

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
2ND FLOOR, A-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02

F. No.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol. X/Part 6/ 713 -15

Date: 02/05/24

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON
30.04.2024 at 4.00 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY,
DELHI & CHAIRMAN, RMB.**

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held on 30.04.2024 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary cum Chairman, RMB. The list of attendees is attached herewith.

At the outset, APCCF & Member Secretary, RMB welcomed all the Board Members. Thereafter each Agenda was discussed by the Board and decisions were taken as detailed below:

Agenda Item 1: NHAI's proposal for seeking permission for geo-technical investigation in the southern ridge area for construction of a road tunnel for NH-148 AE with its approach and connection to NH-248BB in NCT of Delhi.

The proposal of NHAI regarding drilling of 50 nos. of boreholes for geo-technical investigation was discussed. The followings details were submitted before the board:

- Drilling of boreholes is related to the project of construction of a road tunnel for NH-148 AE with its approach and connection to NH-248BB.
- RMB in its earlier meeting on 25.11.2022 had approved the proposal.
- NHAI has obtained necessary approval for this project from the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- A length of 1980 m (1.98 km) of proposed road tunnel will traverse approx. 20 m below from the ground level of the boundary of Southern ridge.
- A total of 50 boreholes in the boundary of Southern ridge area (Rangpuri village) at a distance of about 60m are proposed to be done to obtain the subsurface geological information on the proposed tunnel alignment. The maximum depth of borehole is 60 m and 76-100 mm will be the diameter of the boreholes.



- No cutting of trees will be required.

The proposal was discussed in length & expert opinions were sought from all the officers who were present in the meeting. Upon careful consideration of the details of the project, the RMB is of the considered view that NHAI has already obtained the necessary approvals for the project from Hon'ble Supreme Court and the geo-technical investigations are inherent part of this project which involves construction of a tunnel at a depth of 20 mts below the surface. Hence, NHAI was advised that it may consider withdrawing the proposal.

Agenda Item 2- DMRC proposal for use of area falling under Southern Ridge for diversion of traffic for construction of Neb Sarai metro station of Phase-IV MRTS project.

Proposal received from DMRC seeking permission for use of ridge area for temporary traffic diversion route falling under Southern/ Morphological Ridge for construction of Neb Sarai Metro Station of Phase-IV MRTS project. The following details of the project were submitted before the RMB:

- On recommendation of RMB and Central Empowered Committee, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has accorded permission for use of Forest area falling within the alignment of Aerocity - Tughlakabad Phase-IV corridor of the MRTS.
- The statutory clearance under FCA, 1980 was also obtained by the User Agency before commencement of work.
- To take up the construction activities of the proposed Neb Sarai station of this corridor, the DMRC had taken various measures for traffic management. However, these roads couldnot accommodate traffic due to very narrow width and built up structures on both sides of roads.
- These internal diversion roads are not effective to cater the existing volume of traffic, thus leading to a stand still traffic situation for many hours every day which is causing hardships for the general public.
- In such a scenario, the construction activities of the station are getting hampered.
- Ridge Management Board in its meeting held on 24.08.2024, deferred the proposal of diversion of 0.46 Ha of Ridge are & 0.16 Ha of Morphological ridge for temporary traffic diversion for construction of Neb

Sarai metro station and recommended a field assessment to understand the ground situation and advised DMRC to consider alternatives for traffic management.

After exploring all the options, the DMRC vide it's letter dated 02.04.2024 has approached RMB with following proposals seeking permission for temporary diversion of traffic through alternate routes involving forest areas in order to ease the traffic situation so that construction activities of Neb Sarai Metro Station can be undertaken:

- i) **Diversion Route-1:** This involves diversion of 0.39 Ha of Ridge Reserved Forest and 0.14 Ha of Morphological Ridge.
- ii) **Diversion Route-2:** This involves diversion of 0.04 Ha of Ridge Reserved Forest.

After detailed discussion, keeping in view the genuine requirement of DMRC, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:-

- I. The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of the ridge.
- II. DMRC shall obtain necessary approval under Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 (Formerly FCA, 1980.)
- III. DMRC shall undertake necessary measures to prevent encroachment of the ridge forest land by barricading on either side of the ridge forest land.
- IV. As committed by the DMRC, the ridge forest land is to be returned back in its original form to Forest Department after completion of construction of Neb Sari Metro Station

Agenda Item-3: (A) Proposal of Delhi Jal Board seeking permission for replacement of pipelines inside DDA park in place of existing pipelines in Naraina Vihar, adjacent to Naraina UGR and R-Block, New Rajinder Nagar.

The above proposal received from Delhi Jal Board regarding laying/ replacement of old pipe lines was discussed. The following details of the project were submitted before the RMB:



- The project aims at improvement of water supply in command area of Chandrawal WTP.
- The pipelines are very old, hence replacement of these pipelines has been proposed.
- No trees will cut is involved in execution of this project.
- The proposal involves an area of 1157.3 Sq. Mts of geo-morphological ridge area.

After perusal, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following condition:

The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of the ridge.

Agenda Item-3: (B) Proposal of DJB for rehabilitation/ Construction of UGRs at Naraina Vihar and R-Block, New Rajinder Nagar.

The above proposal received from Delhi Jal Board regarding for rehabilitation/ Construction of UGRs at Naraina Vihar and R-Block, New Rajinder Nagar was discussed. The following details of the project were submitted before the RMB:

- The project aims at improvement of water supply in command area of Chandrawal WTP.
- The existing UGRs were constructed long back and presently are capacity deficient and are in dilapidated condition.
- **Naraina UGR:** The proposed construction of this UGR involves an area of 2473 Sq. Mts of geo-morphological ridge and no-tree felling is involved.
- **New Rajinder Nagar UGR:** The proposed construction of this UGR involves an area of 1580 sq. Mts of geo-morphological ridge and 86 trees at the site are to be felled/ transplanted (64 trees to be felled and 22 trees to be transplanted) out of total 254 trees in the project site.

After detailed discussion, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following condition:



- I. The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of the ridge.
- II. The User Agency shall obtain prior permission for felling/transplantation of trees as per provisions under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

Agenda Item 4 - National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) proposal for construction of Head Quarter building over 0.677 ha of land at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

The proposal dated 10.04.2024 received from NDRF for construction of new NDRF HQ Building involving 0.677 ha of area falling under Morphological Ridge was discussed. The following details of the project were submitted before the RMB:

- NDRF was established in the year 2006, initially with 08 battalions. NDRF has been in operation for last 18 years mitigating the effects of all types of disasters and has grown to 16 battalions.
- To establish HQ of NDRF permanently at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, MoH&UA has allotted 0.677 ha of land to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide letter no. L&DO O/L-II-A/11(1127)/04 dated 06.01.2020.
- The additional details regarding the project are as follows:
 - 1) Cost of the project: Rs. 92.64 crores (approx.)
 - 2) Total plot area: 6770 sqm (0.677 ha)
 - 3) Ground coverage: 1907.57 sqm
 - 4) Built up area: 19689.30 sqm
 - 5) Floor Height: 4.2 m
 - 6) Total trees on site: 44
 - 7) Trees to be felled: 20
 - 8) Trees to be retained: 24

After detailed discussion, keeping view the requirement of NDRF, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:-



- I. The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of the ridge.
- II. The User Agency shall obtain prior permission for felling/transplantation of trees as per provisions under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

Agenda Item 5 - Proposal of Taj Hotel for plantation of 1000 saplings in central ridge area.

The proposal received from Taj Hotel regarding plantation of 1000 trees in Central Ridge was discussed. The following details of the project were submitted before the RMB:

- The proposal is for planting of following species in Central ridge:
 - Peepal: 250 Nos
 - Ficus spp.: 250 Nos
 - Amaltas: 200 Nos
 - Palash: 200 Nos
 - Bauhinia: 100 Nos
- The site has been found suitable for carrying out the plantation.
- Taj Hotel has informed that the said plantation initiative is solely aimed at promoting greenery, improving environment and reducing pollution and no benefit in terms of advertisement will be claimed by them.

The Board welcomed this initiative and agreed to the proposal submitted by Forest Department for permitting Taj Hotel to undertake plantations of native species in Central ridge.

Agenda Item 6: Proposal for extension of Drivers and additional requirement of Drivers for Departmental vehicles under the RMB Fund:

Ridge Management Board was informed that it had approved the proposal for hiring of 17 Nos. Drivers through outsourcing in the meeting of the Ridge

Management Board held on 08.03.2019 for driving departmental vehicles for a period of 05 years i.e. from 2019 to 2023. As this approval has expired, a proposal for the extension of the same for a further period of 5 years i.e upto 31.12.2028 was placed before the Board.

Further, the Board was informed that the Department of Forests & Wildlife, GNCTD has recently purchased 11 Nos. vehicles (5- Force Urbana & 6- Mahindra Bolero Neo N10) as approved by the RMB vide Minutes of Meeting dated 25.11.2022 and 21.12.2023. Therefore, additional 11 Drivers are needed for plying of these vehicles.

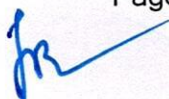
Keeping in view of the above position explained by the Forest Department, the RMB accorded the approval for:

1. Extension of the contract period of 17 Nos. Drivers (through outsourcing), as approved by the Board vide Minutes of Meeting dated 19.03.2019, further for a period of 5 years upto 31.12.2028.
2. Hiring of 11 Nos. additional drivers (through outsourcing) for a period of 05 years for the newly purchased vehicles of the Department.
3. Further, RMB advised that the Forest Department should henceforth hire all out sourced drivers through M/S ICSIL and request M/S ICSIL to provide men who served in Army/ Para-military Forces, so as to maintain discipline and sincerity in the Department.

7. Agenda Item 7: Proposal for notification of Central Ridge as Reserve Forest under Section 20 of Indian Forest Act 1927.

In reference to this agenda Principal Secretary(E&F) submitted a detailed note (copy enclosed), it was observed that while passing reference has been made on the Agenda of the case numbers of various judicial pronouncements by the Pr. Secretary (Forest), however, neither gist of such pronouncements have been informed nor the directions of the Hon'ble Court(s) which are applicable in the present matter has been elaborated.

Further, it has been informed that the proposal in the agenda is pre-mature and needs to go through procedures laid down under Indian Forest Act, 1927 keeping in view various judicial pronouncements on the issue, without mentioning about the shortcomings in the laid down procedure which makes the proposal '*pre-mature*'.



It was also observed that as per Rule 4 of the GNCTD (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1993, ACS/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary for each Department is the administrative Head of the Department and in RMB Principal Secretary (E&F) is a member and APCCF is the Member Secretary of the Board.

Chairman RMB enquired about past precedents of such notification u/s 20 of IFA 1927 done in the past, in response to which the APCCF informed that notification has been done in the past. Chairman RMB further enquired whether issues raised were addressed at that time or not, in response to which the APCCF informed that in the past two final notifications under section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 (IFA, 1927) have been issued in respect of Rangpuri & Chaturpur villages of Southern Ridge by following the due procedure. Further, it was informed that the land notified as Reserved Forest in these two villages are free from all encumbrances and the concurrence of Revenue & Law Departments were also obtained before notification with the approval of Hon'ble Lt. Governor under section 20 of IFA, 1927.

APCCF informed that the Forest Department recently moved the files for Section 20 notification, for those areas that are free from encumbrances, in first phase.

As per Indian Forest Act 1927 under Section 6, when a notification has been issued under section 4, the Forest Settlement Officer(FSO) shall publish in the local vernacular in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the land comprised therein, a proclamation –

- a) specifying, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of the proposed forest;
- b) explaining the consequences which, as hereinafter provided, will ensue on the reservation of such forest; and
- c) fixing a period of not less than three months from the date of such proclamation, and requiring every person claiming any right mentioned in section 4 or section 5 within such period either to present to the Forest Settlement - officer a written notice specifying or to appear before him and state, the nature of such right and the amount and particulars of the compensation (if any) claimed respect thereof.

On 20th May 1994, in pursuance of the provisions of Section- 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (Act No. 10 of 1927) the Lt. Governor, of National Capital Territory



of Delhi declared the lands mentioned in Schedule 'A' as reserved forest. (Copy annexed). As per the available records in the office, the proclamation under section 6 was issued on 26.08.1994 which was published in Times of India. In various Hon'ble Supreme Court orders, references to settlement of rights/concession and claims by FSO has been mentioned, which can be only done after the proclamation under section 6 of IFA, 1927. After the preliminary notification under Section 4, it is the sole responsibility of FSO to proceed from Section 5 to 19 under IFA 1927.


Therefore, RMB decided that the Pr. Secretary, Deptt. of Environment and Forest along with Member Secretary i.e. APCCF & officials of Forest Department shall circulate a complete proposal in this matter [after completing all codal formalities and addressing issues observed in the note of Pr. Secretary (E & F) on the agenda note] before the next meeting of the RMB scheduled at 3:00 pm on 03rd May 2024.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


APCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board

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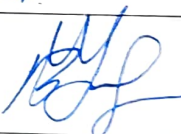

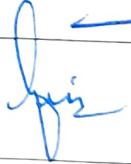

1. All RMB members.
2. All representatives of user agencies and special invitees as per list of participants.
3. Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee for kind information


APCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI-2

ATTENDANCE SHEET
SUB: RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

Venue : Delhi Secretariat
 Chairmanship : Chief Secretary
 Date : 30.04.2024
 Time : 04:00 PM

S.No.	Name & Designation	Department/ Office	Phone No.	E-Mail ID	Signature
1.					
2.	ANIL K. SINGH Sr. Secy. (Env) E & F	E & F			
3.	Suneesh Buxy APCCF	DOFWL			
4.	Vipul Pandey DCF (V)	DOFWL			
5.	Mandeep Mittal DCF (W)	DOFWL	9891403625		
6.	Vikas Singh Commissioner Land Management	DDA	9402574435		
7.	DR. B. Mulhurm Hd. (Env.)	DOFWL Hd. (Env.)	0868972511		
8.	Dr. S. Bagaria Spl Secy (E&F)	Envt & Forest Deptt			
9.	Promod Kr Jain CE (W) Pr. II	Delhi Jal Board	9650291593	CEWdjb@ gmail.com	
10.	Harveen Kaur Gumber EE (E&F) - II	Delhi Jal Board	9650094207		

11.	Anil Srivastava Technical Principal	SMEC (Consultant to NHAI)	9953877875	anil.srivastava @smec.com	<u>Anil</u>
12.	DHARU GUPTA	Mgr(G) NHAI	9971092279	pludwarka @gmail.com	<u>Dharu</u>
13.	P. S. Chauhan	Sr. GM/Asst DMRC	9818180952	pushpendra.4511 @dmrc.org	<u>P.S. Chauhan</u>
14.	Yashpal Mehta	GD DMRC	8130330707	yashpaldeep29 @gmail.com	<u>Yashpal</u>
15.	S. K. Roy	JGM/Asst DMRC	9650020127	se-j-r-roy @dmrc.org	<u>S.K. Roy</u>
16.	VIPUL JINDAL	Project Manager -SC DMRC	8826991892	Vipuljindal @dmrc.org	<u>Vipul</u>
17.	Dr. ARJIT CHAKRABORTY	Asst. M - SWIL - Chandrawal Pkg-2 - DJB.	9204788316	arjit. chakraborty @swil.in	<u>Arjit</u>
18.	Sumit Kumar Singh	AC (Engg) HQ NDRE	8899629684		<u>Sumit</u>
19.	Ashok Kumar	SI/JE HQ NDRE	9910212140	worksbanch. ndre@gov.in	<u>Ashok</u>
20.	Saurabh Sharma	CF, DoFW	9311810076		<u>Saurabh</u>
21.	P. Viswakannan	CCF, DoFW	9434285144		<u>P. Viswakannan</u>
22.	Jabesthin A	ICF (HQ)	9531937669		<u>Jabesthin</u>
23.					
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