

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

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/NGT/OA 1046/2025/ 981

Date:- 25-08-2025

Sub:- Report on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee pursuant to Hon'ble NGT, Order dated 22-4-2025 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."

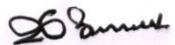
Sir,

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi order **dated 22-4-2025 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."**, 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 25.8.25
J&K PCC

**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 22-4-2025 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.”

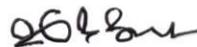
Background:

That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide Notice dated **22-04-2025** in **OA No. 1046 of 2024** directed as follows:-

“The Member Secretary, J&K PCC submits that now the snow is melting in Sonamarg and Baltal region, therefore, it will be possible to assess the solid waste which has been accumulated there. He has prayed for four weeks' time to ascertain the status, take remedial action and file action report before the Tribunal.”

Status Report:

In compliance to the aforesaid directions of Hon'ble NGT dated **22-04-2025** in **OA No. 1046 of 2024**, the report of the J&K Pollution Control Committee is as follows:



1. That Regional Director J&K PCC Kashmir was directed to conduct the site inspection afresh after melting of the snow in the area and furnish a report on the following terms and references vide No. JKPCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/91/157; dated: 24.04.2025 and No. JKPCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/346; dated: 27.05.2025 **(Copies enclosed as Annexure 1&2)**:
 - a) Quantity of solid waste generation in Sonamarg region.
 - b) Processing of wet waste and its utilization including quantity of waste handled and utilized.
 - c) Channelization of dry waste after recovery.
 - d) Remedial Action taken by Sonamarg Development Authority, if any, in respect of Solid Waste Management in Sonamarg region.
2. The Regional Director, J&K PCC Kashmir after getting the site inspected by the Joint Committee of 3 officers of J&K PCC submitted a fresh report vide No. PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/723-26; dated: 04.06.2025 **(Copy enclosed as Annexure 3)**.

The Highlights of the report are briefly summarized as under:

- i. The joint committee constituted by the Regional Director, PCC Kashmir carried out the inspection of the area on 21.05.2025 and during the inspection the facility was found operational.
- ii. The facility lacks proper fencing, secured main gate and a weigh bridge.
- iii. As per information shared by the Sonamarg Development Authority, (SDA) Sonamarg generates 7-10 MT of Solid waste daily, and upto the range of 20 MT per day during the tourists peak season.
- iv. The Sonamarg Development Authority has set up a Solid Waste Management facility at **Sarbal**. **The facility has an electro-magnetic disintegrator of 1 MT capacity along with 5 MT auto-insta composter and segregator.**

- v. As per the Sonamarg Development Authority (Incharge SWM facility) Sarbal, approximately 4-5 MT of wet waste is processed on a daily basis primarily through automatic composting machines and compost so generated is being used for agriculture purposes. However, no records have been maintained for the quantity of waste processed or compost being utilized.
- vi. Dry waste comprising of PET bottles, high density plastic materials, cardboard cartons and other packaging material is handed over to authorized rag pickers and waste handlers for appropriate disposal or recycling. The remaining Dry waste consisting of polythene bags is being processed using a plastic waste disintegration machine.

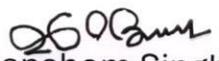
The Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, has reported that following measures are being taken for remediation and treatment of waste at the facility at the site vide his letter No. CEO/SDA/2025/528-29 dated 9-5-2025(**Copy enclosed at Annexure -4**).

- a) Regular campaigns are organized with the line departments including all stake holders regarding waste disposal and wild life.
- b) Fencing of Sarbal Plant: Proposal for covering the entire Sarbal Plant area with CGI fencing (10 feet height) along with a secured main gate in FY 2025-26, to restrict the access of Himalayan Brown Bears and prevent accidental encounters has been made.
- c) Upgradation of Solid Waste Management plant at Sarbal through installation of additional 2 MT magnetic disintegrator to manage excess waste generated during Yatra season has been made.

3. Accordingly, Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority was directed to take immediate measures for rectification of the gaps pointed out by the joint committee constituted by the J&K PCC vide No. JKPC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/830; dated: 07.08.2025 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure 5**), followed by reminder dated 20-08-2025 (**copy enclosed as Annexure-6**), which is still awaited.
4. Regional Director, PCC Kashmir has been directed to initiate the proceedings for levy of Environmental Compensation upon the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority and submit Environmental Compensation format and after receipt of the Environmental Compensation format, further necessary action for levying of Environmental Compensation upon the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority as may be warranted under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, will be taken vide this office letter dated 22-08-2025(**Copy enclosed as Annexure-7**).

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)
Member Secretary
J&K PCC 25.8.25

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

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membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

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Regional Director,
JK Pollution Control Committee,
Kashmir.

No: JKPCCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/91/157

Dated:-24-04-2025

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 taken challenge."

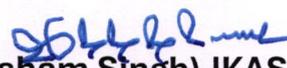
Ref: No. PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2024/130 dated 04-11-2024.

Sir,

With regard to the subject and reference cited above, you are requested to submit latest factual status report after getting re-inspection of the area by the Committee Constituted by your office vide dated 28-08-2024 in respect of following Terms and Conditions:-

1. Quantity of solid waste generation in Sonmarg region.
2. Processing of wet waste and its utilization including quantity of waste handled and utilized.
3. Channelization of dry waste after recovery.
4. Remedial Action taken by Sonmarg Development Authority, if any, in respect of Solid Waste Management in Sonmarg region.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh) JKAS
Member Secretary

24-4-25

mailed
25/4

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

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Regional Director,
JK Pollution Control Committee,
Kashmir.

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/346

Dated:- 27 -05-2025

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 taken challenge."

Ref: No. JKPCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/275 dated 16-05-2025.

Sir,

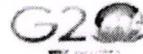
With reference to this office No. JKPCC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/275 dated 16-05-2025 & No. PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2024/91/157 dated 24-05-2024 on the subject cited above. You are again requested to share latest factual status report in respect of prescribed Terms & Conditions by or before 06-06-2025 for further needful compliance of Hon'ble NGT.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh) JKAS

 Member Secretary 27.5.25

marked



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 Email: regionaldirectorkmr@gmail.com, Tel/fax 0194-2311842

The Member Secretary,
J & K Pollution Control Committee,
Jammu.

No: PCC/RDK/LS (NGT)/2025/ 723-26

Date:- 04-06-2025

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: - 1. No. JKPC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/346 dated 27-05-2025.
2. No. JKPC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/346 dated 27-05-2025.
3. No. JKPC/NGT/OA-1046/2024/346 dated 27-05-2025.

Sir,

On the captioned subject, it is hereby submitted that the latest factual status report in the matter as per the terms and conditions specified in the above references has been sought from the Committee constituted by this office vide order dated 28-08-2024 and a copy of the said report is enclosed hereto for kind perusal and further course of necessary action required in the afore-titled OA please.

Encls: - A/a.

Copy to:-

1. Dr. Sabeena Sultan, Scientist 'B' JK PCC, Srinagar for information.
2. Sh. Shabir Ahmad, Scientist 'A' JK PCC, Srinagar for information.
3. Sh. Mohammad Ayoub, District Officer, PCC, Ganderbal for information.

Regional Director
Kashmir.

04.06.2025

SC(A) (AM)
06.06.25
6.6.25

Follow-Up 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"

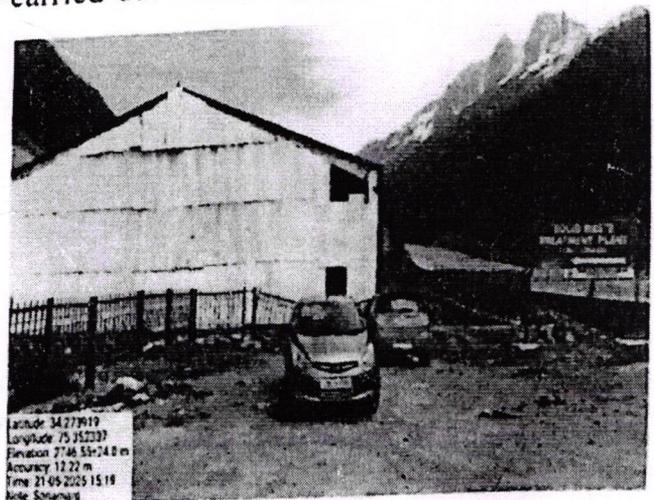
With the Aim of ascertaining the factual position and veracity of the News Item mentioned above, Regional Director PCC, Kashmir vide his office No. PCC/RDK/PS/2024/549-553 Dated: 28/08/2024 had constituted a committee. The committee members after thoroughly inspecting the area had submitted a detailed report along with recommendations to address the issues highlighted in the News Item.

In order to assess the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the committee earlier, Regional Director vide letter no No. PCC/RDK/LS (NGT)/2025/665-669 Dated: 16/05/2025 constituted a Follow-up Committee with specific focus on the following points:

- i) Quantity of Solid Waste Generation in Sonamarg region
- ii) Processing of Wet Waste and its Utilisation Including quantity of waste handheld and utilised.
- iii) Channelisation of Dry waste After Recovery.
- iv) Remedial Actions taken by Sonamarg Development Authority if any in respect of Solid Waste Management in Sonamarg Region.

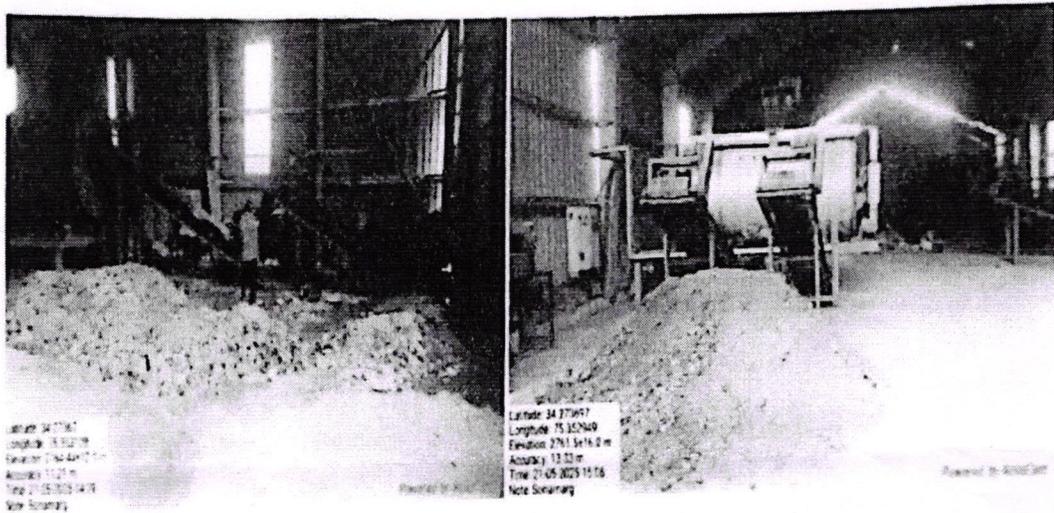
Accordingly, the committee members carried out a thorough inspection of the area on 21/05/2025. During the inspection the facility was found operational, *However, it Still lacks proper fencing, secured main gate and a weighing bridge as already recommended earlier.*

Other observations made by the committee in line with the directions issued by the Competent Authority as recorded as under:-



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1. **Quantity of Solid Waste Generation in Sonamarg Region:-**As per Sonamarg Development authority, Sonamarg generates between 7 to 10 metric tons of solid waste daily, however during the tourist influx and religious pilgrimage of Annual Shri Amarnath ji Yatra, this figure nearly doubles, reaching up to 20 metric tonnes per day. The Sonamarg Development Authority has set up a solid waste management facility at Sarbal. The facility has an Electro Magnetic Disintegrator of 1MT Capacity along with 05MT Auto Insta- Composter and Segregator.



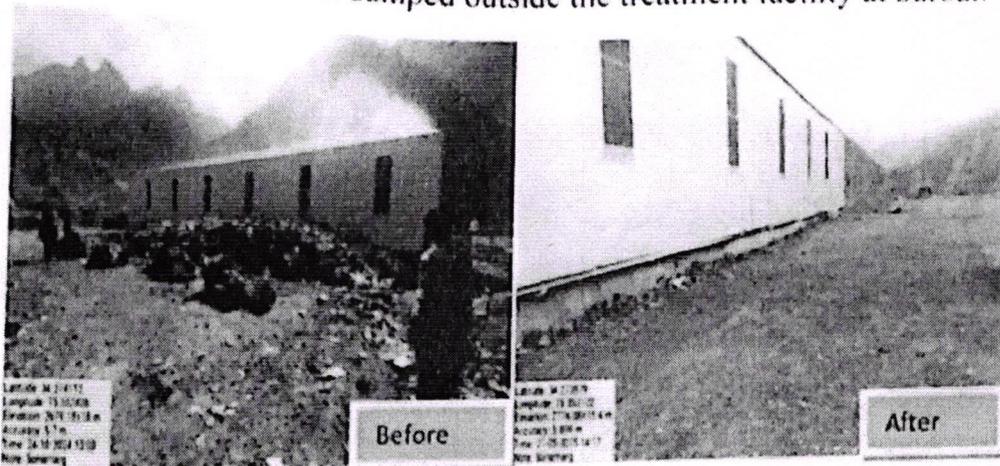
Solid waste management facility at Sarbal. With Electro Magnetic Disintegrator of 1MT Capacity along with 05MT Auto Insta- Composter and Segregator.

2. **Processing of Wet Waste and its Utilisation Including quantity of waste handheld and utilised:** -As per the report from the In-Charge of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal, approximately 4 to 5 metric tons of wet waste are processed on a daily basis, primarily through mechanical means utilizing automatic composting machines. The processed waste is converted into compost, which is reportedly being used for agricultural purposes. *However, it has been noted that no formal records have been maintained concerning the quantity of waste processed or the compost subsequently utilized.*
3. **Channelization of Dry waste After Recovery:** At the Sarbal Solid Waste Management Plant, dry waste comprising PET bottles, high-density plastic materials, cardboard cartons, and other packaging materials is handed over to authorized ragpickers and waste handlers for appropriate disposal or recycling. The remaining dry waste,

Handwritten signatures: Kamal Singh, Akhshay

predominantly consisting of polythene bags, is processed using a specially designed plastic waste disintegration machine installed at the facility.

4. **Remedial Actions taken by Sonamarg Development Authority if any in respect of Solid Waste Management in Sonamarg Region:-**
During the site inspection, no significant remedial measures were observed, except for the clearance of a substantial portion of the legacy waste that had been dumped outside the treatment facility at Sarbal.



Legacy waste dumped outside treatment facility at Sarbal has been mostly cleared.

Sonamarg Development Authority vide letter No. CEO/SDA/2025/528-29 Dated 09/05/2025 has claimed that the following remedial measures are being undertaken:

- Regular awareness campaigns are organised with the line departments including all stakeholders regarding waste disposal. And wildlife.
- Fencing of Sarbal Plant: Proposal for covering the entire Sarbal Plant areas CGI fencing (10feet height) along with a secured main gate in FY 2025-26, to restrict the access of Himalayan Brown Bears and prevent accidental encounters.
- Plant Augmentation: The augmentation and up gradation of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal to be taken under FY 2025-26 through installation of an additional 2 MT magnetic disintegrator, to manage excess waste generated especially during Yatra season.

Recommendations:-

- "Segregation of solid waste at source" should be made mandatory for Hoteliers, other business establishments, institutions, etc. as per the Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM), 2016. Strict action be

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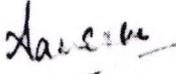
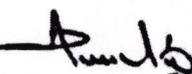
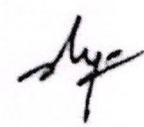
initiated against violators so that segregated waste reaches to treatment facility centre.

- Enhanced Waste Management: Implementing proper waste disposal systems to prevent bears from accessing human waste
- Habitat Restoration: Rehabilitating degraded habitats and restricting human encroachment to provide safe environments for bears
- Community Engagement: Educating local communities about the importance of brown bear conservation and involving them in protection efforts.
- Bear-proof waste bins: Install secure garbage disposal units in tourist areas and villages
- Strict monitoring: Enforce penalties for illegal dumping and ensure timely waste collection.
- The compost generated at the facility needs to be disposed of in the environment friendly manner
- Implementing these strategies in a coordinated and well-funded manner can significantly help preserve the critically endangered Himalayan brown bear population in Kashmir

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

NO:- PCC/ROK/W.Lab/Insp/25-26/10

Dated:-26/05/2025

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



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

Email: sdaofficial@yahoo.com

The Divisional Officer
 J&K Pollution Control Committee
 Ganderbal

No.CEO/SDA/2025/ 523-29

Dated:- 9-05-2025.

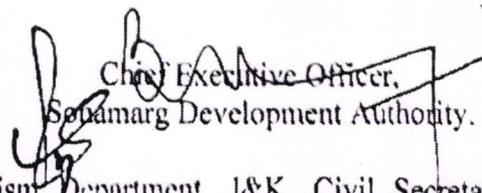
Sub: O.A No. 1046/2024 titled News item appearing in the india.com dated 27-07-2024, titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is race against time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife protection Department taken challenge".

Sir,

Kindly refer to letter No. JKPCC/DO/GBI/2025/200-203 dated 03-05-2025, regarding the subject cited above. In this connection, the point-wise reply is submitted as under:

1. **Quantity of Solid Waste Generation In Sonamarg region:** Approximately 7 to 10 metric tons of waste, including plastics, packaging materials, etc, is generated daily in the Sonamarg area from hotels, local villages, and the tourist belt of Thajwas. However, during the Yatra period, the quantum of waste nearly doubles, reaching up to 20 MT/day.
2. **Processing of Wet Waste and its Utilization including quantity of waste handled and utilized:** Wet waste is collected separately and processed at the Solid Waste Management Plant located at Sarbal. The plant currently handles around 4 to 5 metric tons of wet waste daily, primarily through mechanical processing using automatic composting machines.
3. **Channelization of Dry Waste After Recovery:** The Sarbal Plant are handing over the recyclable dry wastes which includes Pet bottles, High density plastic material and cartoon boxes and other packaging materials to Rag pickers and waste handlers as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Rest of the material is being disintegrated in the Specially designed plastic waste disintegration machine at plant only.
4. **Remedial Actions taken by Sonamarg Development Authority if any, in respect of Solid Waste Management in Sonamarg region:** The following remedial measures have been undertaken by this Authority to address the issues:
 - Regular awareness campaigns are organized with the line departments including all stakeholders regarding waste disposal and wildlife protection.
 - Fencing of Sarbal Plant: Proposal for covering the entire Sarbal plant area with CGI fencing (10 feet height) along with a secured main gate in FY 2025-26, to restrict the access of Himalayan Brown Bears and prevent accidental encounters.
 - Plant Augmentation: The augmentation and upgradation of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal to be taken under FY 2025-26 through installation of an additional 2-MT magnetic disintegrator, to manage excess waste generated especially during the Yatra season.

Yours faithfully,


 Chief Executive Officer,
 Sonamarg Development Authority.

Copy to the:

1. Commissioner, Secretary to Government, Tourism Department, J&K, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar for favour of information.

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**
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**Chief Executive Officer,
Sonamarg Development Authority,
Sonamarg, District Ganderbal.**

URGENT

No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/830

Date: 7-08-2025

Sub: Violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 by Sonamarg Development Authority, Ganderbal.

Ref: No. JKPC/NGT/ Misc-Complaint/1483-90; dated: 04.12.2024.

Sir,

Please refer to the subject and reference cited above. In this connection, I am to convey that Solid Waste Management plant at **Sarbal** was visited by the Committee constituted by J&K PCC (Report enclosed as **Annexure 1**). Gaps observed by the Committee are summarized as under:

1. Quantity of waste generation in Sonamarg [7-10 MT-20 MT (during Amarnath ji Yatra)] has been found to be more than the available capacity for treatment of waste (5MT composting & 01 MT capacity plastic waste disintegrator) which needs to be addressed.
2. No fencing/ boundary wall has been erected around the facility to restrict entry of wild animals.
3. Proper maintenance of records/register showing daily waste treated & compost generated is missing.
4. Achievement of 100% segregation at primary and secondary level to convert wet waste to compost in efficient manner is required.

The case being sub-judice before Hon'ble NGT in the matter of **OA 1070/2024** titled "News item titled "Plastic pollution poses threat to Kashmir's Great lakes trek" appearing in the Rising Kashmir dated 09.08.2024" and **OA 1119/2024** titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted trout habitat threatened in Ganderbal" appearing in Greater Kashmir 19.08.2024, an urgent action is requested, which may be shared with J&K PCC by or before **15.08.2025**.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh) JKAS
Member Secretary
J&K PCC
7.8.25

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**Chief Executive Officer,
Sonamarg Development Authority,
Sonamarg, District Ganderbal.**

MOST URGENT

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/904

Date: 20-08-2025

**Sub: Violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 by Sonamarg
Development Authority, Ganderbal.**

Ref: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/830; dated: 07.08.2025.

Sir,

With reference to this office No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/830; dated: 07.08.2025 on the subject cited above, you are again requested to share Action Taken with J&K PCC in the instant matter in pursuance to the observations of the J&K PCC by or before **22.08.2025** as case is listed for hearing on 26.08.2025.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh) JKAS
Member Secretary

20.8.25

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

No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2025/968

Date: 22-08-2025

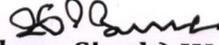
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Ref: Your office No. PCC/RDK/LS(NGT)/2025/723-26; dated 04.06.2025.

Sir,

Please refer to the subject and reference cited above. In this connection, you are requested to share Environmental Compensation format for violation of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 by Sonamarg Development Authority for the period of violation for further levying of Environmental Compensation to SDA by or before 30.08.2025.

Yours faithfully,


(Ghansham Singh) JKAS
Member Secretary 22.8.25