

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

INDEX

IN

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 673 OF 2025

U/S 14 & 15 OF THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT

IN THE MATTER OF :-

Vikash Chandra Rayal

.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

Union of India & Others

.....RESPONDENTS

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Place: Haridwar

Date: 16-03-2026

Drawn and Filed By

Br. Sudhanand

(Brahmchari Sudhanand)

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Uttarakhand

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 673 OF 2025
VS 14 & 15 OF THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the Applicant is a vigilant and concerned citizen of India, residing in Uttarakhand, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the environment, forests, and ecological balance of the region. The original application aforementioned has been filed in public interest, seeking immediate intervention and appropriate directions from this Hon'ble Tribunal against the grave violations of environmental laws and forest conservation norms by the Respondents.
2. That the applicant adopts the averments made in the original application as part and parcel of the present additional affidavit, and the same are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
3. That this additional affidavit is being filed to bring on record *Information dated 13-02-2026 received under from DFO, Tehri Forest Division, New Tehri which the applicant believes is necessary for the adjudication of the matter.*

Copy of Information dated 13-02-2026 received under RTI from DFO, Tehri Forest Division, New Tehri (Uttarakhand) is being filed herewith and marked as Annexure A-17.

4. That the additional affidavit being filed is bona fide and in the interest of justice.

V. Chandra



PRAYER

In the facts and circumstances above-mentioned, the applicant Most Respectfully prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take this additional affidavit on record and may please decide the original application; AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE APPLICANT AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.



V. Chandra
Deponent

Place: Rishikesh
NOTARY

Filed on: 16-03-2026
NOTARY

VERIFICATION

I, Vikash Chandra Rayal S/o Late Shri Ganga Prasad Rayal R/o Vill/Post Gular Dogi, Chameli, Dist. Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, Pin- 249192, Occupation- Self-Employed, state on solemn affirmation that the contents in the Additional Application are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief and hence I have signed hereunder on this the ____ day of Rishikesh March 2026, at Dehradun.

NOTARY

This affidavit is sworn before me
Shri Vikash Chandra Rayal
who is identified by Shri Self
at Rishikesh on 16/3/26

V. Chandra
Deponent

3/10/26
16/3/26
D. D. KULIYA
Advocate & Notary
Reg. No. 3(01)2001
Tehsil Rishikesh, Distt. Dehradun
Uttarakhand. (India)

कार्यालय:- प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी, टिहरी वन प्रभाग, नई टिहरी।

फोन:- 01376-232077, ई:मेल- dfotehri_ua@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक- 1915 / 122 (7) नई टिहरी, दिनांक- 13/02/2026

सेवामें,

पंजीकृत

श्री रचपाल सिंह सैनी,
आई0डी0पी0एल0 राम मन्दिर रोड,
बीरभद्र ऋषिकेश, नियर राम मन्दिर,
पिन-249202, जिला-देहरादून।

विषय:- सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के तहत सूचना चाहने बावत।

सन्दर्भ:- आपका आवेदन पत्र दिनांक-03.01.2026

महोदय,

आपका ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र जो कि प्रमुख वन संरक्षक,(हॉफ), उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून के कार्यालय से ऑनलाईन अन्तरण द्वारा दिनांक-05.01.2026 को इस कार्यालय को प्राप्त हुआ। आपके द्वारा सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अन्तर्गत मांगी गई सूचना निम्न प्रकार प्रेषित की जा रही है।

मांगी गई सूचना	उपलब्ध करायी गई सूचना
<p>Information regarding Forest Settlement process under Sections 4 to 20 of the Indian forest Act 1927 for forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti and entire District Tehri Garhwal. Sir Madam, I am a citizen of India and seek the following information under section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act 2005, in respect of the Forest Settlement procedure followed for the declaration of Reserved Forests under the Indian Forest Act 1927 for the areas mentioned below.</p> <p>This RTI application pertains to: All forest areas falling within District Dehradun, including the complete Rishikesh Forest Range Muni ki Reti areas, and All Forest areas falling within the entire District Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Information Requested Please provide certified copies of the preliminary notifications issued under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, for all forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, and for all forest areas in District Tehri Garhwal, which were proposed to be declared as Reserved Forest.</p> <p>Please provide the names of the Forest Settlement Officers (FSO) appointed for the above forest areas and certified copies of the notifications or orders relating to the appointment. Please provide certified copies of the proclamations issued under section 6 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, inviting claims and objections from local residents and right holders for the above forest areas. Please provide certified copies of the final Forest Settlement Reports prepared for the above forest areas, on the basis of which such areas were declared as Reserved Forests under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act 1927.</p> <p>In case where any forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, or in District Tehri Garhwal, was declared as Reserved Forest without completion of the Forest Settlement process under Section 4 to 20, please provide certified copies of the specific legal orders notifications rules or provisions under which such procedure was bypassed. Please clarify whether declaring a forest areas as Reserved Forest without completing the forest settlement process is permissible under the Indian Forest Act 1927.</p> <p>If yes, please provide the relevant section rule or legal provision. please provide certified copies of the final notifications or orders through which the forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, and in District Tehri Garhwal, were officially declared as Reserved Forest. The above information is sought in public interest and the protection of statutory and legal rights of affected residents.</p>	<p>टिहरी गढवाल के वनों का विधिवत गजट नोटिफिकेशन राज्य सरकार के द्वारा न करके भारतीय वन (उत्तर प्रदेश संशोधन) अधिनियम-1965 में अतिरिक्त रूप से धारा-20(ए) जोड़ते हुए टिहरी के वनों के प्रबन्धन के लिए राज्य के सीमांकित वनों को ही आरक्षित वन घोषित किया गया है। (प्रति संलग्न है)</p>

यदि अनुरोधकर्ता उपरोक्त सूचना से सन्तुष्ट न हो तो 30 दिनों के अन्दर विभागीय अपीलीय अधिकारी के समक्ष अपील कर सकते हैं। विभागीय अपीलीय अधिकारी का पता निम्न प्रकार है-

प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी,
टिहरी वन प्रभाग,
नई टिहरी, पिनकोड-249001

भवदीय,
लोक सूचना अधिकारी/वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी,
टिहरी वन प्रभाग, नई टिहरी।

APPENDIX - II

COPL OF SECTION 20-A OF THE INDIAN FOREST (U.P. AMENDMENT)
ACT, 1965.

20.A(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, including the Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 or the U.P. Merged States (Application of Laws) Act 1950, or any order issued thereunder, any forest land or waste land in a merged State which immediately before the date of merger (hereinafter in this section referred to as the said date),-

- (a) was deemed to be a reserved forest under any enactment in force in that State, or
- (b) was recognised or declared by the Ruler of such State as reserved forest under any law (including any enactment, rule, regulation, order, notification, custom or usage having the force of law) for the time being in force, or
- (c) was dealt with as a reserved forest in any administrative report or in accordance with any working plan or register maintained and acted upon under the authority of the Ruler,

shall be deemed to be and since the said date to have continued to be a reserved forest subject to the same rights or concession if any in favour of any person as were in force immediately before the said date,

Explanation I - A certificate of the State Government or of any officer authorised in this behalf to the effect that a report, working plan or register was maintained and acted upon under the authority of the Ruler shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that it was so maintained and acted upon.

Explanation II - Any question as to the existence or extent of any right or concession referred to in this sub-section, shall be determined by the State Government, whose decision, given after such enquiry, if any, as it thinks fit, shall be final.

Explanation III - 'Working Plan' includes any plan, scheme, project, map, drawings and lay-outs prepared for the purpose of carrying out the operations in the course of the working and management of forests.

TYPED TRANSLATED COPY

Office:- Divisional Forest Officer, Tehri Forest Division, New Tehri.

Phone:- 01376-232077, Email- dfotehri_ua@rediffmail.com

Letter No.- 1915/221(7) New Tehri

Date- 13/02/2026

Registered

To,
Shri Rachpal Singh Saini,
IDPL Ram Mandir Road,
Birbhadra Rishikesh, Near Ram Mandir,
Pin-249202, District-Dehradun.

Subject: Regarding seeking information under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Reference: Your application dated 03.01.2026

Sir,

Your online application was received by this office on 05.01.2026 through online transfer from the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Uttarakhand, Dehradun. The information sought by you under the Right to Information Act, 2005 is being sent as follows.

Information Sought	information provided
Information regarding Forest Settlement process under Sections 4 to 20 of the Indian Forest Act 1927 for forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti and entire District Tehri Garhwal. Sir Madam, I am a citizen of India and seek the following information under section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act 2005, if respect of the	Instead of issuing a formal gazette notification of the forests of Tehri Garhwal, the state government has declared the demarcated forests of the state as reserved forests for the management of the forests of

Forest Settlement procedure followed for the declaration of Reserved Forests under the Indian Forest Act 1927 for the areas mentioned below.

This RTI application pertains to: All forest areas falling within District Dehradun, including the complete Rishikesh Forest Range Muni ki Reti areas, and All Forest areas falling within the entire District Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Information Requested Please provide certified copies of the preliminary notifications issued under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, for all forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, and for all forest areas in District Tehri Garhwal, which were proposed to be declared as Reserved Forest

Please provide the names of the Forest Settlement Officers (FSO) appointed for the above forest areas and certified copies of the notifications or orders relating to the appointment. Please provide certified copies of the proclamations issued under section 6 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, inviting claims and objections from local residents and right holders for the above forest areas. Please provide certified copies of the final Forest Settlement Reports prepared for the above forest areas, on the basis of which such areas were declared as Reserved Forests under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act 1927.

In case where any forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, or in District Tehri Garhwal, was

Tehri by adding Section 20 (A) to the Indian Forest (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1966. (Copy enclosed)

declared as Reserved Forest without completion of the Forest Settlement process under Section 4 to 20, please provide certified copies of the specific legal orders notifications rules or provisions under which such procedure was bypassed. Please clarify whether declaring a forest areas as Reserved Forest without completing the forest settlement process is permissible under the Indian Forest Act 1927.

If yes, please provide the relevant section rule or legal provision, please provide certified copies of the final notifications or orders through which the forest areas in District Dehradun including Rishikesh Range and Muni ki Reti, and in District Tehri Garhwal, were officially declared as Reserved Forest. The above information is sought in public interest and the protection of statutory and legal rights of affected residents,

If the requester is not satisfied with the information provided above, they may appeal to the departmental appellate authority within 30 days. The address of the departmental appellate authority is as follows:

Divisional Forest Officer,
Tehri Forest Division,
New Tehri, Pincode-249001

Sincerely,
-SD-

Public Information Officer / Senior Administrative Officer,
Tehri Forest Division, New Tehri.

APPENDIX - II

COPY OF SECTION 20-A OF THE INDIAN FOREST (U.P. AMENDMENT) ACT, 1965.

20.A(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, including the Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 or the U.P. Merged States (Application of Laws) Act 1950, or any order issued thereunder, any forest land or waste land in a merged State which immediately before the date of merger (hereinafter in this section 1 referred to as the said date),-

(a) was deemed to be a reserved forest under any enactment in force in that State, or

(b) was recognised or declared by the Ruler of such State as reserved forest under any law (including any enactment, rule, regulation, order, notification, custom or usage having the force of law) for the time being in force, or

(c) was dealt with as a reserved forest in any administrative report or in accordance with any working plan or register maintained and acted upon under the authority of the Ruler,

shall be deemed to be and since the said date to have continued to be a reserved forest subject to the same rights or concession if any in favour of any person as were in force immediately before the said date,

Explanation I - A certificate of the State Government or of any officer authorised in this behalf to the effect that a report, working plan or register was maintained and acted upon under the authority of the Ruler shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that it was so maintained and acted upon.

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Explanation III- Working Plan' includes any plan, scheme, project, map, drawings and lay-cuts prepared for the purpose of carrying out the operations in the course of the working and management of forests.