

**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/ 12062-65

Date: 23/12/22

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON
25.11.2022 AT 2:30 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY,
DELHI & CHAIRMAN, RMB**

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held on 25.11.2022 at 2:30PM under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary cum Chairman RMB. The list of attendees is attached.

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

1. Agenda Item 1: Development of Phase-I of Delhi Cyclewalk by DDA

The Board was briefed that a proposal has been submitted by DDA for development of Delhi Cyclewalk, divided into 5 Phases, with a total length of 201 Km.

Phase 1- 36 km

Phase 2 - 65 Km

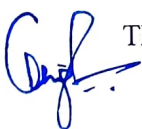
Phase 3 - 46 Km

Phase 4 - 25 Km

Phase 5 - 29 Km

The current proposal is for seeking permission for development of Phase-I with a length of 36 km (29 Km on ground and 7 Km elevated). The Cyclewalk tracks comprise 4 strips; a 2.1 m moorum track for walking, a 1.8 m paved track for universal accessibility and two tracks of 2.5 m for cyclists. DDA has proposed that they will upgrade the existing tracks/ pathways into cyclewalks/ footwalks with minimal breaking of Forest land falling in Ridge Reserve Forest/ Protected Forest/ Morphological Ridge/ Deemed Forest/ Eco Sensitive Zone.

In the meeting of RMB held on 31.12.2021, the Chairman had desired that DDA in consultation with the Forest Department should prepare a Management Plan of the entire layout of Cyclewalk which is in compliance with all the rules and regulations as well as the orders issued by Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble NGT. The Management Plan should then be placed before the Ridge Management Board for



further consideration.

The Comprehensive Management Plan for 06 stretches (Leg A Nilgai for 15 Km) - Sangam Vihar, Archeological Park, Biodiversity Park, Jahanpanah City Forest, Monkey Park and M.B. Road submitted by DDA in June 2022 was evaluated and found in accordance with the suggestions made by the Forest Department regarding inclusion of provisions for safety of Wildlife in the Management Plan.

The details of alignment passing through Forest area is as below:

Location	Length through Forest area (in Km)	Forest Area involved (in ha)	Type of forest & legal status	No. of trees proposed to be transplanted
Sangam Vihar	0.8	0.48	ESZ (Revenue Land)	20
Archaeological Park	0.736	0.4416	Southern Ridge-Reserved Forest	7
	0.513	0.3078	Morphological Ridge (MR)	
Biodiversity Park	1.756	1.0536	Morphological Ridge	29
Jahanpanah City Forest	5.1	3.06	Deemed Forest	36
MB Road	2	1.2	ESZ (Revenue Land) (1.549 Km length is also falling in MR with area 0.92 ha)	
Monkey Park 2	0.35	0.21	ESZ (Revenue Land)	
Total	11.255	6.753		92

The summary of proposed alignment falling in Forest area:

Type of Forest	Area in ha	Permissions required
Southern Ridge	0.44	Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, RMB, CEC & Hon'ble Supreme Court

Deemed Forest	3.06	Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
Morphological Ridge	2.28	RMB, CEC & Hon'ble Supreme Court
ESZ	1.89	National Board of Wildlife, if applicable

As DDA has incorporated the suggestions of Department of Forests & Wildlife in preparation of the Comprehensive Management Plan, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:

- I. The User Agency shall obtain necessary prior permission under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from MoEF&CC, GoI for diversion/ utilization of Notified Forest area and Deemed Forest area.
- II. 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.
- III. The User Agency shall obtain necessary permission from the National Board of Wildlife for utilizing the area falling within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, if applicable.

2. Agenda Item 2: 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 for construction of a road tunnel for NH-148 AE with its approach and connection to NH-248BB in NCT of Delhi through the construction of underground Road Tunnel under the Southern Ridge was placed before the Board.

It was informed that the entire length of the tunnel is 4.983 Km, the starting point being Near Shivmurti on NH-8) and the end point being at Masoodpur village (Nelson Mandela Marg) involving construction of a twin tube tunnel of 30 m (15m + 15m). The proposed alignment of the road tunnel shall run 20 m below the ground level and shall not involve any breaking of forest land on surface. 5.82 ha project area is falling under Southern Ridge Reserved Forest and 1 ha is falling under Deemed Forest.



As the construction of tunnel involves no breaking of land on surface no damage to flora and shall run below the ground in the Forest areas, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following condition:

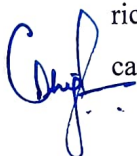
- I. The User Agency shall obtain necessary prior permission under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from MoEF&CC, GoI for diversion/ utilization of Notified Forest area and Deemed Forest area.
- II. The proposed construction shall not involve any breaking of Forestland on surface, no damage to flora and the alignment shall remain underground throughout the forest area.

3. Agenda Item 3: Concept Plan for MMI of Phase-I and Phase-II Metro Stations- Rajendra Place and Jhandewalan.

The Board was informed that DMRC has submitted a proposal for Development of Multi Modal Integration (MMI) Schemes of Delhi MRTS project for Rajendra Place Metro Station and Jhandewalan Metro Station. As per the analysis of KML files provided by the User Agency the following details have emerged:

Metro Station	Forest area involved (in ha)	Legal Status of Forest land
Rajendra Place	7 (North Division)	Morphological Ridge
Jhandewalan	2.33 (West Division) 3.35 (Central Division)	Morphological Ridge
	0.41 (West Division)	Central Ridge area / area as per 1997 affidavit

In a Joint Survey conducted by the officials of Forest Department along with the representatives of DMRC, it was verified that the proposed MMI activities will be restricted to the existing infrastructure of the metro station and no development activity is planned on any unbroken area as per the design. The works majorly include upgradation/ realignment of existing bus stand, development of car/ auto/ rickshaw pick/ drop bay or parking, modification/ refurbishing of existing carriageway and footpaths, installation of street lights.



The Board observed that such proposals which involve upgradation/realignment of existing infrastructure and do not involve breaking on the surface of any fresh forest land can be undertaken by the User Agency with prior information to the Forest Department. The Forest Department shall ascertain the same and obtain an undertaking from the User Agency that no fresh Forest land shall be broken up on surface beyond the already built up areas. Thereafter, the User Agency can go ahead with the project. Such proposals would not require permission from the Ridge Management Board.

4. Agenda Item 4: Modification in Minutes of meeting of RMB held on 28.06.2022.

The Board was apprised that DDA has requested certain modifications in the minutes of the meeting of RMB held on 28.06.2022 for agenda-1 legal sanctity and protection accorded to Morphological Ridge area. The following corrections have been suggested by DDA:

Minutes recorded:

..... **'These layers shall then be superimposed and the overlapping areas contiguous to notified Ridge in the Morphological area as indicated by GSI may be considered as the Ridge area.'**

Corrections suggested by DDA:

.... **'The two layers shall be superimposed to examine the land use as per Master Plan, of the areas outside the notified area but within the map as provided by the GSI. The findings of the exercise shall be brought before the RMB for further decision in the matter. This exercise shall be completed by the Department, within a month's time with the help of GSDL, GSI and DDA.'**....

The Board was also informed about the progress in delineation of Denuded hills/rocky surface in NCT of Delhi as detailed below:

A. A committee was constituted consisting of representatives from GSDL, GSI and Forest Department to delineate the denuded hills/ rocky surface in NCT of Delhi.

B. Five meetings of the committee have been held till date. DDA has also been

invited to 3 meetings as a special invitee. GSI has provided fresh KML files of denuded hills/ rocky surface in NCT of Delhi and it has been found that there is inconsistency/ mismatch in the data of Geomorphology landform as provided by GSI in 2013 and 2022. The layer of 2022 does not include all the areas marked as Morphological Ridge in the 2013 map of GSI submitted by this Department before the Hon'ble High Court & Hon'ble Supreme Court. GSI has been requested to submit detailed justification for variation in geomorphology landform submitted in 2013 & 2022. However, no communication has been received from their end which is hampering the progress in the matter.

- C. MCD, MoHUA and DDA were requested to provide the KML files of their developmental projects. No response has been received from MCD and MoHUA. DDA has committed to submit the information at the earliest.

After deliberations, the Board agreed to the suggestions made by DDA and desired that a corrigendum may be issued in this regard.

5. Agenda Item 5: Modification in proposal for purchase of 05 nos. Field vehicles as approved by RMB in its meeting held on 31.12.2021.

The Board in its meeting held on 31.12.2021 has approved the proposal for purchase of 05 field vehicles (Diesel vehicles SUV of 2000 cc and above) for regular patrolling of Ridge Forest areas. However, the Finance Department, GNCTD vide OM dated 25.02.2021 has issued instructions to all Department, autonomous bodies and grantee institutions of Govt. of NCT of Delhi to shift their existing hired petrol/ diesel/ CNG vehicles to electric vehicles.

In view of the functional limitations of electric vehicles for use in patrolling & field visits, and the threat to field staff during encroachment removal drives, the Board was requested to approve purchase of diesel vehicles which are suitable for such terrains. The Board approved purchase of 03 nos Mahindra XUV 500 and 02 nos Thar vehicles in its meeting held on 28.06.2022.

As XUV-500 is not under production & Mahindra has recently launched XUV 700, which is the recent version available under XUV platform, the Board agreed to



allow purchase of Mahindra XUV 700 instead of XUV-500.

The Chairman also directed that Force Urbana vehicles (10 seater) may also be purchased by the Forest Department (01 for each division & 01 for HQ; Total no. being 05) for the purpose of carrying out field inspections.

6. Agenda Item 6: Strengthening of Wildlife Wing of the Department.

The proposal for strengthening of the Wildlife Wing (HQ) at Department of Forest & Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi was placed before the Board. The Board was apprised that there is a shortage of sufficient staff to deal with the various works pertaining to enforcement of Wildlife Protection Act (1972), various guidelines on CITES and Biodiversity Act, 2002.

The following proposal for strengthening of Wildlife wing of the Department was approved by the Board:

Post	Essential Qualification	Essential Work Experience	Remuneration including ICSIL charges
Senior Project Associate-Wildlife (02 nos.)	PG in Zoology/ Environment/Forest/ Wildlife/ Biodiversity Conservation/ allied Sciences/ PG Diploma in Wildlife Management	Minimum experience of 04-06 Years of working with implementing agencies/ autonomous bodies/ reputed organizations in matters pertaining to environmental policies/ forest and wildlife conservation. Experience with any Forest Department would be given preference	Rs.80,000
Data Entry Operator (02)	As per ICSIL norms		

7. Modification in the RMB minutes of meeting held on 09.05.2018 in respect of eco-restoration of Central Ridge.

The Ridge Management Board in its meeting held on 09.05.2018 had granted 'in-principle' approval to the project for eco-restoration of the Central Ridge covering an area of 423 ha through Biodiversity enrichment to be carried out by Prof. C.R. Babu and the expenditure for the same to be borne from RMB funds. The



proposal amounting to Rs.12.21 crores was approved by the Cabinet vide its decision No. 2935 dated 29.01.2021. However, due to certain reasons Prof. C.R. Babu recused himself from the project and the project is now proposed to be executed by the Department of Forests & Wildlife.

The proposal to authorize Forest Department to carry out this project covering an area of 423 ha in Central Ridge as per the earlier approved proposal with financial expenditure of Rs.12.21 crores has been agreed to subject to the following conditions:

- A. The project should be executed by the Department of Forests & Wildlife in accordance with the earlier project plan approved by the Cabinet with the financial expenditure of Rs.12.21 crores.
- B. The timeline for execution of the project shall be 3 years instead of 5 years as earlier.

8. Agenda Item 8: Capacity building for newly recruited Frontline Forestry Staff.

The Board was informed that the Department has recruited frontline forestry staff- Range Officers (04 nos.) against 6 Forest Ranges who are undergoing training in Odisha and will be joining in April 2023. The appointment on deputation of 04 nos Asst. Conservator of Forests is also under process.

For effective execution of protection and monitoring measures, it was proposed to purchase field vehicles as detailed below:

	Name of items	Specification	Nos.	Estimate (Rs. In Lakh)	Remarks
1	Field Vehicle @ Rs. 15 Lakh each	Diesel vehicle SUV of 1500 cc and above (Bolero)	06	90	04 Range Officers are undergoing training and will be joining the Department in April 2023. It is proposed to purchase these vehicles for patrolling, protection and other field works of Ridge Forest areas where EVs are not found suitable.

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2	Field Vehicle @ Rs. 25 Lakh each	Diesel vehicle SUV of 2000 cc and above (Scorpio/ Tata Safari type vehicle)	04	100	Regular patrolling is required to be done in Forest areas where vehicles of slightly more ground clearance are required, keeping in view the threat to field staff due to encroachment removal drives, purchase of such vehicles is mandatory. The vehicles shall be assigned to newly appointed ACFs. Electric Vehicles cannot be purchased as it is unsuitable for field operations as their range is limited and no charging points are available inside Forest areas.
			Total	190	

The above proposal of the Department was approved by the Board with the condition that instead of purchasing the above vehicles, the Department will undertake hiring of these vehicles. Also, instead of Bolero vehicles, 06 nos Thar vehicles shall be hired for field duties.

9. Agenda Item 9: Construction of office complex, officer's mess and camp for HQ IDS at Survey No. 176, Mehram Nagar, Delhi Cantt.

The Board was informed that a proposal has been received from HQ Integrated Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence for construction of office complex, officer's mess and camp for HQ IDS at Survey No. 176, Mehramnagar, Delhi Cantt. The proposed area for construction i.e. 4.28 ha is falling within Morphological Ridge. A joint inspection of the site was conducted by the officials of the Forest Department along with the representatives of the User Agency on 24.11.2022 and the following was observed:

- i. An area of 1.2 ha has been excavated up to a depth of approximately 5 ft. and in the remaining area the upper layer of soil has been disturbed/ removed, certain no. of trees have also been damaged/ uprooted. The exact number of trees which are damaged/ uprooted shall be determined after


the analysis from GIS and ground truthing, which are falling under the category of tree as per DPTA, 1994.

- ii. The User Agency has also raised temporary/ permanent structures over the land adjacent to the project area.

After discussing all aspects of the proposal, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:

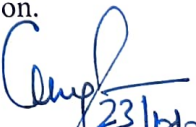
- I. The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Morphological Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of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

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


(C.D. Singh) 23/12/2022
PCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board

Distribution:

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


(C.D. Singh) 23/12/2022
PCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board

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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
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ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting of the Ridge Management Board

Venue: Conference Room of the Chief Secretary, GNCTD

Date: 25.11.2022

Time: 02:30 PM

S.No.	Name/Dept. & Designation	Contact No.	E mail id	Signature
1.				
2.	Mansin Gupta V.C. DDA.	9958552553		
3.	A.K. Singh Pr. Secy (E&F)			
4.	C.D. Singh PCCF			
5.	T. C. Nautiyal CCF	9871932738	tcnautiyal@ gmail.com	
6.	ABHINAV KUMAR DCF (HQ)	8974131911	defhs.gnctd@ gov.in	
7.	NAVNEET SRIVASTAVA	8413847177		
8.	VIDUL PANDEY DCF (N)	9971566106		
9.	Cheshta Singh DCF - E)	8130618418	defcentral-gnctd@ delhi.gov.in	
10.	Mandeep Mittal DCF (S)	9891403625	dm def central delhi @ gov.in	
11.	GOONMEET S (HAWAN) CDFI > DDA)	9810121973	goonmeet@ dfi.wroh.com	

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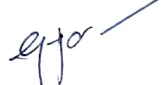


ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting of the Ridge Management Board

Venue: Conference Room of the Chief Secretary, GNCTD

Date: 25.11.2022

Time: 02:30 PM

S.No.	Name/Dept. & Designation	Contact No.	E mail id	Signature
1.	Deepankar Singh SA-UP&DUHF, DPA	9599430110		
2.	Mrs Chopra Chief Architect-DDA	9910288493		
3.	P. K. AGGARWAL SE/SCE3/DDA	9999221540		
4.	D. C. GOEL, EMDDA	9971722521		
5.	DR. B. MUKHOPADHYAY NHAI, HQ.	9868972511		
6.	AKASH PADHI DGM NHAI	9908112771		
7.	RASHMI BARNADWAJ DyCA-I / DMPE	9650199489	rush-204@ yahoo.co.in	
8.	Gurjan Aggarwal Chief General Manager ARINEM	9871477122	Gurjan@ arinem.com	
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10.	A. Gupta, IDSE GE(P)	9532111104		
11.	Col Anurag Col (Admt Coord) HO, IDS	8199937147		