

**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 6/2404-06

Date: 19th July 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 14.07.2021 AT 11:00 AM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, DELHI & CHAIRMAN, RMB

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held on 14.07.2021, Wednesday at 11:00 AM under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary cum Chairman RMB via Video Conferencing. The list of attendees is attached.

At the outset, the 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: Construction of metro line (Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor) of Delhi MRTS Phase-IV

(UA: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation)

The Board was apprised that DMRC had submitted a proposal for use of forest land for the construction of Metro line, stations and other operational requirements of Delhi MRTS Ph-IV. The proposed corridor is passing through Mahipalpur (along Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road), Kishangarh, Chhattarpur, IGNOU, Saket (Mehrauli-Badarpur road) and Anandmayee Marg T Junction. The length of the tunnel (U/G portion of the alignment) falling under Southern Ridge, South Central Ridge and Morphological Ridge is 1739 m, 1182 m and 2373 m respectively involving 4.5 Ha. land area. The User Agency has mentioned that use of this area shall not involve surface breaking and tunnelling will be carried out with the help of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs); rest 8.4 Ha. area is required for construction of metro stations. Details are as tabulated below:

	Type of Ridge	Area required for tunnel (sqm)	Permanent land required for Station (sqm)	Temporary land required for Station (sqm)	Total area required (Tunnel + Station) (sqm)	No. of trees
1	Southern Ridge	16738	2835	15667	35240	466
2	South Central Ridge	7415	6319	25232	38966	455
3	Morphological Ridge	20943	5711	28894	55548	151
	Total	45096	14865	69793	129754	1072

It was informed that in the last meeting of Ridge Management Board held on 03.06.2021, the Board had directed that Forest Department and DMRC should thoroughly explore all the alternative alignments for the MRTS corridor and overlay all those alternate alignments on a map of Ridge/ Morphological Ridge which should be presented before the Board, in the next meeting.

In compliance with the directions of RMB, joint meetings were held between DCF (South) and officials of DMRC on 08.06.2021, 11.06.2021 and 17.06.2021 for assessing the alternative routes at 4 locations where the MRTS corridor is passing through the Ridge/ Morphological Ridge area. A detailed presentation was prepared and discussed with PCCF. From the comparative study of alternatives proposed, following conclusions have been drawn:

- i) **At Mahipalpur**, the alternate location involves 226 trees in the Ridge area as against 132 trees in the proposed location submitted to RMB. Construction in alternate locations also involves demolition of built up areas and children burial ground.
- ii) **At Kishangarh**, the alternate station location falls in a deemed forest area involving tree cutting . The alternate location involves 748 trees mostly in deemed forest area as compared to 455 trees in the proposed location submitted to RMB. Also the alternate station is approx. 600 m away from the important T junction of Aruna Asaf Ali Marg and Mehrauli- Mahipalpur road thus making it inconvenient to the commuters, increases distance from Kishangarh village , Mehrauli villages & Fortis hospital and imbalances the inter station distances. The proposed station location submitted to RMB is at the T Junction .
- iii) **At IGNOU station**, the alternate station location is placed at an orientation so as to have the least length of tunnel through Ridge near IGNOU. However, on detailed study, it has been found that this alternate location involves more area in Ridge for station construction as it is at higher ground level involving more width for side slopes due to deeper excavation . Also the alternate location is away from the Main Road , therefore an additional ridge area will be required for making the approach road to the station. Further the marginal reduction in the tunnel length through Ridge due to reorientation at this location is offset by the entry of tunnel in ridge area at other locations at Maidangarhi. Thus the overall ridge area required will be more than the proposed station location on the road submitted to RMB. The number of trees to be cut in alternate locations are 1140 as compared to 334 nos in the proposed station location given to RMB.
- iv) **At Maa Anandmayee Marg Station**, due to the constraint of prohibited area of protected monuments, the shifting of alignment and station is restricted. The only alternative available is to shift the station in the built up area along the road where the road width is insufficient for station

construction and traffic diversion during construction and thus involves demolition of large built up areas. It also imbalances the interstation distance of Maa Anandmayee Marg station from the adjacent stations.

A table showing comparative analysis of all the alternatives analyzed is attached as Annexure-1 to the minutes.

After thorough deliberations in the RMB meeting, it was agreed by the Board that the original alignment proposed by DMRC is the most suitable one as it involves minimum use of Forest area (i.e. 12.9 Ha.) and minimum felling of trees (i.e. 1072). In view of the facts, the Board decided to recommend the proposal to Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:

- a. The User Agency shall obtain necessary permission for diversion of forest area for non-forestry purposes as per provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- b. 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.

2. Agenda Item 2: Request for N.O.C for the layout plan of Comprehensive Management Plan of Mehrauli Archaeological Park.

(UA: Delhi Development Authority)

The Board was informed about the proposal received from DDA for N.O.C. for the layout plan of the Comprehensive Management Plan of Mehrauli Archaeological Park. The total area of the site is 75.49 Ha. The management Plan has been formulated as per Hon'ble High Court of Delhi's order dated 17.05.2017. DDA had planned to develop various public amenities in the Park such as Nature Interpretation Centre, Restaurant, Toilets, Shelters, kiosks etc. A general N.O.C. is being sought, DDA will take separate N.O.C. for construction purposes. The total no. of trees in the entire plot area is 719.

As the entire area falls within South-Central Ridge, the Board in its meeting held on 05.03.2021 desired that a meeting should be conducted by the Forest Department with the Sr. Architect of DDA in order to develop a plan showing holistic view of the entire Park, and the development of amenities should be done in an eco-friendly manner and use of concrete should be discouraged.

Accordingly, a meeting was held by PCCF on 05.07.2021 in which the Sr. Architect DDA presented a plan showing a holistic view of the entire park and the development of amenities. In the layout plan prepared by DDA, the boundary of Ridge/ Morphological Ridge was not depicted; PCCF asked the Chief Architect to superimpose the layout of Mehrauli Archaeological Park on the Ridge/ Morphological Ridge boundary. For development purposes, the Mehrauli Archaeological Park is divided in 04 zones:

- In Zone 1, DDA has proposed the facilities like toilet blocks, centres of public kiosks, open air theatre and 4m wide track (in addition to the already existing path) for battery operated vehicles for the visitors.
- In Zone 2, outdoor exhibition areas, community interactive areas, public utilities, nature interpretation centres & restaurants have been proposed.
- In Zone 3, nature trails, machan and bird park have been proposed.
- In Zone 4, a rock garden, Ecological centre/ park, Herbal Garden, Nature Interpretation Centre in existing picnic huts have been proposed.

There are 3 entry gates to the park. Parking is proposed near 02 entry gates. One parking lot is proposed inside the park.

After thorough deliberation on all the zones, PCCF advised DDA to reduce the width of the outer road for battery operated vehicles from 4m to 2m and to make the road as one way only. However, the Chief Architect insisted on a 2.5m wide road for the same. It was also advised to exclude restaurants and open air theatres from the Ridge area. It was further advised to reduce the number of toilet blocks from 08 (eight) to 04 (four) including 02 (two) already existing toilet blocks. The parking proposed inside the park may also be shifted near the entry gate. High rise machan is also not advisable in the park as it may disturb the wild animals in already existing forest areas. Zone 4 has good forest and therefore it was advised to minimise the number of roads/ pathways to reduce the possibility of animal-human conflict as this area is having a good presence of wild animals. The Chief Architect DDA, was asked to change the layout plan accordingly.

The Sr. Architect DDA informed that all the observations made by PCCF in the meeting held on 05.07.2021 have been taken into account and the layout plan has been modified accordingly. A detailed presentation of the modified layout plan was made by her before the Board.

The Board decided to recommend the proposal for consideration of the Central Empowered Committee subject to the following conditions:

- a. The User Agency i.e. DDA shall furnish complete information regarding the Road passing through the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, before the proposal is submitted to CEC for consideration.
- b. The User Agency shall obtain necessary permission for diversion of forest area for non-forestry purposes as per provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. Agenda Item 3: Review of process for Final notification of Forest land under Section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927

The Member Secretary placed the progress of final notification of Forest Land under Section 20 of IFA, 1927 before the Board members. He informed that the Second meeting of the Oversight Committee was convened on 16.03.2021. After this meeting the Department of Forest and Wildlife, GNCTD in coordination with Revenue Department have taken the following steps to comply the directions of Hon'ble NGT:

a. **Status of Tatima proceedings:** Notices were issued for Tattima proceedings in the month of March and April. However, they could not be taken up due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

b. **Status of Cases in FSO Court:**

Division	Total no. of cases	No. of Cases Disposed	No. of cases pending
South Forest Division	46 (5 new cases have been taken up by FSO after last meeting)	31 cases have been disposed off out of which 28 court matters have been reserved by the Ld. Forest Settlement Officer and 3 final orders have been passed.	15
West Forest Division	8	6 cases have been closed however, all are reserved for final order to be passed.	2

c. **Status of Encroachment Removal:**

SL. No.	Name of Village	Total encroachment Removed (in Ha)	SL. No.	Name of Village	Total encroachment Removed (in Ha)
1.	Aaya Nagar	Nil	7.	Bhatti	Nil
2.	Chhattarpur	Nil	8.	Maidangarhi	0.16
3.	Nebsarai	Nil	9.	Saidulajab	0.16
4.	Sahoorpur	Nil	10.	Satbari	Nil
5.	Devli	Nil	11.	Jaunapur	0.23
6.	Asola	4.06	12.	Deramandi	2.67
13.	Tughlakabad	1.74	16.	Rajokari	3.10
14.	Pulpehladpur	0.11	17.	Ghitorni	Nil
15.	Rangpuri	4.51			
Total 16.74 Ha					

[Note: * More than 12 Ha of Forest land has been made free of encroachment since the last meeting of Oversight Committee.]

d. Status of Construction of Boundary Wall:

SL. No.	Village	Boundary wall (in m)
1.	Asola	1600
2.	Sahoorpur	Nil
3.	Pulpehladpur	1130
4.	Deramandi	5418
5.	Jonapur	820
6.	Tughlakabad	800
7.	Ayanagar	2423
8.	Maidangarhi	1147
9.	Chhattarpur	450
10.	Nebsarai	Nil
11.	Saidulajaib	Nil
12.	Satbari	Nil
13.	Rangpuri	600
14.	Rajokari	3200
15.	Ghitorni	425
Total		18013

[Note: * More than 3 Km of wall has been constructed after the last meeting of the Oversight Committee.]

e. Status of Issues pending with DUSIB regarding rehabilitation of colonies:

- Speeding the rehabilitation of encroachers identified for rehabilitation by GNCTD.
- To have a list of those jhuggies in Forest area proposed to be rehabilitated as per Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015.

f. Status of Management Plan:

- Working Plan is being prepared by FRI.
- Wildlife Management Plan of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary is in force.

g. Status of Notification:

- Status of notification under section 20 (Phase- I, Southern Ridge):

SL. No.	Village	Total Area (in Ha)	Area sent for phase-1 Notification (in Ha)	Status of Comments from Revenue	Status of Notification
1.	Tughlakabad	544.84	332.97	Received	Comments received from the Revenue
2.	Rajpur khurd	5.61	5.61	Received	

3.	Chattarpur	50.24	14.18	Received	Department and draft notification have been prepared for approval of GNCTD.
4.	Dera Mandi	1090.36	707.12	Response Awaited	Awaited
5.	Saidulajaib	34.89	6.55	Response Awaited	Awaited
6.	Satbari	143.15	71.68	View sought from DDA	Awaited
7.	Jaunapur	327.53	215.57	Response Awaited	Awaited
8.	Maidangarhi	423.04	280.62	Response Awaited	Awaited
9.	Nebsarai	49.36	9.19	Response Awaited	Awaited
10.	Ayanagar	343.18	261.86	Response Awaited	Awaited
11.	Asola	775.48	595.63	Response Awaited	Awaited
12.	Bhatti	1119.67	793.68	View sought from DDA	Awaited
13.	Devli	480.07	393.49	Response Awaited	Awaited
14.	Sahoorpur	276.66	246.35	Response Awaited	Awaited
15.	Mahipalpur	7.71	Nil	N/A	N/A
16.	Rajokari	277.67	222.48	Received	Comments received from the Revenue Department and draft notification is being prepared for approval of GNCTD.
17.	Ghitorni	61.30	2.52	Received	
18.	Rangpuri	150.08	89.30	Received	
19.	Pul Pehladpur	56.96	Nil	N/A	N/A
Total Area		6210	4248.8	(Almost 68.4 % of area notified under section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927).	

• Status of notification under section 20 (Phase- II, Southern Ridge):

SL. No.	Village	Total Area (in Ha)	Area sent for phase 2 Notification (in Ha)	Status of Notification
1.	Tughlakabad	544.84	Under Process	Under preparation
2.	Rajpur khurd	5.61	NIL	Notification for this village completed in 1st phase.
3.	Chattarpur	50.24	34.09	Parcel of land identified, Draft Notification is under Preparation.
4.	Dera Mandi	1090.36	Under Process	Under preparation
5.	Jaunapur	327.53		
6.	Ayanagar	343.18		
7.	Satbari	143.15		
8.	Saidulajaib	34.89	23.23	Parcel of land identified, Draft Notification is under Preparation
9.	Maidangarhi	423.04	122.12	
10.	Nebsarai	49.36	20.10	
11.	Asola	775.48	113.91	Parcel of land identified, Draft Notification is under Preparation
12.	Bhatti	1119.67	111.22	
13.	Rangpuri	150.08	Under Process	Under Process
14.	Sahoorpur	276.66		
15.	Devli	480.07		
16.	Rajokari	277.67	Under Process	Under Process
17.	Ghitorni	61.30		
18.	Mahipalpur	7.71		
19.	Pul Pehladpur	56.96		
Total Area		6210	424.67	(Almost 6.83 % of area notified under section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927).

• Status of Other Ridges:

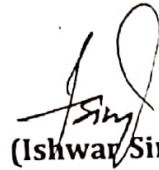
Name of Ridge	Total Area (in Ha)	Area proposed for Notification (in Ha)	Status of Notification
Northern Ridge	131.54	131.54	Comments received from the Revenue Department and draft notification have been prepared for approval of GNCTD.
South Central Ridge	626	Not Available	DDA has been requested to provide details of khasras under the South Central Ridge.
Central Ridge	1895 (864 as per notification 1994.)	Not Available	DM (New Delhi) & DDA has been requested to provide details of khasras under the Central Ridge.

- **Status of Matters pending with DDA:**

- (i) Identification of khasras in Central Ridge and South Central Ridge.
- (ii) Providing comment on acquired land as per the letters of the Revenue Department.

The Chairman desired that a meeting of the Ridge Management Board to review the progress for notification of Forest Land should be convened in which all concerned DMs (Revenue Department) and Dy. Conservator of Forests (Forest Department) should participate. It was also desired that complete details of the land already fenced by construction of boundary wall and the remaining length of wall to be constructed should be furnished. It was also desired that this activity should be monitored by PCCF.

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

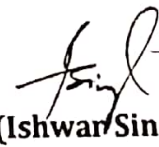


(Ishwar Singh)

**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.



(Ishwar Singh)

**PCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board**

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GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI 110002

ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting of the Ridge Management Board under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GNCTD

Venue: NIC VC Conference Room

Date: 14.07.2021

Time: 11:00 AM

S.No.	Name, Department & Designation
1.	Sh. Satya Gopal, Addl. Chief Secretary (E&F)
2.	Sh. Sanjeev Khirwar, Pr. Secretary (E&F)
3.	Sh. Ishwar Singh, PCCF
4.	Sh. Sandeep Kumar, Secretary (Finance)
5.	Ms. Kamal Preet, Chief Conservator of Forests (Admn.)
6.	Sh. Nisheeth Saxena, Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden
7.	Sh. Rajeev Tiwari, Pr. Commissioner (Hort.), DDA
8.	Sh. Sohail Madan, BNHS
9.	Dr. Ankita Chakravarty, DM (South)
10.	Sh. Amit Anand, DCF (South)
11.	Sh. Mandeep Mittal, DCF (P&M)
12.	Sh. A.S. Bisht, CPM 5, DMRC
13.	Sh. S.K. Roy, Sr. DGM, DMRC
14.	Ms. Smita Saxena, Sr. Architect, UP & DUHF, DDA
15.	Sh. Tanzil Ahmed, Asst. Director (Arch.), UP & DUHF, DDA
16.	Sh. Manish Gupta, Member (Admin), DDA