

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority held on  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1:00 pm under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change, GoM through video conferencing. The list of Members present for the said meeting is as follows:

1. Mrs. Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar, Chairperson, State Tree Authority
2. Mr. Vaibhav Raje, Expert Member
3. Mr. Narendra Toke, Member Secretary, State Tree Authority

The Director, Environment and Climate Change Dept, GoM, and Member Secretary of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority welcomed all members of the Authority for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority constituted under sub-section (A-1) of Section 3 of Maharashtra (Urban areas) protection and preservation of Trees Act, 1975.

The Member Secretary briefed members about the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. In the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the proposals received by the State Tree Authority was finalized. All proposals received for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were deferred for following SOP and resubmission of proposals as per SOP finalised.

The details for the proposals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting had been submitted by the concerned planning authorities by following the due procedure given in the SOP. These details have been taken on record and accordingly, the proposals were deliberated.

**Sr. No.1: Permission for cutting trees for the construction of Sewri-Worli elevated connector project in the F-South and G Wards submitted by MMRDA through BMC**

The project proponent (PP) MMRDA presented the project details in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The SOP was finalized in the first meeting. The proposal was deferred.

MMRDA has submitted a revised proposal according to the finalized SOP which was scrutinised by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. According to the revised proposal, 305 trees are to be cut and 104 trees are to be transplanted. There are 14 heritage trees that will be cut. The cumulative age of all the trees is 7304 years. For compensatory plantation in this project, MMRDA has already planned to plant 51106 trees in Shilphata and Titwala areas, as per their agreement with Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM).

Based on the revised proposal, it has been decided to grant approval to the tree-cutting proposal. The State Tree Authority directed the PP – MMRDA- to complete the tree plantation under this project within six months beginning from June 2022, in the monsoon of 2022. The proposal for this project stands approved.

  
Chairperson

  
Member Secretary

**Sr. No.2: Permission for cutting/transplantation of trees from Kalanagar Junction to MTNL BKC, H east ward submitted by MMRDA through BMC**

The project proponent (PP) MMRDA presented the project details in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The proposal was deferred.

MMRDA has submitted a revised proposal according to the finalized SOP which was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. According to the revised proposal, 52 trees are to be cut and 292 trees are to be transplanted. The cumulative age of all the trees is 5568 years. For compensatory plantation in this project, MMRDA has already planned to plant 51106 trees in Shilphata and Titwala areas, as per their agreement with the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM).

Based on the revised proposal, it has been decided to grant approval to the tree-cutting proposal. The State Tree Authority directed the PP – MMRDA- to complete the tree plantation under this project within six months beginning from June 2022, in the monsoon of 2022. The proposal for this project stands approved.

**Sr. No.3: Permission for cutting/transplant trees for the construction of the Metro Line from ESIC Nagar to Nanavati Hospital submitted by MMRDA through BMC**

The project proponent (PP) MMRDA presented the project details in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The proposal was deferred.

MMRDA has submitted a revised proposal according to the finalized SOP which was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. According to the revised proposal, 41 trees are to be cut and 185 trees are to be transplanted. The cumulative age of all the trees is 2009 years. For compensatory plantation in this project, MMRDA has already planned to plant 51106 trees in Shilphata and Titwala areas, as per their agreement with the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM).

Based on the revised proposal, it has been decided to grant approval to the tree-cutting proposal. The State Tree Authority directed the PP – MMRDA- to complete the tree plantation under this project within six months beginning from June 2022, in the monsoon of 2022. The proposal for this project stands approved.

**Sr. No.4: Permission to cut 507 trees for the construction of 400 KV Transmission line submitted by Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd.**

The project proponent (PP) Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd. had presented the project details in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The SOP was finalized in the first meeting. The proposal was deferred.

Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd. submitted a revised proposal according to the finalized SOP which was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. According to the revised proposal, 507 trees are to be cut. The cumulative age of all the trees is 6149 years.

The PP has agreed to plant trees as per the SOP, but the land for this has not been identified. The PP has requested the concerned planning authorities, i.e., CIDCO, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Forest Department to allot the land to carry out compensatory plantation.

  
Chairperson

  
Member Secretary

Since this project is a vital infrastructure project, the State Tree Authority decided to process the No Objection Certificate (NOC) on the condition that the PP shall get land for compensatory plantation within 30 days. The Tree Authority also directed that the tree plantation be carried out and completed within six months beginning from June 2022, in the monsoon of 2022. The proposal for this project is approved, subject to fulfilment of the condition, as set forth by the State Tree Authority.

**Sr. No.5: Permission to cut 202 trees for the construction of 400 KV Transmission line submitted by Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd.**

The project proponent (PP) Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd. had presented the project details in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Tree Authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The SOP was finalized in the first meeting. The proposal was deferred.

Adani Transmission Pvt. Ltd. submitted a revised proposal according to the finalized SOP which was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. According to the revised proposal, 202 trees are to be cut. The cumulative age of all the trees is 2062 years.

The PP has agreed to plant trees as per the SOP, but the land for this has not been identified. The PP has requested the concerned planning authorities, i.e., CIDCO, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Forest Department to allot the land to carry out compensatory plantation.

Since this project is a vital infrastructure project, the State Tree Authority decided to process the No Objection Certificate (NOC) on the condition that the PP shall get land for compensatory plantation within 30 days. The Tree Authority also directed that the tree plantation be carried out and completed within six months beginning from June 2022, in the monsoon of 2022. The proposal for this project is approved, subject to fulfilment of the condition, as set forth by the State Tree Authority.

**Sr. No.6: Permission to cut 66-year-old tree by Om Siddhivinayak CHS, sector 23, Koparkhairne, Navi Mumbai submitted through Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation**

The project proponent (PP) Om Siddhivinayak CHS presented their proposal to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 9 trees are to be cut, 4 are to be transplanted. Of the 4 trees to be transplanted, 1 tree is a heritage tree. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut and transplanted is 257 years. This proposal was scrutinised by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara.

The land for the compensatory plantation has been identified by the concerned planning authority, i.e. Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). NMMC directed the PP to pay compensatory amount, as determined by NMMC. The PP has paid this amount for the purpose of carrying out compensatory tree plantation.

The State Tree Authority directed NMMC to start the plantation of trees under this project in the monsoon of 2022, beginning June 2022. The proposal for this project stands approved as the details have been submitted as per the finalised SOP.

  
Chairperson

  
Member Secretary

**Sr. No.7: Permission to cut trees for the construction of Six Lane flyover at Katraj Junction-Lonikad Road by Pune Municipal Corporation**

The project proponent (PP) Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) presented their proposal.

According to the proposal, 444 trees are to be cut and 215 trees are to be transplanted. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut and transplanted is 8153 years. This proposal was scrutinised by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara. The PP has agreed to undertake compensatory plantation and the land has been identified for the same.

Based on this proposal, it has been decided to grant approval to the tree-cutting and transplantation in this project. The State Tree Authority directed the PP, Pune Municipal Corporation, to start the plantation of trees under this project in the monsoon of 2022, beginning June 2022. The proposal for this project stands approved as the details have been submitted as per the finalised SOP.

**Sr. No.8: Permission to cut trees for making 4 lane National Highway No. 161 from Akola to Medshi submitted by National Highway Authority of India through Akola Municipal Corporation**

The project proponent (PP) is the National Highways Authority of India, and the proposal was submitted through Akola Municipal Corporation. The proposal was presented by the Commissioner, Akola Municipal Corporation.

The State Tree Authority observed that this project proposal is an instance of *fait accompli*, whereby the PP had already acquired the land at a cost of INR 26.81 crores before seeking clearance from the State Tree Authority. In order to put cost of land acquisition to good use, the State Tree Authority has no option but to, in principle, accept the proposal of the PP. Henceforth, the Tree Authority further directed that PP shall submit the proposal to the Authority at the project design stage or in any case, before the finalisation of land acquisition compensation.

The Tree Authority further reiterated that instant proposal is *fait accompli* as INR 26.81 crores compensation has been paid.

According to this proposal, 285 trees are to be completely cut and 50 trees are to be transplanted. Among these, there are 184 heritage trees. The cumulative age of all the trees is 13733 years. This proposal was scrutinised by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara.

Akola Municipal Corporation presented their proposal to the State Tree Authority, with live location of the trees to be cut as well as details pertinent to the tree census under the finalised SOP. The PP stated that all possible options for the construction of the highway were explored, but no viable alternative plan was found.

With respect to compensatory plantation of trees, Akola Municipal Corporation stated that it has identified 200 open spaces for plantation. The feasibility of these spaces is being ascertained by the Social Forestry Department to determine how many trees can be planted in these 200 open spaces. If necessary, Akola Municipal Corporation is willing to provide 300 more open spaces for compensatory plantation.

  
Chairperson

  
Member Secretary

The State Tree Authority directed Akola Municipal Corporation to submit a specific compensatory tree plantation plan since an exact tree plantation plan was not provided by Akola Municipal Corporation. The State Tree Authority suggested three ways to carry out compensatory plantation (Miyawaki plantation, roadside plantation, riverside plantation).

Therefore, the State Tree Authority decided to process the NOC and directed Akola Municipal Corporation to submit a specific compensatory tree plantation plan within 8 days. After receipt of the compensatory plan, the NOC will be issued by the Authority.

**Discussion Items:**

**Item No. 1:** The State Tree Authority discussed the stage at which proposals must be submitted by project proponents. Projects that have already acquired the land proved to be a case of *fait accompli* for the State Tree Authority. Hence any PP should seek approval for tree cutting and/or transplantation under a project in the planning stage itself. Prior permission must be obtained in any proposal wherein the Amendment to the Maharashtra (Urban areas) protection and preservation of Trees Act, 1975 has an impact on land acquisition in projects.

*The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.*

  
Chairperson

  
Member Secretary