

**Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble (RD and PR Minister), Himachal Pradesh to discuss the Livelihood Generation and Eco-Tourism Projects in District Hamirpur, Shimla and Una.**

The following officers/officials were present in the meeting: -

1. Sh. Priyatu Mandal, Secretary (RD & PR) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Dr. Sanjay Sood, Additional PCCF, Govt of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Sh. Raghav Sharma, Director (RD & PR), Himachal Pradesh.
4. Sh. Anupam Kashyap, Deputy Commissioner, District Shimla.
5. Sh. Abhishek Verma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shimla.
6. Smt. Niraj Chandla, Additional Director (Panchayati Raj), Himachal Pradesh.
7. Sh. Krishan Kumar, DFO, District Shimla, H.P.
8. Sh. Susheel Kumar, DFO, District Una, H.P.
9. Sh. Rakesh Kumar, DFO, Hamirpur, H.P.
10. Sh. Namgyal Chopel, Executive Engineer (RD & PR), Dharmashala Zone, H.P.
11. Sh. Yashpal Sharma, District Panchayat Officer, District Shimla, H.P.
12. Sh. Anil Chauhan, Superintendent Grade-II(RGSA), Deptt. Of Panchayati Raj.
13. Sh. Sambhav Ramaul, Consultant (RGSA) Department of Panchayati Raj.
14. Sh. Ishaan Bhargav, Data Analyst (RGSA), Department of Panchayati Raj, H.P.

In addition to above the Deputy Commissioner Una and Hamirpur, as well as District Panchayat Officer District Una and Hamirpur joined the meeting virtually.

Following were the agenda points of the meeting:

1. To discuss the strategy for the implementation of newly sanctioned ecotourism projects under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme, MoPR, Gol and propose to be completed by convergence through Departments of Rural Development, Forest and Tourism.
2. Physical/Financial progress of ecotourism project at Androlli, District Una, Himachal Pradesh

At the outset the Hon'ble RD and PR Minister welcomed the participants. The project wise status was discussed in the following manner:

1. **Ecotourism-based Livelihood Generation Project at Androli, Gram Panchayat**

**Raipur Maidan, Block Bangana, District Una**

With the prior permission of the chair, Director (PR) presented the physical status and financial progress of the previously sanctioned ecotourism project at District Una under which Rural Sanitary Mart-cum-Sanitary Complex has been constructed with convergence of SBM(G) and RGSA funds by the Forest Department at Androli. DFO Una submitted that the land is forest land and it is not administratively feasible to transfer the asset to the PR Department or to the Kutlehar Tourism Development Society (KTDS) headed by DC Una. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- i. Hon'ble Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner, Una to visit the site and find out the best possibilities for enhancement in revenue generation through the site. It was further directed to prepare a proper DPR for the Rural Tourism Park at Sohari and obtain necessary approvals before execution of the work.

**(ACTION BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER UNA)**

- ii. It was discussed that as per the terms and conditions of funding under the DPR approved by the GoI, the management of assets had to be done by PR Department which had decided to operate it through KTDS, since KTDS has been granted the rights by BBMB to use the site at Androli for water sports/ tourism activities. However, due to administrative difficulties, it was decided that the operation of the complex already constructed at Androli shall now be done on a revenue sharing model under which the DFO Una will constitute a separate Eco Development Committee at local level under the Circle level society of the Forest Department and include representative of Panchayati Raj Department and KTDS in the Eco Development Committee. A revenue sharing model was agreed upon under which 60% of the revenue shall be utilized for the project, 10% shall be kept as buffer for eco-tourism and 30% shall be shared with KTDS.

**(ACTION BY DFO UNA)**

- iii. Panchayati Raj Department shall release Rs.1.00 Crore to District Una for execution of pending work of the project.

**(ACTION PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT)**

**2. Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project at Kamyana, District Shimla**

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The Joint Director (PR) stated that the MoPR, GoI has approved Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project at Kamyana, District Shimla and subsequently DPR of the same was prepared and submitted to the Government of India for release of funds. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- i. The ecotourism project proposed at Kamyana, District Shimla shall be run on a revenue sharing model on the existing pattern in Kufri and Naldhera. This project shall be completed in convergence model with fund pooling from PR, RD, Tourism and Forest Department in a time bound manner with utilization of Rs 2 cr sanctioned under RGSA Scheme, MoPR before September, 2024 so as to claim next tranche of grant for this project.

**(ACTION BY FOREST DEPARTMENT)**

- ii. It was decided that DC, Shimla shall hold a meeting with the concerned line departments for their active involvement and also register a society for the management of the project.

**(ACTION BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHIMLA)**

- iii. Panchayati Raj Department shall release Rs.2.00 Crore for the project in District Shimla for execution of Phase-I work.

**(ACTION PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT)**

- iv. Tendering process for starting of work at eco-tourism site in Kamyana should be processed by the Department of Forest within 02 weeks positively, subject to the completion of codal formalities.

**(ACTION BY FOREST DEPARTMENT)**

**3. Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project at Hareta, District Hamirpur**

The Joint Director (PR) stated that the MoPR, GoI has approved Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project at Hareta, District Hamirpur and subsequently DPR of the same was prepared and submitted to the Government of India for release of funds.

- i. The Deputy Commissioner Hamirpur and DFO Hamirpur apprised that the proposed land is in the name of Forest Department, wherein, the proposed project is to be set up. The chairman directed the DC, Hamirpur to visit the site immediately and confirm the status of land.

**(ACTION BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HAMIRPUR)**

- ii. Panchayati Raj Department shall release Rs.2.00 Crore for the project in District Hamirpur for execution of Phase-I work.

**(ACTION PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT)**

- iii. Tendering process for starting of work at eco-tourism site in Hareta should be processed by the Department of Forest at the earliest, subject to the completion of codal formalities.

**(ACTION BY FOREST DEPARTMENT)**

In addition, the following common decisions were taken for all the projects:-

- i. It was decided that a uniform policy shall be made applicable for revenue sharing across all the eco-tourism projects since the funds have been sanctioned by the PR Department. The revenue generated out of these projects shall be kept in a separate bank account by the concerned DFO and the interest money shall also form part of the income of society and shall be subject to the norms of revenue sharing.

**(ACTION BY FOREST DEPARTMENT)**

- ii. A State level Committee under the Chairmanship of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister shall be formed to set up/monitor Eco Tourism Projects in Districts Shimla and Hamirpur.

**(ACTION BY PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT)**

- iii. Deputy Commissioner Shimla, Hamirpur and Una shall constitute a Monitoring Committee and hold quarterly meeting with the line departments for review and monitoring of the progress regarding the ecotourism projects. It has been decided that the civil works of Kamyana and Hareta project should be completed within the decided time line positively.

**(ACTION BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SHIMLA, HAMIRPUR AND  
UNA)**

- iv. A Co-ordination Committee under the chairmanship of Director, Panchayati Raj and concerned Deputy Commissioner, DFOs, DPOs, BDOs as member and Additional Director-cum-Joint Secretary (Panchayati Raj) as Member Secretary, shall be constituted to strategize the course of action for timely completion of the projects.

**(ACTION BY PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT)**

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

I/351522/2024

**Raghav Sharma (IAS)**

**Director-cum-Special Secretary (PR)**

Endst. No.PCH-HC(RGSA)-Eco Tourism Project 23-24-I/351522/2024 Shimla-09 22-02-2024

Copy to all concerned for information & necessary action.

Digitally Signed/-

**Director-cum-Special Secretary (PR)**