

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/ 8821-23

Date: 21/12/23

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON
11.12.2023 at 2 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY,
DELHI & CHAIRMAN, RMB.**

The meeting of Ridge Management Board was held on 11.12.2023 at 2 pm under the chairmanship of Worthy 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: Grant of permission for the development of facilities in central ridge area.

The members of the Board were briefed that the Ridge Management Board in its earlier meeting held on 09.05.2018 had granted approval for eco-restoration of the Central Ridge area and the proposal amounting to Rs.12.21 crores was approved by the Cabinet vide its decision No. 2935 dated 29.01.2021. Forest Department is implementing this project covering an area of 423 ha in Central Ridge. However, till date, 118 Ha have been taken under eco-restoration in Central Ridge. In addition to the ongoing work of eco-restoration, following activities in the Central Ridge were taken up:

The repair/ upgradation of existing forest road/ pathways within the Central Ridge (around 8 kms of length) to provide access for inspection/ patrolling teams of the Department, supply of water for plantations, etc. The plantation of suitable trees, shrubs and climbers were taken up as a part of eco-restoration of the area along these existing tracks inside the Central Ridge. Eco-restoration of the Ridge is required as on date, as ridge is primarily having 'vilayati kikar' which is not the native tree of Delhi/ India.


Further, the Board was informed that the Hon'ble High Court in it's Order dated 29.11.2023 has stated "Mr. Vashisht, learned ASC assures on instruction that in case the sanction for this trail/passage (which has been constructed without

permission of the Central Ridge Board) is not obtained on or before 15.12.2023, the same shall be removed and shall be restored to the original position before the next date of hearing.”

In this regard, the Board expressed that it is equally concerned about the protection of green lungs of Delhi. The Board felt that in order to protect and manage the ridge forests, it is essential to undertake regular patrolling/ inspections inside the ridge forests. Further, ridge being an important geological & ecological feature in the National Capital, awareness about the importance of protection of ridge among school children & citizens is very important. As eco-restoration works are being undertaken, it is essential to provide water during the dry seasons to ensure better survival of the plantations. The Board while appreciating the efforts made to completely stop the dumping of C&D wastes and MSW in the ridge area, it stressed on the importance of construction and maintenance of boundary walls all along the ridge area. The Board further suggested that low lying areas are to be considered for development of water bodies and other suitable measures for soil & moisture conservation in the ridge areas.

After detailed deliberations, the Board recommended the above proposals for consideration of Central Empowered Committee, constituted by the Government in this regard.

Agenda Item 2: Grant of permission for construction of office building of Directorate General and Central Record Office of I.T.B.P force of 2.487 acre of land at RK Puram.

The Board was briefed that a proposal has been submitted by ITBP for construction of office building of Directorate General and Central Record Office of I.T.B.P. A land measuring area of 2.487 acre at sector-10 RK Puram, New -Delhi was allotted to Ministry of Home Affairs by L&DO vide letter no. L&DO/L-IIA/II(1156)/874 dated 18.10.2022 for construction of various offices of Director General and Central Record Office of ITBP.

The members of the board were briefed about the current proposal seeking permission for use of 2.487 acres as it falls in geo-morphological ridge area and a deemed forest as per the affidavit dated 15.09.1997 filed before the Hon'ble SC in WPC No. 202/1995. The proposed construction is a permanent RCC framed structure in S+12 configuration including B1& B2 for basement parking.

The Board was informed about the additional details regarding the project as given below:

- i. Cost of the project: Rs. 278 crores (approx.)
- ii. Total plot area: 2.487 acre (10066.84 sqm.)
- iii. Ground coverage: 8341.015 sqm.
- iv. Built up area: 54343.42 sqm.
- v. Green area: 1788.64 sqm. (17.76% of plot area),
- vi. Total no. of trees on site: 720
- vii. Total no. of trees to be felled: 627
- viii. Total no. of trees to be retained:93

After detailed discussion, 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 necessary approval under FCA, 1980.

Agenda Item 3: Construction of Head Quarter Building of Department of Forests & Wildlife, GNCTD "Van Bhawan" in the existing premises of office of DCF (West).

The members of the board were informed regarding the proposal for construction of Head Quarter Building of Department of Forests & Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi "Van Bhawan" in the premises of office of DCF (West). Currently, the Department is housed in a portion of 2nd floor, 'A' Block in Vikas Bhawan. Due to acute shortage of space coupled with increasing roles and responsibilities, the effective and efficient functioning of the Department is getting severely hampered.

The Board was informed that Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A No. 215/2014 titled as '*Aditya N. Prasad & Ors. Versus Union of India & Ors.*', has directed to consider appropriate enhancement in the strength of the Forest Department and provision of proper infrastructure and such electronic or other gadgets that would ensure that all cadres of the Department of Forests & Wildlife,

Govt. of NCT of Delhi, will be able to discharge their duties and functions as required.

The Board was also apprised about the efforts made by the Forest Department to secure additional space for Head Quarter office as detailed below:

- a. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) was requested for allotment of a suitable patch of land, whereas DDA suggested that the Forest Department should approach the Land and Development Office (L&DO).
- b. Efforts to avail the space allocated by PWD in MSO building vide order F.No.10 (37)/PWD-I/MSO/Pt-1/2019/3609-3015 dated 08.03.2021 remained unsuccessful as Delhi Police has refused to vacate the said space.
- c. Concerted efforts made by the Department to hire additional office space of 1639 sq. m from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in IP Metro-station was also unsuccessful.

The Board was informed about the details of the project:

- i. Cost of the project: Rs 15.0 Cr (approx.):
- ii. Total plot area: 2000 sq.m
- iii. Ground coverage: 1000 sq.m
- iv. Built up area: 2000 sq.m (G+1)
- v. Total trees on site: 12(Vilayti Kikar)
- vi. Trees to be felled: 12(Vilayti Kikar)

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


- I. The Forest Department shall deposit 5% of the project cost 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 Department shall obtain necessary approval under FCA, 1980, if required.
- III. The Forest Department shall obtain prior permission for felling/transplantation of 12 trees as per provisions under DPTA, 1994.

In the meanwhile, the Forest Department shall continue its efforts towards securing additional space/ land for headquarter office.

Agenda Item 4: Grant of permission for procurement of four (04) vehicles for DCFs against four (04) condemned vehicles.

The proposal to procure four (04) vehicles for Deputy Conservator of Forests of South, West, Central and North Divisions of the Department of Forests & Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi was placed before the Board. The existing vehicles of (Mahindra Scorpio Diesel) attached with DCFs cannot ply in Delhi as they have completed 10 years and stand de-registered w.e.f. 21/11/2023 in view of Transport Department (Operation Branch), GNCTD's circular dated 29.12.2021 which states that "***It was ordered that more than 10 years old Diesel Vehicles and more than 15 years old Petrol Vehicles shall not ply in NCR***". Further "***It may be noted that if any 10 years old deregistered Diesel Vehicles or 15 years old Petrol Vehicle if found plying on road on or after 01/01/2022, it shall be impounded and sent to scrapyards for scrapping***".

In view of the submissions of the Department, the Board approved the proposal for purchase of four (04) Scorpio-N vehicles as detailed below along with authorisation of Forest Department for carrying out the below expenditure from RMB Fund.



	Item & specifications	Unit	Rate (in Rs.)	Total Expenditure (in Rs.)
1.	Scorpio-N(Base Model) Diesel	04	14,26,400	57,05,600

Agenda Item 5: Proposal for construction of new road connecting 100 Foota road (near Shamshan Ghat) and IGNOU gate.

The Board was briefed that a proposal has been submitted by PWD (GNCTD) for construction of new road connecting 100 Foota road (near Shamshan Ghat) and IGNOU gate.

The members of the Board were informed that the current proposal is for seeking permission for use of approximately 4.79 Ha. of ridge land for construction of the said road. The construction of the road will entail some earth cutting as well as filling in certain stretches of the proposed road and construction of culverts/bridges at few locations.

The Board was informed that the tentative alignment of the proposed road was submitted by PWD vide letter F.No.23(IGNOU)/EE/SOUTH ROAD-1/PWD/2023-24/2880 dated 07.12.2023, as the detailed topographic survey is still


in progress. In view of the above facts, the Board has asked PWD to submit the exact alignment along with detailed project proposal for consideration.

Agenda Item 6: Grant of permission under Ridge Management Board for construction of approach road from IGNOU to SAARC University.

Proposals for construction of the following roads were placed by DDA before the Board:

1. IGNOU to SAARC University
2. Executive Club Road
3. "A" Road & "D" Road
4. Loop Road

With regard to Executive Club Road, after detailed deliberations, DDA was advised to remove all encroachments from the road and then re-submit the proposal for the consideration of the Board. In respect of "A" road & "D" road, DDA was asked to verify the ownership of land on which the roads are to be constructed and then re-submit the proposal to RMB.

The Board was briefed about the proposal on the road connecting IGNOU to SAARC University & Loop Road. For these stretches of road, DDA was advised to complete the process of land acquisition at the earliest. The area falling under Southern Ridge in these two roads is 3.2 ha.(approx.) and morphological ridge is 0.4 ha.(approx.)

In view of the above facts and essential requirement of better road connectivity in that area, the Board decided to recommend the proposal for construction of approach road from IGNOU to SAARC University & Loop Road 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 necessary approval under FCA, 1980.

- III. The User Agency shall obtain prior permission for felling/transplantation of trees as per provisions under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.
- IV. The User Agency shall ensure the compliance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 08.02.2023 in WP(C) No. 202/1995 titled T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Uoi & Ors.


APCCF & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board
21.12.23

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


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Ridge Management Board
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