

Hotel gets nod in wildlife reserve, NGT seeks report

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Jaipur: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a joint committee and sought a factual report within six weeks after a green activist, Rajendra Tiwari, filed a public interest litigation (PIL) accusing the forest department and the JDA for issuing a lease deed to a hotel for commercial purposes on the reserve forest land, which also falls under the Economic Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

The joint committee will comprise district collector (Jaipur), chief conservator of forests or his representative (Jaipur), Jaipur Development Authority through its commissioner, a representative from state pollution control board (PCB). Also, the state PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support.

Advocate for the petitioner, Krishan Sharma said, “A substantial issue of environment has been raised. Our prayer was to restore the forest land and remove the unauthorised construction. The committee constituted by the tribunal is directed to visit the place and submit the factual and action taken report within six weeks.”

The petitioner in the application raised an issue that the assistant conservator of forests (ACF), wildlife, Nahargarh has made a survey of land in presence of regional forest officer, Nahargarh, and forester Naka Kala Mahadev with appropriate staff including surveyor. The ACF has found during survey that a hotel is being constructed on the forest land. The disputed area is situated between pillar No. 361 and 366 and falls in khasra No. 6445 of Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary. The ACF issued notice to controller of hotel and regional forest officer was directed to register a FIR and file charge sheet in competent court and construction be demolished to defenestrate the encroachment upon forest land.

The order reads, “While issuing the notice to controller of hotel, records of ownership was called from the controller of hotels and neither the FIR got registered by the regional forest officer, not the deputy conservator of forests, has issued any directions as to removal of encroachment and stoppage of commercial activities, are being carried on upon forest land.”