

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

Original Application No. 294/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Court on its own motion

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh and others.

....Respondents

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[Signature]
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT KULLU. (H.P.)

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
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Place: Kullu
Date: 13/01/2026


DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
Kullu District, Kullu, H.P.

**Filed through counsel for
respondent no. 4 & 6**



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

Original Application No. 294/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Court on its own motion

.....Petitioner

Versus

1. Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board
2. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi
3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Dehradun
4. Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, District Kullu.

.....Respondents

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Kullu

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT KULLU. (H.P.)

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

OA No. 294/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Court on its own motion: New item titled "From paradise to landfill? Video viral shows famous Himachal Pradesh Hill Station turned into garbage dump" appearing in economic times dated 30.05.2025

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh & Ors.

.....Respondents

RESPONSE BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT IN
COMPLIANCE OF ORDERS DATED
13.11.2025 ON BEHALF OF CHIEF
SECRETARY, HIMACHAL PRADESH &
RESPONDENT No. 4 i.e DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT KULLU, H.P.

Most respectfully sheweth:-

I, Torul S. Raveesh, daughter of Shri Balbir Singh, aged 39 years residing at Deputy Commissioner Residence, Dhalpur, Tehsil & District Kullu H.P.

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Kullu

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT KULLU, (H.P.)

presently posted as Deputy Commissioner Kullu, District Kullu (H.P.) do hereby solemnly affirm on oath as under:

Preliminary submissions:-

That the District Administration, Kullu, is fully conscious of the environmental sensitivity of the Parvati Valley, which forms part of the ecologically fragile Himalayan zone, and is proactively taking steps, through the Rural Development Department and the Special Area Development Authority to address issues of waste management in the Manikaran-Kasol area, such as seasonal surges in waste generation, logistical constraints in transporting waste to other sites, and the absence of large-scale disposal sites. There has been no deliberate action or violation of statutory duties as laid down under the Solid Waste Management Rules- 2016.

Reply on Merits:-

1. That, taking cognizance of the unauthorized garbage dumping in Kasol area, the Member Secretary, H.P. State Pollution Control Board, Kullu has imposed penalties amounting Rs. 1,90,000/- on dated 01/06/2025 and Rs. 1,00,000/- on dated 10/06/2025, total Rs. 2,90,000/- (Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand only) in SADA Manikaran and same has been deposited by them. Furthermore, Regional Officer,

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H.P. State Pollution Control Board, Kullu has conducted multiple inspections and issued strict notices/warnings to SADA Manikaran for taking corrective measures.

2. That, after the amendment to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which came into force w.e.f. 01.04.2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India vide Notification dated 04.11.2024 is annexed herewith (**Annexure R-1**) has appointed the Secretary-in-charge, Environment Department of the State as Adjudicating Officer under section 15-C of the aforesaid Act for holding of inquiry and imposition of the penalty. The procedure to hold the inquiry has been prescribed in the Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024 issued by the MoEF&CC vide notification dated 6.11.2024 is annexed herewith as (**Annexure R-2**). As per Rule-3 of the said Rules, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Commission for Air Quality Management and Integrated Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC, Gol in their respective jurisdictions, through their authorized Officers, or any other persons, may file a complaint in Form-I through electronic means or speed post or by hand to the Adjudicating Officer


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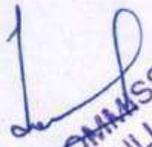
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regarding any contravention committed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. That, Adjudicating Officer-cum-Secretary (Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change), has initiated an inquiry for contravention of provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. In this regard, the Regional Officer HP State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) Kullu (who has been authorized by the HPSPCB to file a complaint) has been asked vide letter dated 10-12-2025 to submit a formal complaint on prescribed Form-I against the violators for holding inquiry in accordance with amended provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Copy of letter dated 10-12-2025 is annexed as **Annexure R-3**.

4. That, Regional Officer, HPSPCB Kullu has submitted the complaint dated 23.12.2025 on Form-I to the Adjudicating Officer against the violators i.e. SADA Manikaran and its contractor. Accordingly notices have been issued to the contraveners on dated 08.01.2026 in prescribed Form-II. Copies of notices are annexed as **Annexure R-4**.

5. That, the role and responsibilities of Deputy Commissioner have been defined in Rule


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12(a)(b) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2015. As per the relevant provisions of the said rule Deputy Commissioner shall facilitate identification and allotment of suitable land for setting up solid waste processing and disposal facilities to local authorities in his district. Accordingly, the Respondent No. 4 has provided all the required assistance to the urban local bodies to identify the suitable land for waste disposal sites and further support and assistance in preparation of forest land diversion cases under FCA-1980 as well. Further more, considering the seriousness of the issue, a special meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Respondent No. 4 with the concerned stakeholders of District Kullu on 18.12.2025 to deliberate upon the steps required to resolve issues related to the identification of Solid Waste Management sites, collection, segregation, treatment and disposal of garbage etc. The proceedings of the meeting is attached as **Annexure R-5**.

6. That, the present status of SWM facilities w.r.t. all the urban local bodies of District Kullu are as under:-

(i)Municipal Council Manali-

Municipal Council Manali has a dedicated SWM site at Rangri which is fully functional and MC Manali is doing the work of garbage collection and

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transportation through its contractor. Presently, MC Manali has made substantial progress in segregation of garbage at source in the jurisdiction of municipal area. However, in addition to municipal area, Rangri site caters to entire area of tourism Development Council Manali, SADA Rohtang and Solang. Now efforts are being made to ensure segregation at source in TDC and SADA area as well.

(ii) Municipal Council Kullu-

Municipal Council Kullu had a dedicated SWM site at Pirdi which was closed in 2017 by the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Since then, the garbage of MC Kullu was sent to Manali for disposal. But due to certain constraints now MC Manali is not taking the garbage from other areas. After this decision of MC Manali now, MC Kullu has constructed a Material Recovery Facility at Sarwari which is presently functional. All the required machineries i.e. Shredders, Composter, Bailer etc have been installed at MRF site Sarwari. In addition to it, a proposal of Bio-Gas plant has been prepared and forwarded to the Director Urban Development, Himachal Pradesh. Adequate land is available at Lanka Bekar and same has been diverted in favour of MC Kullu under FRA-2006. After the commissioning

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of proposed Bio-Gas plant the processing of wet waste can be done there and dry waste can be processed at MRF Sarwari. Presently, 96 door to door sanitation workers have been deployed for waste collection. The wet and dry waste is being collected separately from each household. The waste is segregated and stored in separate compartments within four garbage collection vehicles; in some vehicles, plastic drums have also been installed for this purpose. The collected waste is transported to the Material Recovery Facility site, where it is processed through composter machine. In addition to it, another site has been identified at Gram Panchayat Jia which is 8-10 km away from MC area. Though this site is suitable for MC Kullu and Nagar Panchayat Bhuntar both yet, there are certain logistical constraints due to lack of road connectivity. This issue has been taken up with Urban Development Department and further action will be taken as per the directions of UDD. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kullu has also submitted a compliance report vide his letter No. 3433/SDM dated 08.01.2026 that preliminary estimates have been sought from the Executive Engineer (Mechanical), Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department. It is further reported that the proposal shall be finalized based on the financial

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implications. A copy of the said letter is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-6**

(iii) Nagar Panchayat Bhunter:-

That, Nagar Panchayat Bhunter has a MRF site in ward no. 06 near mela ground which is fully functional and being used for processing of dry and wet waste both. An present, 32 workers have been deployed for door to door waste collection and three vehicles have been engaged for the separate collection of dry and wet waste. The dry collected garbage is being transported to the Ultra Tech Cement Plant, Bagha, district Solan. Furthermore, 5-6 sites were identified for setting up SWM facility for Nagar Panchayat Bhuntar and after multiple joint inspections and assessment of the sites, a site has been finalized at Shadhabai. The land of proposed site belongs to HPSEBL Limited and Nagar Panchayat Bhuntar has taken up the case with the Director, Urban Development Department for further necessary action. (Annexure – R 7)

(iv) Nagar Panchayat Banjar:-

That, a site has been identified at Larji, Gram Panchayat Talara and FCA case is under process. At present 14 workers have been deployed for door to

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door waste collection and one vehicle has been engaged for the collection of dry and wet waste. Ward- wise pits are available for the disposal of wet garbage. The collected dry waste is being transported to the Ultra Tech Cement Plant, Bagha, district Solan.

(v)Nagar Panchayat Nirmand:-

That, a site has been indentified at Chilla Naal Gram Panchayat Gadej and the proceedings under the FCA are under process. At present, 08 workers have been deployed for door to door garbage collection/segregation and one vehicle has been engaged for the collection of dry and wet waste. Further, the collected garbage is being transported to Rampur ULB for scientific disposal of dry and wet waste.

7. That, in compliance of the statutory duties of the Deputy Commissioner mentioned in Rule 12, regular review meetings are being convened to address the issues related to availability of land, collection, segregation, processing and disposal of garbage in ULBs. All such issues are regularly reviewed in the quarterly meetings of Distt. Environment Committee as well as special review meetings. Since 2020, twenty six (26) meetings of District Environment Committee


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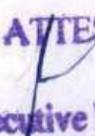
have been held in district Kullu and 2 special review meetings of ULBs have been convened.

8. That, alongwith urban local bodies, systematic interventions are being made to address the issues of solid and liquid waste management in the rural areas under Swachh Bharat Mission. Under this scheme, segregation sheds are being constructed in every panchayat and Plastic Waste Management Units are being established in every Block. The detailed status of district Kullu is as under:

SWM Community Assets:-

Block	No.of Community Compost Pits	No. of Segregation Shed
Anni	93	25
Banjar	84	34
Bhunter	42	42
Kullu	52	36
Naggar	11	24
Nirmand	26	26
Total	308	187


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DISTRICT KULLU. (H P)

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Status of Plastic Management Units (PWMU)

Block	Location	Status
Nirmand	Khoba (Brow) Forest land	In Principal approval has been granted by the GoI.
	Kuni Khad	FCA case is pending at state Nodal office, Shimla .
Banjar	Chhninala	FCA case is pending at state Nodal office, Shimla.
	Hamni near Fish Farm	In - Principal approval has been granted by the GoI.
Bhunter/Kullu	Kasol	In-Principal approval has been granted by


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		<p>the GoI. Construction work of shed is in progress.</p> <p>Processed for final approval pending at RO Office Chandigarh.</p>
Naggar	Jatehad Bihal	<p>A new site identified at Jatehad Bihal and submitted for land clearance under FRA. Case is pending at DFO level.</p>
	Bahang	<p>FCA Case is pending at UA and FRA is pending at RO level.</p>


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9. That, it is submitted that the Gram Panchayat Kasol has been notified to be a part of Manikaran Special Area by Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh and subsequently, vide notification No.TCP-F(5)-9/2002-Loose dated 04.03.2024, Special Area Development Authority has been constituted as per the provisions of H.P. Town and Country Planning Act, 1977. A copy of the notification has been appended as **Annexure R-8**.
10. That, 0.1982 hectare land was identified by the District Administration in Gram Panchayat Kasol and a FCA case was prepared by Rural Development Department (through BDO Bhunter) for diversion of the forest land for establishment of Solid Waste Management Site. Thus, In-principle approval has been granted by MoEFCC (GOI) for the same under the provisions of FCA, 1980. It is brought to the knowledge of the Hon'ble Court that an agreement / MOU has been made between Healing Himalayas Foundation and Director, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department for the purpose of carrying out information, education and communication activities in the area of operation as well as the management of proposed solid waste


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management plant at Kasol. The construction work of Solid Waste Management Plant is in progress under the convergence model, for which funds have been given by the Department of Environment, Science & Technology (25.60 Lakh), Swachh Bharat Mission (16.00 Lakh) SADA Manikaran (36.00 Lakh). Presently, the civil work of the MRF site is in advanced stage and likely to be completed by mid February. Furthermore, tender process of the procurement of machineries has also been completed through competitive bidding process and supply order has been placed to the concerned bidders. Additionally, a vessel based composter machine is being provided by HDFC Bank under its corporate social responsibility schemes. Therefore, all the processes are in pipeline and being monitored regularly so that MRF site could be commissioned at the earliest.

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11. That, another meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Respondent No. 4 with the concerned stakeholders on 03.01.2026 to deliberate upon the steps required to resolve issues relating to the status of the alleged dumping spot and solid waste dumped near the MRF site Kasol, the progress of construction of the said site, the current practices of solid waste collection and disposal by SADA, Manikaran and the steps taken

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by SADA, Manikaran, for the removal of solid waste dumping hotspots in the SADA, Manikaran area. The Member Secretary SADA apprised that presently SADA Manikaran is collecting dry solid waste in garbage bags from the households and same is being sent directly to the cement plant for further disposal. Furthermore, mixed waste is being sent to JUPITER INFRA plant at Panchkula for the final disposal. The Member Secretary, SADA has further apprised that all the littered/dumped waste near proposed MRF facility has also been removed. In addition to it SDM Kullu has apprised that 04 possible sites have also been identified for temporary disposal of solid waste and feasibility of the same are being assessed by SADA and revenue field agencies. Further, directions were issued to the concerned stakeholders to take immediate action in order to resolve the issues as per the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-9**.

Therefore, in view of the submissions made hereinabove, the replying respondents have taken all the steps to perform their statutory functions as per the provisions of Solid Waste Management rules, 2016. The replying respondents being instrumentalities of the state are bound to perform their duties and also


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committed to conserve the pristine and eco-sensitive areas of the state from unorganized tourism activities, unscientific garbage disposal and resultant environmental pollution. The state of Himachal Pradesh through its instrumentalities will take effective steps to save the fragile mountain ecosystems by all ways and means. The mandate of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, shall be adhered to in letter and spirit with more intensive IEC activities, augmentation of existing waste management facilities and execution of the projects which are in pipeline. Therefore, keeping in view the steps taken by all the stakeholder departments, it is humbly prayed that present proceedings may kindly be terminated please.


Deponent,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT KULLU, (H P)

Verification: -

I, the above named deponent do further verify the contents of Para No. 1 to 11 of the affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information as derived from the official record. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu

Verified at Kullu today on dated /01/2026.

Date:
Place: - Kullu

Deponent

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT KULLU, (H P)

Through Penal Advocate,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
Principal Bench, New Delhi.

This documents was presented to me for Attestation today Sh. *M.S. Torul S. Raveesh* who was identified by Sh. *Sanjeev Kumar* who is personally known to me. The contents of the documents was read over and explained to the dependent who admit and accepts them to be true & correct. hence attested

Executive Magistrate
Kullu (H.P.)

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 4th November, 2024

S.O. 4790(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These rules may be called the Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024.

(2) They shall come into force on 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 (29 of 1986);

(b) "adjudicating officer" means an officer appointed under section 15C of the Act;

(c) "form" means a form appended to these rules.

(2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act

3. **Complaint.**—The Central Pollution Board, State Pollution Control Boards, Pollution Control Committees, Commission for Air Quality Management and Integrated Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in their respective jurisdictions, through their authorized Officers, or any other persons, may file a complaint in Form-I through electronic means or speed post or by hand to the adjudicating officer regarding any contravention committed under sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Act.

4. **Holding of Inquiry.**—(1) For the purpose of adjudication under section 15C of the Act whether any person has committed any contravention as specified in that section, the adjudicating officer within thirty days from the date of receipt of the complaint shall, issue a notice in Form-II to such person requiring him to show cause within such period as may be specified in the notice (being not less than fifteen days from the date of service thereof) why an inquiry should not be held against him.

(2) Every notice under sub-rule (1) shall indicate the nature of contravention alleged to have been committed.

(3) After considering the cause, if any, shown by such person, the adjudicating officer is of the opinion that an inquiry should be held, he shall issue a notice requiring the appearance of that person personally or through a legal representative duly authorised by him on such date as may be fixed in the notice.

(4) On the date fixed, the adjudicating officer shall explain to the person proceeded against or his authorised legal representative, the contravention, committed by such person and the provision of the Act, in respect of which contravention is alleged to have been committed.

(5) The adjudicating officer shall, then, give an opportunity to such person to produce such documents or evidence under Form-III as he may consider relevant to the inquiry and if necessary, the hearing may be adjourned to a future date and in taking such evidence the adjudicating officer shall not be bound to observe the provisions of the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023).

(6) While holding an inquiry under this rule, the adjudicating officer may require and enforce the attendance of any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case to give evidence or to produce any document which in the opinion of the adjudicating officer may be useful for or relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.

(7) If any person fails, neglects or refuses to appear as required under sub-rule (3) before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer may proceed with the inquiry in the absence of such person after recording the reasons for doing so.

(8) If, upon consideration of the evidence produced before the adjudicating officer, the adjudicating officer is satisfied that the person has committed the contravention, he may by order in writing, impose such penalty under the Act as he considers reasonable.

(9) Every order made under sub-rule (8) shall specify the provision of the Act in respect of which contravention has been committed and shall contain the reasons for imposing the penalty.

(10) A copy of the order made under this rule and all other copies of proceedings shall be supplied free of cost to the complainant and the person against whom the inquiry was held.

(11) The adjudicating officer shall complete the proceeding within six months from the issuance of the notice to the opposite party.

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(12) A notice or an order issued under these rules shall be served on the person against whom an inquiry is held, in any of the following manner;

- (i) by delivering or tendering it to that person or his authorised representative; or
- (ii) by sending it to the person through electronic means or by registered post or speed post to the address of his place of residence or his last known place of residence or the place where he carried on or last carried on, business or personally works or last worked for gain; or
- (iii) if it cannot be served in the manner specified under clauses (i) or (ii), by affixing it on the outer door or some other conspicuous part of the premises in which that person resides or is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally works or has worked for gain.

5. Transfer of complaint.- (1) If the adjudicating officer is of the view or it is made to appear that he does not have jurisdiction to entertain any complaint under these rules, he shall transfer the matter to the adjudicating officer concerned within fifteen days of the receipt of such complaint or information made to him after reasons to be recorded in writing.

(2) The adjudicating officer to whom such case is transferred shall proceed with the inquiry from the stage it is transferred to him.

6. Factors to be considered while determining quantum of penalty.- The adjudicating officer, while adjudicating the quantum of penalty shall have due regard to all or any the following factors in addition to factor stated in sub-section (4) of section 15 C of the Act, namely:

- (a) place of operation of project;
- (b) size of the project whether large, medium or Small;
- (c) category of industry;
- (d) type of contravention or violation such as,-
 - (i) working without prior environment clearance as required under the notification number S.O 1533(E) dated the 14th September, 2006 issued under the Act;
 - (ii) non-compliance of environmental safeguards and standards prescribed under the Act;
 - (iii) violation of conditions of environment clearances granted under the notification referred to in sub-section (i);
 - (iv) non-compliances of orders or directions;
- (e) quantum of deviation or contravention from the standard prescribed under the Act;
- (f) health impacts or loss likely to be caused;
- (g) undue gain or benefit derived out of contravention or non-compliance;
- (h) the amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the contravention or non-compliance;
- (i) the repetitive nature of the contravention or non-compliance;
- (j) any other factor as may be considered by the adjudicating officer to be relevant for the protection of environment.

7. Extension of time. —The adjudicating officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, where there is a reasonable cause for the delay or failure to act, extend any period specified in these rules till such period as he considers reasonable.

8. Order and penalties. —(1) Every order under these rules, shall be dated, signed and communicated to all the parties.

(2) All sums realised by way of penalties under these rules shall be credited to the Environment Protection Fund established under 16 of the Act.

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To,

The Adjudicating Officer,
-Cum-Secretary, Environment, Science & Technology &CC,
Govt of HP Shimla-2

Subject: Complaint under Section 15 and 15-B of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for contravention of its provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

1. Particulars of the Complainant:-

a) Name and Address of the Complainant :

Sunil Sharma, Regional Officer, H.P. State Pollution Control Board, HIMUDA Shopping Complex, Hall No. 5, Beasa More, Kullu, Distt. Kullu HP. Contact No. +91 98171-80663, E-mail ID pcbrokullu1@gmail.com.

b) Name and Address of the Contraveners/Respondents :

i) Sh. Ghanshyam Sharma, Member Secretary, Special Area Development Authority, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planner, Town & Country Planning Office, Kullu at Sarwari near Bus Stand Kullu- HP. 175101. Contact no- 7018157452, E-mail ID tcpkullu@hotmail.com

ii) Sh. Gaurav Malik, M/s Lakshay Total Solutions, Head Office: Shop No. 163, Agro Mall, First Floor, Rohtak-124001. Contact No. 9711178318 E-mail ID tsservice@gmail.com.

2. Particulars of the complaint:-

1. That the complainant is the HP State Pollution Control Board, a statutory body constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and having regulatory powers under Water Act, 1974, Air Act, 1981 and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified under Environmental Protection Act, 1986. The complaint is being filed through Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu who is duly authorized to file the complaint before the Adjudicating Officer under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Copy of office order dated 15-03-2025

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- authorizing the Regional Officers, HPSPCB to file the complaint is annexed as **Annexure C-1**.
- II. That the respondents / contraveners are the SADA Manikaran and its contractor who are responsible for collection and scientific disposal of solid waste in Kasol area under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- III. That the inspection of Kasol and Manikaran area was conducted by the Junior Environmental Engineer of Regional Office, Kullu on 24-05-2025 and during inspection huge quantity of mixed solid waste was found dumped in forest area along the road leading to village Grahan causing foul smell in the vicinity in violation to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. As the area in question falls within the jurisdiction of SADA Manikaran accordingly a show cause notice was issued on 28-05-2025 to the SADA Manikaran with a direction to clear the said solid waste dumping hot spot at Grahan village road and dispose off all waste in scientific manner through authorized facility, ensure 100% collection of solid waste to make the area littering/dumping free and process all the waste on daily basis in scientific manner, ensure compliance of Solid Waste Rules and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. Copy of show cause notice dated 28-05-2025 is annexed as **Annexure-C-2**.
- IV. That thereafter the spot was again inspected by the Regional Officer, HPSPCB Kullu on 02-06-2025 alongwith stakeholders departments i.e. Member Secretary, SADA Manikaran, Range Forest Officer Kasol and Supervisor of SADA contractor in view of the video went on viral on social media platform regarding dumping of solid waste near Kasol wherein workers of SADA Manikaran were found lifting the dumped solid waste from the spot located along the road leading to village Grahan. However mixed solid waste was found dumped at the proposed MRF facility, Kasol. On the basis of joint inspection on 02-06-2025 the SADA Manikaran was directed to lift and process the dumped waste from the spot within 07 days and dispose off the same through authorized facility in a scientific manner. Copy of proceedings of joint inspection is annexed as **Annexure C-3**.

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

V. The State Board vide order dated 12-06-2025 (**Annexure-C-4**) has imposed an Environmental Compensation of Rs 1 Lakh upon the SADA Manikaran as per the orders dated 29-07-2013 passed by Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 256/2013 for dumping of mixed solid waste in the forest area along the road leading to the village Grahan. The SADA Manikaran has deposited the Environmental Compensation of Rs 1 lakh and informed the State Board vide letter dated 16-06-2025, copy annexed as **Annexure C-5**.

VI. That vide letter dated 16-06-2025 (**Annexure C-6**) a reply to the show cause notice dated 28-05-2025 was received from the Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-TCP Planner, Kullu wherein following was stated:-

- (i) *Earlier the site in question was allotted on temporary basis to the contractor i.e. M/s Lakshay Total Solution for collection and segregation of garbage on verbally basis by the Forest Department with the consent of concerned Gram Panchayat Kasol.*
- (ii) *After receiving the complaint against the contractor for non-disposal of garbage waste, showcause notice dated 22.05.2025, 23.05.2025 & 27.05.2025 were issued to the contractor for non-segregation of garbage from old Kasol Bridge to Material Recovery Facility (MRF) site (SWM Plant) and to segregate the legacy waste and removal of the same and clearing the site. Further, the penalties as per condition of the tender document are being imposed for non-satisfactory performance on contractor. The garbage was segregated and thereafter the segregated waste (RDF) has been transported to Cement Factory at Bagha, Tehsil Arki, District Solan HP.*
- (iii) *The plastic item waste segregated from the legacy waste has been sent to the scrap vendors by the contractor. Thereafter, the remaining legacy waste has been shifted to the proposed Solid Waste Management Plant, Kasol. The in-principal approval for diversion of forest land measuring area 0.1982 hac. In favour of Block Development Officer, Kullu has been conveyed by the Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New*

ATTESTED
[Signature]
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

- Delhi vide letter dated 22-11-2024 for proposed Solid Waste Management Site, Kasol.
- (iv) The temporary site has now been cleared and no waste has been kept in open space and the legacy waste stands transported to the proposed Solid Waste Management Plant, Kasol. Further, SADA, Manikaran has already released Rs. 30 Lacs in favour of Block Development Office, Bhunter for construction of proposed Solid Waste Management Plant, Kasol vide letter dated 01.05.2025.
- (v) Now, SADA, Manikaran has already stopped the garbage collection work till the proposed Solid Waste Management Plant, Kasol is fully established. Further, necessary steps for removal of legacy waste are being taken with the co-ordination of other departments and concerned Gram Panchayats.
- VII. The inspection of the site was again conducted by the Officials of the Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu on 18-06-2025 and 01-07-2025 wherein it was found that SADA Manikaran has not completely lifted the waste from the alleged spot and traces of inert waste found lying at site. The waste was also found dumped at the proposed site of MRF facility, Kasol. On the basis of inspection dated 18-06-2025 SADA Manikaran was again directed vide letter dated 21-06-2025 to take immediate action to comply with directions of State Board and scientifically process the remaining dumped solid waste and submit the detail of quantum of processed /disposed solid waste within 7 days, copy of State Boards letter dated 21-06-2025 is annexed as Annexure C-7.
- VIII. That since, the SADA Manikaran had not completely lifted the waste from the site, therefore the State Board, vide letter dated 01-08-2025, again imposed the Environmental Compensation of Rs. 1,90,000/- upon the SADA Manikaran for continuous violation from 25-5-2025 to 01-07-2025 as per methodology approved by the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 593/2017. Copy of order dated 01-08-2025 is annexed as Annexure C-8. The SADA Manikaran vide letter dated 20-08-2025 has informed that Environmental Compensation has been deposited with the State Board. Copy of letter dated 20-08-2025 is annexed as Annexure C-9.

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

- IX. That, thereafter Kasol area was inaccessible from the month of July to September 2025, due to continuous rainfall and cloudburst in district Kullu and the closure of road leading to Kasol near Jachhani. Hence, the Officials of Regional Office, HPSPCB, Kullu could not conduct the inspection during this period.
- X. That the re-inspection of the Special Area Development Authority, Manikaran was conducted by the Regional Office, HPSPCB, Kullu on dated 14.10.2025, 05.12.2025 & 06.12.2025 and during the course of the inspection, following observations were made;

Observations on inspection dated 14.10.2025;

1. The SADA, Manikaran has not completely lifted the legacy waste from the alleged spot. Traces of waste were still found lying at the site; however, no fresh dumping was observed during the inspection.
2. The construction work of retaining wall was going on at the alleged spot.
3. The waste dumped near the proposed Material Recovery Facility, Kasol has not been processed till date.
4. The construction work of the Material recovery facility, Kasol was found to be at initial stage. Foundation pits for the column were found excavated and construction material was lying at the site. **(Photographs taken during the inspection are enclosed as Annexure-C-10).**

Observation on inspection dated 05.12.2025 & 06.12.2025;

1. Legacy waste at the alleged spot was lifted, but littering was observed in surrounding area of alleged spot and construction work of SHEP project was observed at alleged spot.
2. The waste dumped near the proposed MRF site remained unprocessed.
3. MRF construction was at a very initial stage (only the column has been provided at the site).
4. The inspection of the littering hotspots in SADA, Manikaran area was conducted on 06.12.2025 and during the course of the inspection, dumping of solid waste has been observed at various locations near Kasol Entrance, Old Kasol Bridge

ATTESTED

**Executive Magistrate
Kullu**

(Graham Road), MDR-29 near NHPC Colony, Manikaran Bus stand all along the bank of river Parvati. The photographs taken during the inspection are enclosed as **Annexure-C-11**.

In view of the above observations a show cause notice dated 22-12-2025 has been issued to the Member Secretary, SADA-cum-Town & Country Planner, HP & TCP Kullu. The copy of the show cause notice dated 22-12-2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-C-12**.

- XI. That the Hon'ble NGT has also registered a suo moto Original Application No. 294/2025 on the basis of news item published in 'The Economic Times' dated 30-05-2025. The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 13-11-2025 passed directions to the Adjudicating Officer to initiate inquiry under Environment Protection Act, 1986. The copy of news item and copy of order dated 13-11-2025 are annexed as **Annexure C-13 and Annexure C-14**.
- XII. That the aforesaid act and omission on the part of the respondents tantamount to violation of provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and are liable for imposition of penalty specified in the said Act after conducting an inquiry.
- XIII. Evidence in support of statement :
Notices issued to the SADA Manikaran from time to time along with photographs and replies submitted by the SADA Manikaran.
- XIV. Tentative amount of damage in financial terms :
The Contraveners/Respondents may be penalized for maximum penalty as provided under section 15(1) and 15-B of Environmental Protection Act, 1986. The contraveners may also be penalized for additional penalty of continuous contravention from the first violation observed on 24-5-2025 provided under section 15(2) of Environmental Protection Act, 1986 as the authority deemed fit. ✓

Relief Sought:

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

F. No. IA-Z-11013/20/2022-IA-II(IND-I) [177428]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 6th November, 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Circulation of Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024 and the order for appointment of Adjudicating Officer under section 15C of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 - reg.

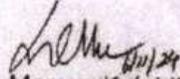
The Central Government has decriminalized the penal provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023.

2. In continuation, the Central Government has issued the Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024 vide notification dated 4th November 2024 and the order dated 4th November 2024 for appointment of Adjudicating Officer under section 15C of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. The undersigned has been directed to forward the copies of the above mentioned Notification and order for information and necessary action.

4. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: As above


(Dr. J.D. Marcus Knight)
Scientist E

To

Principal Secretaries of Environment Departments of all States and UTs

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MOS, EF&CC
3. PPS to Secretary, MoEF&CC
4. PPS to SS(TK)
5. PPS to AS(NPG)/ PPS to AS(AG)
6. PPS to JS(VPM)
7. Website, MoEF&CC/ Guard file

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kulha

No. STE-A(3)-17/2025
 Government of Himachal Pradesh
 Department of Environment, Science Technology & Climate Change

From

The Secretary (Env.Sci.Tech.&CC) to the
 Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

✓ The Member Secretary,
 HP State Pollution Control Board,
 Shimla-171009.

Dated: Shimla-2, the

16-12-2025.

Subject: Original Application No. 294/2025-News Item titled "From paradise to landfill? Viral video shows famous Himachal Pradesh hill station turned into a garbage dump appearing in The Economic Times dated 30.05.2025.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. PCB-OA No. 294/2025-12997-13003 dated 19-11-2025 on the subject cited above and to say that the Hon'ble NGT vide order passed on 13.11.2025 as directed in para 12 & 13 as under:

"... 12. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal is directed to file an affidavit of his own or through duty authorized officer mentioning in detail action taken for compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in district Kullu.

13. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh is also directed to issue appropriate instructions to the Adjudicating officer for taking suo moto cognizance of contravention of the provision of the Act. Rules, Orders and directions and take appropriate action for imposition of penalty on concerned government departments/officers as well as private violators and give relevant details in the affidavit to be filed as mentioned above..."

In view of above, necessary directions be issued immediately to the Regional Officer, PCB Kullu, to file a formal complaint on prescribed Form-I against the violators before the Adjudicating Officer-cum-Secretary (EST&CC) for holding an inquiry in accordance with the amended provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Yours faithfully,

(Satpal Dhillon)

Additional Secretary (Env. Sci. Tech.&CC) to the
 Government of Himachal Pradesh
 Phone No. 0177-2621874

...2...



ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

Handwritten notes on the left margin:
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- 29 -
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Endst. No. STE-A(3)-17/2025 Dated: Shimla-2, the 10-12-2025.
Copy to the Regional Officer, HPPCB Kullu for information and immediate compliance.

Additional Secretary (Env. Sci. Tech.&CC) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

Form-II
 Before Shri Sushil Kumar Singla IFS, Secretary (Env.Sci.Tech.&CC) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh-cum-Adjudicating Officer as constituted under Section-15C (1) of the Environment(Protection) Act, 1986.

File No: STE-A (3)-17/2025

Dated: the Shimla,

08-01-2026

To

1. Sh. Ghanshyam Sharma, Member Secretary, Special Area Development Authority (SADA) Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planner, Town & Country Planning Office, Kullu at Sarwari near Bus Stand Kullu-HP. 175101, E-mail ID tcpkullu@hotmail.com
2. Sh. Gaurav Malik, M/s Lakshay Total Solutions, Head Office: Shop No. 163. Agro Mall, First Floor, Rohtak-124001. Contact No. 9711178318 E-mail ID tsservice@gmail.com.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Subject: Complaint under section 15 and 15-B of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for contravention of provisions of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 made thereunder.

Sir/Madam,

A complaint dated 23-12-2025 (copy enclosed) has been filed by the Regional Officer, HP State Pollution Control Board (HSPSCB), Kullu in Form-I against Sh. Ghanshyam Sharma, Member Secretary, Special Area Development Authority (SADA) Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planner, Town & Country Planning Office, Kullu and Sh. Gaurav Malik (Contractor), M/s Lakshay Total Solutions, alleging that huge quantity of mixed solid waste was found dumped in forest area along the road leading to village Grahani, Kasol. As per the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 waste shall be collected, segregated and shall be disposed of scientifically at designated site. That in the instant matter the dumped mixed solid waste is causing foul smell in the vicinity in violation to Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The details are given in the enclosed complaint. The Member Secretary, SADA Manikaran and said contractor Sh. Gaurav Malik, are responsible for managing collection, transportation, and scientific disposal of solid waste in the Kasol area under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Thus, contravention has been committed by them under Section 15(1) and 15-B of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The above contravention is liable for penalty under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Therefore, a notice is hereby served to you to show cause within a period of thirty days of service of this notice, why an inquiry should not be initiated against you under Rule (4) of the Environment Protection (Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2024 for imposition of penalty. In case, no reply is received within the given period, further action shall be taken under the aforesaid Act.

(Signature)
 (Sushil Kumar Singla, IFS)

ATTESTED

**Executive Magistrate
 Kullu**

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KULLU, (H.P.)
Tel:01902-222727, Fax:01902-225396, Mail-ID:dc-kul-hp@nic.in

Proceedings of the meeting held on dated 18/12/2025 at 12:00 Noon under the chairpersonship of Ms. Torul S. Raveesh, IAS, worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kullu in her office chamber regarding OA No. 294/2025 titled as News item "From paradise to landfill? Viral video shows famous Himachal Pradesh hill station turned into a garbage dump"

The attendance of the meeting is on Annexure-"A" and the following participant joined the meeting virtually:-

- (a) Sub Divisional Officer (C), Manali, Banjar, Nirmand.
- (b) Block Development Officer, Banjar, Nirmand.
- (c) Secretary, NP Nirmand.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, welcomed all the participants present in the meeting and informed them that this meeting has been convened to review the status of compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and also briefed the house regarding ongoing Hon'ble NGT matter OA No. 294/2025 titled as News item "From paradise to landfill? Viral video shows famous Himachal Pradesh hill station turned into a garbage dump. Thereafter, ULB-wise detailed discussions and deliberations were held and the following decisions were taken/directions were issued in this meeting:-

Sr. No.	Agenda Items	Discussion/Status	Directions
MC Kullu			
1.	Identification of SWM site.	The Senior Executive Officer, MC Kullu, apprised the house that the existing MRF/SWM site at Nehru Park may be developed.	The Chairperson directed Senior Executive Officer/JE, MC Kullu, to examine the issue of developing the existing MRF/SWM site at

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu

			<p>Nehru Park in coordination with the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kullu.</p> <p>(Action required from Executive Officer/JE, MC Kullu/ <u>SDM Kullu</u>)</p>
2.	Present status of garbage collection, segregation, treatment & disposal.	<p>The Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kullu, apprised that 96 door-to-door sanitation workers have been deployed for waste collection, wet and dry waste is being collected separately from each household. The waste is segregated and stored in separate compartments within four garbage collection vehicles; in some vehicles, plastic drums have also been installed for this purpose. The collected waste is transported to the Material Recovery Facility site, where it is processed through a composter machine.</p>	<p>Further, directions were issued to remove the legacy waste from the Piradi site on a priority basis.</p> <p>(Action required from Executive Officer/JE, MC Kullu)</p>
3.	Status of proposed Bio Gas plant.	<p>The Senior Executive Officer/JE, MC Kullu informed that a detailed proposal for bio-waste management has been prepared and forwarded to the Director, Urban Development, Himachal Pradesh.</p>	<p>Since, new site near Gausadan is available for proposed bio-gas plant, therefore, processing of wet waste can be done there. Therefore, Sarwari site can be used exclusively for the processing of dry waste.</p> <p>(Action required from Executive</p>

ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

			<p>Officer/JE, MC Kullu)</p> <p>The Chairperson directed Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kullu, to examine the feasibility of the transportation mechanism for the collection of waste material from the proposed site at Jari and to submit a detailed report to facilitate obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Gram Panchayat.</p> <p>(Action required from Executive Officer/JE, MC Kullu/Secretary NP Bhunter, SDM Kullu)</p>
MC Manali			
1.	Present status of garbage collection, segregation, treatment & disposal.	<p>The Junior Engineer, MC Manali, informed that door-to-door garbage collection is being undertaken in all wards and that segregation work is being carried out smoothly. Further, it was apprised that a team from the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Mohal, Kullu, visited the MRF site at Rangri for inspection of leachate.</p> <p>The Sub Divisional Magistrate, Manali, apprised that garbage collection in the SADA area is being carried out</p>	<p>The Chairperson directed Junior Engineer, MC Manali, to clear the pit/tank of MRF site Rangri and ensure it becomes fully functional.</p> <p>Further, directed Block Development Officer, Naggar to monitor the collection of garbage in the TDC area and exemplary work also be ensured at Panchayat level.</p> <p>Further, the Chairperson directed DTDO,</p>

ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

		routinely and regularly, however, no monitoring is being conducted in the TDC area.	Kullu, to put up an office order regarding the designation of a monitoring officer i.e. Block Development Officer, Naggar for the TDC area. (Action required from JE, MC Manali/BDO Naggar/DTDO Kullu)
NP Bhunter			
1.	Identification of SWM site.	The Secretary, Naggar Panchayat Bhunter apprised that the land in Ward No. 6 near Mela Ground has recently been transferred in the name of Nagar Panchayat Bhunter.	The Chairperson directed Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Bhunter to visit the MRF/SWM sites i.e Sharabai, Kalehali and near Bajaura, along with the Block Development Officer, Bhunter, today to reassess the feasibility and report back accordingly. (Action required from Secretary NP Bhunter/BDO Bhunter)
2.	Present status of garbage collection, segregation, treatment & disposal.	The Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Bhunter, informed that 32 door-to-door workers have been deployed for waste collection and three vehicles have been engaged for the separate collection of dry and wet waste. Further, it was apprised that a temporary covered Material Recovery	The Chairperson directed Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Bhunter to ensure proper collection and segregation of garbage and to oversee its timely transportation. Further, already noticed in the previous meetings

ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

		<p>Facility (MRF) has been established at Ward No. 6 to facilitate waste segregation and management activities. The dry collected garbage is being transported to the UltraTech Cement Plant, Bagha, District Solan, H.P.</p>	<p>there are serious issues regarding improper collection of user charges due to which there is huge gap between the income from user charges and total expenditure on transportation, procuring and disposal of solid waste. NP Bhunter was directed to take effective steps to address this issue and ensure collection of user charges from all the house owners, tenants, shopkeepers, institutes, offices etc. without any exception.</p> <p>(Action required from Secretary NP Bhunter)</p>
NP Banjar			
1.	<p>Identification of SWM site and status of forest land diversion under FCA- 1980.</p>	<p>The Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Banjar apprised that MRF/SWM site has been identified at Larji, Gram Panchayat Talara. The FCA case of this site has been forwarded and is currently pending at the Nodal Officer level.</p>	<p>The Chairperson directed the Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Banjar, to make the necessary arrangements to operationalize this site.</p> <p>(Action required from Secretary NP Banjar)</p>
2.	<p>Present status of garbage collection, segregation,</p>	<p>The Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Banjar, apprised that 14</p>	<p>The Chairperson directed Secretary, Nagar</p>

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu

	treatment & disposal.	door-to-door workers have been deployed for waste segregation and collection and one vehicle has been engaged for the separate collection of dry and wet waste. It was further apprised that ward-wise pits are available for the disposal of wet garbage. The collected dry garbage is being transported to the UltraTech Cement Plant, Bagha, District Solan, H.P.	Panchayat Banjar to ensure proper collection and segregation of garbage and to oversee its timely transportation. (Action required from Secretary NP Banjar)
NP Nirmand			
1.	Identification of SWM site and status of forest land diversion under FCA- 1980.	The Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Nirmand apprised that SWM site has been identified at Chilla Naal, Gram Panchayat Gadej and the proceedings under the FCA are under process.	The Chairperson directed Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Nirmand to take up the matter with the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and provide the current status by tomorrow. (Action required from Secretary NP Nirmand)
2.	Present status of garbage collection, segregation, treatment & disposal.	The Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Nirmand apprised that 08 door-to-door workers have been deployed for segregation and waste collection and one vehicle has been engaged for the separate collection of dry and wet waste. The collected garbage is being transported to Rampur ULB.	The Chairperson directed Secretary, Nagar Panchayat Nirmand to ensure proper collection and segregation of garbage and to oversee its timely transportation. (Action required from Secretary NP Nirmand)

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kulha

At the end the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to and from the chair with further direction to the concerned stakeholder to comply with the direction issued in the meeting in a time bound manner.

Endst. No. 1571-89 /LFA

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action please:-

1. The Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kullu/Manali/Banjar/Nirmand.
2. The District Tourism Development Officer, Kullu.
3. The District Development Officer, DRDA Kullu.
4. The Town & Country Planner, Kullu.
5. The Block Development Officer, Kullu/Naggar/Bhunter/Banjar/Anni/Nirmand.
6. The Assistant Environment Engineer, PCB Kullu.
7. The Senior Executive Officer, MC Kullu.
8. The Executive Officer, MC Manali.
9. The Secretary, NP Bhunter/Banjar/Nirmand.

(Approved by)
Deputy Commissioner,
Kullu, District Kullu, H.P.

Dated: 29-12-2025



Additional Deputy Commissioner,
District Kullu, H.P.

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

From
The Sub Divisional Officer (C),
Kullu Distt. Kullu, H.P.

To
The Deputy Commissioner,
Kullu Distt. Kullu, H.P.

No. 3433 /SDK

Dated :- 08/01/2026

Subject :- OA No. 294/2025 titled as News item "From paradise to landfill? Viral video shows famous Himachal Pradesh hill station turned into a garbage dump" – Action Taken Report thereof.

Ma'am,

Kindly refer to proceedings of the meeting held on 18-12-2025 w.r.t. aforementioned case drawn vide your esteemed office Endst. No. 1571-89/LFA dated 29-12-2025 and to submit the Action Taken Report as under :-

MC Kullu

It is proposed that the existing MRF site at Sarwari is required to be extended from the current state as additional land is available therein and revenue paper for the same are enclosed thereto as well. Furthermore, it is submitted that this proposal entails a common entrance for entry and exit and shall ensure complete coverage towards the road / Nalla side. This shall ensure that there is no open littering.

Further, the financial modalities are required to be worked for site at Jia, wherein preliminary estimates have been requested by the Municipal Council Kullu from the XEN (Mechanical) Public Works Department (letter enclosed). The proposal will be finalized based on financial implications therefor.

NP Bhunter

It is reiterated that site as already identified at Gram Panchayat Mashgan near HPPCL compound has been found to be suitable for MRF site. The Nagar Panchayat Bhunter has also conveyed its willingness for the same (letter enclosed), as only the land is required to be transferred from HPPCL to Nagar Panchayat Bhunter, the revenue paper for the same has also been submitted through proper channel.

This is for your kind information and necessary action please.

Encls. : As above

Yours faithfully,

(Nishant Kumar) HAS
Sub Divisional Officer (C),
Kullu Distt. Kullu.

e-mail : sdmkul-kul-hp@nic.in
Ph. 01902-222596

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KULLU, DISTRICT, KULLU, 175101 (H.P.)

Phone: 01902-222503 GST No. 02AAALM1976B1ZI , mc.kullu2@gmail.com,

No. MCK/SI/SWM Site/2024/

dated

To,

1. The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division ,
HPPWD Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Executive Engineer, Division HPPWD Kullu,
Himachal Pradesh.

Subject: Regarding preparation of estimate for the installation of Jhula/Spain for the establishment of Solid Waste Management (SWM) site at Jia from road.

Sir,

It is respectfully submitted that a meeting was held on 15th December 2025 under the chairmanship of the Worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, regarding the installation of machinery at the proposed Solid Waste Management (SWM) site at Jia.

During the said meeting, it was observed that the earlier submitted estimates for construction of bridges on Parvati river for transportation of machinery to the site are not feasible, as the cost involved is very high. In view of this, the Worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, directed that instead of bridges, a Jhula (either electric or manual) may be installed from the roadside to the SWM site at Jia for transportation of machinery and materials.

Further, the Worthy Deputy Commissioner directed that the estimate for the said Jhula may be prepared through the Mechanical Division of H.P. PWD, Kullu.

In this regard, it is requested that your good office may kindly initiate the process for preparation of a detailed estimate for installation of an electric or manual Jhula, whichever is found technically and economically feasible at site. It is also submitted for your kind information that the maximum load of machinery parts to be transported through the Jhula will be approximately 2-3 tonnes.

The matter is urgent and necessary for timely establishment of the Solid Waste Management site. Hence, early action in the matter is highly requested.

Yours faithfully,

Senior Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Kullu.

dated 06/01/2025

Endst.No As above 79

Copy to:

1. The Director, Urban Development Department, Himachal Pradesh for kind information please..
2. The Deputy Commissioner, Kullu for kind information please.
3. The Sub-Divisional Officer (C), Kullu for kind information please.

Senior Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Kullu.

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

No. NP Bhunter/-2025-2465-67
Office of the Nagar Panchayat Bhunter
District Kullu Himachal Pradesh
Dated the Bhunter December 29, 2025

To

The Director,
Urban Development Department,
Himachal Pradesh.

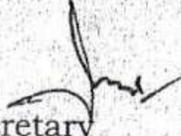
Subject:- Regarding land for Dry waste facility at Sarabai for Nagar Panchayat Bhunter.

Sir,

On the subject cited above it is respectfully submitted that a site at Sarabai, located in Gram Panchayat Masgaun near the HPSEBL Colony, has been identified for the management and processing of dry solid waste. As per revenue records, the said land belongs to the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The site is situated at a safe distance from River Beas and has been found suitable for the establishment of a dry waste management for Nagar Panchayat Bhunter by constructing a covered structure along with necessary land development and protection measures. It is also proposed that the dry waste generated from the office/ residential area of HPSEBL may be managed and processed at the same site.

In view of the above, it is requested that the matter kindly be taken up with the Managing Director of HPSEBL for necessary cooperation and further action regarding the land please.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary
Nagar Panchayat Bhunter
Distt. Kullu (H.P.)

Endst: As Above.

Dated

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Distt. Kullu for information Please.
2. The Regional Officer, HPSPCB, RO, Kullu H.P. for information Please.

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu


Secretary
Nagar panchayat Bhunter
Distt. Kullu (H.P.)

2016-17 दालघर

नम्बर खतौनी	नाम पति या तरफ नम्बरदार व जमा	नाम मालिक अहवाल सहित	नाम काश्तकार अहवाल सहित	बसायल आबपाशी	खसरा नम्बर		रकबा मिजान मय किस्म	लगान तफसील शरह व तादाद	हिस्सा या पैमाना हकीयत और तरीका बाछ	मुतालबा व बतशरी मामला स्थाई	विवरण
					साबिक	बन्दोबस्त हाल					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1115 गिन		प्रविशनल अहवाल सहित पति दालघर	मकबूजा डिप्टी कमिश्नर लाहौर			4417 4274 3845 3752 480	10-14-03 डीर जमीन आबादी		कवजा पट्टा कशरह खेवट न. (1)	4417/4274/3845/3752/480/2/2/2	नोट: डी.न. 8298 रीट तक मु. ले खेवट एक का ख. न. कशरह विभाग का र. 4417/4274/3845/3752/480/2/2/2 रकबा 0-2-0 किलो व रकबा काश्त वसायत मकबूजा पुलिज विभाग दिनांक 10-12-03 का रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत का रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत कशरह विभाग का रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत

श्रीमान जी,
तक मु. ले खेवट के लिये
वकालत है जो कि
वकालत है जो कि
को रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत
का रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत

पटवारी भूखवस्था...
महाल...
नाम तहसील व जिला...
10-12-03 का रकबा 0-08-0 किलो वसायत

ATTESTED

No. NP Bhunter/-2025-2465-67
Office of the Nagar Panchayat Bhunter
District Kullu Himachal Pradesh
Dated the Bhunter December 29, 2025

To

The Director,
Urban Development Department,
Himachal Pradesh.

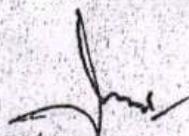
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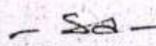

Secretary
Nagar Panchayat Bhunter
Distt. Kullu (H.P.)

Endst: As Above.

Dated

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Distt. Kullu for information Please.
2. The Regional Officer, HPSPCB, RO, Kullu H.P. for information Please.


Secretary
Nagar panchayat Bhunter
Distt. Kullu (H.P.)

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

No. TCP-F(5)-9/2002-Loose

Dated Shimla-2,

04-03-2024

NOTIFICATION

In supersession of this Department's Notification of even number dated 17.08.2002, 02.09.2014 and subsequent Notifications issued, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 67 of the Himachal Pradesh Town and Country Planning Act, 1977 (Act No. 12 of 1977), is pleased to constitute Special Area Development Authority for Manikaran Special Area, District Kullu consisting of following, with immediate effect :-

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Hon'ble MLA Kullu.	Chairman
2.	Chairman, Zilla Parishad, Kullu.	Member
3.	Chairman, Panchayat Samiti, Kullu.	Member
4.	Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Kullu.	Member
5.	Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kullu/Manali.	Member
6.	Divisional Forest Officer, Kullu.	Member
7.	District Tourism Officer, Kullu, Distt. Kullu.	Member
8.	Block Development Officer, Bhunter.	Member
9.	Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Kullu.	Member
10.	Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Kullu.	Member
11.	Executive Engineer, HPSEBL, Kullu.	Member
12.	Assistant Environmental Engineer, Concerned, HP Pollution Control Board.	Member
13.	Pradhan Gram Panchayat, Manikaran, Kullu.	Member
14.	Pradhan Gram Panchayat, Kasol, Kullu.	Member
15.	Prabhandhak Ram Mandir, Manikaran.	Member
16.	Prabhandhak Gurudwara Committee, Manikaran.	Member

ATTESTED

**Executive Magistrate
Kullu**

17.	Chairman, Manikaran Valley Hotel Association.	Member
18.	Town and Country Planner, Kullu.	Member Secretary

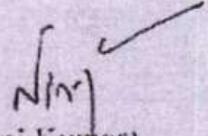
By Order

DEVESH KUMAR
Principal Secretary (TCP) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. TCP-F(5)-4/2002-Loose Dated Shimla-2, 04/03/2024

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Chairman, SADA, Manikaran, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
2. All the Members of the SADA, Manikaran.
3. Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble TCP Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2
4. Guard file.


 (Niraj Kumar)
 Under Secretary (TCP) to the
 Government of Himachal Pradesh

ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

Proceedings of the meeting held on 03.01.2026 at 12:00 noon under the Chairmanship of Ms. Torul S. Raveesh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kullu-cum-Chairman, Distt. Environment Committee, District-Kullu, H.P., in her chamber in compliance to the order of Hon'ble High NGT in OA No. 294/2025 passed on dated 13.11.2025 titled "News Item titled "From paradise to landfill? Viral video shows famous Himachal Pradesh hill station turned into a garbage dump" appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated 30.05.2025"

The meeting was held on dated 03.01.2026 at 12:00 noon in the chamber of Deputy Commissioner, Kullu in view of directions issued in the meeting of Distt. Environment Committee held on 29.11.2025 to conduct separate meeting in compliance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 294/2025 on 13.11.2025.

At the outset, the AEE-cum- Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu-cum-Member Secretary, Distt. Environment Committee, Kullu welcomed all the officers of various stakeholder departments in the meeting and briefed the matter pending before Hon'ble NGT for compliance to all the members. List of participants is attached as **Annexure-I**.

The further the Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu-cum-Member Secretary, Distt. Environment Committee, Kullu informed that the Hon'ble NGT has passed the orders on dated 13.11.2025 concerning to District Environment Committee to enable respondent no. 5 i.e. Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran to file additional response to make further appropriate alternative arrangements for management and disposal of solid waste. The relevant extract of the orders of Hon'ble NGT are as below:

4
.. "8. We have gone through the replies filed and notice the action taken. However, in view of the magnitude of the problem and also requirement of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, respondent no. 5 is directed to make further appropriate alternative arrangements for management and disposal of solid waste in consultation with the District Environment Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kullu and file additional response giving details of action taken for management and disposal of solid waste and also due compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Additional response by respondent no. 5 as directed above may be filed within two months. In the additional response, respondent no. 5 shall mention all requisite details with reference to compliance with Clause (a) to clause (zl) of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in tabular format. "

Thereafter, discussion was held on point wise agenda and feedback given by officers during meeting are tabulated as below:

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu

Sr. No.	Agenda item	Response/ feedback given during the meeting
1.	<p>Compliance of orders dated 13.11.2025 passed by the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 294/2025, wherein directed as;</p> <p><i>".....8. We have gone through the replies filed and notice the action taken. However, in view of the magnitude of the problem and also requirement of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, respondent no. 5 is directed to make further appropriate alternative arrangements for management and disposal of solid waste in consultation with the District Environment Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kullu and file additional response giving details of action taken for management and disposal of solid waste and also due compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Additional response by respondent no. 5 as directed above may be filed within two months."</i></p>	<p>1. The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu informed that he has made request to District administration to provide suitable piece of land for establishment of temporary Material Recover Facility till the commissioning of Material Recovery Facility, Kasol.</p> <p>2. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kullu informed that in response of request made by the SADA, Manikaran they have identified 04 nos of sites and the directions has been issued to the Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran to inspect the sites along with Naib Tehsildar and take further necessary action w.r.t. transfer of land for the suitable site.</p>
2.	<p>Status of the alleged dumping spot and solid waste dumped near the MRF site Kasol.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu informed that the waste dumped at the alleged/viral spot was already lifted and presently a Small Hydro Electric Project constructed their offices at alleged spot. He further informed</p>

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

		that the waste dumped near the MRF site has also been completed lifted and now there is no dumping of waste at site.
3.	Progress of the construction of Material Recovery Facility, Kasol.	The Block Development Officer, Bhuntar informed that construction of floor and columns for Material Recover Facility, Kasol has been completed and the construction work of Material Recovery Facility shed is being started and same will be completed within a month subject to the weather conditions in the area.
4.	Current practices of Solid waste collection and disposal by SADA, Manikaran in their area of jurisdiction.	The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu informed that presently SADA, Manikaran is collecting dry solid waste in garbage bags from the households and same is being loaded in trucks and sent directly by them to cement plants for further disposal.
5.	Steps taken by SADA, Manikaran for removal of dumping hotspots of solid waste in SADA, Manikaran area.	The Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu informed that there are various hotspots of littering/ dumping of solid waste in SADA, Manikaran area which are required to be cleaned and no sinages/ warning sign boards have been provided by SADA.



 ATTESTED
 Executive Magistrate
 Kullu

		The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu apprised that SADA will install warning sign boards at hotspots within one month.
6.	Compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in SADA, Manikaran area.	The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu informed that they are in process of executing the compliance of Rule-15 of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and presently they have fixed the user charges for collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste from each household, hotels, shops etc.

After, the detailed discussions & deliberations, the following directions were issued to ensure compliance of orders of Hon'ble NGT:

1. The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum- Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu shall inspect the sites identified by SDM, Kullu along with Naib Tehsildar, Bhuntar to check the feasibility for establishment of alternate Material Recovery Facility of SADA, Manikaran & further process the case of land transfer accordingly and meanwhile SADA shall continue to collect waste from door to door in a segregation manner and ensure disposal of waste scientifically. .

Action By: Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu & Naib Tehsildar, Bhuntar.

2. The Block Development Officer, Bhuntar shall expedite the construction work of shed of Material Recover Facility, Kasol and complete the construction work within time period of one month positively.

Action By: The BDO, Bhuntar

ATTESTED
Executive Magistrate
Kullu

3. The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planning Officer, TCP, Kullu shall provide the CCTV cameras & warning sign boards at hotspots & lift the waste from hotspots immediately and ensure that there shall be no littering & dumping in the SADA, Manikaran area.

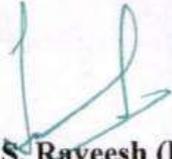
**Action By: Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country
Planner, TCP, Kullu**

4. The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planning Officer, TCP, Kullu shall ensure the compliance of Rule-15 clause (a) to (zl) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in compliance of orders of Hon'ble NGT.

**Action By: Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country
Planner, TCP, Kullu**

All above officers/departments shall strictly comply with the aforesaid directions to ensure the compliance of Hon'ble High NGT orders passed in the aforesaid matter and submit the Action Taken Report to the Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu as well as to the undersigned within 15 days positively.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


Torul S. Raveesh (IAS),
Deputy Commissioner, Kullu-cum-
Chairman, Distt. Environment Committee, Kullu
District-Kullu, H.P.

Endst. No. PCB/RO Kullu/(2858)/OA No.294/2025-4209-16

Dated- 68/01/2026

Copy forwarded to the following for information and necessary compliance please:

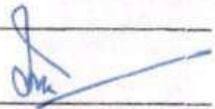
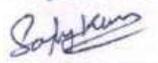
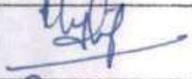
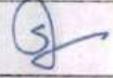
1. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kullu, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Partvati at Shamshi, Distt, Kullu (H.P.)
3. The Block Development Officer, Bhuntar, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
4. The Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
5. The Naib Tehsildar, Bhuntar, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
6. The Member Secretary, SADA, Manikaran-cum-Town & Country Planner, TCP, Kullu, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
7. The LFA branch to the office of Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)
8. Case file (DEP, Kullu).


Er. Sunil Sharma,
Regional Officer, HPSPCB, Kullu- cum-
Member Secretary, Distt. Environment Committee, Kullu

ATTESTED

**Executive Magistrate
Kullu**

Attendance sheet of meeting held under the chairmanship of worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kullu in her chamber on dated 03.01.2026 at 12:00 noon in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order in OA no. 294/2025 passed on dated 13.11.2025.

Sr. No.	Name of the Official	Designation of the official	Name of the Department	Email ID	Contact Number	Signature
1.	Ander Dev	DPC (SBM)	DRDO Kullu	sbmkullu@gmail.com	94180-44473	
2.	Sanjay Kumar	JE	SADA TCP Div Office Kullu		8988068764	
3.	Charoym Sankar	T.C.P.	T.C.P. Dept.	depkullu@gmail.com	9410710287	
4.	Anis Dhumán	D.P.R.O	T&PR	dprokulla@gmail.com	94188 68880	
5.	Daya Ram Thakur	UPO-com-DOO	RD&PR	drbhp.nic.	9418649743	
6.	Bandna	ACF, Paruwah	Forest	dfoparuwah@gmail.com	8219916204	
7.	Gaurav Shuman	BDO Bhuntar	RDD	bdsbhuntar@gmail.com	9915145458	
8.	Vishal Thakur	SDM, Kullu	Revenue		9459994747	
9.	Sachin Thakur	J.E MC Kullu	MC Kullu		83602-81587	

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
Kullu