

902

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

INDEX

IN

ADDITIONAL COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT ON

BEHALF OF

STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

In

Execution Application No. 27/2023

In

Original Application No. 561/2022

Urvashi Shobhna Kachari

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondents

Sl. No.	Particulars	Pg. No.
1.	Index	
2.	Compliance Affidavit	

Dated: 08 May, 2025

Ms. Anjali Rajput
Advocate
(State of Uttarakhand)

903

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

ADDITIONAL COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT ON
BEHALF OF
STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

In

Execution Application No. 27/2023

In

Original Application No. 561/2022

Urvashi Shobhna Kachari

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondents

Affidavit of Kahkashan Naseem D/o Abdul Sattar Ansari aged about 44 years, R/o Room no.- 204, Devendra Shastri Building, First Floor, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 4, Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248001 presently posted as Additional Secretary, Department of Environment Conservation and Climate Change, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.



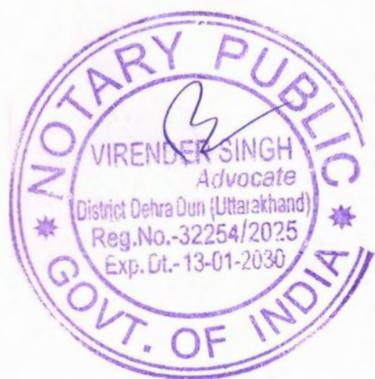

Deponent

I, the above-named deponent do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under: -

- 1) That the deponent is presently posted as Additional Secretary, Forest and Environment, Government of Uttarakhand and is authorised to sign and swear the instant additional compliance affidavit and as such she is well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case deposed below.
- 2) That the above noted O.A. was listed for hearing on 08.02.2023, wherein the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to issue the following directions:

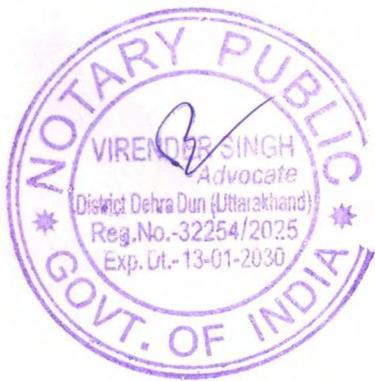
“

6. Accordingly, we allow this application and direct the State to forthwith take effective remedial measures in the matter. A joint Committee of Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest, Uttarakhand, DGP, Uttarakhand, Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, District Magistrates, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi, Chairmen, Zila Panchayats, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi Districts may meet within 15 days from today to take stock of the situation and prepare road map. The Committee will be free to meet online/offline, to undertake site visits and interact with stakeholders. The action plan may inter alia include limiting 16 number of vehicles, type of vehicles, number of tourists, number of mules, consistent with the carrying capacity of eco-



f

sensitive area. It may review and plan infrastructure for waste management, disposal of dead mules and other measures for protection of flora and fauna, safety precautions, installing locations for CCTV cameras, monitoring mechanism, control room, developing an appropriate mobile App, preparing SOP and display boards of do's and don'ts, demarcation of areas where activities incompatible with environment are prohibited/regulated, sources of funds to sustain regulatory measures, traffic management at suitable locations, compliance of environment norms including Water Act, Air Act and EP Act, imparting awareness and education on environmental issues to the tourists, inhabitants and operators. The action plan may also include discouraging use of food and products packed in non-biodegradable packaging material, encouraging depositing waste at designated places, involving citizens – the youth, house-wives and senior citizens in guiding tourists in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. The taxi drivers and bus drivers may also be involved in creating awareness among the tourists. The execution of action plan may be duly monitored in the light of experience gained, the plan may be revised periodically every seasons or as per need. Waste processing/management facilities for bio-degradable and non biodegradable waste may be set up at appropriate locations which may be set up on contract basis or otherwise, using best practices on the subject. Requisite funds be allocated at district and gram panchayat level for execution of action plan which may be monitored at District Magistrate level and finally supervised by the Chief Secretary.....”



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'V' or similar character.

- 3) That in compliance of the order the State of Uttarakhand has been complying with each direction in the aforesaid order in letter and spirit and compliance affidavits to that effect have been filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal by the deponent on 07.01.2025 and 17.03.2025.
- 4) That the affidavit filed in 07.01.2025 contained the compilation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the District Administration as well as concerned departments. However, this Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 18.03.2025 in EA No.27/2023 held as under:

"...2. The affidavit dated 07.01.2025 has been filed by the Additional Secretary, Forest and Environment, State of Uttarakhand enclosing therewith the SOPs prepared by the different Departments and the consolidated SOP also but referring to those SOPs learned Counsel for the State and the Principal Secretary, appearing virtually could not point out the compliance of the aforesaid order...."

- 5) That the submissions of the of the State of Uttarakhand with respect to ad-hoc carrying capacity as under:

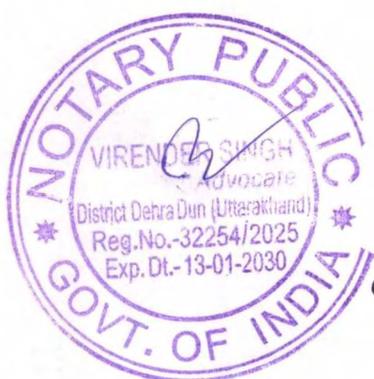
- a) That with respect to fixing the ad-hoc carrying capacity of the area, the submission of the State of Uttarakhand is as under:
- b) That as regards the scheme of carrying capacity, it is respectfully submitted that in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Tribunal, the State of Uttarakhand, as mentioned in order dated 18.03.2025, has already commissioned a study for determining the



f

carrying capacity by a renowned national premier body i.e. Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The WII has since informed that they will require 18 months' time to complete the said study. Efforts are being made by the State to persuade the WII to expedite the same. However, having regard to the fact that this task is enormous, sensitive, as well as of great importance, the same is bound to take some time.

- c) That in the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 31.07.2024 and 13.11.2024, this Hon'ble Tribunal has been pleased to observe as regards the possibilities of mishappening resulting in loss of life of pilgrims or any untimely mishaps in absence of carrying capacity.
- d) That in this connection, it is respectfully submitted that while the State of Uttarakhand is well aware and aligned to this fact, it has, consistent with the objectives, not only commissioned the study of carrying capacity but has taken adequate steps to prevent any such mishappening or any mishaps resulting in loss of life of pilgrims and other persons, and even placed safety measures on all possible grounds in place to avoid any such unfortunate incidents. Further, the Standard Operating Procedures are in place for both preventing any such incident and for timely and prompt attention to any such matters, most of which are stated in this affidavit hereinbefore.
- e) That it is respectfully submitted that while the State of Uttarakhand appreciates that the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal express concerns about any mishap or mishappening in absence of carrying capacity, it is respectfully submitted that the steps taken by the State of Uttarakhand are more than sufficient and have been done after taking consultations from various experts and subject matter specialists available across various departments of the State Government. Further, if required, the State Government is hopeful



[Handwritten mark]

and willing to implement the steps, if any, suggested, till the report on carrying capacity is received.

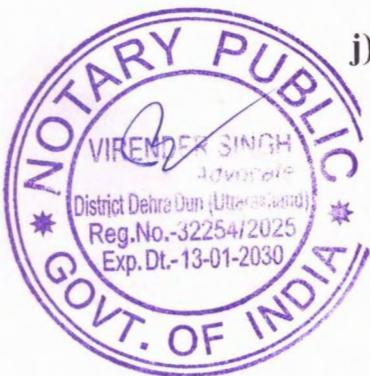
- f) That the Char Dham Yatra is a highly revered pilgrimage in India, which is considered most sacred and of great importance not only in India but also of international importance and significance. As such, pilgrims not only from across the country but all over the world visit the four Himalayan pilgrimage sites of Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath, which together are called the Char Dham. Each of these Dham's has its own significance not only from the religious point of view but also spiritual and other sentiments. The importance of these pilgrimage visits travels much beyond the mere religious visit of some significance but are matters of spiritual rejuvenation and evolvement of the human species.
- g) That the State of Uttarakhand is well aware of its responsibilities and duties not only as regards providing matters of security, services, hospitality, preparations for the yatras after the *kapat* opens, taking steps for protection of environment during and after closing of *kapat*, and also the protection of flora, fauna and wildlife, facilities to the tourists, the benefit of the local economy and various other aligned and ancillary matters. In this regard, the State of Uttarakhand has, over a period of time, taken various measures, commissioned various studies, and taken several steps not only to revive and improve the Char Dham Yatra but to make it most convenient and facilitate smooth, memorable experiences for the tourists and pilgrims, and also at the same time protect the Himalayan range including flora, fauna and wildlife, the precious Himalayan region and all other connected matters.
- h) That the State is aware of its responsibilities towards the environmental issues, protection of environment, ecology, the



[Handwritten signature]

precious rivers of Mandakini, Ganga, as also the precious glaciers of the Himalayan range, coupled with the entire gamut of ecology which is of utmost natural significance. The State, in its endeavour to balance the requirements of pilgrims and tourists visiting the State and the ecology, has taken many steps and with each passing time has come out with modern improvements and upgradation of basic amenities throughout the religious route of this Yatra. Given these circumstances, the State of Uttarakhand has been taking adequate steps by laying down sufficient safeguards and measures in place until the study of carrying capacity is issued by the State, which in our respectful submission is sufficient.

- i) That it is respectfully submitted that the various steps taken by the State Government, some of which are conceived, designed and evolved in the process of streamlining the activities, include tourist and pilgrim management system, putting in place various other protocols for safety and security by bringing in digitization and installing the state-of-the-art management control at various levels, including disaster management.
- j) That management is supplemented by effective support of Health, Transport, Animal husbandry, Police, District Magistrates, with responsibilities fixed on each of these officials and authorities for the purpose of achieving smooth and safe operations of the Char Dham Yatra.
- k) That it may be of some significance to mention here that the apprehension of any unfortunate incident of mishappening or mishaps has by and large fortunately never been experienced except on account of the natural disaster which was experienced in 2013. By and large, the State has been successful in achieving the



(Handwritten signature)

safety, security, and the smooth operation of the Yatra for several decades.

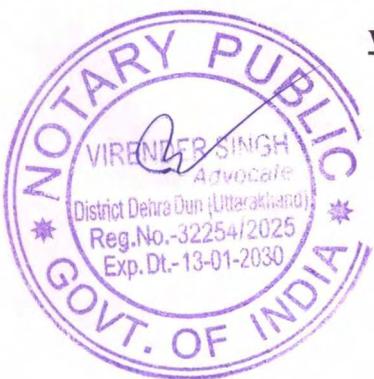
1) That as such it is respectfully reiterated that the steps narrated hereinabove are adequate and the State Government does not consider it necessary to issue any ad-hoc carrying capacity until the receipt and acceptance of a detailed scientific report by WII.

6) That in view of the observation made by the Hon'ble Tribunal, the instant additional compliance affidavit is being filed by the State of Uttarakhand to demonstrate the compliance of the order dated 08.02.2023 passed in OA No. 561/2022. The direction-wise compliance is narrated below for the kind convenience of the Hon'ble Tribunal

7) ROAD MAP/ACTION PLAN AS PER ORDER DATED 08.02.2023:

a) Limiting the number of tourists, the number of mules consistent with the carrying capacity of the eco sensitive areas.

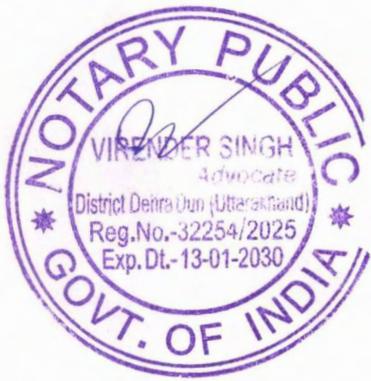
i. **Number of Tourists:** As per the report of the District Magistrate, Rudraprayag, in the year 2024, an average of 9,281 pilgrims visited the temple every day during the Shri Kedarnath Yatra.



S. No.	Char Dham	Average daily number of pilgrims	Total number of pilgrims

[Handwritten mark]

1.	Kedarnath	9429 (Year 2023)	1961025 (Year 2023)
		9281 (Year 2024)	1652076 (Year 2024)
2.	Badrinath	8820 (Year 2023)	1834729 (Year 2023)
		7554 (Year 2024)	1435341 (Year 2024)
3.	Gangotri	7862 (Year 2023)	905456 (Year 2023)
		7140 (Year 2024)	815273 (Year 2024)
4.	Yamunotri	6514 (Year 2023)	735245 (Year 2023)
		6168 (Year 2024)	714755 (Year 2024)
5.	Hemkund Sahib		185972 (Year 2024)

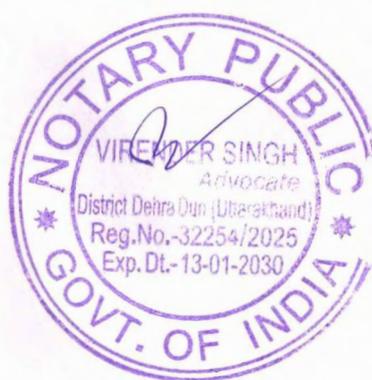


[Handwritten signature]

In so far as limiting the capacity is concerned, limiting is as such have not been fixed because the number of tourists who visit round the clock except when the *kapat* is closed and subsequently opened. Throughout the day the total no of pilgrims are not stagnant but flowing and as such out of the all of odd pilgrims, There is continued monitoring for the purpose of crowd management if any. As mentioned further ques of rush and crowd arise sonly during certain auspicious days and during the season at which time special care is taken by deploying additional forces form the point of view of sec, law and or and safety and other arrangements.

ii. **Number of Mules:** As per the report of the Animal Husbandry Department, the number of mules is as follows:

S no.	Char Dham	No. of Mules
1	Kedarnath	5000
2	Badrinath	N.A.
3	Gangotri	N.A.
4	Yamunotri	595
5	Hemkund Sahib	1050



1. There is registration of all mules used in the Yatra.
2. A token system is in place for crowd control.

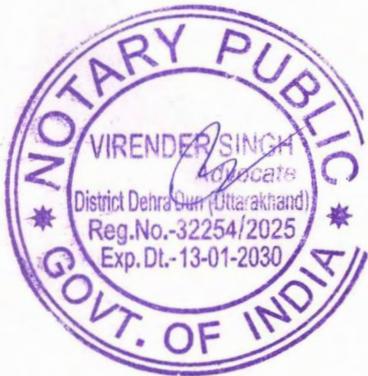
iii. **Carrying Capacity:** A study has been assigned to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in August 2024, which is to be completed

[Handwritten signature]

within 18 months with regard to the carrying capacity of the Char Dhams.

b) Limiting the number and type of vehicles consistent with the carrying capacity of the eco-sensitive area.

1. 40% of the total buses of the Transport Organization are available for the Char Dham Yatra.
2. Green/Trip Card System: A Green Trip Card is provided to all vehicles with complete documentation, including the pollution certificate. The Trip Card maintains a database of all vehicles operating in the Char Dham Yatra and each passenger traveling in them. Additionally, the Trip Card is mandatory for all public service vehicles operating in the Char Dham Yatra.
3. High-emission vehicles are actively discouraged.
4. Total Parking Places: There are 136 parking places which cater to 45,520 small vehicles and 8,601 large vehicles.

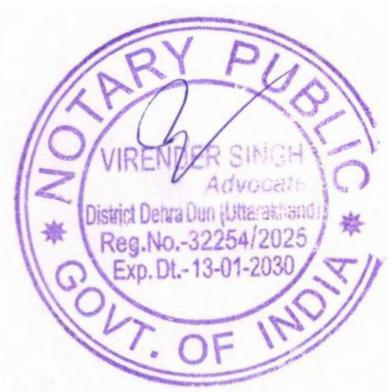


S. No.	Dham (District)	Year 2024		
		No. of Parking's	Parking Capacity	
			Small Vehicles	Big Vehicles
1	Gangotri (Uttarkashi)	6	900	1210

f

2	Yamnotri (Uttarkashi)	6	900	1210
3	Hem Kund Sahib (Chamoli)	31	1020	350
4	Kedarnath (Rudra Prayag)	18	2165	275
5	Badrinath (Chamoli)	31	1020	350

5. The Police Department will deploy appropriate force to track the numbers of vehicles going from Pulna towards Govind Ghat, Chamoli.
6. Number and Type of Vehicles: Similar to the statistics of last year, that on the journey to Hemkund Sahib, 45-50 vehicles will be operated by the local taxi union for shuttle service on the said route.
7. A shuttle service operates between Sonprayag and Gaurikund, in which only maxi cab vehicles with a seating capacity of eight or more are permitted to run. This arrangement is made to regulate traffic by restricting the entry of vehicles coming from other districts.



(Signature)

c) Safety Precautions

i. **Police Department, Transport Department, Disaster Management Department:**

1. Safety audits are conducted before the opening of the *Kapat*.
2. SDRF/NDRF conduct mock drills.
3. A total of 30 fire units, 31 SDRF teams, 1,049 PRD personnel, 926 Home Guards, 9 PAC units, 2,503 Police personnel along with 8 SPs are deployed.
4. CCTV surveillance is in place.
5. Driver Fatigue Management: Mandatory rest breaks are provided in designated resting zones. Trip Card issuance is blocked after 9 consecutive days of driving.
6. Check posts have been established along the Char Dham route.
7. SMS alerts are sent for extreme weather updates.
8. Shuttle services are provided in disaster-prone zones.
9. There are a total of 198 accident-prone zones and 66 landslide-prone zones along the Char Dham route. To address these, 334 warning boards, 160 convex mirrors, and blinkers at 85 locations have been installed at appropriate places.



ii. Tourism Department:

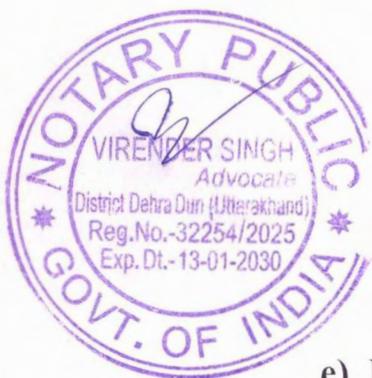
1. Tourist Safety Management System: Tourists are required to register themselves and their vehicles before commencing their journey.
2. Enhanced Police Presence: The Uttarakhand Police have increased their presence at tourist hotspots and remote areas, and have also set up helplines.
3. Traffic Regulations: The Uttarakhand Traffic Police provide guidelines for tourists to ensure safe travel.
4. Emergency and Health Care Support: Over 150 medical relief posts have been set up along the travel routes, supported by helicopter and ambulance services.
5. For security purposes, movement of vehicles on the route is completely prohibited from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM.

d) Biodiversity & Environmental Protection

1. *Eco Vikas Samiti Bhyundar* has divided the entire yatra area from Pulna to Shri Hemkund Sahib and Valley of Flowers into five zones to keep it clean.
2. In each zone, twelve workers have been deployed along with a leader who cleans the entire zone.

e) Demarcation of areas where activities incompatible with environment are prohibited/regulated.**i. Forest Department:**

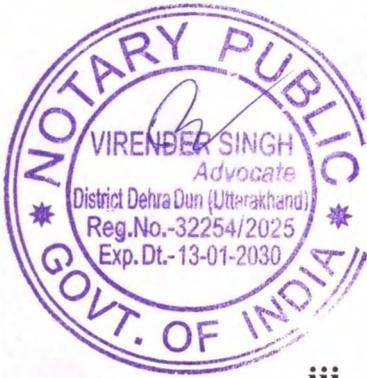
1. Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone

2. Gangotri National Park
3. Govind National Park
4. Valley of Flowers
5. Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary

ii. Implemented Rules:

1. *Do's and Don'ts* signs have been installed.
2. Regulations are in place on the use of horses/mules.
3. Restrictions are enforced at Gaurikund.
4. Horses/mules are not allowed to stand near the gate in front of Gaurikund.
5. No camps are to be built for horses/mules at the front gate of Gaurikund.
6. Daily timings of 6:00 to 8:00 AM and 10:00 to 12:00 noon are fixed for the operation of passenger horses/mules from Sonprayag/Gaurikund.



iii. District Administration:

1. The entire area is diligently maintained by the Eco Vikas Samiti Bhyundar. To promote awareness, periodic announcements related to environmental protection are also made.

iv. Deputy Forest Conservator, Ukhimath Range:

1. The Ukhimath Range lies within the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, where all non-forestry activities require clearance

4

from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)/Government of India on a case-to-case basis. The division has also marked a 10 km area around the sanctuary periphery as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), in which activities such as mining and polluting industries are prohibited in accordance with ESZ guidelines.

2. Measures are implemented for the protection of flora and fauna.
3. Certain activities are prohibited and regulated in the ecologically sensitive zone around Valley of Flowers National Park.

v. Forest Department:

1. Protection is enforced against high-emission vehicles.
2. Restrictions are placed on harmful animal practices.

vi. District Administration:

1. Do's:

- A. Respect wildlife by maintaining a safe distance from animals and refraining from feeding them.
- B. Use eco-friendly products and support local communities.

2. Don'ts:

- A. Do not litter or pollute water bodies.
- B. Avoid throwing plastic items or any kind of waste on the ground or into rivers, lakes, or streams.



(Handwritten signature)

vii. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Rudraprayag Forest Division:

1. All visitors to the area are subject to the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, as amended by the Uttaranchal Amendment Act, 2001, along with the rules framed thereunder.
2. Assisted natural regeneration is undertaken in oak forest areas, along with conservation and protection measures in the *Bugyals* (alpine meadows).
3. To protect wildlife habitats, restoration activities such as weed eradication, development of water holes, and their regular maintenance are carried out.

f) Ensure compliance with Water Act, 1974, Air Act, 1981 and Environment Protection Act, 1986

i. As per reports by UKPCB / Jal Sansthan / Peyjal Nigam:

1. The Pollution Control Board (PCB) has issued 231 show cause notices, and environmental compensation has been imposed on 125 units.
2. Operation of STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants):
 - a. Three STPs are operational at Badrinath with a total capacity of 1.27 MLD (Million Litre per Day).
 - b. One STP is operational at Gangotri with a capacity of 1.0 MLD.
 - c. A 0.6 MLD capacity STP is under construction at Kedarnath Dham.
 - d. A total of 59 STPs are monitored per month on the Char Dham Route.



(Handwritten signature)

3. There is a ban on single-use plastic.

g) Encouraging depositing waste at designated places

i. Responsible Departments/Authorities: Urban Development Department / Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand / District Administration/ Forest Department

1. The Deposit Refund System (DRS) has been implemented by the State.

S No.	Char Dham	DRS Progress Status
1	Badrinath	Total QR on plastic bottle/tetra pack-123950. Out of which 98743(80%) returned for recycling.
2	Kedarnath	Total QR on plastic bottle/tetra pack-172100. Out of which 139838(81%) returned for recycling.
3	Gangotri	Total QR on plastic bottle/tetra pack-125950. Out of which 120146(95%) returned for recycling.



2. A waste disposal system involving door-to-door collection is in place.

3. Nearly 1000 dustbins have been placed along the Shri Kedarnath Yatra route and in rural markets for the collection of organic and inorganic waste.

(Handwritten signature)

4. A total of 95 sanitation workers and 7 sanitation supervisors have been deployed to manage the cleanliness system.
5. On the Shri Yamunotri Yatra Route, 80 meshed dustbins, 8 garbage collection centers, and 150 plastic dustbins have been installed at various locations.
6. Waste from the garbage dump is taken to the Solid Waste Management Plant and is subsequently disposed of.
7. The Nagar Panchayat Kedarnath distributes green and blue dustbins to shop owners, hotel operators, and commercial establishments within the municipal area for separate collection of dry and wet garbage. The Deposit Refund System (DRS) has been in effect in Shri Kedarnath Dham since the year 2022.
8. Waste and garbage at ecotourism sites are collected and disposed of on a regular basis.
9. Cleanliness drives are organized periodically in collaboration with environmental workers and local traders.

h) Review and plan infrastructure for waste management

i. District Administration

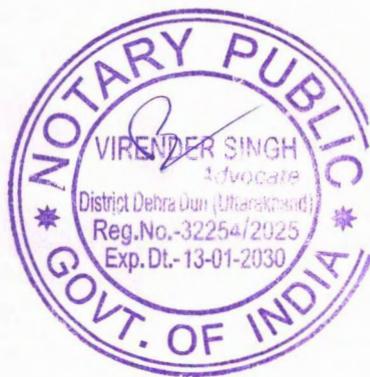
1. For the convenience of passengers and tourists, two Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) have been installed at Ghangaria, allowing individuals to dispose of plastic bottles.
2. Additionally, horse dung is managed by collecting and disposing of it in 15 designated compost pits.



(Handwritten mark)

ii. Executive Engineer, Construction Section

1. A compactor machine has been installed at Pulna to avoid landslides. Under the Shri Kedarnath Dham Master Plan, the construction of a 600 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is in progress, 85 percent of which is complete. The STP is being built using Electro Coagulation Method technology.
2. The buildings under construction/constructed under the Shri Kedarnath Dham Master Plan are proposed to be connected to the STPs.
3. Under the Master Plan, the work of sewerage line is being executed in three main parts:
 - A. Towards Mandakini Edge: The construction of new buildings along the Mandakini edge has been completed or is nearing completion. Approximately 400 meters of sewerage lines have been successfully laid in this area. Additionally, around 450 meters of sewerage lines have been laid from the newly constructed bridge to the STP.
 - B. Towards Saraswati Edge: The sewerage line work covering 120 meters towards the completed buildings along the Saraswati edge has also been successfully completed.
 - C. Central Street Area: Demolition and reconstruction of buildings is done after signing an agreement with the concerned stakeholders. Only after the agreement is signed may the work of laying down sewerage lines be executed.
4. An MRF (Material Recovery Facility) Centre equipped with



(Handwritten mark)

modern machines is being constructed on the land allotted to Nagar Panchayat Kedarnath for garbage disposal, with the help of Healing Himalayas Foundation, for the proper disposal of dry waste.

iii. Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand

1. For the disposal of dead mules, post-mortem is carried out by a team of veterinary doctors, after which the dead animals are buried in a deep pit dug in the ground along with salt, and the same is monitored for 10 to 15 days.

i) Surveillance & Monitoring

i. District Administration:

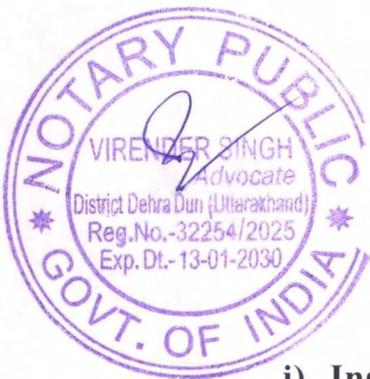
1. The operation and monitoring of horses, mules and dandi-kandi on Pulna, Bhyundar, Ghangaria, Shri Hemkund Sahib and Ghangaria Valley of Flowers during the travel period is being done by Eco Vikas Samiti Bhyundar.
2. The Char Dham route is divided into 15 super zones, 48 zones and 137 sectors.
3. 24x7 control rooms have been established on the Char Dham Yatra route.

j) Install CCTV Cameras at Key Locations.

i. Police Department:

1. A total of 1778 CCTV cameras have been installed along the routes, out of which 65 cameras are at the Char Dhams.
2. Regular monitoring is done by the police and temple

(Handwritten mark)



committees.

3. Additional installations will be done if needed.

k) Establish a Control Room.

i. District Administration/ Disaster Management Department

1. 24x7 control rooms have been set up at Badrinath and along the general Yatra route.
2. These are supervised by the Police Headquarters.
3. A special police cell has been created for Char Dham Yatra.
4. A control room has been set up with 24x7 helplines in the District Disaster Management Authority.

l) Develop an Appropriate Mobile Application.

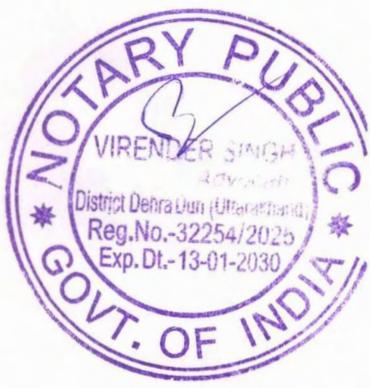
i. Health Department:

1. An emergency health and monitoring application has been developed by the WISH Foundation.

m) Create a Monitoring Mechanism.

i. District Administration/ Disaster Management Department:

1. SDRF patrolling cars have been deployed.
2. Police deployment has been ensured for supervision.
3. Lost and Found Centers have been established.
4. An office of Environmental Damage Compensation (EDC) has been established.



[Handwritten signature]

5. A Control Room, Incident Command Centre, and 51 Tourist Police Booths have been set up

n) The execution of action plan may be duly monitored in the light of experience gained, the plan may be revised periodically every season or as per need.

i. Disaster Management Department / Police Department:

1. Control rooms have been established at the District and State levels under designated Nodal Officers for continuous monitoring.
2. Training and briefings are conducted before each season.
3. A total of 38 seasonal police posts have been established.
4. Plans are revised in coordination with SDRF, NDMA, and the local administration based on experience gained each season or as needed.

o) Ensure disposal facilities for dead mules.

i. District Administration/ Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand / Animal Husbandry Department/ In-charge, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, Srinagar:

1. For disposal of dead animal carcasses, the Veterinary Doctor, EDC, Gram Pradhan, Union President, and team dig a deep pit in the forest and bury the dead animal with salt and other medicines, cover it with carcass material, and monitor it for 10 to 15 days.
2. As per office letter number 164/Chardham Yatra 2024-25 dated 27 April 2024 of the Veterinary Officer, Rudraprayag.



4

a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for the systematic operation of horses and mules used on the Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra route.

3. To maintain cleanliness on the travel route, it is mandatory to bury dead animals in a pit 10 feet deep and at least 100 meters away from water sources.
4. There is a complete ban on discharging animal dung into water sources.
5. Disposal of dead mules is done under the supervision of the Veterinary Officer, and the actual disposal is conducted by Sulabh International as per the instructions of the District Administration.

p) Discouraging use of food and products packed in non-biodegradable packaging material.

i. Urban Development Department / District Administration:

1. A ban on single-use plastic has been implemented in the Yatra zone.
2. On the Yatra route, plastic waste is collected by the workers of EDC and segregated in Ghangaria and Pulna. Thereafter, the waste is sent to scrap dealers for recycling.
3. The district's food business owners have informed all hotel associations and trade boards to discourage the use of certain food products.
4. Public awareness campaigns are being conducted to reduce the use of food items and products packaged in non-



4

biodegradable materials, thereby decreasing the generation of non-biodegradable waste.

q) Encouraging depositing waste at designated places.

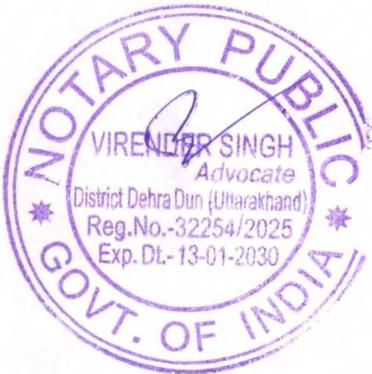
i. District Administration/ In-Charge, Sulabh International Social Service:

1. The non-organic waste generated is collected and transported to the Ghangaria dumping zone, where it is processed using a scrap machine. The remaining waste is brought to the dumping zone using a compactor machine. Additionally, cleanliness drives are organized from time to time to maintain hygiene and environmental standards.

r) Waste processing/management facilities for bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste may be set up at appropriate locations, via contract or other methods.

ii. District Administration/ Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand:

1. Organic and inorganic waste is disposed of as per prescribed rules.
2. 50 to 60 *Safai Karamcharis* have been deployed for garbage collection and segregation on the Shri Hemkund Sahib Yatra Marg. Furthermore, one plastic crusher machine and two plastic ball crusher machines have been installed at Ghangaria.
3. To ensure cleanliness in the Nagar Panchayat Kedarnath area, 55 temporary *Paryavaran Mitras* will be deployed during the Yatra period in 2025.



4

4. Dustbins have been installed for the disposal of non-biodegradable garbage. Post-disposal, garbage is transported to the nearest compactor shed, where garbage bales are prepared, either under a contract system or through a departmental arrangement.
5. Solid Waste Management activities are also being undertaken at Janki Chatti, Yamunotri Dham Yatra.
6. Waste management machines with a capacity of 1 ton per day have been installed, and their operation is managed by trained personnel.

s) **Sources of funds to sustain regulatory measures.**

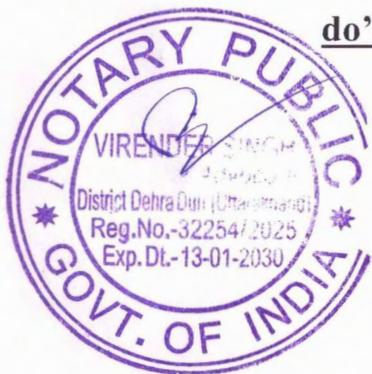
i. **District Administration/ Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand.**

1. Under the Fifth Finance Commission, an annual grant is provided to the Nagar Panchayat Kedarnath to meet its expenditure needs.
2. All these activities are carried out using funds received from the Central Finance Commission, the State Finance Commission, and the District Panchayat's own resources.

t) **Prepare SOP and install display boards showing environmental do's and don'ts.**

i. **District Administration / Forest Department:**

1. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been issued to regulate and guide activities on the pilgrimage routes.



2. Display boards listing environmental do's and don'ts have been installed by the Tourism Department along the routes in Chamoli.
3. Dos include: Visitors must dispose of garbage in designated areas, respect wildlife, and use eco-friendly products.
4. Don'ts include: Visitors must not litter, pollute water sources, dispose of waste irresponsibly, or disturb wildlife in any manner.
5. The Forest Department is preparing an action plan to install more Do's & Don'ts signboards along the Ghangaria and Hemkund Sahib road.
6. Display boards have already been installed at various locations for public awareness.

u) Imparting awareness and education on environmental issues to the tourists, inhabitants, and operators.

i. Tourism / District Administration:

1. The Tourism Department has placed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials at key locations to raise awareness about environmental concerns.
2. Orientation programs are conducted for hoteliers and other stakeholders to ensure they are well-informed about environmental regulations.
3. The Tourism Department has installed Do's and Don'ts signage along the routes to provide guidelines for tourists.



[Handwritten signature]

4. The Forest Department is preparing an action plan to install Do's & Don'ts signboards on the Ghangaria and Hemkund Sahib roads.
5. Awareness programs on environmental issues are regularly organized within the Municipality/Nagar Panchayat Area to educate the local population.
6. Civilians, including youth, housewives, and senior citizens, are actively involved in guiding tourists to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.
7. 115 Paryatan Mitras have been deployed to assist tourists, especially elderly and differently-abled individuals.
8. 60 environment-friendly groups are employed daily by the EDC to clean the entire travel and trekking routes.
9. Women, youth, and senior citizens are encouraged to participate, with suggestions being solicited for better community engagement.
10. During the Char-Dham Yatra 2024, action was taken against 10 public vehicles for failing to have dustbins in place.
11. Under the Deposit Refund System (DRS) project, the firm Recycle regularly organizes cleanliness and hygiene awareness programs in the Shri Kedarnath Dham area.
12. Local citizens are actively involved in keeping the area clean.
13. Recycle runs periodic cleanliness and hygiene awareness programs in Shri Kedarnath Dham under the DRS project



[Handwritten signature]

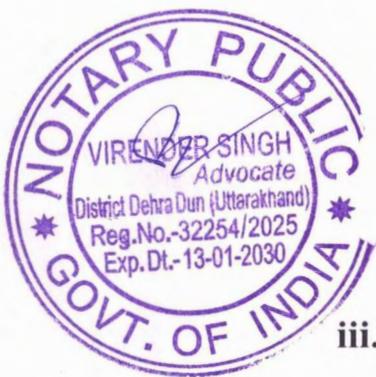
v) Engage taxi and bus drivers in spreading awareness among the tourists.

i. Transport Department/ District Administration:

1. It has been made mandatory for drivers of passenger vehicles operating on the route to keep dustbins in their vehicles. Additionally, these vehicles must obtain a green card to operate during the Char-Dham Yatra.
2. Traffic measures are implemented at suitable locations to ensure smooth flow of traffic during the Yatra.

ii. Police Department:

1. Traffic barriers have been installed at key locations to control the flow of vehicles.
2. Quick Response Teams (QRTs) are in place, along with diversion plans and one-way route systems for efficient traffic management.
3. A total of 198 accident-prone zones have been identified, with 334 warning boards, 160 convex mirrors, and 85 blinkers installed across districts to enhance safety.



iii. District Administration / Transport Department:

1. All local vehicles involved in the shuttle service must possess a valid fitness certificate issued by the RTO. Vehicle documents and driver credentials are verified at the police station level.

af

2. Approximately 200 to 250 vehicles are part of the Sonprayag to Gaurikund shuttle service during the Yatra.
3. A temporary check post is established at Sonprayag to manage vehicle operations during the Yatra period.

iv. District Administration:

1. Drivers are not permitted to drive for more than 8 hours at a stretch to ensure safety.
2. Alcohol meter testing is conducted on drivers to ensure safety and compliance.

w) Ensure Safety Precautions Across Routes and Tourist Locations.

i. Health, Police & Transport Department / District Administration:

1. Health screening kiosks will be set up along key routes to ensure the well-being of travellers.
2. Anti-sabotage checking will be conducted to ensure security across the Yatra routes.
3. Deployment of SDRF, PAC, PRD, and fire units will be made to respond to any emergency situations promptly.
4. Lost and found centers established.
5. Driver rest zones established.
6. Pre-Yatra training provided to the police.



4

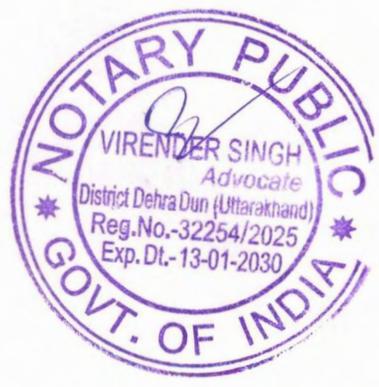
ii. District Administration:

1. The **Police** force will be deployed in **two shifts** for **maintenance of safety**.

x) Requisite Funds to Be Allocated at District and Gram Panchayat Levels for Execution of Action Plan which may be monitored at District Magistrate level and finally supervised by the Chief Secretary:

i. District Administration/ Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand:

1. For Chardham Yatra Arrangements – 2025, an amount of ₹2,00,00,000 has been sanctioned through Order No. 7191 dated 11.02.2025, issued by the Commissioner, Garhwal Mandal, Pauri.
2. An additional amount of ₹1,00,00,000 has been received for the Chardham Yatra Arrangements – 2025, as per Order No. 62/2-7-27/2025-26 dated 03.04.2025, issued by the Chief Executive Officer, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council, Dehradun.
3. The District Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, and Nagar Panchayats also receive financial assistance from the Tourism Department and the Government for the arrangements related to the Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra.
4. **Funds** are allocated to the **Zila Panchayat** and **Gram Panchayat** for the districts of **Chamoli, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi**.



[Handwritten signature]

8) That the deponent is a responsible Government servant having the highest regards for the Hon'ble Tribunal and orders passed by them. The deponent has always made his 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: -

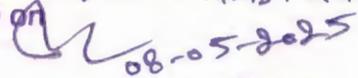
Verified at Dehradun on the 08 day of May 2025, that the contents of the response affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the official record and nothing is false, and no material has been concealed therein.


Deponent

Dated: 08 May 2025



SR. No. 236
Date 08-05-2025

This affidavit is sworn before me by
Shri. Kah Kashi Khaseem
who is identified by Shri Moushik Kumar (Com. OP)
at Dehradun on 
Virender Singh,
Advocate & Notary, Dehradun