

Minutes of the 16th Governing Board Meeting of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 21st May 2019.

16th Governing Board Meeting of the West Bengal Zoo Authority was held on 21st May, 2019 in the Conference Room, 13th floor, NABANNA, Howrah. The meeting was Chaired by Sri Malay Kumar De, IAS, Chief Secretary, West Bengal and Chairman, West Bengal Zoo Authority. The meeting was also attended by the following Members of the Authority.

1. Sri Indevar Pandey, I.A.S., Addl. Chief Secretary, Dept. of Forests, Govt. of West Bengal and Vice Chairman, WBZA.
2. Sri H. K. Dwivedi, I.A.S., Addl. Chief Secretary, Dept. of Finance, Govt. of West Bengal and Member, WBZA.
3. Sri N. K. Pandey, I.F.S., P.C.C.F (HoFF), West Bengal and Member, WBZA.
4. Sri Ravi Kant Sinha, I.F.S., P.C.C.F (WL), & CWLW, West Bengal and Member, WBZA.
5. Dr. (Capt.) A. G. Bandyopadhyay, Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, West Bengal and Member, WBZA.
6. Sk. Johar Ali, Working President, All Backward Class Relief & Development Mission and Member, WBZA.
7. Sri Rajendra Jakher, I.F.S. Director, P.N.H. Zoological Park, Darjeeling and Member, WBZA.
8. Sri Asis Kumar Samanta, I.F.S., Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore (Kolkata) and Member, WBZA.
9. Sri Dharamdeo Rai, I.F.S., Director, NBWAP (Bengal Safari) and Special Invitee Member, WBZA.
10. Sri. V. K. Yadav, I.F.S., Addl. P.C.C.F and Member Secretary, WBZA.

The following Governing Board Members could not attend the Meeting due to pre-occupation and were granted leave of absence.

1. Dr. A. K. Nayak, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India & Member, WBZA.
2. Smt. Debolina Biswas, Councillor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Ward No.74, Member, WBZA.
3. Sri Sankar Dhar, People's for Animals, Alipurduar and Member, WBZA.
4. Sri Debasish Paramanik, Raigunj Panchayet Samiti, Uttardinajpur, Member, WBZA.

The Chairman, West Bengal Zoo Authority welcomed all the Members present and asked the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority to initiate the proceedings as per the proposed Agenda.

Agenda 1: Approval of the Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Governing Board of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 9th April, 2018.

Minutes of 15th meeting of the Governing Body of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 9th April, 2018 were confirmed after a brief discussion.

Agenda 2: 'Action Taken Report' on the decisions taken in the 15th Meeting of the Governing Board of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 9th April 2018

Member Secretary presented the 'Action Taken Report (ATR)' on the decisions taken by the Governing Board of West Bengal Zoo Authority in its 15th Meeting held on 9th April, 2018. 'ATR' was noted by the Members present with the following modification :

(i) The Additional Chief Secretary - Finance, assured that the matters pending with Finance Department regarding creation of permanent post under West Bengal Zoo Authority totalling 342 under different categories as well as the recruitment Rules will be finalised at an early date. He also assured that the revised remuneration of the salary of different categories of staff engaged on contractual basis will be looked into and the matter will be disposed accordingly.

Agenda 3: Approval of Annual Report and consolidated Audited Accounts for the year 2017-18 of West Bengal Zoo Authority and all the Zoos under its control.

Annual Report and Consolidated Audited Accounts of West Bengal Zoo Authority and all the Zoos under its control for the year 2017-18 was placed in the Board Meeting. Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority highlighted the main points. The Annual Report and Consolidated Audited Accounts for 2017-18 of West Bengal Zoo Authority was discussed and approved by the Governing Board.

The proposal of the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority for engagement of SPAN & Associates as Statutory Auditors of West Bengal Zoo Authority for two years (2018-19 & 2019-20) was approved by the Governing Board. It was also decided that the Internal Audit for 2018-19 should be conducted by Finance Officer of West Bengal Zoo Authority with the help of outsourced staff.

Agenda 4 : Collaboration with Foreign Zoos.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration with the Foreign Zoo, specially Singapore Zoo was discussed in the Governing Board Meeting and was approved. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority was authorised to take up the matter with the Singapore Zoo for further actions in consultation with department.

Agenda 5: Developmental works in different Zoos during 2019-20.

The works proposed under different Zoos (as given in **Annexure I**) of West Bengal Zoo Authority for implementation during 2019-20 were discussed and approved by the Governing Board.

It was also decided that the fund from the West Bengal Zoo Authority Corpus Fund should also be utilised for taking up the different works of infrastructure and enclosures development to create assets taking into consideration the Income Tax Rules.

Agenda 6: Developmental works in North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari) at Siliguri.

The following works proposed for implementation during 2019-20 in Bengal Safari, Siliguri was discussed and approved by the Governing Board.

(i) Extension of Tiger enclosure and night shelter for breeding purpose: Around 5 hec. area which has been surveyed and earmarked adjacent to the existing Tiger Safari for establishment of Tiger enclosure and night shelter for the purpose of breeding Tigers. This area will be off display and visitors will not be allowed in this secluded area. The approximate cost of around Rs.150 lakh was approved. This fund is available with West Bengal Zoo Authority as savings from works of Tiger enclosure constructed earlier.

(ii) Extension of Rhinoceros enclosure within mixed Herbivore Safari : The proposed area will be now around 2 hec. and the approximate cost around Rs. 140 lakh was approved by Governing Board. This fund will be made available by the West Bengal Zoo Authority from savings of different works of Mixed Herbivore Safari.

(iii) Digital Projection and development of Augmented Reality Show (7D Holographic) in the Nature Interpretation Centre : The approximate cost of project Rs.50 lakh was approved. Sound proofing and Air conditioning needs to be done in the NIC costing around Rs.60.00 lakh, which was also approved by the Governing Body.

(iv) The Governing Board decided that the Savings of Fund which was provided by the North Bengal Development Department, Tourism Department and Forest Department should be utilised for different developmental activities as per the approved work programme (**Annexure II**). The necessary estimates should be vetted and works should be completed in time. The concerned departments should be informed about projects being undertaken from savings.

(v) The Governing Board approved the proposal for introduction of trackless Toy Train in Bengal Safari for visitors inside the Park. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority was requested to take necessary action for procurement of the Toy Train (Engine plus 3 Compartments) within the approved cost of Rs.35.00 lakh. It was also decided to use it for revenue generation.

Agenda 7: Developmental works in Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata.

The following work programme for the 2019-20 was approved by the Governing Board after brief discussion :

(i) Extension of Zebra enclosure: It was proposed to increase the area of the Zebra enclosure as there are more births. The approximate cost is Rs.15.00 lakh was approved.

(ii) Extension of Giraffe enclosure and night shelter was approved with a total project cost of Rs 30.00 lakh.

(iii) Upgradation of ticketing system : The Governing Board approved the upgradation of ticketing system and to introduce the indigenous QR Code based ticketing system to avoid annual expenditure of Rs.25 lakh for printing of the tickets. Necessary actions for upgradation should be taken immediately to stop the monopoly business for printing the tickets from New Delhi. The project cost of Rs.30.00 lakh was approved.

(iv) Digital projection and Development of Augmented Reality Show (7D Holographic) at Nature Information Centre of Zoological Garden, Alipore : The total project cost of Rs.50 lakh was approved.

