

The fifth meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority was held on 23rd February 2023 at 3:00 PM under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, GOM, through video conferencing. The list of the Members present for the said meeting is as follows.

1. Mr. Pravin Darade, Chairman, Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
2. Mr. Bhanudas Pingale, Deputy Secretary (Forest), Representative for Principal Secretary (Forest), Revenue and Forest Department, GOM.
3. Ms. Vidya Hamppya, Deputy Secretary (UD-2), Representative for Principal Secretary, (UD-2) Urban Development Department, GOM
4. Mr. Vaibhav Raje, Expert Member, Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
5. Mr. Abhay Pimparkar, Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Tree Authority.

The Director, Environment and Climate Change Department, GOM, and Member Secretary of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority welcomed all the members of the Authority for the 4th 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 5th 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.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.1

Subject - Permission for Cutting/ Transplanting trees which are coming in the work proposal of Mass Housing Scheme on Plot no. 3 (Exten.), Sector-16, Kharkopar (East), Ulwe Node, Navi Mumbai.

Project Details -

The project proponent Superintending Engineer (HSG 3) CIDCO Ltd. and Tree Officer (CIDCO) presented the details of the project. As per the proposal, 96 trees are to be cut and 137 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of approximately 22,973 number of EWS/LIG dwelling units with development of commercial area and onsite infrastructure works on Plot no. 3 (Exten.), Sector-16, Kharkopar (East), Ulwe Node, Navi Mumbai. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 2,543 years.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. The project proponent (PP) should provide Google map location/ Satellite images of the area where construction of Mass Housing Scheme on Plot no. 3 (Exten.), Sector-16, Kharkopar (East), Ulwe Node, Navi Mumbai is going to take place.
2. The Authority observed during the meeting that the spacing between 2 trees/plants in compensatory plantation plan was very less. The PP should re-evaluate the spacing required between two trees/plants and then re-submit compensatory plantation plan.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After the deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 96 trees and transplant 137 trees (Total - 233 trees) subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 2,543 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 2,543 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.2

Subject –Regarding permission for cutting/transplanting trees coming in the work of construction of Coastal Road from Jalmarg, Sector-16, Kharghar to Sector-11 in CBD and balance link between Sector-15 CBD to Water Transport Terminal in Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

Project Details –

The project proponent Executive Engineer CIDCO and Tree Officer (CIDCO) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 309 trees are to be cut and 138 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of Coastal Road from Jalmarg, Sector-16, Kharghar to Sector-11 in CBD and balance link between Sector-15 CBD to Water Transport Terminal in Nerul, Navi Mumbai. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 4,182 years.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation –

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. The Authority observed during the meeting that the spacing between 2 trees/plants in compensatory plantation plan was very less. The PP should re-evaluate the spacing required between two trees/plants and then re-submit compensatory plantation plan.
2. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
3. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
4. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After the deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 309 trees and transplant 138 trees (Total - 447 trees) subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 4,182 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 4,182 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.3

Subject- Regarding the permission for cutting/transplanting trees for construction of a new school building near the Airforce station, P.O. Sandoz Garden at Kolshet road, Thane (w).

Project Details -

Tree Officer (Thane Municipal Corporation) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 1 Heritage tree is to be cut and 7 trees are to be transplanted including 1 Heritage tree for construction of a new school building near the Airforce station, P.O. Sandoz Garden at Kolshet road, Thane (w). The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 302 years. As the construction site is a defense land, no location and google map details were shared with State Tree Authority.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. According to the Authority, survival of 'Kadu Neem (Azadiructa indica)' after transplantation is very critical and sensitive. Project Proponent (PP) should transplant 'Kadu Neem (Azadiructa indica)' with the help of Tree Experts.
2. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
3. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
4. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After the deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 1 Heritage tree and transplant 1 Heritage tree (Total - 2 trees) subject to compliance with above given conditions.

Since the number of trees to be cut/transplanted other than the Heritage tree under this project is less than 200, the local tree authority shall take the decision at their level to grant permission.

As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 115 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 115 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman

4


Member Secretary

Item no.4

Subject - Regarding permission to cut trees from CTS NO. 10/27 (Civil Hospital) and 10/7 (Nurses Training center & Hostel) for the construction of 900 bedded multi super specialty Civil Hospital and Nurses Training Centre & Hostel at Thane District.

Project Details -

Tree Officer (Thane Municipal Corporation) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 21 trees are to be cut including 2 Heritage trees (100 years) and 28 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of 900 bedded multi super specialty Civil Hospital and Nurses Training Centre & Hostel at Thane District. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 1348 years.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. Project Proponent (PP) should re-submit Tree Inventory as the name of Heritage Tree to be cut is unclear and there is discrepancy in the tree inventory regarding number of trees to be cut and to be transplanted.
2. PP should re-submit a clear Compensatory tree plantation plan to plant 1194 trees stating the area in which the plantation will take place as the plan submitted to State Tree Authority and local tree authority is unclear.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.


Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut only 2 Heritage trees subject to compliance with above given conditions.

Since the number of trees to be cut/transplanted other than the Heritage tree under this project is less than 200, the local tree authority shall take the decision at their level to grant permission.

As per the proposal, the age of the 2 Heritage trees is 100 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 100 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.5

Subject - Regarding permission for cutting/transplanting of the trees coming in the work of the proposed Express Highway in regions of Titwala, Balyani and Nandap falling in Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation.

Project Details -

The project proponent National highway authority of India and the Tree Officer (Kalyan- Dombivli Municipal Corporation) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 449 trees were to be cut but due to change in road alignment 314 trees are to be cut for the construction of Express highway in regions of Titwala, Balyani and Nandap by National highway authority of India. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 4,214 years.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. The Project Proponent (PP) should submit the detailed layout plan for compensatory plantation which will include superimposed location of trees/plants and provide the details of spacing between two trees/plants which would be planted as a part of compensatory plantation.
2. PP should submit No Objection Certificate (NOC)/MOU with forest department for planting trees as a part of Compensatory Tree plantation.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 314 trees subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 4,214 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 4,214 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.



Chairman



Member Secretary

Item no.6

Subject - Permission for cutting of Trees at Deulgaonraja, Buldhana District

Project Details -

The project proponent (PP) Govind Balappa Shete and the Planning officer (Deulgaonraja Municipal Council) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 1178 trees are to be cut for commercial purpose. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 25,916 years. As a part of compensatory plantation, PP has submitted that it will carry out compensatory plantation of 25,916 trees by Miyawaki Planation technique to which the Deputy Secretary of Forest and Revenue Department suggested that the PP and the CO Deulgaonraja should also look forward to plant new trees/plants by following a hybrid method of Miyawaki Plantation technique and normal plantation technique.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. PP and CO, Deulgaonraja should re-evaluate the compensatory plantation plan and assess whether compensatory plantation can be done by following a hybrid method of Miyawaki Plantation technique and normal plantation technique and re-submit the compensatory plantation plan.
2. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
3. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
4. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 1178 trees subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the age of the trees is 25,916 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 25,916 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.7

Subject - Permission for cutting of trees for demolition and reconstruction of road over bridge and road under bridge at various places in Suburban Mumbai (Andheri-Ghatkopar Link Road in 'N' section, road over bridge at Ghatkopar-East, Mumbai).

Project Details-

The project proponent (PP) Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and the Superintendent of Gardens (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 69 trees are to be cut including 7 Heritage trees (400 years) and 128 trees are to be transplanted for demolition and reconstruction of road over bridge and road under bridge at various places in Suburban Mumbai (Andheri-Ghatkopar Link Road in 'N' section, road over bridge at Ghatkopar-East, Mumbai). The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 3674 years.

Chairman, State Tree Authority advised the PP, Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to identify if there is a potential to carry out compensatory tree plantation of 3,674 trees by Miyawaki Plantation Technique.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. Project Proponent (PP) should check whether there is any scope for the transplantation of Heritage trees that are proposed to be cut and depending on feasibility of the trees that can be transplanted, submit the tree census report to the Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
2. PP should submit the detailed layout plan for compensatory plantation which will include superimposed location of trees/plants and provide the details of spacing between two trees/plants which would be planted as a part of compensatory plantation.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut only 7 Heritage trees subject to compliance with above given conditions.

Since the number of trees to be cut/transplanted other than the Heritage tree under this project is less than 200, the local tree authority shall take the decision at their level to grant permission.

As per the proposal, the age of the Heritage trees is 400 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 400 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.8

Subject - Seeking permission for cutting/transplanting trees for the construction of a new medical college building at M.I.M.E.R medical college, Talegaon Dabhade.

Project Details-

The project proponent Talegaon Dabhade Nager parishad presented the project details. As per the proposal, 28 trees are to be cut including 15 Heritage trees (1101 Years) and 32 trees are to be transplanted for the construction of a new medical college building at M.I.M.E.R medical college, Talegaon Dabhade.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. Project Proponent (PP) should check whether there is any scope for the transplantation of trees that are proposed to be cut and depending on feasibility of the trees that can be transplanted, submit the tree census report to the Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
2. PP should re-submit a detailed Tree Inventory which should include Scientific name of the tree, age of the tree, girth/diameter of the tree and submit geo-tagged photographs of 15 heritage trees.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut only 15 Heritage trees subject to compliance with above given conditions.

Since the number of trees to be cut/transplanted other than the Heritage tree under this project is less than 200, the local tree authority shall take the decision at their level to grant permission.

As per the proposal, the age of the Heritage trees is 1101 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 1101 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.9

Subject - Permission for cutting/transplanting trees for installation of 400 kV Kharghar Vikhroli Conductor stringing and electric line at survey no. 363, 547, 469, 130, 128, 113, 114, 111, 101, 100, 92, 85, 65, 57, 60, 460/C, 373/A, 390/A, B

Project Details -

The project proponent (PP) Manager of Adani Transmission Limited and Tree officer (CIDCO) presented the details of the project. As per the proposal, total 1674 trees (excluding 2 Bamboo Trees - Grassland Species) are to be cut as well as transplanted. In that 1205 trees are to be cut and 469 trees are to be transplanted for the installation of 400 kV Kharghar Vikhroli Conductor stringing and electric line at survey no. 363, 547, 469, 130, 128, 113, 114, 111, 101, 100, 92, 85, 65, 57, 60, 460/C, 373/A, 390/A, B. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 21,435 years.

During the meeting, the authority intervened the PP about the minimum height required from the ground, to which the PP submitted that as per electricity authority of India, the height of the transmission line from the ground level should be 8.84 meter. Considering this fact, the authority suggested the trees lying below the transmission line could be pruned and maintained by PP from time to time rather than cutting them.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation -

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. PP should identify the trees that can be pruned to avoid being cut and submit a revised plan with a new tree inventory and compensatory plantation plan.
2. The Authority observed during the meeting that the spacing between 2 trees/plants in compensatory plantation plan was very less. The PP should re-evaluate the spacing required between two trees/plants and then re-submit compensatory plantation plan.
3. PP should submit No Objection Certificate (NOC)/ MOU with forest department for Compensatory Tree plantation location.
4. The project proponent should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
5. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
6. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision-

After the deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 1205 trees and transplant 469 trees (Total - 1674 trees) subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 21,435 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 21,435 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary

Item no.10

Subject –Regarding permission for cutting/transplanting trees for the proposed Bhandup multi-speciality hospital on plot number 681A/8B, 681A/3 and 681A/4 of village Nahur, 's' ward, Bhandup (w), Mumbai.

Project Details –

The Tree Officer (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) presented the project details. As per the proposal, 141 trees are to be cut and 304 trees are to be for the proposed Bhandup multi-speciality hospital on plot number 681A/8B, 681A/3 and 681A/4 of village Nahur, 's' ward, Bhandup (w), Mumbai. The cumulative age of the trees to be cut & transplanted is 1,597 years.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Deliberation –

The Maharashtra State Tree Authority after deliberation decided to grant approval for the above-said project subject to compliance to the following conditions:

1. The Project Proponent (PP) should re-submit the tree inventory as it is not tallying with the photographs of trees to be cut/transplant.
2. PP should submit the detailed layout plan for compensatory plantation which will include superimposed location of trees/plants and provide the details of spacing between two trees/plants which would be planted as a part of compensatory plantation.
3. PP should plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
4. PP should start the plantation of Native/Indigenous tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project within fifteen days from the date of the trees being cut/transplanted.
5. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees.

Maharashtra State Tree Authority Decision–

After the deliberation, Maharashtra State Tree Authority decided to grant approval to cut 141 trees and transplant 304 trees (Total - 445 trees) subject to compliance with above given conditions. As per the proposal, the cumulative age of the trees is 1,597 years. Therefore, the PP should plant 1,597 new trees of native/indigenous species as a part of compensatory plantation under this project by following all the due procedures.


Chairman


Member Secretary