

Minutes of the 35th meeting of Annual General Body of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) held on 12.11.2021 at 2:00 PM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The 35th meeting of Annual General Body of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was held on 12.11.2021 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti. Some of the participants attended the meeting through VC link also. The list of participants who attended the meeting is placed at **Annexure – I**.

At the outset, Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Water Resources, welcomed Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Ministers of various States, all the members of the Society and other participants. He mentioned that interlinking of rivers has been accorded priority by Government of India. In the year 2021, there has been a major development in signing of the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for implementation of the Ken – Betwa link project on 22nd March, 2021 in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. He apprised all the participants about the further progress in the implementation of Ken Betwa link project. He also mentioned that the formulation of National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) is under active consideration in the Ministry and NIRA would act as a platform for implementation of ILR projects. He, then, requested Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti for his opening remarks.

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti in his opening remarks, welcomed Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Ministers of various States, all the members of the Society and other participants. He mentioned that all of us are connected with a common domain i.e. “water” and water is the most precious resource for mankind. Hon'ble Minister highlighted the fact that our nation is facing a big challenge in management of this precious resource due to many factors. There is inequitable distribution of water resources in the country with floods occurring at some places and droughts at some other places.

Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme is accorded top priority by Govt. of India but our federal structure of Government as well as due to States' own commitments, we are lagging behind in the implementation of ILR projects. Hon'ble Minister said that "water" has become a political issue but need of the hour is to work together for the management of water resources in the country with conviction for a better future and secured environment for our future generations. Hon'ble Minister referred to the efforts of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, for taking forward the programme of Interlinking of Rivers. Hon'ble Minister also emphasised the significance of year 2021 as starting of a new era with signing of tripartite Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of Ken-Betwa link project and this achievement has firmed up our faith on ILR Projects and this shall encourage implementation of other link projects.

Hon'ble Minister appreciated the cooperation of Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh who have acted in the national interest. Hon'ble Minister urged that we should move forward for implementation of ILR programme in a time bound manner with a new enthusiasm and we should try to create an amicable atmosphere for efficient water usage in entire nation. Hon'ble Minister also emphasised that the cooperation of all States is very important for successful achievement of targets in water sector particularly for the inter-State projects like ILR and requested all the States to come forward for a larger national interest and render cooperation for implementation of ILR programme.

Thereafter, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti addressed all the participants and welcomed Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Ministers of various States, all the members of the Society and other senior officials and participants. He recalled the vision of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the context that water could be the reason for future world wars and mentioned about his dream of implementation of ILR projects. He mentioned that many big issues like Panna Tiger Reserve issue, water sharing issues etc. came in the way of moving forward for signing of tripartite agreement for Ken Betwa link project. Ken – Betwa link

project is not a simple project but an exemplary project which will boost our enthusiasm further for moving forward for other projects under ILR programme. He requested all the States to step forward for a building up a technical consensus amongst them from point of view of national interest for big projects like ILR Projects.

Thereafter, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR requested Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, Hon'ble Minister (WR), Bihar to address the meeting.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha thanked Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti and all senior officials for inviting him to the meeting. He highlighted the geographical location of Bihar making some areas of Bihar as flood prone areas and some areas as water stressed. He appreciated the efforts of NWDA for preparation of Kosi- Mechi Intra State link of Bihar and requested NWDA to prepare a working DPR for implementation of the project. He informed that investment clearance for the project has been obtained. He requested Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti to approve the proposal of 90(C) : 10 (S) funding pattern for Kosi- Mechi Intra State link of Bihar. He requested NWDA officials to coordinate with WRD officials of Patna, Govt. of Bihar and conduct surveys to identify the possibilities of linking all small rivers of Bihar to solve the water problems of the State.

Shri Udailal Anjana, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operative and IGNP Department, Government of Rajasthan, in his address, thanked the Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti for inviting the State of Rajasthan to present their views in the meeting. He cited the water stressed condition of Rajasthan and requested Hon'ble Minister to solve the pending issues for the State's two projects viz; Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and Tajewala Headworks project. He mentioned that linking of rivers would be very beneficial for water deficit states like Rajasthan and the programme should be expedited as fast as possible.

Thereafter, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR requested DG, NWDA to present the agenda items.

DG, NWDA extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Ministers of various States, all the

members of the NWDA Society and all other dignitaries and invitees. He, then, made a powerpoint presentation covering agenda items one by one.

Item no. 35.1 and 35.2 : He briefed about the comments received from various states on minutes of 34th meeting of Annual General Body of NWDA and the replies sent and other follow up actions taken on decisions taken during the meeting.

Members of the Society confirmed the minutes of the 34th meeting of Annual General Body of NWDA.

Item no. 35.3 and 35.4: DG, NWDA explained the status of Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2019-20 and requested the members of the Society to approve the same so that the Annual Report for the year 2019-20 may be placed in Parliament in coming Winter Session.

He also informed the members that efforts are being made for finalization of Annual Report and Audit Report for the year 2020-21 as early as possible. He also gave a brief about the budget estimate and actual expenditure during the year 2020-21 and 2021-22, upto October, 2021.

Members of the Society approved the Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of NWDA for the year 2019-20.

Item no. 35.5 and 35.6: Programme of works for the year 2021-22 and Status of progress of studies / DPRs/ FRs / PFRs: DG, NWDA explained about programme of works for the year 2021-22 as given in Agenda and highlighted the fact that we have kept very ambitious plan regarding programme of works for this year, which includes post DPR activities of priority links, completion of ongoing DPRs, initiation of six more DPRs, completing Feasibility Reports of all the links under NPP, completion of 5 Pre Feasibility Reports and revision of water balance reports of 20 sub basins.

He briefed about the status of priority links viz; Ken – Betwa link, Damanganga-Pinjal link, Par-Tapi-Narmada link, Godavari- Cauvery link and other links like Kosi – Mechi Intra State link and Cauvery- Vaigai- Gundar link project, whose DPRs have been completed. He listed out the activities to be undertaken for Ken – Betwa link project as post DPR activities and informed that efforts are being done to expedite the obtaining of Stage-II Forest Clearance for Daudhan reservoir and constitution of a steering Committee for policy decisions.

He explained the status of twin links viz; Damanganga-Pinjal link and Par-Tapi-Narmada link. He mentioned that key issue in water sharing is that Maharashtra is asking of compensation in Tapi basin in lieu of its contribution in PTN Link catchment of about 400 MCM.

Regarding, Cauvery- Vaigai- Gundar link, he emphasized the fact that, this link will be viable only when water is supplemented from Himalayan rivers in Phase-II .

He explained about the studies in progress related to Bedti- Varda link that are being targetted for the completion of its DPR including alternates as suggested by Govt. of Karnataka. He discussed in details about the proposal of Integration of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project and Parbati – Kalisindh - Chambal link of NPP and key issues for consideration of the involved States.

He briefed about the status of Feasibility Reports of links which are completed or under updation and apprised all the participants that during year 2020-21, FRs of six links were completed and Draft FRs of two links were completed. It is planned to complete Feasibility Reports of all the links under NPP by March, 2022 except Netravati- Hemavati link as water is not available for this link due to Yettinahole Project being implemented by Karnataka State. He also gave a brief about five links for which Pre Feasibility Reports are under preparation by NWDA.

DG, NWDA explained about the work of System Studies for Mahanadi- Godavari link, which is being carried out by NIH, Roorkee and informed that detailed discussions on this work were carried out during last few meetings of Sub – Committee on “System

Studies for identification of most appropriate alternate plan". NIH, Roorkee has submitted the Draft Report.

He also mentioned that it is proposed to take up system studies of four more links viz; Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga, Farakka-Sunderbans, Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha and Subernarekha-Mahanadi links. The technical proposals were sought from various organisations/academic institutions. As decided in the 18th meeting of the Sub-Committee, the work of system studies of these links is proposed to be given to four institutes: NIH, Roorkee (Farakka- Sunderbans link project), NIT, Patna (Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha), IIT, Guwahati (Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link project) and NIT, Warangal (Subernarekha-Mahanadi link project). The financial proposals and time schedules have been sought from these institutes and will be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the Sub- Committee.

Item no. 35.7 : He gave a status of Intra State link projects that DPRs of 4 Intra State links have been completed and work of preparation of DPRs of 2 more links is under progress. Work of preparation of PFRs of 37 links is completed.

Item no. 35.8 : DG, NWDA briefed about the status of progress of work of Special Committee for ILR. 18 meetings of SCILR have been held so far.

Item no. 35.9 : DG, NWDA briefed about the status of progress of work of Task Force for ILR. 15 meetings of TFILR have been held so far.

Item no. 35.10 : DG, NWDA placed the details of the items for information of Annual General Meeting as given in agenda which were deliberated during 68th Governing Body meeting of NWDA held on 17.08.2021. He also informed about the status of progress of work of NWDA as a repository agency for transferring the borrowed funds from NABARD to the States during last six years.

Item no. 35.11: DG, NWDA informed all the members that 7th India Water Week has been postponed to November, 2022 and its curtain raiser function will be held shortly.

Item no. 35.12 : He also briefed about the BRICS Water Ministers' Meeting and BRICS Water Forum, to be held during 16-18, November, 2021 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.

Members of the Society took note of the various activities of NWDA highlighted by DG, NWDA.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti requested the States' representatives and dignitaries to express their viewpoints / comments on presentation made by DG, NWDA on various items.

Shri Pranabjyoti Nath, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Kerala requested to consider the allocation of 99.8 TMC of water to Kerala during implementation of Godavari- Cauvery link and Cauvery- Vaigai- Gundar links. The State of Kerala should be involved in all the consensus building discussions. He also requested to provide them a copy of draft Bill for constitution of NIRA.

Shri Krishnamurthy, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Karnataka requested that NWDA should revise the DPR of Godavari - Cauvery link by showing quantity of divertible water to all the concerned States including Karnataka under the principle of equitable distribution, as the DPR shows water allocated to States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu only and Karnataka's allocation is not mentioned. He informed that NIRA proposal is also being reviewed by their Government.

Shri Sanjeev Hans, Secretary, WRD, Bihar reiterated the viewpoints made by Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Bihar and requested that NWDA should extend help in formulation of working DPR of the Kosi-Mechi Intra State link project. He requested that NWDA officials should take up the work of linking other small rivers within the State of Bihar.

Shri R. Subramanian, Chairman, Cauvery Technical Cell, Government of Tamil Nadu commented on the water allocation to the State of Tamil Nadu and mentioned that as per Feasibility Report of Godavari- Cauvery link, 214 TMC of water was allocated to Tamil Nadu and in present DPR, after consideration of losses, only 70 TMC of water will reach the state so he requested to explore the possibility to increase the water allocation to Tamil Nadu. He also raised the issue of taking the canal to a higher contour upto Kattalai barrage.

He requested to take up the implementation of the link as early as possible. Regarding, Cauvery - Vaigai - Gundar link, he informed that the State has taken up the work of the link with State's funds on the basis of design and layout as given by NWDA, so that the flood water can be utilised for diversion when required. He also requested to take DPR of Pamba- Achankovil- Vaippar link project.

Shri B. Hariram, Engineer-in-Chief, Government of Telangana requested Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti to firm up the hydrology for diversion of water in Godavari – Cauvery link and he also raised issue of according approval for DPR of projects submitted to GRMB by the State of Telangana.

Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti asked DG, NWDA to conclude the meeting.

DG, NWDA in his concluding remarks, thanked Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Hon'ble Ministers of various States, all the members of the Society, special invitees and other participants and expressed his deep gratitude to all, for their valuable guidance and deliberations. He assured that the views / observations of States on link projects shall be duly considered. He also assured that views of members of SCILR on constitution of NIRA will be duly incorporated in the proposal and revised proposal will be submitted to Ministry of Jal Shakti for approval.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair.

Annexure-I**List of Participants of the 35th Annual General Meeting of NWDA and 19th Meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 12.11.2021 at VigyanBhawan, New Delhi and through Video Conferencing.**

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Mode of Joining
1.	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, New Delhi & President, Annual General Body of NWDA & Chairman, SCILR	Physical
2.	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State Jal Shakti & Vice President, Annual General Body of NWDA	Physical
3.	Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, Hon'ble Minister (WRD), Govt. of Bihar	Physical
4.	Shri K. Lakshminarayanan, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Govt. of Puducherry.	Virtual
5.	Shri UdailalAnjana, Hon'ble Minister (Cooperative and IGNP), Govt. of Rajasthan.	Physical
6.	Shri Pankaj Kumar Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi.	Physical
7.	Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi.	Physical
8.	Shri SriramVedire, Advisor to Minister, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti & Chairman, Task force for ILR	Physical
9.	Shri S. K. Halidar, Chairman, Central Water Commission, New Delhi.	Physical
10.	Dr. Nandakumaran P. Chairman, CGWB, New Delhi.	Physical

11.	Dr. Mritunjay Mohapatra, Director General, IMD, New Delhi	Virtual
12.	Shri Avinash Mishra, Advisor, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.	Virtual
13.	Shri Shyamala Rao Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.	Virtual
14.	Shri Sanjeev Hans, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar.	Physical
15.	Shri Krishnamurthy B. Kulkarni Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Karnataka.	Physical
16.	Shri Pranabjyoti Nath, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Kerala.	Physical
17.	Shri Ajay Kohirkar, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Maharashtra.	Physical
18.	Shri A. Vikrant Raja Secretary, Public Works, Govt. of Puducherry.	Virtual
19.	Dr. Prithvi Raj, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Rajasthan.	Physical
20.	Shri R. Subramanian, Chairman, CTC cum ISWW, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.	Physical
21.	Shri Sriramaih, Principal Technical Advisor, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Karnataka.	Physical
22.	Shri Sridhar Rao Deshpande, OSD to Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana.	Physical
23.	Sh. Ajay Kumar Singh, Chairman and CTO, Paramarsh Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur and Expert (SCILR).	Physical

24.	Shri M. Gopalakrishnan Ex. Secretary General, ICID, & Special invitee.	Physical
25.	Sh. A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC & Special invitee.	Physical
26.	Sh. Bhopal Singh, Director General, NWDA & Member Secretary, AGM & SCILR	Physical
Officers from State Governments and other Ministries & Departments		
27.	Shri C. Narayana Reddy, Engineer-in- Chief, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	Virtual
28.	Shri R.K. Nagariya Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project, Govt. of Chhattisgarh	Physical
29.	Shri M.K. Jain Chief Engineer, Delhi Jal Board, Govt. of Delhi.	Physical
30.	Shri Rakesh Chauhan, Engineer-in-Chief, Govt. of Haryana.	Virtual
31.	Shri Motilal Pingua Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand.	Physical
32.	Shri M. Ravi Chief Engineer, Inter State Waters, WRDO, Govt. of Karnataka.	Physical
33.	Shri C.S. Ghatole Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.	Physical
34.	Shri Ashim Mahapatra, Engineer-in- Chief, WRD, Govt. of Odisha.	Virtual
35.	Shri Ravi Solanki Chief Engineer, State Water Planning Department, Govt. of Rajasthan.	Physical
36.	Shri B. Hari Ram, Engineer-in- Chief, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Telangana.	Physical

37.	Shri Sandeep Kumar, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.	Physical
38.	Shri K.A. Srinivasa Reddy, Chief Engineer, IS&WR, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.	Virtual
39.	Shri S. Sugunakara Rao, Chief Engineer, North Coastal, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.	Virtual
40.	Shri Yogesh Paithankar Chief Engineer, (PAO), CWC, New Delhi.	Physical
41.	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh Scientist 'E' MoEF&CC, New Delhi.	Physical
42.	Shri Arjun Sharma, District Collector cum Divisional Magistrate, Karaikal region, Govt. of Puducherry.	Virtual
43.	Shri Balwan Kumar, Director, Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi	Virtual
44.	Shri Padma Kant Jha, Superintending Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Bihar.	Physical
45.	Shri Mahesh G. Dhaugar, Superintending Engineer, Damanganga Project Circle, Govt. of Gujarat.	Physical
46.	Shri J.K. Trivedi Superintending Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Gujarat	Physical
47.	Sh. S.K.Saha, Superintending Engineer, IRI, Roorkee, Govt. of Uttarakhand.	Virtual
48.	Shri Krishna Kumar Singh, Spl. Resident Commissioner Govt. of Puducherry.	Physical
49.	Shri Charu Chandra Mishra, Ex. Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Bihar.	Physical

50.	Shri Pankaj Raj Garg, Executive Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Punjab.	Physical
51.	Shri Gagandeep Singh Gill, Executive Engineer(Drainage), Govt. of Punjab.	Physical
52.	Shri Ashwani Kumar Yadav, Executive Engineer & Liaison Officer, IGNP, Govt. of Rajasthan.	Physical
53.	Shri M.K. Kushwaha, Consultant, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.	Physical
54.	Shri Gurdeep Singh, IWRD, Govt. of Haryana.	Virtual
55.	Shri Vijay Kumar P.G., Nodal Officer, WRD, Govt. of Kerala.	Physical
56.	Shri O. P. Singh Kushwaha, Expert Consultant, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.	Physical
57.	Shri Karanveer Singh, WRD, Govt. of Punjab.	Physical
58.	Shri P.V. Raju, NRSC, Hyderabad.	Virtual
59.	Dr. Alok Kumar, Assistant Engineer, WRD Govt. of Jharkhand.	Physical
Officers from DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi		
60.	Shri Sanjay Awasthi, JS (RD & PP).	Physical
61.	Shri Manoj Sethi, Joint Secretary& Finance Advisor.	Physical
62.	Shri Subodh Yadav, JS (Admn).	Virtual
63.	Shri. Vivek Pal, Sr. Joint Commissioner (PP).	Virtual
64.	Shri Rakesh Kumar, Sr. Joint Commissioner(BM).	Physical
65.	Shri Amardeep Singh, Advisor (Cost), Office of Chief Advisor.	Physical

66.	Shri Amar Pal Singh, Addl. P.S. to Hon'ble MoS for Jal Shakti.	Physical
Officers from National Water Development Agency (NWDA)		
67.	Shri R. K. Jain, Chief Engineer (HQ), New Delhi.	Physical
68.	Dr. R. N. Sankhua, Chief Engineer (South), Hyderabad.	Virtual
69.	Shri Shiva Prakash, Chief Engineer (North), Lucknow .	Physical
70.	Shri D.K.Sharma, Director (Technical), New Delhi.	Physical
71.	Shri B.L. Sharma, Superintending Engineer, Gwalior.	Physical
72.	Shri S.C. Awasthi, Superintending Engineer, New Delhi.	Physical
73.	Shri S.R. Mahor, Superintending Engineer, New Delhi.	Physical
74.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Superintending Engineer, BBSR.	Virtual
75.	Shri Subrata Halder, Director (Finance), New Delhi.	Physical
76.	Shri Chirabrata Sarkar, Director (Admn.), New Delhi.	Physical
77.	Shri D.B. Singh, Deputy Director, O/o CE(N), Lucknow.	Virtual
78.	Ms. Deepika Sharma, Deputy Director (H), New Delhi.	Virtual

79.	Shri K.K. Rao, Assistant Director, New Delhi.	Physical
80.	Shri S. James Assistant Director, New Delhi.	Physical
81.	Shri Nikhil V.J., Junior Engineer, New Delhi.	Physical
82.	Shri P.V. Baiju, Consultant, New Delhi.	Physical
83.	Shri C.P.S Sengar, Consultant, New Delhi.	Physical