

**Government of India
Ministry of Culture
National Monuments Authority
24, Tilak Marg, new Delh-110001**

MINUTES OF THE 154th MEETING (EMERGENCY) OF NMA

Venue - Conference Hall, NMA Hqrs, 24 Tilak Marg, New Delhi

Time & Date - 3 P.M. on 17th June 2017

The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Ms. Susmita Pande, Chairperson, NMA
2. Shri A.B. Shukla, Whole Time Member, NMA
3. Shri U.K. Sadhav, Whole Time Member, NMA (video conference/email)
4. Shri Satish Kumar, Whole Time Member, NMA
5. Shri Navneet Soni, Member Secretary, NMA
6. Shri T.J. Alone, Director (Monuments), ASI

An emergency meeting of the National Monuments Authority (NMA) was convened on 17.6.2017 at 3 P.M. at NMA, 24, Tilak Marg, New Delhi, in pursuance of the Order Dt. 15.6.2017 passed by Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in W.P. No. 14905(W)/2014 (Transtonnestroy Afcons JV & Anr. Vs KMRCL & Ors.). The Order of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has been passed in connection with the proposed construction of underground metro tunnel and Mahakaran Metro Station near the Centrally Protected Monuments i.e. Currency Building, Beth-El-Synagogue and Maghen David, Synagogue at Kolkata.

At the outset, Member Secretary, NMA gave a detailed background of the case and also mentioned various issues involved in the matter. He also gave complete details and copies of the Orders of Hon'ble Calcutta High Court Dt. 15.6.2017 and also of the advice of the Ministry of Law Dt. 16.6.2017. NMA was also informed that the case of KMRCL was rejected twice in 140th and 142nd meetings of the NMA on 9.8.2016 and 10.11.2016 respectively.

After careful consideration of the Order Dt. 15.6.2017 passed by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court and the directions given therein, in the light of Section 20A (2) of the AMASR Act, 1958, the advice obtained by the Ministry of Culture from the Ministry of Law on the subject Dt. 16.6.2017, and in view of the past precedents of approvals given to Chennai Metro Rail Corporation in 2012 and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in

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2013, the National Monuments Authority has decided to recommend the proposed construction of underground metro tunnel and Mahakaran Metro Station near Centrally Protected Monuments, i.e. Currency Building, Beth-El-Synagogue and Maghen David, Synagogue at Kolkata, which has been duly forwarded to NMA by the Competent Authority, Kolkata for consideration

This recommendation is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (i) All constructions above the ground, including the Mahakaran Metro Station, shall be shifted beyond the 100 mtrs. prohibited area of the Centrally Protected Monuments.
- (ii) A Joint Committee shall be set up under the Chairmanship of the Regional Director (East) of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which will include technical experts from IIT, Kharagpur and officers of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (KMRCL). This Committee shall monitor the proposed works and shall ensure all possible measures which are required to be taken for the safety of the 3 monuments in question. A monthly report on the progress of the project shall be submitted to NMA and Director General, ASI.
- (iii) Threat to the historic monuments during various stages of construction/post construction is the concern expressed repeatedly, as also the need to monitor this effectively on real time basis. For this purpose KMRCL shall install monitoring equipments on all protected monuments along the proposed route capable of measuring vibrations, structural impacts when the construction activities are on and during the metro operations. This should be done in association with the proposed joint committee.
- (iv) KMRCL should set up a separate fund for the purpose of heritage promotion and campaigning for the cause of Kolkata's heritage; this should be used for facilitation centres, establishing small museums of display units, to display the archaeological remains found, if any, during the construction activity, developing facilities or amenities around the protected monuments concerned and so on. The size and nature of such a fund may be suggested by a Committee consisting of officers from NMA, ASI, KMRCL and other stake-holders, and such a Committee may also suggest the works to be taken up and monitor the same. This Committee will be formed immediately, headed by Regional Director (East), ASI and the officers to be nominated shall be senior officers of the level of at least

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Director rank. This Committee can also examine the best practices followed at other places for drawing up their plans.

- (v) The area around the proposed entry and exit gates of the metro stations near the protected monuments shall be designed and developed to create a planned and pleasant environment. For this purpose, advice may be taken from local eminent architects.
- (vi) The facades of entry and exit gates shall be in consonance with the art and architecture of the respective nearest protected monuments.
- (vii) The interior of the metro stations near the protected monuments shall reflect the art and architecture of their periods.
- (viii) The metro stations falling on the proposed route should have special photo galleries/maps and information kiosks promoting the heritage and history of Kolkata.
- (ix) Necessary sanction prior to carrying out the proposed construction, may be obtained as per the local laws from the local authorities.
- (x) A certificate will be submitted to the Competent Authority on completion of proposed construction that all the conditions of the permission have been complied with.
- (xi) KMRCL shall support, cooperate and participate in all activities and programmes of ASI, which are helpful in preservation, conservation, security, up-keep and maintenance of the protected monuments of the locality.
- (xii) The Heritage Bye-laws of the protected monuments of the locality shall be complied with once they are approved.
- (xiii) This recommendation is only with reference to the present proposal of KMRCL.

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