

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority held on 15th July 2022

The 3rd meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority was held on 15th July, 2022 at 2:00 pm under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change, through video conferencing. The list of Members present for the said meeting is as follows:

1. Ms. Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar, Chairperson, State Tree Authority
2. Ms Vidya Hamppya, Deputy Secretary, Urban Development Department, (UD-2)
3. Mr. Bhanudas Pingale, Deputy Secretary (Forest), Revenue and Forest Department
4. Mr. Vaibhav Raje, Expert Member
5. 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 3rd 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 proposals for the 3rd 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, proposals were deliberated.

Sr. No.1: Permission for transplantation of a Peepal tree that is obstructing vehicular movement at the Junction of SV Road & Bandu Gore Marg (P/South), Goregaon (W), Mumbai submitted by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

The project proponent (PP), Superintendent of Garden, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation presented the project.

As per proposal, in order to remove obstruction at junction of SV Road & Bandu Gore Marg(P/South) for free vehicular movement, one Peepal tree is proposed to be transplanted. The proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under the Majhi Vasundhara Directorate. The Maharashtra State Tree Authority enquired about the certified age of the tree to be transplanted, to which the PP replied that the tree is 35 years old.

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority noted that, the proposal does not fall under the purview of the Authority as per amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Area) protection and preservation of Tree Act, 1975. Therefore, the Authority decided to refer the proposal back to the concerned authority, i.e., the Local Tree Authority under Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for further decision in this regard.


Member Secretary


Chairperson

Sr. No.2: Permission to cut trees for the construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project submitted by National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRL) through Thane Municipal Corporation.

The project proponent (PP) National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRL) presented the project.

As per proposal, 177 trees are to be cut and 1217 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 18,027 years. The PP has agreed to carry out the compensatory plantation of 18,027 trees and has identified the land for the same.

Based on this proposal, it is decided to grant the approval to the tree cutting and transplantation in this project. The Maharashtra State Tree Authority directed the PP, to start the plantation of the indigenous trees as a part of compensatory plantation under this project in the monsoon of 2022 and ensure a minimum 95% survival rate. The proposal for this project stands approved.

Sr. No.3: Permission to cut trees for the construction of Badodara-Mumbai Express Highway submitted by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) through Kulgaon-Badlappur Nagar Parishad.

The project proponent (PP) National Highway Authority (NHAI) presented the project.

The proposal is for construction of Badodara-Mumbai Express Highway. As per the proposal, 608 trees are to be cut, out of which 5 are heritage trees. 968 trees are to be transplanted out of which 15 are heritage trees. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 26,471 years.

The PP has agreed to plant equivalent no of trees as per the cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted. The Authority noted that the land for proposed compensatory tree plantation has not been identified by the PP. The NHAI officials informed that trees are proposed to be planted along the road alignment (ROW). The Member Secretary pointed out that as per the Environment Clearance the PP need to carry out the avenue plantation along the road alignment (ROW).

The Authority enquired about the land availability within the jurisdiction of Kulgaon-Badlappur Nagar Parishad, in consultation with Chief Officer (CO), Nagar Parishad. This will also help in increasing the green cover in Nagar Parishad area. The CO expressed willingness to help NHAI in identifying suitable land for tree plantation. The Authority asked NHAI officials to coordinate with CO, Nagar Parishad, to identify suitable land and submit the compensatory plantation plan immediately.

Accordingly, the matter is deferred for submission of the above said details from the NHAI.


Member Secretary


Chairperson

Sr. No.4: Permission to cut trees for the construction of the new plant for aluminium flat products submitted by Hindalco Industries Ltd through MIDC Taloja

The Project Proponent (PP) Hindalco Industries Ltd had presented the project details to the State Tree Authority

As per the proposal, 396 trees are to be cut and 41 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of the new plant for Aluminium flat products in MIDC Taloja area. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted is 5984 years. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The Authority enquired the PP about the compensatory tree plantation site. The PP informed that, it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Citizen Unity Forum for compensatory plantation of 6000 trees on identified 264 acres of Forest land at GAT no 16/1, 17 & 32 of Pale Village, Taluka- Panvel, District Raigad.

Based on this proposal, it is decided to grant the approval to the tree cutting and transplantation in this project. The Maharashtra State Tree Authority directed the PP, to start the plantation of the indigenous trees as a part of compensatory plantation under this project in the monsoon of 2022, ensure minimum 95% survival rate. The proposal for this project stands approved.

Sr. No.5: Permission to cut a Heritage tree falling under the construction of a building ramp work at Somwar Peth through Pune Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) Sarkar Constructions Ltd had presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

As per the proposal, one Heritage tree of 100 years is to be cut for the construction of a building ramp at Somwar Peth, Pune. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate. The PP has agreed to undertake a compensatory plantation and private land with 7/12 extract has been identified for the same.

Based on this proposal, it is decided to grant the approval to the tree cutting and transplantation in this project. The Maharashtra State Tree Authority directed the PP, to start the plantation of the indigenous trees as a part of compensatory plantation under this project in the monsoon of 2022, beginning July 2022 and ensure high survival rate. The proposal for this project stands approved as the details have been submitted as per the finalized SOP.


Member Secretary


Chairperson

Sr. No.6: Permission for cutting trees for the construction of Parking space for NMC Star Bus through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) Nagpur Municipal Corporation presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 1014 trees are to be cut for Parking spaces for NMC Star Bus. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut is 9931. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.7: Permission for cutting trees for the construction of Building works at Mauje Lendre through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) Sheth Brothers presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, one Heritage tree is to be cut for construction of Building works. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut is 57 years. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.8: Permission for cutting trees for the construction of Railway line from Itwari station to Dighori Station by Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (MRIDC) through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) MRIDC presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.


Member Secretary


Chairperson

According to the proposal, 12 trees are to be cut, of which 4 are Heritage trees, for the construction of a railway line from Itwari Station to Dighori Station. The cumulative age of the Heritage trees to be cut is 282. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.9: Permission to cut tree for the construction of flyover from Kadbi Chowk to Ramjhula Rly Institute & Pehelwan Shah Baba Dargah to Golibar Chowk

The Project Proponent (PP) MRISDC presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 54 trees are to be cut, of which 20 are Heritage trees for construction of flyover from Kadbi Chowk to Ramjhula Rly Institute & Pehelwan Shah Baba Dargah to Golibar Chowk. The cumulative age of the Heritage trees to be cut is 1836. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.10: Permission to cut trees for the construction construction of flyover from Kadbi Chowk to Pehelwan Shah Baba Dargah through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) MRIDC presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 9 trees are to be cut, of which 2 are Heritage trees for construction of flyover from Kadbi Chowk to Pehelwan Shah Baba Dargah. The cumulative age of the Heritage trees to be cut is 138. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.


Member Secretary


Chairperson

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.11: Permission to cut trees for the construction of Flyover at Deputy Signal Railway crossing through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) MRIDC presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 10 trees are to be cut, of which 2 are Heritage Trees for construction of Flyover at Deputy Signal Railway crossing. The cumulative age of the Heritage trees to be cut is 198. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

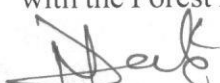
The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly, the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Sr. No.12: Permission for cutting trees for the construction underbridge at Bhankheda Tipitak Buddha Vihar to Lashkari Bagh through Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

The Project Proponent (PP) MRIDC presented the project details to the State Tree Authority.

According to the proposal, 7 trees are to be cut, of which 5 Heritage trees for construction underbridge at Bhankheda Tipitak Buddha Vihar to Lashkari Bagh. The cumulative age of the Heritage trees to be cut is 439. This proposal was scrutinized by the Tree Cell under Majhi Vasundhara Directorate.

The State Tree Authority instructed the PP to furnish photos and the live google/satellite images of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the projects. The Authority further directed the PP to reassess the cumulative age of the trees to be cut/transplanted in the project in consultation with the Forest Department Officials not below the rank of Range Forest Officer. Accordingly,


Member Secretary


Chairperson

the Authority decided to seek report on the above points. Hence the proposal was deferred and will be considered after compliance of above points from Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

Discussion items:

The State Tree Authority discussed that as per the amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Area) protection and preservation of Tree Act, 1975, it is mandatory for the project proponents to carry out tree plantation in lieu of the cumulative age of trees to be cut / transplanted. Determination of the age of tree and subsequently cumulative age of the trees is important factor. Local planning authority/special planning authority should preferably consult with an officer from the Forest Department, not below the rank of Range Forest Officer (RFO), wherever the age of the trees cannot be determined clearly. In order to ensure that tree planation is carried out by the PP, the Authority felt that it is vitally important to have monitoring mechanism in place. Hence, the Authority shall insist that the PP should submit the 6 monthly compliance report to the Authority. A reputed NGO organization may be appointed for the monitoring of the compliance. The State Tree Authority shall devise a system with the objective to monitor the tree plantation done by the project proponent.


Member Secretary


Chairperson