

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI
O.A. NO.689 / 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:-

President (Shiv Nuala Committee)

...Applicant

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh

.....Respondent

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PLACE: SHIMLA.

DATED: 22-01-2025

REPLYING RESPONDENT

Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Through

Divyanshu

Divyanshu Kumar Srivastava (D/1383/2015)
48, Lawyers Chamber, Supreme Court of India
9711872319

Dksrivastava0511@gmail.com

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI
O.A. NO.689 / 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:-

President (Shiv Nuala Committee)

...Applicant

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh


.....Respondent

Compliance affidavit filed in pursuance of the order dated 18.10.2024 on the behalf of Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh

I, Prabodh Saxena, S/o Late Shri J.B Saxena aged about 59 years, presently working as Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under: -

1. That I am working as Chief Secretary and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and thus competent to swear the present Affidavit.
2. That in compliance to the order dated 18.10.2024 the Chief Secretary to the Govt. was directed as under:

“.....In the circumstances, we accept the above report and direct State of Himachal Pradesh through Chief Secretary to ensure implementation and compliance of recommendations made by Joint Committee in above report dated 01.10.2024 by issuing appropriate directions to concerned Departments who have to undertake activities for implementation of various recommendations made by Joint Committee so that, next year Yatra may not face similar problems as have been noticed in the past.



**Prabodh Saxena
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh**

ATTESTED

**Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla**

12. Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh shall submit a compliance report by 31.01.2025 with Registrar General of this Tribunal, who, if finds that any further order is required, may place the matter before appropriate Bench.”

3. That in order to ensure implementation and compliance of recommendations made by the Joint Committee on 01.10.2024, appropriate directions were issued by the Chief Secretary to the GoH.P. through Director DEST&CC to concerned Departments to undertake activities for implementation of various recommendations made by Joint Committee in order to overcome/ avoid the similar problems faced during the yatra in the preceding year.
4. That on the directions of the Chief Secretary to the GoH.P. the Director, DEST&CC convened a virtual meeting on 13.12.2024 (Annexure- I) with the Deputy Commissioner, Chamba, DFO, Bharmour, Representative from Superintendent of Police Office, Chamba, SDM Bharmour, DCF, Bharmour, Regional Officer, HPPCB, Chamba and senior Officers of DEST&CC.
5. That the DC, Chamba was asked to share Action Plan prepared to implement the SoP's accordingly as per discussion and the same was submitted by D.C. Chamba to the DEST&CC. (Copy of the Action plan Annexed as Annexure- II).


Prabodh Saxena
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh


ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

6. The copy of the proceedings of the Meeting of Shri Mani Mahesh Trust held on 28.10.2024 under the Chairmanship of Mukesh Repashwal Commissioner Temples –cum- Deputy Commissioner, Chamba, H.P is annexed as **Annexure-III** for kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
7. That the State of Himachal Pradesh through its Chief Secretary has taken steps w.r.t the directions passed vide order dated 18.10.2024 by the Hon'ble NGT and all out measures have been taken to abide by the same in letter and spirit.

The appropriate directions to the concerned Departments has been issued who shall ensure that the Manimahesh Yatra carried out next year would be as per the SOP's and recommendations prepared by the Joint Committee for which a detailed Action Plan has been prepared by the Stakeholder Departments so that the yatra do not face the similar problems noticed in the past year.

8. That the contents of the present Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as information has been derived from the official record. No part of the same is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.


DEPONENT
Prabhu Saxena
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

ATTESTED

Executive Magistrate
H.P. Sectt., Shimla

VERIFICATION

I, the above deponent further state on oath that the content of this affidavit is true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Shimla on this day 22nd January, 2025.

Prabodh Saxena
DEPONENT
 Prabodh Saxena
 Chief Secretary to the
 Government of Himachal Pradesh

ATTESTED

 Executive Magistrate
 H.P. Sectt., Shimla

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 Declared before me on 22th day of January,
 2025 on oath (Solemnly Affixation)
 by Shri Prabodh Saxena Chief Secy.
 who is personally known to the or who
 has been identified by Sh K.L. Negi *Chief Secy. of H.P.*
 who is personally known to me.


 Executive Magistrate
 H.P. Sectt., Shimla

Proceedings of the meeting convened under the Chairmanship of Sh. D.C. Rana, IAS, Director, Department of Environment Science Technology & Climate Change (DEST&CC) Govt. of H.P. on 13.12.2024 at 11.00 AM through virtual mode to ensure the implementation and compliance of the recommendations made by Joint Committee in the report submitted on 01.10.2024 in O.A No. 689/2024 – President (Shiv Nuala Committee) vs. State of Himachal Pradesh as per the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 18.10.2024.

The meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Sh. D.C. Rana, IAS, Director, and Department of Environment Science Technology & Climate Change Govt. of H.P. on 13.12.2024. The following members were present:-

1. Deputy Commissioner, Chamba.
2. DFO, Wildlife, Bharmour,
3. Representative from Superintendent Police office, Chamba.
4. Additional Director, DEST&CC.
5. Chief Scientific Officer, DEST&CC.
6. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bharmour,
7. DCF, Bharmour,
8. Regional Officer, HPPCB, Chamba.

2. At the outset, Additional Director welcomed all stakeholders and provided a brief overview of the order passed by the O.A No. 689/2024 – President (Shiv Nuala Committee) vs. State of Himachal Pradesh as per the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 18.10.2024. He also explained about the Hon'ble NGT directions dated 18.10.2024 to be implemented by the State of Himachal Pradesh.

3. The District Commissioner Chamba shared the SOP's and suggest made by the Joint Action Committee and Action Plan to implement the SOP'S and suggestions to ensure better organization of yatra:-

a. The Manimahesh Trust may make effort to register all pilgrims in online platform already developed and consider charging registration fee on Amarnath Yatra.

Attended

Section Officer (Env S&T)
H.P Sectt Shimla . ?

b. Eco Development Society Bharmour may be associated for organization of yatra such as managing solid waste, creation of MRF facilities,undertaking carrying capacity assessment studies in the Yatra route etc.

c. The Regional Officer, H.P. Pollution Control Board, Chamba shall organize the IEC activities and awareness camps for creating awareness about the preservation and conservation of the Environment during the Yatra.

It was also suggested during the meeting that MRF can be installed in Kugti road and special campaign can be started for awareness about the plastic waste management under CSR and Eco-development Committee may be involved for this purpose.

D.C. Chamba to revise the Action plan and submit to DEST&CC.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.



D.C. Rana, IAS)
Director,
Department of Environment, Science Technology & CC.
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1.

Copy to all stakeholders for compliance:-



31/12/25

(D.C. Rana, IAS)
Director,
Department of Environment, Science Technology & CC.
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1.

Attested



Section Officer (Env S&T)
H.P. Sectt Shimla - 2

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
O/O THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHAMBA DISTRICT CHAMBA (HP)
No.CBA-LF-4(1)/2024- 40335 dated Chamba the 21 December, 2024

From;

The Deputy Commissioner,
Chamba, District Chamba.

To,

The Director,
Environment Science Technology & Climate Change
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

Subject:- Regarding submission of Action Plan and copy of proceeding of meeting held on dated 28-10-2024 regarding Manimahesh Yatra in compliance of the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in OA No. 689/2024 dated 18-10-2024.

Sir,

With reference to the meeting held virtually on 13th December 2024 at 11:00 AM concerning the NGT matter OA No. 689/2024. In this context, the Action Plan and proceeding of the meeting held on 28-10-2024 regarding the Manimahesh Yatra in compliance with the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. No. 689/2024, dated 18th October 2024 is submitted for your kind consideration and further necessary action please.

Encls: As Above

Yours faithfully,

Additional District Magistrate,
Chamba, District Chamba (HP)

Attested
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Section Officer (Env. Sect.)
H.P. Sectt Shimla. 2

Action Plan regarding Manimahesh Yatra in compliance of the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. No. 689/2024 dated 18-10-2024.

Sr. No.	Directions issued by Hon'ble NGT	Action Plan
1.	<p>Regulation of Human Activity</p> <p>i. Entry and Activities: The Forest and Wildlife Department will regulate entry and human activities on the Yatra trek route in accordance with forest laws during the non-Yatra period. Eco-tourism principles will be followed to minimize the environmental footprint. During the Yatra period, the number of pilgrim increase manifold thus a joint collaboration of Forest, Police and Administration shall manage the entry of pilgrims on the different trek routes to Manimahesh Dal.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFO concerned shall constitute the ECO Development Committee by including local people and representatives of forest department to regulate the human activities during non-yatra period. 2. Forest Department check post (Pranghala) shall function as barrier to regulate entry of trekkers during non-yatra period 3. Detailed protocols for regulating yatra during yatra period are already in place.
	<p>ii. Carrying Capacity: An annual exercise will be conducted to estimate the carrying capacity of the trek route. Based on this, a daily limit on the number of trekkers/tourists/yatris will be established to</p>	<p>Forest Department shall carry out assessment of carrying capacity and take steps for ensuring ecologically sustainable development of Mani Mahesh Yatra.</p>

Attended
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<p>prevent overuse and ensure environmental sustainability.</p>	
<p>iii. Online Registration: A mandatory online registration system will be enforced for all trekkers/tourists/yatris. This will ensure proper tracking of visitors, compliance with the daily limit, and facilitate disaster preparedness. The system will be managed by the MMT and an online website for the same has already been created where facility of self-registration has been provided.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Online portal i.e. https://www.manimaheshyatra.hp.gov.in/register has been developed for the purpose and Shri Mani Mahesh Trust is managing the same. Banners and hoardings at various entry points of the district and conspicuous places were installed during the Yatra to sensitize the pilgrims/trekkers visiting Shri Manimahesh during the Yatra about their registration on the portal meant for the purpose.2. During Non-yatra period Forest Department shall register pilgrim/tourists on the application.3. During yatra to increase registration check posts will be established at Tunuhatti, Laharu, Langera/Kihar and Kalshuin with help of Police Department.

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Section Officer

Section Officer (Env S&I)
H.P Sectt Shimla - 2

iv. **Responsibilities:** During the non-Yatra period, the Forest Department shall be responsible for managing the entry of trekkers and tourists on the trek. During Non-Yatra Period, a Kiosk cum Help desk at Hadsar will be established where registration of Trekker and Yaris will be done by Forest Department. Further Eco-development Committee will be created at Hadsar in partnership of local people and Forest department. Nominal fee will be charged as a Eco-Cess to yatri and trekkers and fund is utilised for cleaning and maintenance of trek route during Non- Yatra period, Creation and maintain of temporary facilities for the trekkers, Tourist and yatris along trek route. Further funds shall be given to Forest department by the administration for purchasing long range wireless communication, camping tent for the staff to stay during yatra time, hiring a vehicle for ensuring mobility of staff for 4 months. However, as during the Yatra period, the

1. DFO concerned shall constitute an ECO Development Committee by including local people and forest department, the committee will be responsible for the registration of the Yatris during non -yatra period. As far as the question of funds is concerned, the committee will raise the funds by ways of cess collected from the pilgrims and the trekkers and the committee can also submit its proposal for funds regarding equipment required for facilitation of trekkers and pilgrims.
2. Further the land has been allotted to BSNL under Forest Rights Act in the year 2023 to setup mobile towers at Gauri Kund and Danchho. This will enhance the communication means during the Manimahesh yatra. BSNL Authorities have been requested to complete the work as soon as possible.
3. The long range wireless communication system is installed through Police Department.

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Section Officer (Env S&I)
H.P. Sectt Shimla - 2

	<p>number of pilgrim increase manifold, a joint collaboration of Forest, Police, Administration and Eco-development Committee shall manage the entry of pilgrims on the different trek routes to Manimahesh Dal.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Regulation of Commercial Activity</p> <p>i. Permissions and Space Allocation: No person shall conduct commercial activities on government land along the Yatra route without due permission. Specific spaces will be earmarked for setting up temporary commercial structures (e.g., food stalls, shops) to serve trekkers/tourists/yatris. No permanent construction is allowed except for concrete/stone platforms to support temporary shops. As the trek routes are essentially forest land, therefore the DFO Bharmour shall be the responsible authority to permit the establishment of temporary commercial establishments for the benefit of trekkers/tourists/yatris.</p>	<p>Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall constitute ECO Development Society to conduct travel and commercial activities on Hadsar-Manimahesh walking route and for the development of this travel area.</p>

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ii. **Auctioning of Commercial Spaces:** The designated spaces for commercial activity can be considered for auctioning following a transparent process. Revenue generated from the auctions may be utilized by the DFO Bharmour for:

- Sanitation and waste management.
- Environmental conservation and other facilities for trekkers/tourists/yatris.




iii. **Product Restrictions:** Commercial establishments will be subject to strict controls on the types of products they can sell. Specifically:

- The sale of food products in non-biodegradable packaging shall be prohibited.

Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall constitute ECO Development Society as per departmental rules to conduct travel and commercial activities on Hadsar-Manimahesh walking route and for the development of this travel area. Through this committee, the activities to be done in the travel area will be controlled as per the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The Manimahesh Temple Trust and Eco-Development society shall do the needful in coordination with other enforcement departments.

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 Section Officer (Env. S&I),
 H.P. Sectt Shimla - 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Priority will be given to vendors offering hot cooked food to reduce packaging waste. > Efforts to be made to reduce Single Use Plastic products. Further Shop vendors and Langar Managers primarily responsible for Collection and Segregation of waste at source. <p>iv. Monitoring and Compliance: The Local Administration will conduct routine inspections to ensure that commercial activities comply with these and other extant regulations for environment protection. Violators may face fines or suspension of their permits.</p> <p>v. Prohibition in Sensitive Areas: No commercial or langar activity will be permitted in the catchment area of Manimahesh Dal to preserve water quality and the sanctity of the location.</p>	<p>The Manimahesh Temple Trust and Eco-Development society shall do the needful in coordination with other enforcement departments.</p> <p>The Manimahesh Temple Trust and Eco-Development society shall do the needful in coordination with other enforcement departments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">   </p>
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	<p>vi. Langars: The MMT shall continue to regulate the establishment of langars along the Yatra route as they provide essential services to the yattris and function only during the Yatra period. Similar guidelines with regards to sanitation and environment protection like No- to single Plastic use and more focus on environmentally sustainable product shall also apply to the langars as are being proposed for the commercial establishments.</p>	<p>Detailed SOPs are already in place for regulating Langars and same shall be strengthened in future.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Environment Protection Measures</p> <p>i. Sanitation and Environment Fee: A mandatory sanitation and environment protection fee will be charged from each trekker/tourist/yatri during the registration process as well as commercial establishments permitted by the Forest Department and the Langars permitted by the MMT. These funds will be used for:</p>	<p>1. Eco-Tourism Society for commercial establishment & Manimahesh Temple Trust for Langar shall do the needful along with other enforcement departments.</p>


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Implementing sanitation measures (e.g., waste management systems, portable toilets). > Environmental conservation efforts (e.g., trail maintenance, resource protection). <p>ii. Regulation Period:</p> <p>iii. Prohibition in Sensitive Areas:</p>	<p>2. The rules and regulations outlined in this SOP will be enforced from May to October, when the area is accessible. Adjustments may be made based on weather or environmental conditions.</p> <p>3. No commercial or langar activity will be permitted in the catchment area of Manimahesh Dal to preserve water quality and the sanctity of the location.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Monitoring and Enforcement</p>	<p>1. The Forest Department, along with the Police, will conduct regular patrols to ensure compliance with environmental and commercial regulations.</p> <p>2. The MMT will review compliance reports and take corrective actions where necessary.</p>

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		<p>3. Commercial activity will be closely monitored, and licenses may be revoked for non-compliance with environmental and product restrictions</p>
	<p>In addition, the Committee also makes the following recommendations for ensuring better sanitation facilities in the Manimahesh Dal trek;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adequate number of toilets using appropriate technology will be constructed along the Yatra route and in the campsites. The provision of 200 toilets for around 6 lakh pilgrims is less and the number of toilets shall be increased keeping in view the carrying capacity calculations as carried out by the expert agencies. b. Scientific management of waste including Waste segregation at source will be carried out along the Yatra route as has been started during this year in collaboration with Healing Himalayas. The learning from this year will be utilized to further strengthen the system. Promote the use of reusable and biodegradable materials like patta plates for food among pilgrims and set up awareness 	<p>Additional Suggestions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manimahesh Temple Trust shall do the needful well before the yatra period starts. • SOPs are in place & similar action was done in Manimahesh Yatra-2024. Manimahesh Temple Trust has collaborated with Healing Himalayas and other NGOs for proper waste collection and management.

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 Section Officer (Env S&T)
 H.P Sectt Shimla - 2

campaigns to educate visitors about the importance of keeping the area clean.

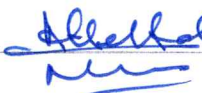
c. Sanitation staff for toilets and waste management in adequate numbers will be engaged. Number of Temporary dustbins will be increased and placed at regular intervals. Placement of Green-Warriors at frequent interval involving NGO to promote and encourage yatris/trekkers/ tourist and temporary shop owners to comply with green practices.

d. Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) will collect water samples from both the lake and downstream (D/s) areas during the Mani Mahesh Yatra. This will allow for a comprehensive assessment of water quality and identifying any pollution caused by the influx of pilgrims and activities during the yatra.

e. Stringent penalties for unauthorized waste dumping will be enforced to promote responsible waste disposal practices.

- SOPs are in place & similar action was done in Manimahesh Yatra-2024. Manimahesh Temple Trust has collaborated with Healing Himalayas and other NGOs for proper waste collection and management.

- Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) shall do the needful.



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	<p>f. A Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will be established at Hadsar for scientific solid waste management of the waste generated due to trekking activities during Yatra period and at other times.</p> <p>Awareness campaigns to educate the community about the Solid Waste Management & environmental protection of this eco sensitive area in association with NGOs/CBOs and other stakeholders will be organized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDM Bharmour has started the process for identification of site for MRF & it expected that site will be made functional before Manimahesh yatra, 2025
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Section Officer (Env S&T)
H.P Sectt Shimla - 2

Mukesh Repaswal
19.12.24
(Mukesh Repaswal) IAS,
Deputy Commissioner
Chamba, Distirct Chamba

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF SHRI MANI MAHESH TRUST HELD ON 28-10-2024 (11:00 AM) UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SH. MUKESH REPASHWAL COMMISSIONER TEMPLES -CUM- DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CHAMBA AT MINI SECRETARIAT BUILDING (PATTI) BHARMOUR DISTRICT CHAMBA HIMACHAL PRADESH.

The following official members of the Shri Manimahesh Trust attended the meeting:-

Sr. No.	Name, Designation & Address of the Officers/Officials Members
1.	Shri Kulbir Singh Rana Secretary, Shri Manimahesh Trust -Cum- Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Bharmour.
2.	Shri Mane Navanath Shivaji Divisional Forest Officer Bharmour, District Chamba.
3.	Shri Meet Kumar, Executive Engineer, Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Bharmour Division.
4.	Shri Hamindra Chona, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Vibhag Division Bharmour.
5.	Shri Mangal Das, Junior Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Bharmour Division.
6.	Shri Pankaj Mahant Incharge Atal Bihari Vajpayee Mountaineering Sub Center Bharmour.
7.	Shri Manider Rana, Senior Assistant HRTC Chamba District Chamba.
8.	Shri Rajeev Mishra DTDO Chamba District Chamba.
9.	Shri Tukesh Sharma, District Language Officer, Chamba, District Chamba.
10.	Shri Ankush Dogra, SHO, Police Station Bharmour, District Chamba (Representative DSP HQ Chamba, District Chamba.
11.	Dr. Shivraj Singh, Representative of Block Officer, Bharmour Block, Chamba District.
12.	Mr. Sandeep Kumar PA Grade-II, Assistant Public Relations Officer, Bharmour District Chamba.

1. Regarding compliance of the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. No. 689/2024 dated 18-10-2024 :-

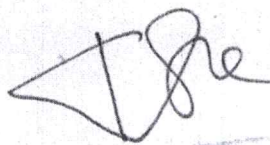
After detailed discussion on this item the following decisions were taken :-

- 1) Divisional Forest Officer Bharmour and Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) Chamba will constitute ECO Development Society as per departmental rules to conduct tourism and commercial activities on Hadsar-Manimahesh trek route and for the development of the

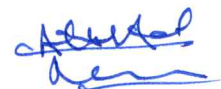
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Section Officer (Env & I)
H.P Sectt Shimla - 2

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Member Secy. MMT-cum-
SDO (Civil) Bharmour
Distt. Chamba (H.P.)

- yatra area. Through this committee, the activities to be carried out in the yatra area will be regulated as per the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- 2) To start the activities of ECO Development Society, funds will be made available by Shri Manimahesh Trust in the form of loan for which the Society will submit the demand with complete details.
 - 3) As per the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Forest Department will study the work done at Kufri (Shimla) and other places to assess the carrying capacity of the tourist area and will taken further necessary action in this regard.
 - 4) ECO Development Society will identify suitable locations for shops, langars etc. on the Hadsar-Manimahesh trek route and will also decide on their allotment process.
 - 5) As per the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), along with banning the food items sold in non-biodegradable packaging, alternatives to such items will also be selected. An awareness campaign will also be conducted among the local public regarding this matter so that non-biodegradable waste can be curbed.
 - 6) The Forest Department will identify suitable places for works to be carried out such as entry gate, pathways, toilets, material recovery facility etc. to ensure compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and will prepare the estimate of such work and submit it to the Trust for providing necessary budget.
 - 7) Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Chamba, in compliance with the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), will take necessary steps to check the purity of water in Manimahesh and downstream areas and will ensure that water is tested before and after the Yatra.
 - 8) Divisional Forest Officer, Bharmour and Divisional Forest Officer (Wild Life) Division, Chamba, Bharmour Administration will ensure to launch awareness campaign with the help of NGOs, local public representatives etc. to make the local public aware of the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT).



Member Secy. MMT-cum-
SDO (Civil) Bharmour
Distt. Chamba (H.P.)



Section Officer (Env S&I)
H.P Sectt Shimla ?