

**Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: 22nd February, 2023**

**To**

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Forest,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh,  
Shimla.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 64.2016 ha (Originally proposed 75.3931 ha.) of forest land for Construction of North Campus Central University, Dharamshala, District Kangra State Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Others/39044/2019).**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the online Proposal No. FP/HP/Others/39044/2019 on the above subject matter, and to convey that this proposal has been considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 27.01.2023. The corresponding agenda note of the proposal is available on PARIVESH portal at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).

2. The FAC had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), Himachal Pradesh and Regional Officer, IRO, Shimla. After going through the facts of the proposal the Committee decided that the proposal cannot be considered in its present proposition because of the following reasons:

- i. The construction of the Central University is a non-site specific activity and the State Govt. has not submitted any valid justification as to how use of forest land in instant case is unavoidable.
- ii. As per the report of the site selection committee constituted by Govt. of India (MHRD), the reason for rejection of one of the sites on non-forest land was the cost of acquisition of non-forest land, which indicates that the proposed use of forest land is not unavoidable.
- iii. Use of the fragile Himalayan strata receiving sufficiently high rainfall for the construction of the University is required to be avoided under normal circumstances

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-  
(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.