

No.33/01/2023-CS-I
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
CS-I (Mountain) Division

.....
Agni-512, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110003.

Dated, 10th January 2024

To
The Registrar General,
Principal Bench,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001.

Sub.: Status Report in pursuance of Order dated 09.03.2022 in OA 178/2022 titled as News item published in the Hindu dated 27.02.2022 titled "Tourism has brought economic prosperity to the Himalayan region, but the environmental cost has been catastrophic", passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi – reg.

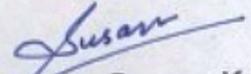
Sir,

This is in pursuance of the Order dated 09.03.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 178/2022 titled as News item published in the Hindu dated 27.02.2022 titled "*Tourism has brought economic prosperity to the Himalayan region, but the environmental cost has been catastrophic*", whereby a report of compliance was directed to be filed. I am directed to submit the status report as on 10.01.2024.

2. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl.: As above

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Susan George K.)
Scientist-E

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 178/2022

In re: News item published in The Hindu dated 27.02.2022 titled "Tourism has brought economic prosperity to the Himalayan region, but the environmental cost has been catastrophic"

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Status Report as on 10.01.2024, on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in pursuance of Order dated 09.03.2022 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 178/2022, titled as News item published in the Hindu dated 27.02.2022 titled "Tourism has brought economic prosperity to the Himalayan region, but the environmental cost has been catastrophic"

That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide Order dated 09.03.2022 in OA No. 178/2022, *In re: News item published in The Hindu dated 27.02.2022 titled "Tourism has brought economic prosperity to the Himalayan region, but the environmental cost has been catastrophic"*, directed this Ministry to steer preparation of appropriate action plans in all the 12 States of Indian Himalayan Region dealing with the mitigation measures to offset the adverse impact of tourism activities on the environment and to file a compliance report.

2. In this regard, the status report as on 10.01.2024 is submitted as under:

- i. In light of the directions received from Hon'ble NGT in Original Application No. 178/2022, the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) submitted a first draft of the report on the matter to this Ministry on 06.04.2022.
- ii. Subsequently, the Ministry carried out consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, various thematic divisions of this Ministry and also with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the draft report.
- iii. During these consultations, CPCB has stressed the need for on-ground verification of the data used in the report and has also pointed out discrepancies in some data used in the report vis-à-vis reports filed by various State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/ PCCs) before Hon'ble NGT.
- iv. Accordingly, this Ministry felt a need to consult with the States/ UTs concerned to ensure accuracy of data used and consonance with previous orders of NGT or any other court in similar matters.
- v. This Ministry has already initiated consultations with the State Governments and UT Administrations concerned for vetting of data and information presented in the draft report and sharing of current practices and actions plans, if already in place, for evolving comprehensive action plan for the Indian Himalayan Region. So far, some information has been received from the States of Mizoram, Tripura and Assam.

3. As the consultation process require more time, Hon'ble NGT is requested to kindly permit this Ministry to file a consolidated compliance report in the matter by 30.06.2024.