



To: District Commissioner

Subject: Appeal for a far-reaching plan to reverse the coastal disaster

Respected Smrti Laxmi Priya

Being increasingly aware of the systematic dilution of India's environmental laws by the prevalent priority of setting commercial interest over environmental protection, Khushi Parisara understands that **the ecological issues brought until now to the governing bodies are mostly irrelevant and tertiary, as the undergoing destruction of ecological legacy is serving corporates profit by exploiting natural resources** – (de)regulating the Environment.

Exemplar dilution of environmental rules can be the thoroughly dismissed rule of law mandating the management of wastes by all stakeholders thru the sharp duties of liable authorities – as also the removal of clearance requirements for certain industrial projects in ecologically delicate milieus.

And so, India's environmental laws remain impotent unless their implementation is strengthened, only being effective through a stouter understanding of the barriers and gaps to their enforcement.

Notwithstanding, Khushi Parisara ventures to insist on the vast and precise issues that are uprising the vulnerability of the utmost sensitive coastal milieus, about which you are one of the most knowledgeable and practicable officers we have come across these last years; being now, auspiciously, the most power endowed Officer to resolve the current issues, or to trigger their resolution, encompassing all the responsible stakeholders. Ultimately in position to foster rigorous **compliance indicators** to endorse the accountability of District environmental governance to further environmental integrity.

Concerning the paradigmatic **Gokarna issue**, we have been (and we are) anticipating

1. a Scrutiny on its Wastes Mismanagement, namely on **Forest** Landfill, Sorting Center, Seashore & Sangam, Kudle, Om and Main Beaches
2. a Comprehensive report from Tourism Department on its role for Gokarna/Kudle/Om sanitation, past, present and future
3. details on the Green Gokarna Project – requested and unreturned

Nevertheless, up to date, none were released.

Concerning the over-all **Coastal issues**, the infra mentioned points are lingering for clarification, for decision, for action

1. Urgent assignment of **Environment Officers/Engineers** to revert Coastal debacle
2. Instruct **District Environment Committee** to elaborate a Marine Action Plan, since the provided template [following NGT order OA 360/2018 on the **District Environment Plan**],

- does not include Marine/Coastal environment
3. Guidance provision to CEO & SP awareness programs with SUPs
 4. Encourage SP to include also the environment rules on his awareness programs
 5. Refine the notification on SUPs
 6. Lead performance of District Flex printers
 7. The requested data about Gram Panchayats with full, partial and nil SWM facilities undelivered till date
 8. Concerns about the liable Govt Depts to implement the K-Shore project lacking Environmental Officers, along with indulging on the use & display of SUPs
 9. Drawbacks around the survey of seashore encroachments (e.g., FEE Technical input & Order of Coast Guard)
 10. Readiness of the reports requested on the 29/11 meeting
 11. Availability of District Environment Committee & District Environment Plan update
 12. KP Requests to District Tourism Department unreturned
 13. Kumta sanitation issues (staff, UGD, landfill, SUPs, highway, marine litter)
 14. Kalbhag Mismanagement of Waste complained and not enacted

Against the public impression that “It’s a big problem, but we don’t have the solutions, government has to bring them”, each and everyone of us is responsible for the current disaster and has to be part of the needful solution – starting from the liable authorities.

We have to come together ASAP. We need to act, but more importantly we need to act all together.

And thus, we invite you to appraise and to prioritize these critical issues and take up environmental specialists to mitigate them. Such effort is vital to restore and strengthen the endangered coastal ecosystems, upholding the highest standards of environmental integrity.

We need to realise how these issues are relevant, inappropriate, unworkable or challenging, but workable.

Perhaps there is a better course of endeavour for which your understanding, your involvement and your position can direct us, helping to find the appropriate needful solutions.

That said, our immense praise for you drives this appeal, being extremely confident in succeeding the required measures

Thanking you immensely in advance for the best of your attention, care and action

Please do accept our best greetings,

27 January 2025

Ana S.

President

