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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Ridge Management Board held on 29.01.2002

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 29.01.2002 at 4:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. List of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed. Decisions taken on the various agenda items discussed are as below:

### 1. Protection & Fencing of the Ridges:

Superintending Engineer, CPWD informed that estimate of Rs. 4.4 crores for construction of stone wall along with wire mesh along the entire 25 KM of the boundary of Central Ridge has been submitted to Ministry of Urban Development and is likely to be sanctioned within two months time. There after the construction work shall commence and should be completed within a year. ~~The~~ Ridge Management Board took serious view on continued dumping of malba in the Central Ridge and directed the concerned authorities as well as CPWD to take immediate action to prevent dumping of malba inside the ridge. The CPWD authorities requested for limited powers of Forest officials to deal with those who dump malba inside the Ridge. The Board desired that matter be examined by Forest Department for conferring limited powers of Forest Officer on Director (Hort.) for Central Ridge area only.

Regarding demarcation in the disputed portion of Inter State boundary in Asola, D.C. (South) informed that a meeting has been scheduled with D.C. (Haryana) and Survey of India officials on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2002 for finding out common reference point along the boundary so that Survey of India could commence the demarcation work.

On the matter of Interlocutory application to be filed in the Supreme Court requesting to restrain Haryana from mining within 5 KM of Delhi - Haryana border along the Southern Ridge, the Conservator Forests informed the Board that the application has been filed but the matter is yet to be listed for hearing.

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**Shifting of Three Colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to an alternative site:**

Superintending Engineer, Slum & JJ, MCD informed the Board that the site at Bawana has already been finalized for shifting of Balbir Nagar, Sanjay Colony and Indira Colony from Bhati Sanctuary. The Slum & JJ Department informed that the issue of provision of water and electricity is finalized with Delhi Jal Board and Delhi Vidyut Board. Superintending, Engr., Slum & JJ., M.C.D., further informed that entire shifting will be completed by June, 2002. Board directed the Slum & JJ, MCD to complete the process of shifting of colonies expeditiously so the Supreme Court could be apprised.

**3. Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station:**

Joint Director, (Hort.), D.D.A., informed the Board that 1.1 ha land at Dheerpur in Mukherjee Nagar, has been allotted to Delhi Police for relocation of Police & Wireless Station. The Board directed Delhi Police to shift these stations out of Northern Ridge without further delay.

**4. Metro Rail Project from ISBT to Delhi University along Mall Road passing through Northern Ridge.**

Conservator of Forests informed that the Regional Office (Northern Region), Ministry of Env. & Forests, Govt. of India, has asked vide their letter dated 02.01.02 for clear opinion of the Ridge Management Board or the advice of the Law Deptt., or the decision of the Ridge Management Board regarding the need to refer the matter to Law Deptt., if any. The Chief Secretary asked for the specific comments of the Conservator of Forests who recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.38 h.a. of forest land (Reserved Forest) in Northern Ridge for construction of diaphragm wall for underground Railway line of Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, for a period of three years subject to condition that the land will revert back to the.

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Ridge in its pristine form by planting trees and constructing the boundary wall at the end of three years period. Ridge Management Board accepted the recommendations of the Conservator of Forests and directed him to write to the Regional Office, Northern Region. Ridge Management Board further felt that there is no need to refer the matter, to Law Department.

5. **Survey of Southern Ridge in order to ascertain encroachments therein:**

The Conservator of Forests, informed the Board that the survey of Southern Ridge to ascertain the encroachments has since been completed by the Dy. Conservator of Forests (South). The result of the survey was placed before the Board. The Board directed that the Survey Report should be sent to Revenue department and Director, Panchayat, to ascertain the status of allotments/constructions. The concerned departments will confirm whether these allotments were made before the notification was issued by the Revenue Deptt., on 02.04.1996 under Section 154 of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 ( 8 of 1954), wherein uncultivated surplus land of Gaonsabha falling in twelve villages in Southern Ridge were placed at the disposal of Forest Deptt.

6. **Encroachment in the Northern Ridge :**

Director (Hort.) North, D.D.A, confirmed that the order dated 4.11.01 of Lt. Governor setting aside the order of Forest Settlement Officer dated 11.08.1995 has been implemented and the possession of the land vacated has been taken over by D.D.A.

7. **Handing over of Petrol Pump Sites:**

Director (Hort.), CPWD confirmed that the vacant possession of the sites earlier occupied by M/s. Delhi Automobiles has been taken over by CPWD and the area has been fenced. He further informed that the plantation of suitable species shall be done by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2002.

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8. **Interim Order Dtd. 19.09.01 by Supreme Court in W.P.(C) 4677 of 1985, M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India & Others:**

The Director (Hort.) CPWD informed that the Durga Mata Mandir, which is the subject matter of the above case falls in Central and they have already sealed the said Mandir and planted trees all around. The Board directed CPWD to remove the Mandir if it is unauthorized as directed by Supreme Court.

9. **Final Notification of the Ridge:**

The Board directed the Forest Settlement Officer, that in case all claims have been settled in Central and Northern Ridge, it may be communicated to Forest Department so that the department can process for final notification of these Ridges under Section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927. The Forest Settlement Officer informed that only one case was pending and as soon as it is settled the F.S.O's certificate will be issued so that the final notification is issued at the earliest.

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

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