

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

Chairman.spcb@jk.gov.in
membersecy-jkpcc@jk.gov.in

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 1046/26/2266

Dated:- 11 -02-2026.

Sub:-Report on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, order dated 20-11-2025 passed 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 20-11-2025 passed 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.


(Dr. R. Gopinath) IFS
Member Secretary
J&K PCC



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

Original Application No. **1046/2024**

IN THE MATTER OF

“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.

Report on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, order dated 20-11-2025 passed 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”.

Background:

That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated **20-11-2025 passed in OA No. 1046/ 2024** directed as follows: -

“The Regional Head of J&KPCC appearing virtually has also submitted that the steps are being taken for imposition of environmental compensation, therefore, he is also directed to file the action taken report within four weeks”

Status Report:

In compliance of order issued on **20-11-2025 passed in OA No. 1046/ 2024** by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the report of the J&K Pollution Control Committee is as follows:

1. That notice for levying of environmental compensation for violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 was issued to Chief

Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Ganderbal by J&K Pollution Control Committee vide no. JKPCC/LSJ/CEO-Sonamarg/025/1412-14 dated 28-10-2025 (**copy enclosed as Annexure 1**).

2. That the reply to the notice was submitted by Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority vide No. CEO/SDA/2025 dated 07-11-2025 (**copy enclosed as Annexure -2**).

Highlights of the reply are as under:-

- i) The Solid Waste Management Plan at Sarbal, established at a cost of Rs.2.40 Crore is fully functional and operational.
 - ii) The operation and maintenance of the plant have been entrusted to Roads and Buildings Division, Kangan and R&B Mechanical Division, Srinagar for technical supervision and operational management.
 - iii) Waste generated from hotels, guest houses, local house holds and the Thajwas area is regularly collected, transported and scientifically treated at the said facility.
 - iv) The temporary dumping of waste was observed mainly due to temporary increase in number of visitors, resulting in short term storage outside the above said plant area.
 - v) All the accumulated waste was disposed of in scientific manner as per SWM Rules, 2016.
 - vi) A proposal for augmentation and modernization of the Sarbal SWM plant including installation of an additional 2 MT disintegrator and capacity enhancement is under process.
3. That Regional Director, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir was requested to verify the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority and share a details status report vide letter No. JKPCC/NGT/OA 1046-24/25/1683 dated 01-12-2025 and No.

JKPCC/NGT/OA1046-24/25/1758 dated 10-12-2025 (**copies enclosed as Annexure 3 and 4**).

4. That Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority was also requested to clarify the detailed methodology adopted for disposal of legacy waste accumulated at the Sarbal site for 51 days, vide No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/25/1874 dated 29-12-2025 and No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/26/1989 dated 10-01-2026 (**copies enclosed as Annexure 5 and 6**).
5. That Regional Director JKPCC Kashmir has submitted verification report vide number PCC/ROK/LS(NGT)/ OA-1046-2024/2025/1369-70 dated 18-12-2025 (**copy enclosed as Annexure 7**).

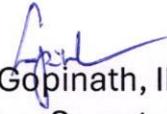
Highlights of the report are as under:

- i) Claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority was found correct as no waste was found outside the shed within the premises.
 - ii) The machinery installed within the shed, viz., electromagnetic disintegrator of 11 MT capacity alongwith 05 MT auto insta-composter and segregator was also found functional during the inspection.
 - iii) Further remedial measures viz., fencing of 10 feet height along the boundary of the plant and installation of main gate to restrict the access of Himalayan Brown bears alongwith installation of 02 MT magnetic disintegrator, are proposed.
6. That Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority has submitted its reply vide No. CEO/SDA/2025/2993 dated 29-01-2026 (**copy enclosed as Annexure- 8**), explaining the process of the disposal of Solid Waste accumulated at the Sarbal plant.

7. That Environmental Compensation was levied upon Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority in respect of unscientific disposal of 10 TPD untreated solid waste in Violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, to the tune of Rupees 39.30 lacs vide Order No. 26 JKPCO of 2026 dated 10-02-2026. (**copy enclosed as Annexure 9**).

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.


Dr. R, Gopinath, IFS
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 - membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com

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

No.:JKPCC/LSJ/CEO-Sonamarg/025/1412-14

Dated: 28.10.2025

Subject Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Whereas, Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 1046/2024 registered suo motu on the basis of the news items 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" and the Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 05-08-2024 impleaded Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee through its Member Secretary as one of the respondents among others; and directed to file their response at least one week before the next date of hearing; and

Whereas, the unscientific and illegal dumping of municipal solid waste is in violation of Environmental laws and the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and;

Whereas, series of notices were served upon you (latest on 03-09-2024) calling upon you, directing you to show cause within 15 days, as to why legal action including levy of Environmental Compensation be not initiated against you, However, no response has been received from your end; and

Whereas, thereafter Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir was advised to share the Environmental Compensation format for violation of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by the Sonamarg Development Authority for the period of violation for further levying of Environmental Compensation to SDA by or before 08-09-2025 vide letter No. JKPCC/NGT/1-1046/2024/1081 dated 06-09-2025; and

Whereas, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir submitted the Environmental Compensation Format for levying of Environmental Compensation upon Sonamarg Development Authority, duly endorsed and signed by the Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Ganderbal vide letter No. PCC/ROK/LS(NGT)/2025/961-62 dated 08-09-2025; and

Whereas, accordingly case was forwarded to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) constituted by the JK Pollution Control Committee for expert assessment and evaluation of Environmental Compensation, which recommended the levy of Environmental compensation amounting to **Rs.39.30 lacs** (Rupees Thirty Nine lakh and Thirty Thousand only) for dumping of Municipal Solid Waste and untreated disposal of **10 TPD** for a period of **51 days** (w.e.f.03-09-2024 i.e date of issuance of first legal notice to the date of submission of EC format by Divisional Officer, PCC, Ganderbal) as worked out in accordance with the guidelines framed in this behalf; and

Whereas, in terms of Hon'ble NGT directions and rules governing the subject, it is proposed to proceed legally against you and impose Environmental Compensation as per the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India, duly approved by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for such violations.

Now, therefore, take this notice and show cause within **10 days** from its issuance as to why:

- i). Environmental Compensation proposed and recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee of J&K PCC amounting of **Rs.39.30 lacs** (Rupees Thirty Nine lakh and Thirty Thousand only) of **51 days** for dumping of Municipal Solid Waste and untreated disposal of **10 TPD**, on the basis of Polluter Pays' Principle (PPP) in terms of directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal be not levied upon you.
- ii). You may not be prosecuted under Environment (Protection) Act 1986 for violation of Solid Waste (Management) Rules 2016.

In the event, no tenable response is received within the notice period, the order for levying of Environmental Compensation as per prescribed guidelines will become imperative along with initiation of prosecution proceedings in court of law against you without further notice

'Issued with the approval of the Competent Authority'.


(Dr. R. Gopinath), IFS
Member Secretary
JKPCC, Jammu.

Copy to the:-

- i) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir for information and necessary action,
- ii) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Ganderbal for information and necessary action,

Environmental Compensation to be levied for improper and unscientific management of Solid Waste by Sonamarg Development Authority, District Ganderbal (J&K) in violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

The approved formula for levying Environmental Compensation under 'Polluter Pays' Principle in O.A. No. 593/2017 by the Hon'ble NGT order dt. 28/08/2019, in a case titled Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti & Anr. V/s Union of India & Ors., is as given below:-

Environmental Compensation (Lacs Rs.) = 2.4 (Waste Generation – Waste Disposed as per the Rules) + 0.02 (Waste Generation – Waste Disposed as per the Rules) × N + Marginal Cost of Environmental Externality × (Waste Generation – Waste Disposed as per the Rules) × N

Where; waste quantity is in Tons Per Day (TPD)

N is no. of days of violation from the date of issuance of first notice

The status of MSW generation and violation committed by Sonamarg Development Authority, District Ganderbal (J & K) with regard to improper and unscientific waste management, as per different reports is as under: -

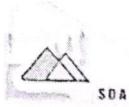
B)	Quantity of Solid waste generation	10 TPD (As per data provided by Sonamarg Development Authority)
C)	Quantity of Waste disposed as per SWM Rules, 2016.	0 TPD (As per EC format submitted by D.O. PCC, Ganderbal)
D)	Solid Waste Management Capacity Gap (TPD)	10 TPD
E)	No. of days of violation (N)	51 days (With effect from 03.09.2024 i.e. date of issuance of first legal notice to 24-10-2024 i.e. the date of submission of EC format by D.O. PCC Ganderbal)
F)	Calculated Marginal Cost of Environmental Externality (Lacs Rs. Per Day)	0.0015
G)	Minimum Value of Environmental Externality (Lacs Rs. Per Day)	0.01 (As per "Report of the CPCB in-house Committee on Methodology for Assessing Environmental Compensation and Action Plan to Utilize the Fund")
Environmental Compensation (Lacs Rs.)		$= 2.4 (10 - 0) + 0.02 (10 - 0) \times 51 + 0.01 \times (10 - 0) \times 51$ $= 24.0 + 10.2 + 5.1$ $= 39.30 \text{ Lacs}$

(Member TAC)

(Member TAC)

(Convener TAC)

(Head TAC)



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

Email: sdaofficial@yahoo.com

The Member Secretary,
JKPCC, Jammu.

No. CEO/SDA/2025 /

Dated:- 7-10-2025

Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid Waste Management Rule- 2016.

Sir,

In reference to the above-cited notice, the following submission is respectfully made for the kind consideration of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee.

This Authority acknowledges the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 1046/2024 and the subsequent proceedings initiated by the JKPCC. The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has been consistently implementing scientific solid waste management practices, as already communicated to the Divisional Officer, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Ganderbal, under this office letters No. CEO/SDA/2024/2168 Dated: 07-09-2024, No. CEO/SDA/2025/235 Dated: 22-04-2025, and No. CEO/SDA/2025/528-29 Dated: 09-05-2025 (copies enclosed).

The Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal, established at a cost of Rs. 2.40 crore, is fully functional and operational. The operation and maintenance of the plant have been entrusted to the Roads & Buildings Division, Kangan, and the R&B Mechanical Division, Srinagar, for technical supervision and operational management. The entire process, including segregation, transportation, and treatment, is carried out under their supervision. In addition, this Authority conducts weekly inspections of the facility and has deployed dedicated field staff to ensure efficient functioning and strict adherence to prescribed environmental norms.

Waste generated from hotels, guest houses, local households, and the Thajwas area is regularly collected, transported, and scientifically treated at the said facility. The temporary dumping observed earlier occurred mainly during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra period due to the heavy inflow of waste from the Yatra route. The plant's designed capacity is limited to the waste generated within Sonamarg town. The additional Yatra-related waste temporarily exceeded this capacity, resulting in short-term storage outside the plant area. However, all such accumulated waste was subsequently disposed of in a scientific manner as per the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

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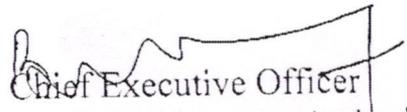
As part of continuous environmental improvement, a proposal for augmentation and modernization of the Sarbal Solid Waste Management Plant, including installation of an additional 2-MT disintegrator and capacity enhancement, is under active process and awaiting tendering action by the R&B Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Further, specific wildlife safety measures have also been taken up. A proposal for 10-feet-high fencing around the Sarbal Plant and installation of a secured main gate has been submitted to restrict the movement of Himalayan Brown Bears and prevent accidental encounters. Additionally, one waste storage unit has been installed at the site to protect the fragile mountain ecosystem. Regular awareness programmes are being organized for hoteliers, locals, and visitors to promote proper segregation, discourage littering, and maintain cleanliness in and around the destination.

In view of the above facts, which clearly demonstrate this Authority's sustained compliance, continuous supervision, and proactive approach towards environmental management, it is most humbly requested that the proposed levy of Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 39.30 lakh and initiation of prosecution proceedings may kindly be reconsidered.

The Sonamarg Development Authority reiterates its full commitment to maintaining environmental safeguards and assures complete cooperation with all directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee.

Yours faithfully,


Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

Copy to the:

1. Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir, for information.
2. Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Ganderbal, for information.

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

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Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex
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Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

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

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1683

Date: 01 -12-2025

Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid waste Management Rule-2016.

Ref: No. CEO/SDA/2025; dated: 07.11.2025.

No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1586; dated: 20.11.2025.

Sir,

With regard to the subject and reference cited above, you are again requested to verify the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority and share a detailed status report by or before **06.12.2025** for further needful action.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary

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

No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1758

Date: 10-12-2025

Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid waste Management Rule-2016.

Ref: i) No. CEO/SDA/2025; dated: 07.11.2025.

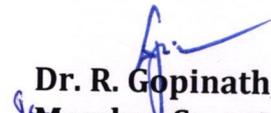
ii) No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1586; dated: 20.11.2025.

iii) No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1683; dated: 01.12.2025

Sir,

With regard to the subject and reference cited above, you are again requested to verify the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority and share a detailed status report by or before **15.12.2025** for further needful action.

Yours sincerely,


**Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary**

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**
chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
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**Chief Executive Officer,
Sonamarg Development Authority,
Sonamarg, District Ganderbal.**

No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/25/1874

Date: 29-12-2025

**Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of
Solid Waste Management Rule-2016.**

Ref: No. CEO/SDA/202; Dated: 07.11.2025.

Sir,

In reference to your office No. *CEO/SDA/202; Dated: 07.11.2025*, on the subject cited above, you are requested to clarify the detailed methodology adopted for disposal of legacy waste accumulated at the Sarbal site for 51 days (w.e.f 03-09-2024 to 24-10-2024) by or before **05.01.2026**.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary

**Jammu and Kashmir
Pollution Control Committee**

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

0191 - 2472881, 2476925



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Silk Factory Road
Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

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

No: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/26/1989

Date: 10-01-2026

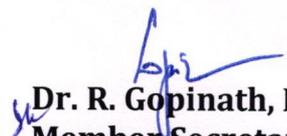
**Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of
Solid Waste Management Rule-2016.**

Ref: JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/25/1874; dated: 29.12.2025

Sir,

With reference to this office No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046/2024/25/1874; dated: 29.12.2025 on the subject cited above, you are again requested to clarify the detailed methodology adopted for disposal of legacy waste accumulated at the Sarbal site for 51 days (w.e.f 03.09.2024 to 24.10.2024) by or before **15.01.2026**.

Yours sincerely,


**Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary**



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 PCC, Jammu.

No: PCC/ROK/LS (NGT)/OA-1046-2024/2025/1369-70.

Date:- 18-12-2025.

Subject:- Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid Waste Management Rule-2016.

Reference:- Your letter No. JKPC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1758 dated 10-12-2025.

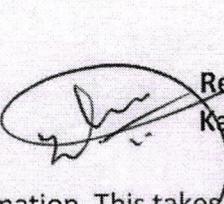
Sir,

A verification report vide No. PCC/DO/GBL/2025/412 dated 15-12-2025 and compliance status of the Sonamarg Development Authority with regard to the subject and reference cited above as shared by Divisional Officer, PCC, Ganderbal along with corroborative documents and Google coordinate photographs after conducted spot inspection and consolidated the relevant information obtained on the subject matter from the Sonamarg Development Authority are appended hereto for favour of kind perusal and needful action please.

Encls: - A/a.

Copy to:-

1. Divisional Officer, PCC, Ganderbal for information. This takes reference to the report submitted vide No. PCC/DO/GBL/2025/412 dated 15-12-2025.


Regional Director,
Kashmir.
18.12.2025

NO (NGT)

L

M.S
B.S



Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee
District Office Ganderbal-Kashmir
Beehama Chowk near J&K Bank Ltd

Regional Director,
JKPCC, Kashmir.

No. *PCC/DO/GBL/2025/419*

Date *15/12/2025*

Subject: Notice for levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid waste management Rule-2016.

Reference: Member Secretary, JKPCC office letter no. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1586 dated 20-11-2025 & PCC/ROK/LS (NGT)/2025/1352-53 dated 11-12-2025.

Sir,

Apropos to the subject and reference cited above, in continuation to this office no. PCC/DO/GBL/2025/396 dated 03-12-2025, kindly find enclosed a detailed status report w.r.t the claims made by the Sonamarg Development Authority for further process at your end please.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Div. Officer
Ganderbal
[Signature]

Encl. *(2)*

Subject: - Notice for levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid Waste Management Rule-2016.

Reference: Your office letter no. PCC/ROK/LS(NGT)/2025/1352-53 dated 11-12-2025.

In reference to JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1758 Dtd: 10-12-2025 this office has submitted report under No: PCC/DO/GBL/2025/396 dtd: 03/12/2025 that the inspection was conducted and it was observed on spot that the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) was found correct as per the e-mail/ reply of CEO SDA dtd: 20/11/2025. No, waste was found outside the shed within the premises and all solid waste is appropriately contained and processed within the shed. The Machinery installed within the shed is Electromagnetic Disintegrator of 11 MT, capacity along with 05 MT Auto Insta-Composter and Segregator also found functional during the inspection. Google coordinate Photographs of the Sarbal Waste Management facilities are enclosed for information.

Further, the letter received from SDA vide No:- CEO/SDA/2025/528-29 , dtd: 09/05/2025 for additional remedial measures viz; fencing of 10ft height along with boundary of the plant and installation of main gate in FY2025-26 to restrict the access of Himalayan Brown Bears within premises and plant augmentation and up- gradation of the solid waste Management Plant at Sarbal with additional 2 MT magnetic disintegrator in FY2025-26 to manage excess waste generated during the Shri Amarnath ji Yatra season.

Submitted for further necessary action at your end please

F-I
15-12-2025
D. O. 9162

The Divisional Officer
J&K Pollution Control Committee
Ganderbal

No.CEO/SDA/2025/ 528-29

Dated:- 9-05-2025.

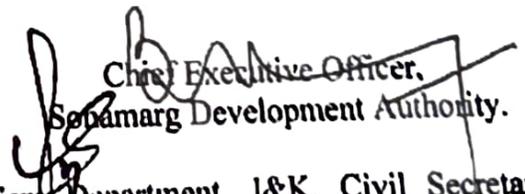
Sub: O.A No. 1046/2024 titled News item appearing in the india.com dated 27-07-2024, titled "Saving Kashmir Brown Bears is race against time Wildlife SOS and J&K Wildlife protection Department taken challenge".

Sir,

Kindly refer to letter No. JKPC/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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membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com
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**Regional Director,
J&K Pollution Control Committee,
Kashmir.**

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1586

Date: 20-11-2025

**Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid
waste Management Rule-2016.**

Ref: No. CEO/SDA/2025; dated: 07.11.2025.

Sir,

With regard to the subject and reference cited above, you are requested to verify the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority and share a detailed status report by or before **25.11.2025** for further needful action.

Encl: A/A

Yours faithfully,


Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary

11/2025, 13:05

Fwd: Updated Photo's and videos of Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal Sonamarg - anuradhapcb@gmail.com - Gmail

595
From: **Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Sonamarg** <ceo.sda.gbl@jk.gov.in>
Date: Thu, 20 Nov 2025 at 10:50
Subject: Updated Photo's and videos of Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal Sonamarg
To: membersecretaryjkspcb <membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com>, membersecyjkpcc <membersecy.jkpcc@jk.gov.in>

Respected Sir,

May kindly find enclosed herewith status of Solid Waste Management Plant at Sarbal Sonamarg for onward submission to your good self and for information of Hon'ble Green Tribunal New Delhi. The Plant is being regularly monitored and is functioning properly and as such at present no Waste Material is lying outside of the Plant.

REGARDS;

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG, GANDERBAL (J&K)

**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

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

No: JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1758

Date: 10-12-2025

Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by violation of Solid waste Management Rule-2016.

Ref: i) No. CEO/SDA/2025; dated: 07.11.2025.

ii) No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1586; dated: 20.11.2025.

iii) No. JKPCC/NGT/OA/1046-24/25/1683; dated: 01.12.2025

Sir,

With regard to the subject and reference cited above, you are again requested to verify the claims made by Sonamarg Development Authority and share a detailed status report by or before **15.12.2025** for further needful action.

Yours sincerely,


**Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS
Member Secretary**

597



GPS Map Camera



Google

Forest Block

Nh 1, Forest Block, 191202,

Lat 34.273755° Long 75.353092°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:40 PM GMT +05:30



Forest Block

Nh 1, Forest Block, 191202,
Lat 34.27367° Long 75.353026°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:38 PM GMT +05:30

599



GPS Map Camera



Forest Block

Nh 1, Forest Block, 191202,

Lat 34.273648° Long 75.35298°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:38 PM GMT +05:30



GPS Map Camera



Forest Block

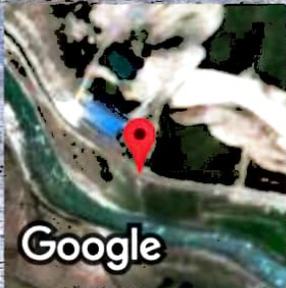
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Lat 34.273607° Long 75.352884°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:39 PM GMT +05:30

601



GPS Map Camera



Google

Forest Block

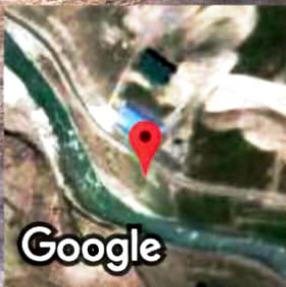
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Lat 34.273584° Long 75.353187°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:39 PM GMT +05:30



GPS Map Camera



Google

Forest Block

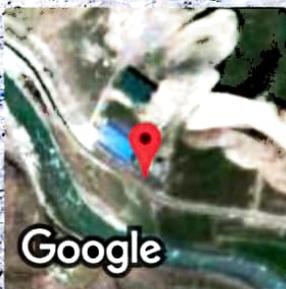
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Lat 34.273587° Long 75.352802°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:39 PM GMT +05:30

603



GPS Map Camera



Google

Forest Block

Nh 1, Forest Block, 191202,
Lat 34.273753° Long 75.353087°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:40 PM GMT +05:30

604



GPS Map Camera



Google

Forest Block

Nh 1, Forest Block, 191202,
Lat 34.273745° Long 75.353064°

Thursday, 20/11/2025 01:40 PM GMT +05:30



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

Email: sduofficial@yahoo.com

Member Secretary,
Jammu & Kashmir,
Pollution Control Committee.

No. CEO/SDA/2025/ **2993**

Dated: **29**-01-2026

Sub: Notice for Levying of Environmental Compensation by Violation of Solid Waste Management Rule -2016.

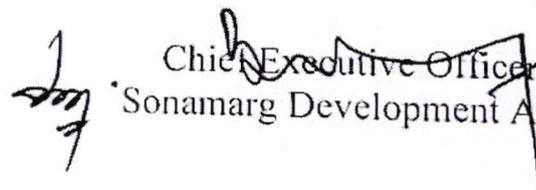
Sir,

In reference to your office letter No. JKPCO/OA/1046/2024/26/1989 dated: 10-01-2026, regarding the subject cited above, it is submitted that the said letter was forwarded to the concerned Executive Engineer PWD R&B Kangan Division, for necessary action, vide this office letter No. CEO/SDA/2025/2872-76 dated: 12-01-2026.

Accordingly, the R&B Department has submitted its report vide letter No. EE/R&B/Divn/Kgn/7634-36, dated: 24-01-2026, a copy of which is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal and further appropriate action at your end, please.

Encl. 02-leaves

Yours faithfully,


Chief Executive Officer,
Sonamarg Development Authority

Government of J&K III
 Department Public Works (Roads and Buildings)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B)
DIVISION KANGAN

Near Govt Boys Higher Secondary Kangan, -191201 e-mail: (ehd@stn.kangan.gov.in@gmail.com)



Chief Executive Officer
 Sonamarg Development Authority

No. 74 of 2026
22.01.2026

Subject: Notice for levying of environmental compensation by violation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016

Reference: Your office letter No. CEO/SDA/2025/2872-76 Dated: 12/01/2026

Sir,

Please find enclosed the report submitted by the Assistant Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Sub-Division Gund, vide Letter No. AEE/SDG/Solid/739-40 dated 22/01/2026, regarding the above-captioned subject. The same is forwarded for your kind information and for taking further necessary action at your end.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
 Executive Engineer,
 PW (R&B) Division Kangan

Copy to:

1. Superintending Engineer, PW (R&B) Circle Ganderbal for favour of information.
2. Assistant Executive Engineer, PW (R&B) Sub-Division Gund for information and reference to his communication cited above.
3. Technical Officer to Executive Engineer.
4. Record File for official record.

Mudasir
B-29/11

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PW (R&B) SUB-DIVISION GUND

No: AEE/SDG/Solid/739-40

Date: 22/01/2026

Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division Kangan.

Subject: Notice for levying of Environmental Compensation by Violation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

Reference: Chief Executive Officer Sonamarg Development Authority's Letter No: CEO/SDA/2025/2872-76 Dated 12-01-2026.

Sir,

With reference to the subject and communication cited above, it is submitted that, as reported by the concerned field staff, the period of waste management mentioned in the letter (03-09-2024 to 24-10-2024) at the Solid Waste Management Plant, Sarbal, pertains to the post-Yatra period of 2024.

The disposal of solid waste accumulated at the Sarbal Plant during the said period was carried out strictly in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The process adopted is detailed below:

1. Segregation of Mixed Waste:

- o Labourers segregated HDPE/PET bottles (all recyclable plastics) from the incoming waste.
- o Cardboard and similar materials were also separated and stored outside the plant, later handed over to rag pickers.

2. Inert Waste Handling:

- o Broken ceramic utensils, glass bottles, and construction-related debris from hotels and other generators were separated and stored at one corner of the plant site.
- o Being inert in nature, this material is earmarked for use in underground construction works at Sonamarg.

3. Food Waste Processing:

- o Food waste, received largely in segregated form, underwent secondary segregation before being fed into the Insta Auto Composting Machine.
- o Bio-culture and absorbents were added as per the type of food waste to ensure optimum composting within a fast conversion cycle of 24-48 hours.

4. Non-Recyclable Waste Disposal:

- o Single-use plastics, wrappers, tetra packs, and other non-recyclable materials were fed into the specially designed Magnetic Disintegrator.
- o This machine converts such materials into ionic ash under high temperature in an air-starved chamber.
- o Any smoke generated was exhausted through a water tank using the wet scrubbing technique, ensuring safe disposal.

The disposal of waste during the mentioned period was carried out in the above manner.

However, due to the large volume of waste received during and after the Yatra period, the process required additional time. This was primarily because the Magnetic Disintegrator installed at the Sarbal Plant is of limited capacity, thereby necessitating extended operational hours for safe disposal.

Accordingly, this report is submitted for your kind information and for further necessary action at your end.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Sub-Division

(The report is regarding the period of previous AEE)

Copy to:

1. I/c Engineer concerned for information and reference.
2. Record File for official record.

Mudasin
29/1



Subject: Levying of Environmental Compensation to Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority in respect of 10 TPD untreated solid waste in violation of Municipal Solid waste (Management) Rules, 2016.

ORDER NO.: 26 JKPC of 2026

Dated : 10 02-026

Whereas, Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 1046/2024 registered suo motu on the basis of the news items 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" and the Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 05-08-2024 impleaded Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee through its Member Secretary as one of the respondents among others; and directed to file their response at least one week before the next date of hearing; and

Whereas, the unscientific and illegal dumping of solid waste is in violation of Environmental laws and the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT); and

Whereas, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir was advised to share the Environmental Compensation format for violation of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by the Sonamarg Development Authority for the period of violation for further levying of Environmental Compensation to Sonamarg Development Authority by or before 08-09-2025 vide letter No. JKPC/NGT/(1-1046/2024)/1081 dated 06-09-2025; and

Whereas, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir submitted the Environmental Compensation Format for levying of Environmental Compensation upon Sonamarg Development Authority, duly endorsed and signed by the Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Ganderbal vide letter No. PCC/ROK/LS(NGT)/2025/961-62 dated 08-09-2025; and

Whereas, case was forwarded to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) constituted by the JK Pollution Control Committee for expert assessment and evaluation of Environmental Compensation, which recommended levying of Environmental compensation amounting to **Rs.39.30/- lacs (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh and Thirty Thousand only)** in respect of **10 TPD** of solid waste for a period of **51 days** (w.e.f.03-09-2024 i.e date of issuance of first legal notice to the date of submission of EC format by Divisional Officer, PCC Ganderbal) as worked out in accordance with the guidelines framed in this behalf;and

Whereas, accordingly notice for levying of Environmental Compensation as worked out by the Technical Advisory Committee of the J&K Pollution Control Committee amounting to **Rs.39.30/-lacs (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh and Thirty Thousand only)** in respect of **10 TPD** of solid waste for a period of **51 days** (w.e.f.03-09-2024 i.e date of issuance of first legal notice to the date of submission of EC format by Divisional Officer, PCC Ganderbal) was served upon the Chief Executive

Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority vide No. JKPCC/LSJ/CEO-Sonamarg/025/1412-14 dated 28-10-2025, with the direction to show cause within **10 days**, as to why Environmental Compensation be not levied upon him; and

Whereas, Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority-District Ganderbal responded to the notice through email dated 20th November, 2025, which was not found to be satisfactory; and

Whereas, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(NGT) in its order dated 20-11-2025 directed to take action for imposition of environmental compensation against the defaulter and file action taken report.

Now, therefore, Environmental Compensation is imposed upon the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority-District Ganderbal amounting to **Rs.39.30/- lacs (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh and Thirty Thousand only)** for illegal, unscientific and untreated disposal of **10 TPD** of solid waste for a period of **51 days** (w.e.f.03-09-2024 i.e, date of issuance of first legal notice to the date of submission of EC format by Divisional Officer, PCC Ganderbal). The Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority-District Ganderbal is directed to deposit sum of **Rs.39.30/-lacs (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh and Thirty Thousand only)** in the Environmental Compensation Fund Account No. 0023040510000001 of the JK Pollution Control Committee in J&K Bank Ltd. within 30 days from the date of issuance of this order.

In case of default to pay Environmental Compensation in due time, the violator is liable to pay Environment Compensation by (2) two times, (4) four times ,(8) Eight times for 2nd,3rd and 4th quarter respectively as per the guidelines of Environmental Compensation issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and violator will not be allowed to operate.

'Issued with the approval of the Competent Authority'.


(Dr. R. Gopinath), IFS
Member Secretary

No. JKPCC/LSJ/NGT/(O.A.1046/2024)/025 / 114-121
Dated: 10 02-2026

Copy for information and necessary action to the:-

- i) Commissioner Secretary to Gov., Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K Government, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- ii) Commissioner Secretary to Govt., Forest, Ecology and Environment, J&K Govt., Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- iii) Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal.
- iv) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Kashmir with the direction in case Environmental compensation is not deposited by the violator in time, he will issue show cause notice to the defaulter and follow proceedings of recovery of Environmental Compensation.
- v) Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.
- vi) Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority-District Ganderbal.
- vii) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee Ganderbal, with the direction, in case the unit holder fail to deposit the Environmental Compensation after the expiry of 30 days the matter be taken up with the concerned Deputy Commissioner to recover the Environmental Compensation amount in accordance to the Land Revenue Act.