

No.KSPCB/SEO(MNG)2023-24/ 26

Date:12.04.2023

## Inspection report of Smt Vijaya Hegde, SEO, Zonal office, Mangalore

Name of the organization/institution inspected	:	Grama Panchayat, Gokarna, Uttara Kannada Dist:
Date of inspection	:	23.02.2023
Officers accompanied during inspection	:	Sri Ganapathi Hegde, DEO and RO(I/C)
Representatives of Grama Panchayat who accompanied the inspection	:	1.Sri Manjunath Kudad, Secretary, Grama Panchayat, Gokarna 2. Sri Manjunath Jannu, President, Grama Panchayat, Gokarna. 3. Sri Ganapathi Gowda, Bill collector, 4. Sri Tofique, Poura Karmika
Complainant who accompanied the inspection	:	Mrs. Ana, President, Khushi Parisara,

**Preamble:**

Gokarna Grama Panchayat which falls under the jurisdiction of Kumta Taluk in Uttara Kannada district has a population of 13,539 and about 3052 families as per 2011 census. It has an area up to 1700.14 hectares.

There was a complaint on open burning of municipal solid waste in the jurisdiction of Gokarna and burying of MSW mainly in its beach area and in this regard, the jurisdictional officer of Karwar has inspected the area on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Based on the observations noticed during inspection, the Regional Officer has issued notice to the PDO of the Gokarna Grama Panchayat on 21.01.2023. And the detailed inspection report along with the copy of the notice is forwarded to Head office on 25.01,2023. The action taken report to the Showcause notice is submitted by the Grama Panchayat on 08.02.2023 to R.O Karwar.

Further, following observations have been made by the undersigned during inspection of the area on 23.02.2023:

1. As observed during inspection, Gokarna Grama Panchayat (GP) has not yet identified its landfill site. It has established a solid waste management centre at its own premises. One M/s Omkar Enterprises in co-ordination with the Grama Panchayat has established wet waste composting machine in the GP premises for the management of wet municipal solid waste of around 600 Kg/day from Gokarna town. Apart from this, the GP authorities also have established a small sheltered place for segregation of waste. At the time of inspection, it was observed that the compost machine was not under operation. On enquiry, it was learnt that the compost unit is not in operation for the past three months as the owner of M/s Omkar Enterprises has left the association of GP, Gokarna because of some problems.
2. Similarly, it was informed that the waste collection contract was earlier given to a Charitable Trust and since past three months, this contract also has been terminated and the GP itself has now started the waste management. During discussion with the Secretary, it was learnt that they are collecting wastes from selected areas only. This has led to accumulation of municipal solid wastes everywhere, on the streets, beach area, market places etc.,
3. For waste collection, they have two small tippers, they have about 10 people appointed for waste collection which includes drivers also. Among these 10 people, 05 people (Poura Karmikas) are engaged in the segregation of collected waste which is co-mingled. There is a weighbridge and a baling machine for segregated plastic waste. During inspection, huge quantity of mixed waste was dumped everywhere within the premises of Grama Panchayat, one couldn't enter the area of compost machine or baling machine area. The authorities have not taken any action for sending the baled plastic waste to cement plants.
4. The Gokarna Grama Panchayat had entered in to an agreement with a Charitable Trust for management (collection and segregation) of municipal solid waste on 01.09.2022 for a period of 07 years. But, the GP has terminated its contract to Charitable Trust on 31.01.2023 itself on the grounds that it is not doing the work properly.
5. At present, it appeared that the GP itself is trying to manage the solid waste, but, not in the scientific way. As per the discussion with the secretary, they are collecting only dry waste, wet waste is not collected. Around 800 Kg of dry waste is collected, in that 200 Kg of waste comes in the form of mixed waste. During inspection, it was observed that about 5-6 Tons of waste in different forms (wet, dry and mixed waste) was found dumped within the premises in the most unhygienic way. Heaps of plastic carry bag bundled with waste inside was observed at the entrance. Few people were engaged in segregating the dry wastes, but, not in the systematic way.

6. As per the discussion with the president of the GP, the process of identification of a landfill site for Gokarna is going on. They have identified a Forest land bearing sy no. 149/A/1A in their GP limits and sought the Dept. approval, it was learnt that a preliminary approval from the Forest Dept. is obtained, but, the same is yet to be notified. As of now, necessary payment from the GP is pending. There is already a complaint from the villagers regarding establishment of landfill site in this location also.
7. The above location was visited and it was observed that the GP has started constructing some building/shed in that area. Some heaps of old solid wastes dumps were seen spread across in the area, during construction work of sheds, they have cleaned up that area and diverted the dumps to little farther side. It appeared that the GP was already using this location for dumping the collected solid wastes from the town and because of complaint, it has now stopped. GP hasn't obtained prior permission of this Board for the development of the solid waste site.
8. The GP secretary has informed that during January and February 2023, tourists' population has increased and this has resulted in the increased waste generation in the main beach area. Added to this, during Shivarathri festival, the place attracts huge crowds of both pilgrims and tourists, months together shops are placed in the main beach area causing lots of solid waste mainly plastic and contaminated plastic waste
9. The complainant showed the location where the wastes are buried in the main beach area along the road side in the GP land. Mixed waste was found to be buried underneath the sand.
10. As the Jathra was still going on, many temporary shops were established in the main beach area, Solid wastes were found to be dumped everywhere. At some places, waste cloths used and thrown by tourists were seen. GP has not kept any bins for systematic management of the solid waste generated during the Jathra. Tourists/Pilgrims had thrown everything on the roads.
11. AT places such as main beach and at the place where Sangam Nala joins the sea, even open defecation was observed. Sangam Nala itself was full of all plastic bottles and unwanted materials thrown by the tourists or otherwise.
12. From the observations, it appeared that the GP has failed in providing the basic sanitation in the area.
13. Even the Gokarna bus stand area was full of waste plastic bottles and carry bags.
14. Gokarna Grama Panchayat does not have any UGD system ending in terminal Sewage treatment plant. A Nala (Raja Kaluve) passes in the centre of the town, sewage and sullage from every house hold and the sewage from the entire village joins this Nala and ultimately it joins the sea in the main beach area. The Nala is called Sangam Nala, during high tide, the water from the sea enters this Nala and

its full, but, during low tide, as water recedes, all the dumped solid wastes and liquid waste can be seen in the nala which itself is in very bad shape. As per the Secretary, GP, Gokarna has around 3234 houses, out of which around 1000 houses are in town area, remaining houses are in the rural area. There are also many commercial complexes and the hotels big and small in the town area. The GP has to give details of sewage disposal from these establishments to the Board. As per the GP, they have provided septic tank and soak pit, but, looking to the tourist population and commercial activities in the area, the septic tank or soak pit will not work for hotels and lodges.

15. Photos taken during inspection are as enclosed as Annexure

  
Senior Environmental Officer,  
KSPCB, Zonal office, Mangalore.

# Photos taken during inspection of Gokarna Grampanchayath

On 23/02/2023



Shed construction under progress at new site



Shed construction under progress at new site



Shed construction under progress at new site











Old solid waste dumps at new site



Shed construction under progress



Plastic bottles at Sangama nala



Plastic bottles in nala at Shashibhitala area



Plastic bottles in mala at Shashihittal area



Solid waste dumped at main beach area



Solid waste noticed buried at Main beach area



Solid waste noticed buried at Main beach area



Solid waster near main beach entrance



Solid waste at main beach at the garden entrance





SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises –Segregated dry waste to be bailed stocked in bags





SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises – Segregated dry waste to be bailed stocked in bags



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises – Wet waste composting area (not in use)



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises -Wet waste composting area (not in use)



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises -Bailing machine areas



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises –Bailing machine area



SLRM unit at GP Gokarna premises