

**Jammu and Kashmir  
Pollution Control Committee**

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com  
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0191 – 2472881, 2476925



Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex  
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180 006

Silk Factory Road  
Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

**The Consultant Judicial,  
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,  
Principal Bench,  
New Delhi.**

No: JKPCC/Sc./OA 1046-2024/1314-1315

Date:- 11 -11-2024

**Sub:- Report on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge".**

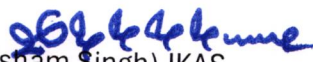
Sir,

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi Order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge", the Report of the J&K Pollution Control Committee is submitted herewith.

It is therefore, requested that the Report may kindly be taken on record and placed before the Hon'ble NGT for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

**Encl:- As Above**

  
(Ghansham Singh) JKAS  
Member Secretary 11.11.24  
J&K PCC

Copy to the:-

- 1) Sh. G.M Kawoosa, Government Standing Counsel for UT of Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal  
Principal Bench, New Delhi

Original Application No. 1046 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

**“Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge”**

**Report on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled “Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge.”**

**Background:**

That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide Notice dated **05-08-2024** in **OA No. 1046 of 2024** directed as follows:-

*“The news item relates to the depleting habitat of the Himalayan Brown Bear due to the unplanned disposal and treatment of waste in Sonmarg region of Kashmir. As per the article, Wildlife SOS has initiated a research project with J&K Wildlife Protection Department in studying Himalayan brown bears and identifying factors leading to human-brown bear conflict in Sonmarg.”*

*“The news item highlights that in a study by Wildlife SOS in 2021, 75% of the diet of bears was human-made garbage dumps including plastic, chocolates and organic food waste. The article claims that very little is known about the ecology and behavior of bears in India, and hence its population is being severely affected due to various factors like tourism, construction activities, livestock grazing, agriculture, settlements, highways, railroad, tunnelling and poaching.”*

*25/08/24*

"The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms, especially compliance of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986."

**Status Report:**

In compliance to the aforesaid directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide order dated **05-08-2024** in **OA No. 1046 of 2024**, the report of the J&K Pollution Control Committee is submitted as under:

1. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K was requested to share brief report with respect to the observations of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter vide reference details as under:

Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K	No & Date	Annexure-1
	i) JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680; dt.17.08.2024. ii) JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1209; dt.10.10.2024. iii) JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1301; dt.04.11.2024.	

2. Similarly, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee Kashmir was also asked to submit comprehensive report vide this office No. *JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1209; dated 10.10.2024* in respect of Terms of References listed below:

- i) *To assess the status of Tourism, construction activities, livestock grazing, agriculture, settlements highways, tunnelling etc in Brown Bear Habitat.*
- ii) *To assess the qualification and disposal of food waste in Sonmarg area.*

The Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir submitted that a 3 member committee was constituted with the direction to visit the sport and assess the status of tourism and its impact on brown bear habitat

*26/11/24*

as also to assess the quantification and disposal of the food waste in the Sonamarg area. Based upon the details furnished by the 3 member committee after site inspection, the Regional Director, J&K PCC, Kashmir has submit a report vide his office No. *PCC/RDJ/LS(NGT)/2024/130*; dated *04.11.2024 (copy enclosed as Annexure-2)*.

The highlights of the report and recommendations of the Regional Director, J&K PCC, Kashmir are briefly summarized as under:

- i) That the Sonamarg is located within the Central Wildlife Division Kashmir characterized by its alpine meadows and sub alpine forest and serves as one of the few habitats for the Himalayan Brown bear and other wild animals since ages.
- ii) As per the details provided by the Sonamarg Development Authority, around **07-10 Metric Tons** of solid waste is generated per day, which goes up to **20 Metric tons** during the peak season.
- iii) The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has set up a solid waste management facility at Sarbal. The facility has an Electro Magnetic Disintegrator of 11 MT Capacity alongwith 05 MT Auto Insta-Composter and Segregator.
- iv) Huge quantity of Solid Waste was found dumped around the facility and piles of untreated solid waste was also found stacked inside the facility without proper disposal arrangements in place for the compost generated.

**3.** The Regional Director, J&K PCC, Kashmir has made following recommendations:

- a) Solid Waste Management facility needs to be properly fenced by the Sonamarg Development Authority so as to restrict the entry of Stray / Wild Animals.

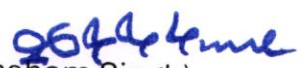
- b) A weigh bridge is required to be installed near the solid waste management facility for proper quantification of the solid waste received and treated at the facility to keep the complete account of waste generated and treated and gaps if any.
- c) There should be no open dumping of solid waste around the facility.
- d) Secondary segregation of the waste at the facility needs to be executed for further processing of dry / wet waste.

The PCCF/ Chief Wildlife warden, J&K have intimated that they are filling separate response in the matter before the Hon'ble NGT.

In view of the aforesaid report, the Regional Director, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir has been advised to initiate proceedings and issue notices to the defaulting body pin pointing violations of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as also under the relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act, 1981 and share action taken report (ATR) within 15 days vide letter No. JKPCC/Sc./OA1046/2024/1313 dated 09-11-2024 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure-3**).

**Prayer:**

In the premises, it is therefore respectfully prayed that the report may kindly be taken on record before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for consideration.

  
(Ghansham Singh) 11.11.24  
Member Secretary  
J&K PCC

**Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee**

Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex || Silk Factory Road  
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180 006 || Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

Tel - 0191-2476927; mail - membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

Pr. Chief Conservator Forest (PCCF),  
(Chief Wildlife Warden),  
Jammu & Kashmir.

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680

Date: 17-08-2024

**Sub: Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge."**

**Ref: Hon'ble NGT order dated 05-08-2024.**

Sir,

Kindly refer to the Hon'ble NGT order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge", wherein Hon'ble NGT have made observations as under:

*"The news item relates to the depleting habitat of the Himalayan Brown Bear due to the unplanned disposal and treatment of waste in Sonmarg region of Kashmir. As per the article, Wildlife SOS has initiated a research project with J&K Wildlife Protection Department in studying Himalayan brown bears and identifying factors leading to human-brown bear conflict in Sonmarg."*


*"The news item highlights that in a study by Wildlife SOS in 2021, 75% of the diet of bears was human-made garbage dumps including plastic, chocolates and organic food waste. The article claims that very little is known about the ecology and behavior of bears in India, and hence its population is being severely*

*affected due to various factors like tourism, construction activities, livestock grazing, agriculture, settlements, highways, railroad, tunnelling and poaching."*

*"The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms, especially compliance of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986."*

In this regard, I am directed to request you to kindly share brief report in the above quoted matter with J&KPCC, so that compliance report to Hon'ble NGT in the instant OA may be submitted well in time.

Yours faithfully

  
(Ghansham Singh) JKAS  
Member Secretary 17.8.24  
J&K PCC



**Pr. Chief Conservator Forest (PCCF),  
(Chief Wildlife Warden),  
Jammu & Kashmir.**

**No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1209**

**Date: 10-10-2024**

**Sub: OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge."**

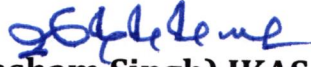
**Ref: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680; dated 17.08.2024.**

Sir,

Kindly refer to this office letter No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680; dated 17.08.2024, wherein you have been requested to share brief report w.r.t observations of Hon'ble NGT in OA No. OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge", which may kindly be expedited & shared with J&KPC by or before 18.10.2024 as compliance report is to be filed before Hon'be NGT.

The case is listed for hearing on 12.11.2024.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Ghansham Singh) JKAS  
Member Secretary 10.10.24  
J&K PCC



**Pr. Chief Conservator Forest (PCCF),  
(Chief Wildlife Warden),  
Jammu & Kashmir.**

**No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1301**

**Date: 4-11-2024**

**Sub: OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge."**

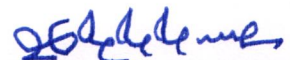
**Ref: i) JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680; dated 17.08.2024.**

**ii) JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1209; dated 10.10.2024.**

Sir,

With regard to this office letter No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/680; dated 17.08.2024 & JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1209; dated 10.10.2024, brief report w.r.t observations of Hon'ble NGT in OA No. OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge", is awaited, which may kindly be expedited & shared with this office by or before 06.11.2024 as case is listed for hearing on 12.11.2024.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Ghansham Singh) JKAS

Member Secretary  
J&K PCC

4.11.24



Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**J&K POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE**  
**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR - KASHMIR**

Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Rajbagh, Near Government Silk Factory, Srinagar-190008  
[www.jkspcb.in](http://www.jkspcb.in) Email: [regionaldirectorkmr@gmail.com](mailto:regionaldirectorkmr@gmail.com), Tel/fax 0194-2311842

The Member Secretary,  
 JKPC, Jammu.

No: PCC/RDK/LS (NGT)/2024/ 130

Date:- 04/11/2024

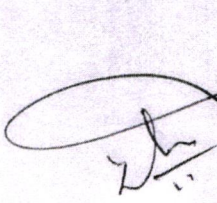
Subject: - O.A No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27-07-2024 titled  
 "Save Kashmir Brown Bears is a race against Time Wildlife SOS and J & K Wildlife  
 Protection Department take Challenge."

Reference: - Your letter No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/1249 dated 19-10-2024.

Sir,

On the captioned subject and reference cited above, a comprehensive report as submitted by the Committee constituted vide this office order No. PCC/RDK/PS/2024/549-553 dated 28-08-2024 is enclosed hereto for kind perusal and further course of action in the matter please.

Encls:- 08.

  
 Regional Director,  
 Kashmir.

Received via-e-mail. For kind perusal

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**Report of Committee constituted in compliance to Hon'ble NGT Order Dated 05/08/2024 in OA 1046/2024 regarding News Item Appearing In India.Com Dated 27.07.2024 Titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race Against Time Wildlife SOS And J & K Wildlife Protection Department Take Challenge"**

**Background**

A News Item was published at india.com titled "*Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race Against Time Wildlife SOS And J & K Wildlife Protection Department Take Challenge*" wherein the author had cited a snippet from the study conducted by Wildlife SOS in 2021 on Himalayan Brown Bear in the Central Wildlife Division. The author had specifically highlighted the unplanned disposal & treatment of waste in the Sonamarg region where 75% of the diet of bears was found to be human-made garbage dumps including plastic, chocolates & organic food waste.

Taking Cognizance of the News Item, the Hon'ble NGT has impleaded various stake holders including J&K Pollution Control Committee.

In Order to determine the fidelity of the above captioned News item, the Regional Director PCC, Kashmir constituted a committee vide his office No. PCC/RDK/PS/2024/549-553 Dated: 28/08/2024.

The Committee comprised of the following members:

- 1) Dr. Sabeena Sultan, Scientist 'B'
- 2) Sh. Shabir Ahmad Scientist 'A'
- 3) Sh. Mohammad Ayoub, District Officer PCC, Ganderbal.

The Committee was assigned the following tasks

- i) To assess the status of Tourism, Construction Activities, Livestock Grazing, Agriculture, Settlements, Highways, Tunnelling etc. in Brown Bear Habitat.
- ii) To assess the quantification and the disposal of food waste in Sonamarg area.

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### Overview:-

Sonamarg is located in the Ganderbal District within the Central Wildlife Division of Kashmir. Characterized by its alpine meadows and sub-alpine forests, it had served as one of the few suitable habitats for the Himalayan Brown Bear and other wild animals since ages without any significant human intervention. Sonamarg has emerged as one of the Key **Tourist Destinations** in the Kashmir Valley, often serving as a stopover for the pilgrims of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. As per the data provided by the Sonamarg Development Authority, around 679762 domestic and international tourists have visited the area and **more than 268 tourist accommodations** and facilities including Hotels, Restaurants, markets etc. have been set up in the area. Additionally, Sonamarg also serves as a vital connection between the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh via NH-1, which runs through area. The notable importance of the area has prompted the emergence of various Developmental Projects in order to facilitate various travellers including tourists and the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

In order to provide proper connectivity throughout the year, various roads are being constructed and multiple **Tunnelling Projects including Z-Morh Tunnel & Zoji-La Tunnel** are being executed in the area. As per the data provided by the Sonamarg Development Authority, more than 268 tourist accommodations and facilities including Hotels, Restaurants, markets etc. have been set up in the area.

Tourism activities, such as the construction of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, markets, roads, and various tunnelling projects, have led to habitat fragmentation and increased human intervention in an area that once entirely served as a habitat for various species of Wild Animals including the Himalayan Brown Bear.

### Solid waste generation & management:

Sonamarg has emerged as one the Tourist Hotspots in recent years. Each season, particularly during Sh. Amarnath Ji Yatra, the number of tourists/devotees increases greatly. This influx contributes directly to higher solid waste generation. As per the data available with the

Sonamarg Development Authority, around **07- 10 Metric Tons of solid waste is produced per day which goes up to 20 Metric Tons** during the peak season.

The Sonamarg Development Authority has set up a solid waste management facility at Sarbal. The facility has an Electro Magnetic Disintegrator of 11MT Capacity along with 05MT Auto Insta-Composter and Segregator. During site visit by Committee Members, it was observed that solid waste (primarily unsegregated) was scattered in and around the facility. Further, huge quantity of Solid Waste was found openly dumped around the facility and piles of untreated solid waste were also found stacked inside the facility. No proper disposal arrangements were found in place for the compost generated as the same was found dumped around the facility. The waste mainly consisted of food scraps, water bottles, packaging materials, and disposable items frequently used by tourists. The facility lacks proper fencing and solid waste storage area allowing wild bears to easily access the discarded food items. This not only endangers the lives of these majestic creatures but also puts nearby residents at risk, as they often become victims of deadly human-wildlife conflicts.


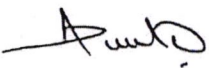

### **Recommendations.**

It is essential to consider the long-term consequences of developmental projects on Brown Bear Habitats and strive for a sustainable approach to minimize the impacts of these projects on habitats of various wild animals including the majestic Himalayan Brown Bear. The committee therefore, puts forth the following recommendations:

1. Entrance of the Solid Waste Management Facility needs to be secured properly so as to restrict the entry of stray animals.

2. Proper Fencing/Wire net mesh of sufficient height needs to be installed to restrict the entry of Wild Animals.
3. A Weigh Bridge needs to be installed in order to properly quantify the solid waste received and treated at the facility.
4. An Automatic Waste Segregator needs to be installed at facility since the waste arrives at the facility mainly in the unsegregated form.
5. The officials/other stake holders should refrain from open dumping of any solid waste around the facility.
6. Keeping in view the huge quantity of waste generated, a waste storage shed of appropriate capacity needs to be constructed for storage of the untreated waste.
7. The compost generated at the facility needs to be disposed of in the environment friendly manner.
8. The facility needs to be equipped with CCTV Cameras for overall surveillance.
9. Traditional Garbage Bins in the area should be replaced with the Bear-Proof Garbage Bins in order to restrict the access of Bears and other wild animals to the food waste.

The report is submitted for further necessary action at your end please.

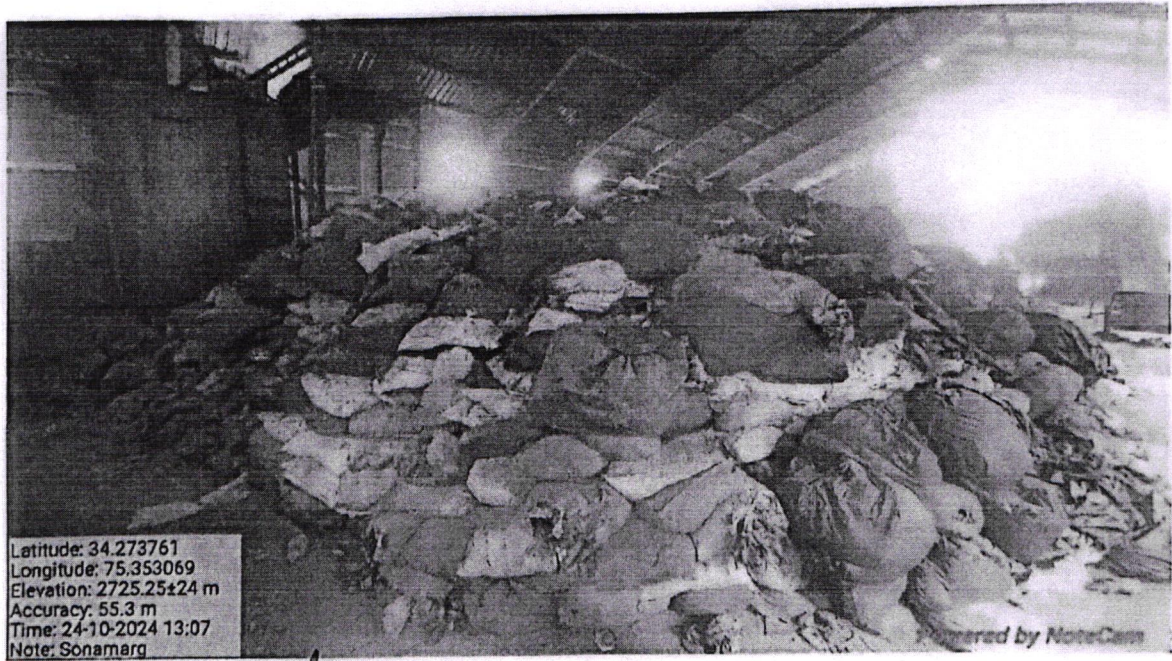
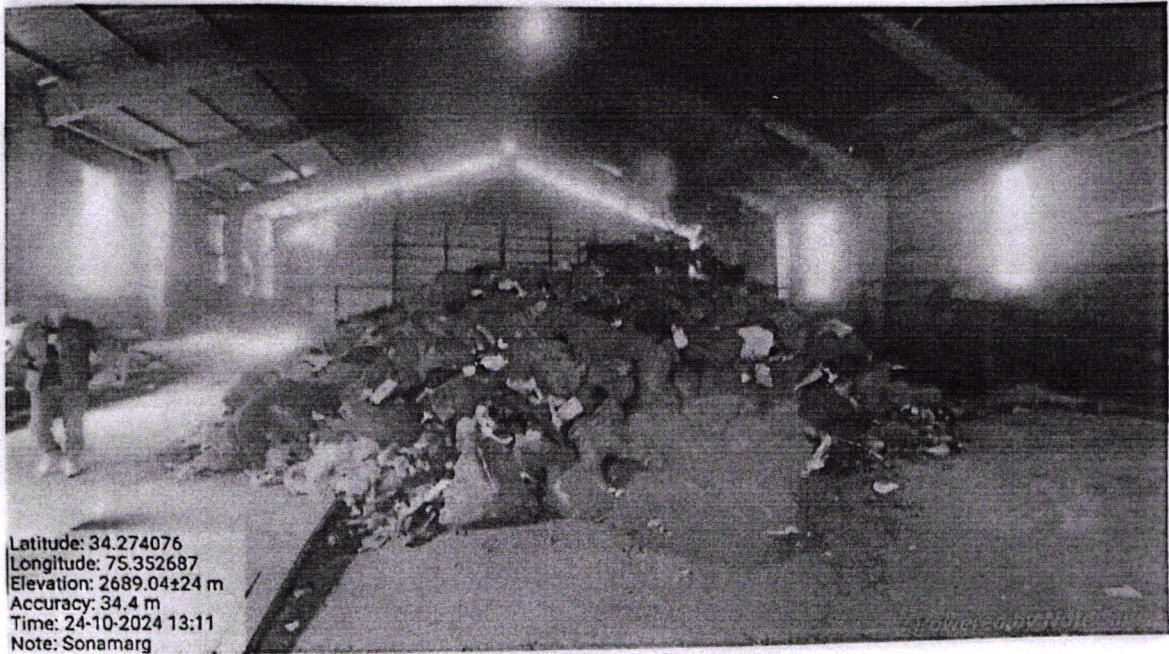
- 1) Dr. Sabeena Sultan, Scientist 'B'  *Sabeena*
- 2) Sh. Shabir Ahmad Scientist 'A' 
- 3) Sh. Mohammad Ayoub, District Officer PCC, Ganderbal. 



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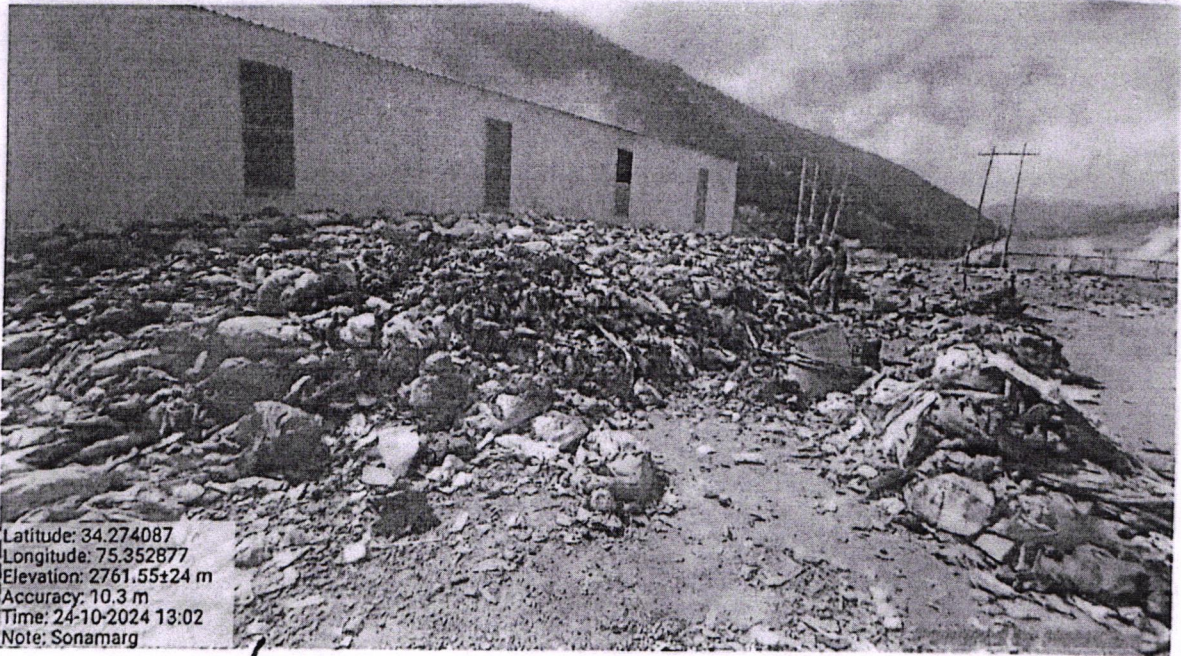
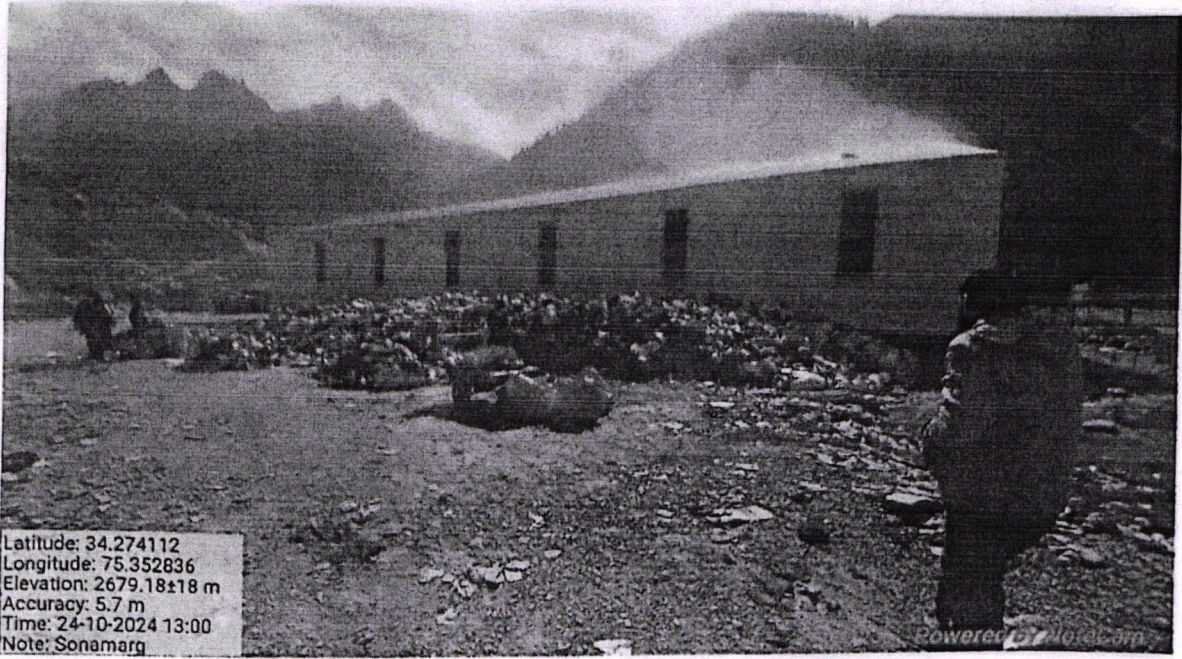
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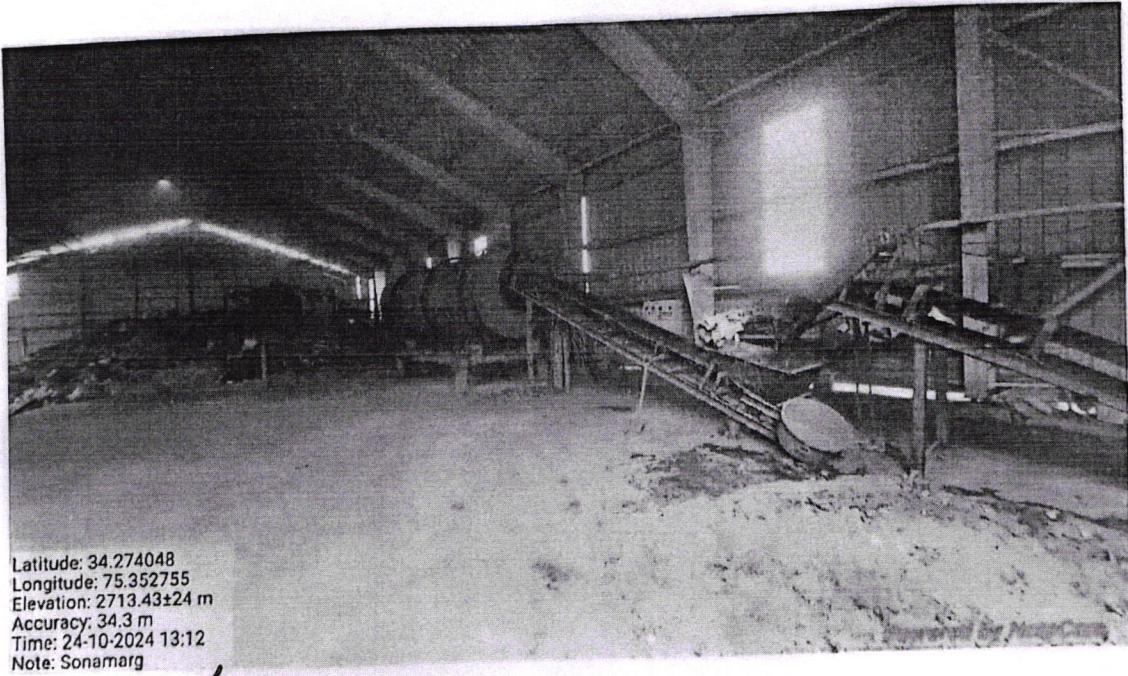
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**Jammu and Kashmir  
Pollution Control Committee**

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membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

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Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180 006

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Annexure-3 135

The Regional Director,  
J&K Pollution Control Committee,  
Kashmir.

No:- JKPCC/Sc/OA-1046-2024/ 1313.

Dated 09-11-2024


**Sub:- Directions of Hon'ble NGT order dated 05-08-2024 in OA No. 1046/2024 News item appearing in India.com dated 27.07.2024 titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is a Race against Time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife Protection Department take challenge.**

Sir,

Please refer your letter No. JKPCC/RDK/LS/(NGT)/2024/130 dated 04-11-2024 on the above captioned subject, whereunder in the status report, you have highlighted and pointed out violations of Solid Waste Management Rules in Sonamarg area by the Sonamarg Development Authority.

In this connection, you are directed to initiate proceedings and issue notices to the defaulting body for violations of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as also under the relevant provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act, 1981 and share action taken report within 15 days.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Ghansham Singh) JKAS  
Member Secretary 9.11.24  
J&K PCC