed in pursuance of the Hon'ble Tribunal's order dated **16.07.2025**, wherein the observations of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) regarding the status of Achan landfill were recorded.
5. That it is respectfully submitted the Hon'ble Tribunal noted deficiencies including lack of segregation, non-functional

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Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), ragpickers operating without safety, and accumulation of legacy waste.

6. That it is respectfully submitted that **Time-Bound Action Plan (submitted in December 2024)** and the **undertaking of the Commissioner, (submitted in July 2025) SMC** to complete all projects by **March 2027**, this report details the current status of compliance.

1.. Status of Compliance against Tribunal's Observations

Observation 1: Uncapped waste cells with ~500 MT/day dumping

- **Action Taken:** Work on **Bio-Mining of Legacy Waste** has commenced under an awarded tender.
- **Target:** 5 lakh MT of legacy waste to be processed by **December 2026**, with full remediation and land reclamation by **September 2027**.
- **Current Status:** Initial bio-mining operations started; segregation and recovery of recyclables underway.

Observation 2: No segregation activity at site; waste segregator non-operational

- **Action Taken:** A **100 TPD MRF** facility is functional at Achan with proper log books maintained for incoming waste, segregation, and recyclable recovery.
- **Current Status:** Segregation resumed at MRF; further machinery installation under progress.
- **Future Commitment:** Full operationalization of expanded MRF by **December 2026**.

Observation 3: Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) non-functional; leachate untreated

- **Action Taken:** Vendor under biominning RFP has integrated **leachate management solutions**.
- ETP upgraded and is now functional with supplementary **bio-enzymatic treatment**.
- **Current Status:** Continuous monitoring of leachate quality being undertaken

Observation 4: Rag pickers manually extracting recyclables

- **Action Taken:** Waste picker survey completed under **CITIIS 2.0**.
- Plan finalized to integrate rag pickers into organized MRF operations with safety measures and livelihood linkages.
- **Current Status:** Informal workers engaged at landfill being relocated towards MRF-based recovery chains.

Observation 5: Legacy waste still unprocessed and accumulating


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- **Action Taken:** As noted above, **bio-mining operations initiated.**
- The **800 TPD Integrated SWM DPR**, covering RDF, CBG, expanded MRF, and landfill remediation, has been **vetted by NIT Srinagar.**
- A **Cabinet Note for Administrative Approval** has been submitted.
- Timeline: By **March 2027**, 100% scientific waste processing will be achieved.

3. Additional Measures Undertaken

- **C&D Waste Facility (125 TPD):** Tender awarded, construction commenced, operationalization expected within FY 2025–26.
- **Buffer Zone Development:** **3,200 trees** planted at Achan; **10,000 more plantations** targeted by March 2027.
- **Odour and Dust Control:** Anti-odour sprays, bio-enzymes, fumigation, and water sprinkling being carried out regularly.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:**
 - Quarterly review meetings held with regulators.
 - Real-time monitoring dashboard under development by SMC IT.

4. Conclusion & Commitment

4.1 SMC respectfully submits that significant corrective actions have been initiated in line with the Hon'ble Tribunal's directions.

4.2 The corporation reiterates its commitment, as undertaken earlier, to ensure **completion of all waste management projects by March 2027**, resulting in:

- 100% scientific waste processing,
- Closure of unscientific dumping at Achan, and
- Restoration of the environment in compliance with SWM Rules, 2016.

7. That it is submitted that while the failure of the Waste-to-Energy project was a setback for the city's solid waste management efforts, SMC has responded with a robust action plan that leverages alternative waste processing technologies and infrastructure development under SBM 2.0 and CITIIS 2.0. It is submitted that legacy waste remediation, coupled with the proposed expansion of waste processing capacity, will ensure that Srinagar achieves 100% scientific processing of its waste by 2026. In this regard the respondent Corporation will try to ensure timely project execution, stakeholder engagement, and enforcement of SWM rules, which it is humbly submitted will be key to achieving the city's waste management goals.


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9. That the respondent Corporation craves the leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to supplement the instant response with compliance / status reports as and when required or directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
10. That the instant response is supported by a duly sworn affidavit.

Respondent Corporation
through Counsel

Place: _____
Dated: __/09/2025


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Respondents

IN THE MATTER OF: Affidavit in support of the response.

I, Pqr Ltd Haseeb presently posted as
Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation do hereby
solemnly affirm and declare on Oath as under:-

1. That the enclosed response has been drafted at my instance, as such, I am conversant with the facts as set out in the enclosed response.
2. That whatever has been stated in the enclosed application are true and correct, and based on the official record perused by me, and nothing has been concealed therein.

Verification:

Verified that the averments made in this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed herein above.


Dependent
Srinagar Municipal Corporation


Dependent
Commissioner
Srinagar Municipal Corporation