

F No L-25012(11)/11/2023-LME NMCG-
National Mission for Clean Ganga
Department of WR, RD&GR
Ministry of Jal Shakti

Major Dhyanchand National Stadium
Near India Gate, New Delhi
Date: 29.01.2024

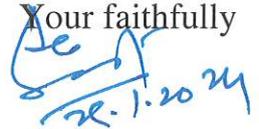
Subject: - Report regarding the proposal of the Tent City Project at Varanasi in the matter of OA 203/2023- Tushar Goswami Vs Union of India & Ors- before the Hon'ble NGT(PB)

Sir,

This is with reference to the above matter before the Hon'ble NGT. The report regarding the status of the proposal of the Tent City Project at Varanasi is attached herewith .The same may kindly be placed before the Hon'ble NGT for consideration.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As above

Your faithfully

29.1.2024

Anup Kumar Srivastava
Executive Director (Tech)

To
The Registrar,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(PB), Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

Copy for information to:

- (1) PPS to the Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (2) PS to the DG, NMCG

L-25012(11)/11/2023-LME NMCG

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

Subject: Report on behalf of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in the matter of OA 203/2023 - Tushar Goswami Vs Union of India & Ors. before the Hon'ble NGT(PB)

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The above matter inter-alia involving issues regarding establishment of the "Tent City Project" ["TCP"] in the riverbed of River Ganga at Varanasi.

2. The matter was further considered by the Hon'ble NGT on 15.12.2023 and inter-alia report was sought from the MoEF&CC regarding turtle sanctuary and the response from M/s Praveg Communications (India) Limited and M/s Niraan the Tent City the Respondent Nos. 11 and 12 about earlier establishment of the TCP without permission of the NMCG in terms of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016.

3. As regards NMCG, the proposal for the TCP was further considered in a meeting held on 02.01.2024 in the NMCG, in a hybrid mode. The VDA has decided not to raise the tent city for the period 2023-2024 in a post monsoon season. A copy of the letter with the observations of the NMCG on the TCP conveyed to the Chairman VDA is enclosed.



Anup Kumar Srivastava
Executive Director(Tech)

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
National Mission for Clean Ganga

New Delhi

25.01.2024

Subject: Observations regarding Varanasi Tent City Project as proposed by Varanasi Development Authority

1. Whereas NMCG received an online request from VDA (application No. NMCG202342718929) dated 02/04/2023 to provide NOC on proposal for "development of Tent city at Varanasi."
2. Whereas VDA proposed to develop 30 Hectares of area opposite Ganga ghat, Varanasi. It is proposed to raise 600 tents, purely temporary in nature to accommodate 1200 occupants.
3. Whereas, the matter comes under the purview of Para 6 (3) of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, and in compliance of that District Ganga Committee (DGC) in its meeting dated 08/11/2023 and State Ganga Committee (SGC) in its meeting dated 04/12/2023 considered the proposal and recommended it for consideration by NMCG as a prerequisite to this Para.
4. Whereas the matter was discussed in the first meeting of the Cell (constituted vide letter no Rd/1/2023-SMD NMCG dated 07.12.2023) held on 02.01.2024 at NMCG, New Delhi in hybrid mode. Cell noted that the structures to be created are temporary in nature, however, VDA has decided not to raise the tent city for the period 2023-2024 in post monsoon season.
5. Whereas Para 6 (3) of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 allows NMCG to grant prior permission in eligible cases only.
6. In view of para 5 above, no case of prior permission arises. Nevertheless, Cell having heard the VDA made certain observations regarding this project. Accordingly, following points are conveyed for compliance, in case, VDA decides to raise such temporary structure in future. These observations are:
 - a) Grant of prior permission by NMCG is case to case basis, remains valid for a specific period. Therefore, project proponent is advised to submit proposal for seeking prior permission well before the start of actual raising of the structure.
 - b) As per NGT Order, till there is no FPZ Notification by the concerned State Govt, any construction work within 100m zone from the edge of the river is not permitted. To measure 100m from river edge, it was decided by the cell that in absence of any available definition, the edge of the river, from the

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maximum water level recorded for the period between November to May during preceding 10 years, needs to be adopted.

- c) VDA should submit EIA report by a QIC accredited consultant or Institute and ensure that no functional gaps are left during implementation phase.
- d) The operational period for Tent city may be kept from November to May instead of October to June.
- e) The number of tents and persons to be accommodated should not be more than 400 and 800 respectively.
- f) Activities connected to only spiritual/religious events shall be carried out within the Tent city.
- g) All construction material should be completely removed from the bank by 1st June of the year.
- h) Estimated generation of solid waste, sewage, fecal sludge & septage and its management plan be prepared and submitted to the concerned ULB. The same shall be implemented and annual report in this regard be submitted to the concerned ULB and to UP Pollution Control Board.
- i) VDA should comply with conditions cited by SGC and DGC while forwarding for recommendations to the NMCG.



(G Asok Kumar)

Director General

National Mission for Clean Ganga

To,

1. The Chairman, Varanasi Development Authority, Raja Udai Pratap Marg, Panna Lal Park, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Copy to:

1. Additional Project Director, SMCG-UP, Plot No. 18, Sector 07, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
2. District Magistrate/Chairperson, District Ganga Committee, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India
2. PPS to Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti
3. PPS to Chairman, CPCB