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**MINUTES OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, R. NARAYANASWAMI,
GNCTD, ON 29th JUNE AT 1100 HRS (2006)**

A meeting of the Ridge Management Board constituted under the order of the Hon'ble Apex Court was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, in his Conference Room with all the members of the RMB on 29th June, 2006 at 1100 hrs. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Ridge Management Board as well as the Special Invitees;

1. Shri Dinesh Rai, Vice Chairman, DDA
2. Smt. Naini Jayaseelan, Secretary (E & F)
3. Shri R.C. Gupta, Chief Engineer, DDA
4. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Commissioner (South)
5. Smt. Manisha Saxena, Deputy Commissioner (South West)
6. Shri Suresh Bhandari, Deputy Commissioner (South Zone), MCD
7. Shri A. K. Sinha, Superintending Engineer (CPWD)
8. Shri Ish Kumar, Superintending Engineer (I&FCD)
9. Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, Addl. District Magistrate (HQ)
10. Shri A.K. Singh, Addl. District Magistrate (South)
11. Smt. Savita Bhandari, Director, Landscape, DDA
12. Shri Ompal Singh, Director, Horticulture, DDA
13. Shri B.C. Katyar, Deputy Director, Horticulture, CPWD
14. Shri S.C. Saxena, BO, L&DO
15. Shri A. K. Sharma, BDO, (South)
16. Shri R. S. Yadav, A. K. Sinha, Superintending Engineer, Slum
17. Shri Philip Toppo, Dy. Director (South)
18. Shri J. S. Sodhi, DDA
19. Shri C.J. Pasrija, EO, L&DO
20. Shri Prabhat Tyagi, Deputy Conservator of Forests (West)
21. Smt. Kamal Preet, Deputy Conservator of Forests (South)
22. Shri Umakant, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)
23. Shri S. Rajesh, Deputy Conservator of Forests (HQ)
24. Shri Omkar Singh, Conservator of Forests

At the outset, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, extended welcome to the participants of the meeting and highlighted about the need for better co-ordination among the members of the Ridge Management Board, to sort out the issues related to the management of the ridge area.

Beginning the discussions, the Secretary, (Environment and Forests), made a brief presentation on the general issues pertaining to the management of Ridge and the constitution & functioning of the Ridge Management Board.

In the meeting, the following issues were deliberated and decided;

General Protection of the Central and South Central Ridge Area

The Secretary, Environment & Forests, GNCTD presented about the general management, problems of the Central and South Central Ridge in

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particular. In the matter, it was intimated that, large scale dumping of malba/entry of trucks was going on in the Central Ridge near Dasghara village. In this regard, photograph depicting same were shown and the photographs of Sanjay Van showing the dumping of malba along the road side boundaries of the ridge /broken boundary wall was also presented in the meeting.

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In this regard, Chief Secretary directed that,

- A D. O. to Vice Chairman, DDA from the Chief Secretary be sent giving details of the matter.
- DDA should initiate action against the persons responsible for dumping the garbage/malba along the boundaries of the Central & South Central Ridge (Sanjay Van) and to arrange for the removal of the same, if any, within a week's time.

In the matter, it was also informed by the DDA that the eviction of structures has been held up due to the stay awarded by the Hon'ble High court. In the matter, Chief Secretary directed that, the merits of the case may be brought the notice of the court immediately as the delay in vacation of the stay causes further deterioration of the Ridge. He also suggested that, such facts may also be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Apex Court as well.

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Thereafter, the agenda items were discussed and the decisions taken in the meeting are as below;

AGENDA 1: PROTECTION AND FENCING OF THE CENTRAL RIDGE

The L&D Officer, vide Notification No. Enf 157 (5173)/02 dated 19.05.2004 placed an area of 864 ha in the Central Ridge at the disposal of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi through its Forest Department on **as is where is basis**. Out of 864 ha, 441 ha of area is yet to be handed over to the Forest Department. The RMB was informed that, the joint physical verification of the actual extent of the area of the Central Ridge has not been under taken. However, the L&DO informed that, the joint inspection been fixed for July 4, 2006. In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that,

- the required joint inspection of the sites by the L&DO, CPWD and Forest Department must be completed in a week's time.
- Mr. S C Saxena, B.O., from the office of L&DO, to take up the matter with the Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Land and Development Officer, to provide the detailed account of the **864 ha** of the Central Ridge and the action plan prepared for handing over of the remaining land to the Forest Department, in a weeks' time,
- a letter be written by the Department of Forests to the Director General, CPWD to hand over the remaining land to the Forest Department.

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[Action: L &DO, Forest Department and CPWD]

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AGENDA 2: WORKS AT MAHAVIR VANSTHALI

In the matter, the Shri A. K. Sinha, Superintending Engineer, CPWD intimated that, they had been exempted by the Appellate Authority under the section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, after hearing appeal against the order of the Settlement Officer with regard to the site bearing the constructions. He also intimated that, a proposal under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, was also submitted to the Department of Forests and Wild Life, NCT of Delhi. In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that,

- Shri A. K. Sinha, Superintending Engineer, CPWD, to give the copy of the order passed by the FSO and Appellate Authority to the Forest Department in order to get the legal view/advise with regard to the applicability of the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act (1980), with respect to the site bearing the constructions with the Law and Justice Department of the GNCT of Delhi, in 30 days' time.
- The proposal submitted by the CPWD under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, be examined by the Department of Forests, NCT of Delhi. However, the CPWD authorities were directed to provide a copy of the proposal again.

[Action: Forest Department and CPWD]

AGENDA 3: UNAUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE CENTRAL RIDGE NEAR DASGHARA VILLAGE BY DDA, AND LARGE SCALE DUMPING OF MALBA

In the matter, the Dy. Conservator of Forests, west Division presented certain photographs depicting the large scale dumping of malba in the Ridge area in the meeting. He also pointed out that, the formation of several approach paths through the Ridge leading to villages.

In response to the same, Shri R C Gupta, Chief Engineer, DDA intimated that, the eviction of the villages has been vexed with the problems related to the resettlement, etc. In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that:

- the photographs of the area presented in the meeting, be handed over to the DDA for their reference. If any further action is required, the DDA will be advised in this regard. It was also directed that DDA will be advised in this regard.

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AGENDA 4: SHIFTING OF MAURICE NAGAR POLICE STATION

As the direction given in the previous meeting was reported to be complied with, it was decided to drop this agenda point.

AGENDA 5: SHIFTING OF COLONIES FROM WILD LIFE SANCTUARY TO ALTERNATIVE SITE

In the matter, it was informed by the Addl. Commissioner (Slum & JJ), MCD that Balbir Nagar and Indira Nagar villages have already been shifted out of the sanctuary and the Sanjay Nagar village is yet to be shifted by the MCD due to the stay order passed by the Court. In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed the Addl. Commissioner (Slum & JJ), MCD to submit an action plan for relocation of the village and he also directed the Addl. Commissioner (Slum & JJ), MCD to provide all the details and action plan in respect of the people being shifted within 7 days to Chief Secretary.

[Action: MCD]

no information
has been received from
the Addl.
Comm. (Slum & JJ)
in this direction

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AGENDA 6: FINAL NOTIFICATION OF THE RIDGE

In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that,

- the Forest Settlement Officers to ensure the completion of settlement of all rights and concessions before 31st December 2006,
- Smt. Manisha Saxena, Dy. Commissioner (SW) & Shri Sandeep Kumar (DC (South)) to ensure the compliance of the directions given to the FSO's,
- The Department of Forests to pursue the matter vigorously with the Forests Settlement Officers and the concerned Dy. Commissioners for the earliest final notification of the Reserve Forest,
- The Secretary (E&F) to convene a meeting with the DDA and the Department of Forest to look into the matter of dispute raised by the DDA with respect to the difference in the extent of boundary as per the notification.

[Action: Forest Department, Revenue and DDA]

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matter under
the task force.

AGENDA 7: DEMARCATION IN DISPUTED PORTION ON INTER STATE DELHI-HARYANA BORDER

In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that, a Senior Advocate must be appointed to pursue the matter in the High Court for the earliest vacation of the stay orders.

[Action: Forest Department]

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the matter
has been
taken
up.

AGENDA 8: STATUS OF ENCROACHMENTS ON SOUTHERN RIDGE LAND

In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that,

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*Parag, Aditi,
Asha, Neha, Anvi,
Chattarpur have
been taken jointly*

- Smt. Manisha Saxena, Dy. Commissioner (South-west) and Shri Sandeep Kumar, Dy. Commissioner (South), to ensure that the complete demarcation of the area identified to be handed over to the Forest Department, be completed before 31st December 2006.
- Smt. Kamal Preet, Dy. Conservator of Forests (South) to be in constant touch with the concerned Dy. Commissioners for the eviction of the encroachments from the forest area.

[Action: Revenue and Forest Department]

AGENDA 9: PROPOSAL OF MCD FOR USING MINING PITS NO. 2, 6, 10 & 12 AT BHATTI MINES FOR SANITARY LAND FILL.

The MCD informed that, the joint inspection of the pits has already been completed and the report has been submitted to the Forest Department. The Conservator and the Dy. Conservator of Forests (South) informed that "the report has been received and the same is being examined". In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that, the inspection report submitted by the MCD for using mining pits No. 2, 6, 10 & 12 at Bhatti Mines for sanitary land fill be examined on the merits by the Forest Department.

[Action: Forest Department]

AGENDA 10: SETTING UP OF FARMER'S MARKET (KISSAN HAAT) AT ANDHERIA MORE, CHATTARPUR

It was directed in the meeting that, the DAMB, DDA, Revenue and Forest Departments to take action within a period of two weeks & submit a report to RMB in the matter.

[Action: DDA, DAMB, Revenue and Forest Department]

AGENDA 11: REQUIREMENT OF SPACE FOR PARKING OF VEHICLES BY NANAKSAR SATSANG SABHA

It was decided to drop the agenda point.

AGENDA 12: NON-FOREST ACTIVITIES IN SANJAY VAN

The DDA to ensure that, the entry gates are closed, no through traffic be permitted, native tree species be planted, no construction and concrete structure be allowed. Fencing and boundary wall be repaired/ constructed wherever considered necessary. The MCD should remove all the illegal dhabas constructed along the boundary of the Sanjay Van. The report in this regard be submitted to the RMB by the DDA and MCD with in months' time.

It was also directed to submit a video graphy by the Forest Department and DDA of the illegal dhabas, malba dumping broken walls/fencing and the illegal constructions, if any, as well as of the plantations raised in the Sanjay van, to be presented before the Chief Secretary within 15 days.

[Action: DDA, MCD and Forest Department]

*Information for
received
from MCD for*

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AGENDA 13: PROPOSAL OF THE DY. COMMISSIONER SOUTH TO ALLOT LAND AREAS IN MAIDAN GARHI FOR DTTDC

In the matter, the DC South was directed, not to allot the land from Khasra Nos. 1, 553, 687/570, 688/570 and 689/570 to the DTTDC as the same have been notified as ridge area and these khasra Numbers be handed over to the Forest Department before the next meeting.

[Action: Revenue Department]

AGENDA 14: REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED STRUCTURES FROM THE RIDGE AREA IN NANAKPURA AND RAISING OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION AS PER THE DIRECTION'S OF THE APEX COURT

Since, the area shown was in hectare, but the DDA informed that, it is in acres, it was directed to check the area. It was also directed that, the DDA would remove unauthorized structures from the ridge and carry out the Compensatory Afforestation immediately and the action taken report be submitted in the next meeting.

[Action: DDA]

AGENDA 15: SUBMISSION OF ACTION TAKEN REPORT TO THE MONITORING COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT

In the matter, the Chief Secretary directed that,

- a committee comprising of the Conservator of Forests, NCT of Delhi, Dy. Commissioner (South) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (E&F) to inspect the site at Ayanagar with regard to malba dumping and construction, if any, and ensure their removal and demarcation and also to submit the report, L
- Smt. Manisha Saxena, Dy. Commissioner (South West) and Shri Sandeep Kumar, Dy. Commissioner (South) to get the land areas mentioned in the court order demarcated on the field, to determine as to whether it falls within the ridge land or not, and to report within 7 days, M
- the Secretary (E&F) informed that "the Secretary (Revenue), Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner (South) have already been informed in this regard and have..." N