

Rif-5

भारत सरकार
(Government of India)
रेल मंत्रालय (रेलवे बोर्ड)
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)

No. 2010/Heritage/DHR

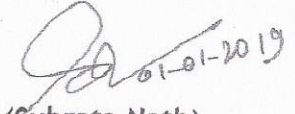
New Delhi; dated: 01.01.2019

Director (WH)
World Heritage Section,
Archaeological Survey of India,
24, Tilak Marg, New Delhi.

Sub: State of Conservation of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), India.
Ref: Your letter No. 1-18/2012-UNESCO (T-26011/63/2018-WH) dated
19.12.2018.

Reference above, factual position regarding current status of conservation of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is as under:

1. The complete 88 km section of DHR is fully functional from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling with all its train services available for passenger and tourists. New Rolling Stocks like AC coaches, Vista Dome coaches have been added to run more train services with better passenger amenities. The fleet of heritage steam locos are being made functional to its full capacity. The tracks, bridges, buildings etc. are being conserved/ maintained regularly throughout DHR section with dedicated staff for this purpose.
2. A Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for DHR is being prepared by UNESCO, New Delhi. Draft version has already been discussed with stakeholders and the final version will be ready by March, 2019. Following adoption of CCMP, conservation & maintenance of Rolling Stocks, station buildings and other heritage assets of DHR will be recalibrated as per CCMP guidelines.
3. After declaration of DHR as World Heritage Site in 1999, no encroachment has been allowed in DHR section. Any illegal construction inside the DHR area has been brought to the notice of Civil Administration quickly for enforcing stoppage of such illegal construction.
4. The stations along the DHR have been provided adequate funds for maintaining cleanliness in the station premises and disposal of garbage & waste generated by train service and tourists visiting the station. The exercise is monitored at various levels for ensuing and further improving cleanliness of the stations as well as whole of its 88 km section.
5. A dedicated management unit headed by Director (DHR) and assisted by three officers in different functional areas is already operational for overseeing conservation of DHR World Heritage Site. Periodic review also takes place at Zonal Headquarter Level for ensuring compliance of UNESCO Operational Guidelines.


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Copy to:

CRSE/Freight, NF Railway (Ref: W/R&L/DHR/100 Pt. XI dated 31.12.2018)