

| SL. No | Date | Office Notes, reports, orders or proceedings or directions and Registrar's order with Signatures | COURT'S OR JUDGES'S ORDERS |
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| | | | <p>WPPIL No.26 of 2025 <u>Hon'ble G. Narendar, C.J.</u> <u>Hon'ble Alok Mahra, J.</u></p> <p>Heard Mr. Piyush Garg, Mr. Dushyant Mainali and Mr. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, learned counsels for the petitioners, Mr. C.S. Rawat, learned C.S.C. with Mr. J.C. Pandey, learned Standing Counsel for the State, Mr. Manoj Kumar, Mr. Saurav Adhikari and Mr. Rajesh Sharma, learned counsels for the Union of India, Mr. Piyush Tiwari, learned counsel for the applicant in Intervention Application and Mr. Dhananjay Mohan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand.</p> <p>2. Learned counsel for the petitioner has suggested creating awareness about the Aundivas celebrations on the Sheetla Khet Model and also creation of Chal Khal, Khanti or creation of small ponds within the forest area.</p> <p>3. After deliberation, this Court has suggested to the PCCF to examine the possibility of replicating the rain water harvesting methods on a larger scale within the forest, in order to enable water percolation and improvement in the water table and also the moisture content in the soil. It is no secret that the monsoons here see a huge quantum of rain water falling in the State and resulting in the rivers being in-spate, but when compared to the amount of moisture retained by the soil, it appears that a very small quantity of the rain water is actually absorbed by the soil. Hence, the Court has suggested the P.C.C.F. to examine possibility of replicating the rain water harvesting methods on a larger scale and across the forest areas.</p> <p>4. The P.C.C.F. has submitted that above 1200</p> |

villagers from across the Uttarakhand had been taken in batches to Sheetla Khet and afforded an opportunity to observe the Aundivas celebrations, wherein the villagers collect all dead wood and dry leaves on the ground and burn it between December to March and thereby preempting any accident or forest fire during the summer months of April and May.

5. The P.C.C.F. has also submitted that several measures have been formulated for the aforesaid purposes.

6. In that view, we direct the P.C.C.F. to submit an affidavit with regard to the action taken for mitigating the forest fires and ensuring the safety and conservation of flora and fauna.

7. List this case on 16.06.2025 along with connected matters.

8. The interventionist are Forest Guards, who had gone on protest and this Court taking note of the persistent occurrence of forest fires had directed the protesting staff to join duties to fight the forest fires.

9. On a query, the P.C.C.F. has submitted that most of the requests by the Forest Guards require a policy decision and also the concurrence of the Finance Department and, hence, the same have been forwarded to the Government and they are under the active consideration of the Government. We also direct the Secretary, Department of Forest and Environment to make a statement by way an affidavit regarding the pending demands of the Forest Guards by the next date of hearing.

(Alok Mahra, J.)

16.05.2025

BS

(G. Narendar, C.J.)

16.05.2025