

SL. No	Date	Office Notes, reports, orders or proceedings or directions and Registrar's order with Signatures	COURT'S OR JUDGES'S ORDERS
	01.09.2023		<p>WPPIL No. 67 of 2021 <u>Sri Vipin Sanghi, C.J.</u> <u>Sri Alok Kumar Verma, J.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Snigdha Tiwari and Mr. Abhijay Negi, learned counsels for the petitioner. 2. Mr. Rajeev Singh Bisht, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel for the State. 3. Mr. Sanjay Jain, learned Senior Counsel assisted by Dr. Kartikey Hari Gupta, learned counsel for respondent nos.2 and 3. 4. Mr. Rajendra Dobhal, learned Senior Counsel assisted by Mr. Shubhang Dobhal, learned counsel for respondent no.4. 5. Mr. V.K. Kapruwan, learned Standing Counsel for the Union of India. 6. When we passed the order on 12.01.2023 in the wake of the then recent geological developments, which had taken place in the Joshimath area on account of land subsidence, and landslides, in the townships of Joshimath, Raini and Tapovan, the projection before us by the State was of its genuine endeavour to deal with the emergent situation, and have a proper and thorough study conducted into the matter. It was informed to us by Mr. Rawat, learned Chief Standing Counsel, that the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology had already been roped in to make the study, and give the report on the on-going geological activity in the Joshimath area. 7. Learned counsel for the petitioner had suggested that independent experts from the fields of Hydrology, Geology, Glaciology, Disaster Management, Geomorphology and landslide experts, may be associated with any such study.

8. We found merit in this submission, and therefore, directed in Paragraph No.12 of our order that, in case experts have not been roped in from the said fields, they should be associated with any such study.

9. We were informed on 22.05.2023 that such independent experts had not yet been associated with the study.

10. Despite the aforesaid, the respondents have not involved experts from the aforesaid fields in the conduct of the study. We get the expression that the State is not serious about unearthing the real causes for land subsidence, and to seriously deal with the situation, which has emerged.

11. Only a thorough study would inform us of the reasons why land subsidence has taken place, how to deal with same, and prevent it in future.

12. For non-compliance of our order, we direct the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand to remain present before us on the next date, either physically, or *virtually*.

IA No.16 of 2023

13. Issue notice. Counsels appear and accept notice.

14. Reply to this application, if any, be filed positively within one week.

15. Rejoinder, if any, before the next date.

16. List on 22.09.2023.

(Alok Kumar Verma, J.)
01.09.2023

(Vipin Sanghi, C.J.)
01.09.2023

NISHANT