

No.: TE-12013/1/2023-O/o ED(T) NMCG  
National Mission for Clean Ganga  
Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation  
Government of India

1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,  
India Gate, New Delhi 110002

*Dated:* 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

To  
Vice Chairman  
Varanasi Development Authority,  
Raja Uday Pratap Marg,  
Pannalal Park,  
Varanasi - 221002  
Email - vdavaranasi@gmail.com

Kind Attn: Shri Sunil Kumar Verma

Reference:

- a) VDA Application for 'Prior Approval for Development of Tent City in Varanasi' vide application no. NMCG202342718929 dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- b) VDA letter no. 167/वि० प्रा० /न० नि०/2023-24 dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- c) River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, (hereinafter referred as Authority Notification 2016)

Sir,

1. This has reference to the application referred at a) above.
2. The application above has been examined and observation, requiring further clarifications, are as under:
  - i. It is understood that the project "Development of Tent City in Varanasi" has already been implemented at site. As per para 42 of the Authority Notification 2016, cited at Ref. c) above, prior approval from NMCG is required in the matters '*...relating to River Ganga and any area abutting River Ganga or its tributaries, if required to implement the decisions of the National Ganga Council, namely:-*
    - (a) *engineered diversion and storage of water in River Ganga without affecting the flow of water downstream of the River Ganga;*
    - (b) *construction of bridges and associated roads and embankments over the River Ganga or at its River Bank or its flood plain area;*
    - (c) *construction of Ghats or extension of any existing Ghat;*
    - (d) *construction of jetties;*
    - (e) *construction of permanent hydraulic structures for storage or diversion or control of waters or channelisation of River Ganga or its tributaries;*
    - (f) *deforestation of hill slopes and notified forest and other eco-sensitive areas;*


*(g) any other activity which contravenes the principles laid out in paragraph 4 which the National Mission for Clean Ganga may specify.'*

Reference to the letter cited at b) above, it may be noted that in the matter of PIL no. 31229 of 2005 Kautilya Society & Others v/s State of UP & Others before Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, meeting of the committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Varanasi were held on 13/06/2022 and 17/03/2023. Proposal on the project "Development of Tent City in Varanasi" was neither proposed as an agenda nor discussed any time. Further, VDA is aware of the provisions of the Authority Notification 2016 and the views of the NMCG in the matter pertaining to "काशी विश्वनाथ ज्योतिर्लिंग दर्शन एवं गंगा आरती दर्शन की सुगमता हेतु गंगा घाट के विपरीत दिशा में राजघाट पुल से रामनगर तक फोरलेन के मंडल सड़क एवं अन्य विविध निर्माण कार्य" and other similar matters which have been duly conveyed vide letter no. Pr.-23012/3/2022 dated 13/07/2022 and 17/03/2023.

Accordingly, the reasons for seeking approval by VDA from NMCG post implementation of the project at ground level is not understood. It may also be clarified as to under which rule of Authority Notification 2016, the approval for the project "Development of Tent City in Varanasi" is now being sought.

- ii. The project RFP envisages the bidders to abide by the rules, regulations and guidelines laid down by NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga), NGT (National Green Tribunal), CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board), UPPCB (Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board) and any other as effective from time to time. However, as against the RFP provisions, the present application for approval from NMCG has been made by the VDA instead of the successful bidders.
- iii. Demarcation of river Ganga flood plain by Department of Irrigation, as notified, may be clarified and proposed project along with its structures may be shown in the layout plan (to the scale) properly showing the flood plan demarcation, site location etc.
- iv. Requisite details of the project are not available in the application. For example location of tent enclosures from the river water line, kind of interventions proposed under the project including those for sub surface & surface levelling / excavation, use of machinery for these works, load of the proposed structures, impact of consolidation / compaction to be done, existing flora & fauna profile in the area etc.
- v. What is the expected visitor load, peak conditions and Tent City approach route (road / river).
- vi. Emergency response plan in case of sudden rise in water level due to any reasons.
- vii. It is not clear as to how the issues of sewage & waste water management, solid waste management, air pollution is proposed to be addressed during development phase and operations phase.
- viii. Impact of the development / construction of Tent City on ecology.

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3. In view of the above, it is requested that clarifications to the above observations may be provided for any further consideration in the matter.

  
(D. P. Mathuria) 23.5.202  
Executive Director (Technical)

Copy for information to:

1. Vice Chairman, Varanasi Development Authority, Raja Uday Pratap Marg, Pannalal Park, Varanasi - 221002
2. DG, NMCG