

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

INDEX

IN

COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT

**(By Additional Secretary, Forest & Environment
Department, State of Uttarakhand in compliance of order
dated 13.11.2024)**

IN

Execution Application No. 27/2023

In

M.A. No. 54/2023

In

O.A. No. 561/2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

Urvashi Shobhna Kachari

Applicant

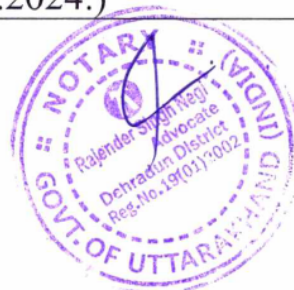
Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondents

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Dated: December 2024



Advocate

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I, Kahkashan Naseem, aged about 44 Years, D/o Mr. A.S.Ansari,
presently posted as Additional Secretary, Forest and Environment, State
of Uttarakhand, hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under: -

- 1) That the deponent is presently posted as the Additional Secretary, Forest and Environment, State of Uttarakhand and is competent to sign and swear the instant affidavit.
- 2) That the above noted matter was listed for hearing on 13.11.2024, wherein the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to issue the following directions:

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“.....

5. *The Additional Secretary, Environment has appeared and has submitted the cap for pilgrims for visiting these places has been fixed by the State. No such order, Memo or Document in this regard could be pointed out during the argument.*

6. *Hence, we accept the prayer for granting one week to place such an order on record.*

.....)

- 3) That in compliance of the aforesaid direction, it is humbly stated that the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand vide letter dated 27.11.2024 directed the concerned departments to provide the necessary SOP forthwith. The major departments are Tourism, Home, Transport, Drinking Water, Health, PWD, Forest, Animal Husbandry, Panchayati Raj, Urban Development, Rural Development & Disaster management Department, CEO, BKTC Uttarakhand, Commissioner, Char Dham Yatra Regulation and Control Board Uttarakhand, District Magistrate, Chamoli, Rudraprayag & Uttarkashi who look after the various aspects of the Char Dham Yatra management like as registration of tourist, equines, vehicles, law & order, sanitation, health and other general administration in this connection, Copy of letter dated 27.11.2024 is being marked and filed as **Annexure No. 1** to this affidavit.



(Signature)

- 4) Thereafter, to ensure effective compliance of the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the Additional Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide letter dated 29.11.2024 requested the Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Uttarakhand to provide necessary documentation, including the SOP and ad-hoc carrying capacity and also requested that the officers and authorities be informed about their responsibilities, especially regarding strict adherence to the guidelines issued during the Char Dham pilgrimage season. As it is evident that each year lakhs of yatris apply for registration but for the efficient management of the yatra only limited yatris are registered and also the numbers of yatris are managed as per situation at the different place and phases of the yatra in this connection, a copy of the letter dated 29.11.2024 is being marked and filed as **Annexure No.2** to this affidavit.
- 5) That further vide letter no. 321 dated 03.12.2024, the Joint Director, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board Dehradun gave a point wise reply to the letter of the Additional Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which is as following:



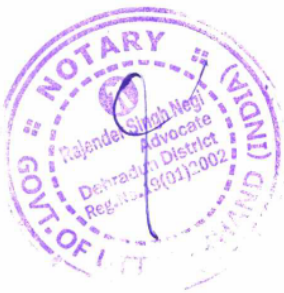
“For the Char Dham Yatra facilitation, the Tourism Department has been tasked with Yatra Registration and creation of public amenities, site management, crowd control and other tasks such as vehicular movement, safety, etc. are undertaken by the respective district enforcement agencies in close coordination with District Administration and Divisional Commissioner.

Over the years the Yatra Registration developed by UTDB has evolved utilising various technological solutions, the Tourist

Safety Management System (TSMS) has been in function since 2022. The solution has matured and today includes a centralised call center, what's app chat bot, verification, on site token generation system, head count cameras and Queue management. All these systems work together, and the collected data is provided to the respective District Administration who are tasked with the responsibility of effective crowd control. As tasked with registration for the Char Dham Yatra, UTDB has engaged a professional agency for executing the aforesaid solution. The Agency is tasked with effectively managing the services for the Yatra duration under the close coordination of the concerning District Magistrates.

The scientific derivation of the carrying capacity has not been under the purview of the Tourism Department. it comes under the Culture department (Teerthatan). However, to undertake the study on Carrying capacity, the Culture Department of State Government has undertaken this exercise with IIM, Rohtak. IIM, Rohtak have submitted their initial report to the State government and the same is under deliberation. Till the time the same is finalised, as a precautionary measure a hard-stop on the online registration has been dictated from time to time. Yaris are also promoted to reschedule their Yatra dates in case of heavy rush days.

*To control and manage the Char Dham Yatra, the State government has also formed an apex body under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Garhwal, '**Char Dham Yatra Management & Control Organisation**' dated 25.5.2023 for*

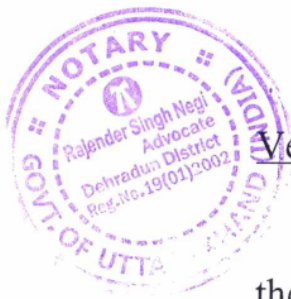


better interdepartmental coordination for conducting and managing the Yatra.”

In this connection, a copy of the letter dated 03.12.2024 is being marked and filed as **Annexure No. 3** to this affidavit.

- 6) That the deponent is a responsible Government servant having the highest regard for the Hon’ble Tribunal and orders passed by them. The deponent has always made her sincerest efforts to carry out the orders passed by this Hon’ble Tribunal in its letter and spirit and shall continue to do so in the future.

Deponent



Verification: -

Verified at Dehradun on this the 4 day of December, 2024, that the contents of the accompanying compliance affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the official record and nothing is false and no material has been concealed therein.

SNo - 8083/24

This affidavit is sworn before me by
Shri. Sachin Kumar
who is identified by Shri Manoj
Dated on 4 December 2024

Deponent

(Rajender Singh Negi)
Advocate & Notary, Dehradun

FILED BY

Advocate

प्रेषक,

राधा रतूड़ी,
मुख्य सचिव
उत्तराखण्ड शासन।

सेवा में,

1. अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रमुख सचिव/सचिव, वन, गृह, परिवहन, पेयजल, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण, लोक निर्माण, पर्यटन, पशुपालन, पंचायती राज, शहरी विकास, ग्राम्य विकास एवं आपदा प्रबन्धन विभाग उत्तराखण्ड शासन।
2. मुख्य कार्याकारी अधिकारी (सी0ई0ओ0) बद्दीनाथ-केदारनाथ मन्दिर समिति (बी0के0टी0सी), उत्तराखण्ड।
3. आयुक्त, चार धाम यात्रा प्रबन्धन एवं नियंत्रण बोर्ड, उत्तराखण्ड।
4. जिलाधिकारी-चमोली/रुद्रप्रयाग/उत्तरकाशी, उत्तराखण्ड।

पर्या0 संरक्षण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन अनु0 दे0दून: दिनांक: 27 नवम्बर, 2024

विषय:-मा.राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण में योजित मूल आवेदन संख्या-561/2022 उर्वशी शोभना कछारी बनाम भारत संघ व अन्य (निष्पादन आवेदन संख्या-27/2023) में मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया (SOP) उपलब्ध कराये जाने विषयक।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक मा.राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण में योजित मूल आवेदन संख्या-561/2022 उर्वशी शोभना कछारी बनाम भारत संघ व अन्य (निष्पादन आवेदन संख्या-27/2023) में मा.प्राधिकरण द्वारा दिनांक 13.11.2024 (छायाप्रति संलग्न) का संदर्भ ग्रहण करना चाहें, जिसके माध्यम से केदारनाथ, हेमकुण्ड साहिब, गंगोत्री एवं यमुनोत्री यात्रा मार्गों में प्रतिदिन तीर्थ यात्रियों के सुचारु आवगमन हेतु मा.प्राधिकरण द्वारा कतिपय दिशा-निर्देश दिये गये हैं।

2- इस संबंध में मा.प्राधिकरण के आदेश दिनांक 13.11.2024 की छायाप्रति संलग्न कर प्रेषित करते हुए मुझे यह कहने का निदेश हुआ है कि कृपया चार-धाम यात्रा के सुगम्य एवं सुचारु संचालन हेतु आपके विभाग/बोर्ड के स्तर पर अद्यतन जारी की गई मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया (SOP) की एक प्रति आज ही उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की ई-मेल आई.डी. (msukpcb@yahoo.com) पर उपलब्ध कराने का कष्ट करें।



भवदीय,

Signed by

Radha Raturi

(राधा रतूड़ी)

Date: 27-11-2024 15:41:05 मुख्य सचिव।

संख्या एवं दिनांक-तदैव।

प्रतिलिपि:- सदस्य सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को इस आशय से प्रेषित कि प्रश्नगत प्रकरण में सभी विभागों से सूचना प्राप्त कर, संकलित करते हुए, संकलित रिपोर्ट मा.आयोग में समयबद्ध रूप से जमा किये जाने हेतु शासन के अनुमोदनार्थ उपलब्ध कराने का कष्ट करें।

आज्ञा से,

Signed by

Kahkashan Naseem

(कहकशी नसीम)

Date: 29-11-2024 11:29:26

अपर सचिव

747

From,

Kahkashan Naseem,
Additional Secretary,
Government of Uttarakhand.

Annexure No 2

To,

The Secretary,
Department of Tourism,
Government of Uttarakhand,
Secretariat, Dehradun.

Env. Conservation & Climate Change Section Dehradun: Dated: - 29 November, 2024

Subject: Execution Application 27/2023 - Order dated 13.11.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT regarding Fixing the Carrying Capacity of Pilgrims for Char Dham.

Sir,

The above-referenced matter was taken up for hearing on 13.11.2024 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), which directed the submission of an ad-hoc carrying capacity for pilgrims visiting the Char Dham shrines.

2- As you are aware, the Hon'ble NGT has emphasized that the ad-hoc carrying capacity report must be filed at the earliest. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that:

1. The Tourism Department and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) have issued guidelines from time to time concerning tourist management and vehicular traffic management along the Char Dham route.
2. The SOP issued by the Tourism Department regarding the carrying capacity of tourists during the Char Dham season should be reviewed and submitted as part of the affidavit to the Hon'ble NGT.

It is therefore requested that the Tourism Department kindly:

- Expedite the preparation and submission of the affidavit, annexing the necessary documentation, including the SOP and ad-hoc carrying capacity, to the Hon'ble NGT within one week as directed.
- Ensure that relevant officers and authorities are informed about their responsibilities, especially regarding strict adherence to guidelines during the Char Dham pilgrimage season.

3- Additionally, the Hon'ble NGT's directive implicitly holds officers accountable in the event of mishaps or lapses during the management of pilgrim activities. Therefore, it is imperative to enforce compliance with the SOPs and ensure that responsibilities are clearly delineated to avoid any unforeseen incidents.

Kindly treat this matter with utmost urgency to comply with the Hon'ble NGT's order.

Yours faithfully,



Signed by

Kahkashan Naseem
(Kahkashan Naseem)

Date: 29/11/2024 11:28:35

उत्तराखण्ड शासन
पर्यटन अनुभाग
देहरादून: दिनांक 03 दिसंबर, 2024

अपर सचिव,
पर्यावरण संरक्षण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग,
उत्तराखण्ड शासन।

मा0 राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण में योजित मूल आवेदन संख्या.561/2022 उर्वशी रोभना कछारी बनाम् भारत संघ व अन्य(निष्पादन आवेदन संख्या-27/2023) में आपके पत्र संख्या-1/256559/2024, दिनांक 29 नवम्बर, 2024 के द्वारा पर्यटन विभाग से सम्बन्धित सूचना उपलब्ध कराये जाने की अपेक्षा के क्रम में पर्यटन विभाग से सम्बन्धित सूचना संलग्न कर प्रेषित है।

कृपया प्राप्ति स्वीकार करने का कष्ट करें।

संलग्नक-यथोपरि।

Signed by

Harish Kumar Sagar

Date (03-12-2024) 6:57:34

अनुसचिव।

DS(Environement)

03/12/24
(कहकशां नरौनि)
अपर सचिव
वन एवं पर्यावरण
उत्तराखण्ड शासन

2-185/AS/PE/2024
3-12-2024

Imp.
SO-En.

HS
04/12/24



From,

Joint Director,

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board

Dehradun

To,

Additional Secretary Tourism,

Government of Uttarakhand

Letter no: 321

Dated: 03 -12-/2024

Ref: Letter dated 29, November 2024

Sub: Execution Application 27/2023 – Order dated 13.11.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT regarding fixing the carrying capacity of Pilgrims for Char Dham

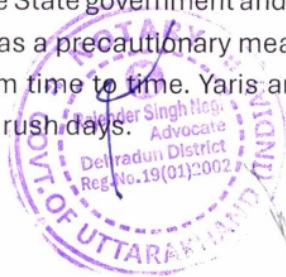
Sir,

In reference the Additional Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand latter dated 29-11-2024, the pointwise reply is given below:-

For the Char Dham Yatra facilitation, the Tourism Department has been tasked with Yatra Registration and creation of public amenities, site management, crowd control and other tasks such as vehicular movement, safety, etc. are undertaken by the respective district enforcement agencies in close coordination with District Administration and Divisional Commissioner.

Over the years the Yatra Registration developed by UTDB has evolved utilising various technological solutions, the Tourist Safety Management System (TSMS) has been in function since 2022. The solution has matured and today include a centralised call center, what's app chat bot, verification, on site token generation system, head count cameras and Queue management. All these systems work together, and the collected data is provided to the respective District Administration who are tasked with the responsibility of effective crowd control. As tasked with registration for the Char Dham Yatra, UTDB has engaged a professional agency for executing the aforesaid solution. The Agency is tasked with effectively managing the services for the Yatra duration under the close coordination of the concerning District Magistrates.

The scientific derivation of the carrying capacity has not been under the purview of the Tourism Department. it comes under the Culture department (Teerthatan) However, to undertake the study on Carrying capacity, the Culture Department of State Government has undertaken this exercise with IIM, Rohtak. IIM, Rohtak have submitted their initial report to the State government and the same is under deliberation. Till the time the same is finalised, as a precautionary measure a hard-stop on the online registration has been dictated from time to time. Yaris are also promoted to reschedule their Yatra dates in case of heavy rush days.



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To control and manage the Char Dham Yatra, the State government has also formed an apex body under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Garhwal, '**Char Dham Yatra Management & Control Organisation**' dated 25.5.2023 for better interdepartmental coordination for conducting and managing the Yatra.

The above-mentioned reply suffices all the points which were raised in said letter for further action.


(Yogendra Kumar Gangwar)
Joint Director

CCto

ACEO, UTDB for information please.

