Site Inspection Report of Sh Pankaj Agrawal, APCCF, IRO, MOEF&CC, Dehradun regarding construction of Central University at Dharamshala and Dehra, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

An online proposal FP/HP/Others/39044/2019 was received seeking prior approval of the Central Govt under Section2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for non-forestry use of 75.3931 ha of forest land for construction of the North Campus, Central University Dharamshala, District Kangra.

As per the MOEF&CC letter dated 23rd January, 2021, IRO Shimla was directed to inspect the land proposed for diversion. The site inspection report is to be based on visit of both the sites and with consultation of local institutions and stakeholders for it.

Background Details

- A Central Site Inspection Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) for the establishment of the Central University of the Himachal Pradesh. The Committee visited the then proposed three sites on 15-17 Oct 2008 but all the sites were rejected by the Committee as they were not found suitable for construction of the Central University.
- 2. The Site Selection Committee visited again on 19-20 Feb 2010 and recommended that a split/twin campus facility for the Central University of the H.P. should be considered at two different sites, one each at Dharamshala and Dehra.
- 3. The Central Govt vide MHRD letter No. F.42-24/2009-Desk (U) dated 23rd April, 2010 approved the establishment of the Central University. H.P. with its headquarters and temporary campus of Dharamshala and two distinct campuses on the sites offered by the Himachal Pradesh in Dehra and Dharamshala in Kangra District. As per the approval, while the main campus of the University was to be located at Dehra, the other campus of Dharamshala was to have such of the Schools/departments which do not require massive infrastructure.
- 4. The State Govt of H.P. sent the related proposal for diversion of forest land to the MORC&CC, FC Division, Govt of India vide its letter dated 26-11-2011.
- 5. The proposal was discussed in the FAC in April 2012 and vide MOEF&CC letter dated 01-05-2012, it was informed to the PS (Forests), Govt of H.P. that the FAC has desired



that the State Govt may rationalise and minimise the forest land requirement and submit the detailed plan of land use for diversion.

- 6. The University approached the MHRD again as the matter was getting delayed and another Central Site Inspection Committee was constituted by the MHRD to assess the suitability of land.
- 7. The Committee visited both the sites on 12-13 Jun 2013 at Dehra and Dharamshala and recommended 160 ha at Dharamshala and 80 ha of land at Dehra will be suitable for establishing the Central University. It also recommended that in case MOEF&CC still has any reservation about the actual land requirement, it should keep the request for the proposed Dehra Campus in abeyance for detailed examination of the matter and grant clearance for the main campus at Dharamshala immediately as the matter has delayed too much.
- 8. Thereafter Govt of H.P. vide its letter dated 21-03-2016 offered some additional land of 202 acres (82.8273 ha) making the total land about 748 acres (303.3774 ha) in District Kangra.
- 9. Another Site Inspection Committee was constituted by the MHRD vide its Order dated 08-08-2016.
- 10. The Committee visited the site offered by the State Govt on 01-09-2016 and recommended that the site offered at revenue villages Sakoli, Patola, Kadiana, Kand, Bagiara, Up Mohal Kaswa and Salag of Dharamshala, District Kangra are suitable for establishing the North Campus, Central University of H.P.
- 11. After obtaining additional information and with due revision of the proposal, 'In Principle' approval for diversion of 81.7916 ha (out of total 238.452 ha proposed originally) was accorded on 27th August, 2015 in favour of the Director Higher Education, H.P. for establishment of Satellite Campus of the Central University, Dehra in Kangra District. The final approval for the same was accorded by the MOEF&CC, New Delhi on 11th December, 2018.
- 12. Thereafter the online proposal No. FP/HP/Others/39044/2019 has been submitted by the State Govt of Himachal Pradesh for which the present site inspection was conducted.



The sites at Dehra and Dharamshala were visited on 12th February, 2021 along with the CCF, Kanga, DFO Dehra, DFO Dharamshala, AIGFC, MOEF&CC, Revenue Officers from Dehra and Dharamshala, Registrar, Central University, Officers from PWD and other Stakeholders. Thereafter a meeting was organised and discussion was held with all the concerned officers and other stakeholders. List of members who attended the meeting is enclosed.

Observations / Recommendations

Based on the site visit and discussion, the observations / recommendations are as follows:-

- 1) No construction activity has still started on the proposed site for Satellite Campus at Dehra.
- 2) It was informed by the user agency that land diverted for the establishment of Satellite campus at Dehra has not yet been offered to the user agency. After discussion it was found that the State Govt. has sent a proposal to the MoEF&CC for change of the name of user agency from Director Higher Education H.P. to the Registrar Central University (which has been later on approved by the MOEF&CC letter dated 17th February, 2021)
- 3) The user agency should explore the possibility of accommodating most of the proposed schools/faculty at Dehra so that the area required for diversion at Dharamshala may be minimised. If required, necessary permission for change of layout plan may be obtained from the MOEF&CC.
- 4) In addition to the 81.7916 ha of forest lend diverted for the Satellite Campus at Dehra, user agency also has 34.55 ha of non-forest land which has been earmarked for some of the activities of the proposed Satellite Campus. But the construction has not yet started on this land too.
- 5) The State Govt has not yet conducted Geological survey of the area which is proposed for main campus at Dharamshala, which is very essential before any decision regarding diversion of that area could be taken.
- 6) As marked on Google Earth Map (map enclosed) Polygon No. 9 to Polygon No. 12, area measuring 2.05 ha, may be shifted to Polygon No.16 to reduce the patches of various land and to minimise the damage on forest land.

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- 7) The private land situated between Polygon No. 7 and Polygon No. 8 may be acquired and area proposed in Polygon No. 5 and Polygon No. 6 may be shifted to the land so acquired.
- 8) The existing road and required alignment at the proposed site at Dharamshala should be marked in different colours. As the width and gradient of the existing road does not seem to be suitable for movement of buses and other vehicles, the user agency may have to construct a new road at a different alignment. Additional land so required should be included in the proposal.
- 9) Apart from the road, a requirement of all other utilities such as water supply line, electric line, sewage line, STP etc should be included in the proposals as per the requirement.
- 10) The set-off area between the construction zones should be kept as green and provisions should be included accordingly.
- 11) The State Govt has proposed all the three alternatives in forest land. The State Govt. may also explore the possibility of selecting non-forest land for the same.
- 12) The State Govt. has earlier submitted the FRA certificate of 280.6635 ha of earlier proposed land. It should be ensured that the presently proposed 75.3931 ha of land is completely included in the previously proposed 280.6631 ha of land.

(Pankaj Agrawal)

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Regional Office, Dehradun

GOOGLE PLAN CU NORTH CAMPUS FOREST LAND



Polygon Details

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Polygon No.	Description
Polygon 1	Transit Hostel - I and Staff Club
Polygon 2	Transit Hostel II
Polygon 3	Girld Hostel, Working Women Hostel and
	Playground
Polygon 4	Administrative Block, College Building and Parking
Polygon 5	Gymnasium and Parking
Polygon 6	School Building
Polygon 7	School Building and Community Center
Polygon 8	Uinversity School, Faculty Club and Transit Hostel
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Polygon 9	Health Centre and Student Activity Centre
Polygon 10	Library and Information Technology Center
Polygon 11	Transit Boys Hostel IV
Polygon 12	Transit Boys Hostel V
Polygon 13	Transit Boys Hostel VI
Polygon 14	Transit Boys Hostel VII
Polygon 15	Transit Boys Hostel VIII
Polygon 16	Transit Boys Hostel IX
	Polygon No. Polygon 1 Polygon 2 Polygon 3 Polygon 4 Polygon 5 Polygon 6 Polygon 7 Polygon 8 Polygon 9 Polygon 10 Polygon 11 Polygon 12 Polygon 13 Polygon 14 Polygon 15

Eमाचल प्रदेश सरकार List of participants - 12/02/2021

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