



INDIA GREENS PARTY

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Press Statement

IGP requests FAC to save Dibang Valley from destruction

New Delhi, 28 April 2020: The India Greens Party (IGP) has requested the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to save biodiversity and wildlife in one of the most biodiverse Himalayan zones in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley by not allowing mega Etalin Hydroelectric Project to come up there.

According to a press statement issued here, the IGP President Suresh Nautiyal today sent an email, in this connection, to the Director-General of Forests, Additional Director-General of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Inspector-General of Forests (Forest Conservation).

The party expressed its concern over the reports that the Etalin project will remove nearly three lakh trees from dense tropical forest, which cannot be compensated through afforestation.

“It is regrettable that the government is not listening to the sane voices of the scientists who have said that the rise in zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 is linked to biodiversity and forest destruction,” Mr Nautiyal pointed out, adding that the institutions like the FAC cannot refuse to accept the fact that forests and rivers can play a significant role in dealing with the situation.

He said a responsible government cannot destroy a crucial habitat of many endangered species of plants, mammals, butterflies, spiders, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

The IGP President said it was regrettable that the FAC sub-committee has allowed the mega Etalin Hydroelectric Project, a joint venture of Arunachal Pradesh's Hydro Power Development Corporation with Jindal Power Limited (JPL), with a flimsy condition that the developers deposit money for wildlife conservation in the area.

“No amount of money for wildlife conservation can save forest and biodiversity,” Mr Nautiyal warned.

-Press statement issued by Rehana Siddiqi, IGP General Secretary