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Minutes of the Ridge Management Board meeting held on 03.09.2004 in the Conference Room of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 03.09.2004 at 300 Hours. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The list of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

The Board reviewed action taken report on the directions given in the last meeting held on 16.04.2004. Thereafter the agenda items were discussed and the decisions taken in the meeting is as follows:

1. Protection & fencing of Central Ridge:

The Chairman, RMB directed Forest Department to take over the Central Ridge from CPWD within 06.09.2004 and take effective measures for protection and maintenance of the Ridge and submit a report to him after taking over. The Chairperson, RMB opined that the Budha Jayanti Park and Mahavir Vansthal should remain with CPWD and not to be handed over to Forest Department, but the vacant part of Central Ridge should be taken over by the next week and a report be submitted to that effect to CS.

(Action: Conservator of Forests; DG, CPWD)

2. Unfiltered water supply to Budha Jayanti Park:

The Chairman RMB directed CPWD to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment report immediately as was already communicated to them in the proceedings at the RMB meeting held last, for consideration of RMB.

(Action: DG, CPWD)

3. Development of Mahavir Vanasthali:

RMB in the last meeting had directed DG, CPWD for taking action against the officials involved and send the action taken report to RMB. The action taken report by the DG, CPWD has not been received by RMB. Also no proposal for obtaining approval of Central Govt. under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received. The RMB desired that the latest position regarding removal of the Jhuggis etc. be confirmed by the Forest Deptt. by next week.

DG, CPWD was asked to comply with the directions of RMB.

(Action: DG, CPWD)

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4. Unauthorized construction in the Central Ridge near Dasghara village by DDA and dumping of malba on large scale:

Vice Chairman, DDA informed RMB that orders of Hon'ble High Court are being complied.

1. Malba has been removed.
2. Afforestation of the area is in progress.
3. Dismantling of approach road to crematorium is under way. As far as the cremation shed is concerned, due to public resistance dismantling could not be done, which would be completed soon and he requested for Police assistance for the same.
4. The High Court was very specific in so far as path/ paths must be turned into green by the DDA. However, VC, DDA mentioned that as also the decisions of the earlier RMB meeting held on 16.04.2004, access of 3-4 M wide pathway may be left for the local people which may be in the form of pedestrian access with a boundary wall.

It was pointed out that the High Court order was very specific in so far as all path/paths should turned green, VC, DDA stated that he would have a meeting with the concerned officials of DDA and the Forest Deptt. at the earliest to sort out this issue.

5. As regards to Park of R- Block Rajinder Nagar, it was decided that the VC, DDA would take a meeting with officials of DDA, Forest Deptt. and the representatives of NGOs namely Kalpvriksh and Srishti. If required an inspection may also be carried out.

(Action: VC, DDA; Conservator of Forests)

5. Shifting of colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to alternative site:

The Director Slum & JJ informed that shifting of 2 colonies will be done within 17.09.2004 and that for shifting of 3rd colony will be done after getting land from DDA. Chairman, RMB asked Slum & JJ Deptt. to ensure shifting of 3rd colony within a month time.

(Action: Add. Commissioner, Slum & JJ, MCD;)

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6. Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station:

The RMB was concerned that Maurice Nagar Police Station has not yet shifted in spite of repeated directions given by the RMB. Shri Sewa Dass, Special Commissioner, Delhi Police requested RMB to allow three months time for shifting of Police station. The Chairman RMB directed that the shifting should be completed within 45 days.

(Action: Commissioner of Police, Delhi)

7. Final notification of the Ridge:

The Chairman RMB asked Forest settlement Officer to decide claims of 3 pending cases at the earliest. He further requested the Revenue Secretary (Divisional Commissioner) to decide appeals in respect of 5 appeals filed before him by the Forest Department (4 Appeals) & DDA (1 Appeal) to expedite process of Final Notification and desired that it should be done within 2 months.

(Action: Div. Commissioner; FSO, Forest Deptt)

8. Demarcation in disputed portion of Southern Ridge:

Conservator of Forests informed that payment has already been made to Survey of India based on their demand for demarcation on the inter state boundary at Bhatti. But however due to rains during last month the work could not started by the Survey of India.

The Chairman, RMB directed the Conservator of Forests to liase with Survey of India, and complete the demarcation within next week. I & FCD to take up construction of boundary wall/ fencing immediately after demarcation.

(Action: Forest Deptt., Survey of India, I & FCD)

9. Status of encroachment in Southern Ridge:

RMB was informed that out of 4207.65 ha of Notified Gaon Sabha lands in Southern Ridge, 3947.50 ha land was already handed over to Forest Department. In addition to these, demarcation and handing over of remaining Gaon Sabha lands is in progress and 65 ha land has already been handed over by the Revenue Deptt. to Forest Deptt. till 31.08.2004.

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The Chairman, RMB wanted to know from Divisional commissioner about the problems in handing over of the balance area. Divisional Commissioner informed that there are some allotments made on these lands prior to notification and few settlements of JJ Clusters existing since long. Chairman directed that a detailed report showing the areas handed over and the lands, which cannot be handed over to Forest Department, should be furnished to RMB within next week.

(Action: Div. Com., Forest Deptt., Director, Panchayat)

10. Construction of water reservoir near Tuglakabad by DJB:

The Conservator of Forests informed RMB that VC, DDA has been requested to furnish a certificate regarding non-availability of non-forestry lands for the purpose of the Project so that the complete proposal can be submitted to the Central Govt. for according necessary clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. VC, DDA, informed that he would look into the matter.

However, Shri S. P. Marwah, Member (Administration) DJB informed that they have already identified a non-forest land for the purpose near ESIC Hospital, Okhla outside the Ridge and the payment has been made to DDA. He requested VC, DDA for early allotment of site. Since non-forest land has already been identified, the issue of diversion of forest land of Southern Ridge ends here & no further action is required.

11. Improvement of water channels/ bodies in Budha Jayanti Park:

Chief Engineer, CPWD informed that these channels have been cleaned and are kept as dry in absence of sufficient water.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair