



राष्ट्रीय जल विकास अभिकरण
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
(जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग)
National Water Development Agency
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
(Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)



No.: SCILR/Tech/400/5/2021/

Date: 11/10/2021

Sub: Fourteenth (14th) meeting of the "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" held on 29.09.2021 at 11:00 AM, in Shram Shakti Bhawan, at New Delhi - reg.

Madam/ Sir,

The fourteenth (14th) meeting of the "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" was held on 29.09.2021 at 11:00 AM, in the Committee Room, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri Sriram Vedire, Advisor, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti and Chairman of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers. The meeting was held in Hybrid mode (physical as well as virtual mode).

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting duly approved by the Chairman, Task Force, is enclosed for kind information.

Encl : As above

Yours faithfully,

 11.10.2021

(D.K.Sharma)

Director (Tech.)

dirtech-nwda@nic.in

To

1. **Shri Sriram Vedire**, Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR and Chairman, Task Force for ILR, Room No. 428 B, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, E mail: advtomin-mowr@gov.in, Phone 011-23708418, 09441002730 (M).
2. **Chairman CWC**, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi -110066. Email: chairman-cwc@nic.in, Phone : 011-26195415.

Contd./-

3. **Additional Secretary** (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. Email: aswrs-mowr@nic.in, Phone 011- 23714609.
4. **Shri Prodipto Ghosh**, Former Secretary, MoE&F & Distinguished Fellow TERI, Darbari Seth Block, IIC Complex, Lodhi Road , New Delhi-110003. E-mail: prodipto@teri.res.in, prodipto5@gmail.com Phone: 0 11 -24682100, 9810490639 (M).
5. **JS & FA**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. E mail: fawr-mowr@nic.in, Phone 011- 23710297.
6. **Shri A.D. Mohile**, Ex. Chairman, CWC, New Delhi. E-mail: anildmohile@gmail.com, Phone: 0124-4055262, 9891154061(M).
7. **Shri M. Gopalakrishnan**, Former Secretary General, ICID, D-1/12, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Email: mgopalakrishnan@hotmail.com, mgopalakrishnan.in@yahoo.com, mgopalakrishnan_in@yahoo.com. Phone: 09538923627 (Bangalore), 011- 28524495 (R), 09811301279 (Delhi).
8. **Dr. Shobha (Vrushali) Waghmare**, 204, Rukmini Heights (Tulsi Developers), Sharda Nagar, Nanded – 431602. E-mail: drvrushaliwaghmare618@gmail.com, Phone: 09823208618 (M).
9. **Prof. Chandan Mahanta**, Deptt. of Civil Engineering , Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati - 781014 (Assam) , E-mail: chandan@iitg.ernet.in, Phone: 0361-2582407.
10. **Prof. K. V. Raju**, Theme Leader, Policy and Impact, Regional Program-Asia, ICRISAT, Lakshmi Nilaya, No. 20, 3rd Floor, 17th Cross, 151 Main, 5th Phase, J.P . Nagar, Bangaluru - 560078. Email: kvraju2008@gmail.com, Phone: 98454 15305 (M).
11. **Shri Arindam Bagchi**, Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs, Room no.149-A , South Block, New Delhi - 110011, E-mail: jsnorth@mea.gov.in, usnepal1@mea.gov.in. Phone no.: 011-49016745.
12. **Director General**, NWDA & Member Secretary, TFILR, 18-20, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi -110017, E mail: dg-nwda@nic.in, Phone: 011-2327582.

Contd./-

Special Invitees:

1. The Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, 2nd Floor, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal – 462001 (M.P.), E-mail: pswrd@mp.gov.in, acejpr.wr@rajasthan.gov.in, acejpr.wr@gmail.com, osdwr@gmail.com.
2. The Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, Room No. 2108, First Floor, Main Building, Govt. Secretariat, Jaipur -302001 (Rajasthan). E-mail: pswrdraj@rajasthan.gov.in
3. Shri S Masood Husain, Former Chairman, CWC, BD/11/D, DDA Flats, Munirka, New Delhi-110067. Email: syedsmsusain@yahoo.co.in. Mob.: 9810255680.
4. The Commissioner (FM), Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Room No.827, Block-11, CGO, complex, New Delhi. .Email: commer-mowr@nic.in, Phone 011-24368238.
5. The Director, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee-247667. Phone : 01332-249201, E-mail: dir.nihr@gov.in.
6. Dr.M.K.Goel, Scientist (G), Groundwater Hydrology Division, NIH, Roorkee. E-mail: goel.mk1@gmail.com. Mob.:09410393347.
7. The Commissioner (B&B), Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Room No.203, Block-3, CGO Complex, New Delhi. Email: commgwph-mowr@nic.in, Phone 011-26261624
8. Shri Shambu Azad, Chief Executive Director, WAPCOS Ltd. 76-C, Sector-18, Gurugram, Haryana. Email: wrd@wapcos.co.in , Mob.: 9999994151.
9. Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA, Saket, New Delhi, Email: cehqnwda@rediffmail.com, cehq-nwda@nic.in. Phone: 011-26852735, Fax: 011-26960841.
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12. Senior Joint Commissioner (BM), Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR,RD & GR, CGO Complex, Lodhi road, New Delhi. Email: sjcbm-mowr@nic.in.

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Copy for kind information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, New Delhi. E-mail: psmwr-mowr@nic.in, Phone: 011-23714200, Fax: 011-23710804.

2. SPS to DG, NWDA, Saket, New Delhi, E-mail: dg-nwda@nic.in, Phone: 011-26519164.

3. PS to CE (HQ), NWDA, Saket, New Delhi, E-mail: cehqnwda@rediffmail.com. Phone: 011- 26852735, Fax: 011-26960841.

4. PS to Advisor, Ministry for Jal Shakti, Room No. 428 B, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, E-mail: advtomin-mowr@gov.in Phone 011-23708418.

Minutes of the 14th Meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 29th September, 2021 at MoJS, New Delhi.

The fourteenth meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 29th September, 2021 in Conference Hall, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi as well as through video conferencing under the Chairmanship of Shri Sriram Vedire, Chairman, Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers & Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti. List of the participants is given at **Annexure-I**.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers welcomed all the participants and highlighted the fact that the present meeting is very special as this meeting is the first meeting after the significant achievement of signing of Memorandum of Agreement for implementation of Ken - Betwa link project. He congratulated all the members of the Task Force and NWDA for the tremendous efforts put in, for the accomplishment. He apprised all the members that only few issues related to Ken- Betwa link implementation are pending which will be resolved in few months and lead us towards implementation mode. The Chairman then requested Director General, NWDA to take up the Agenda items for discussions.

Item 14.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 13th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 25th February, 2021 in hybrid mode.

Director General, NWDA informed that the minutes of 13th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) held on 25.2.2021 were circulated to the members vide letter dated 22.3.2021. Since no comments were received from any of the members, the minutes of 13th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers may be confirmed as circulated.

The members of the Task Force confirmed the minutes.

Follow up action on important decisions taken during 13th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers:

DG, NWDA briefed about the follow up actions taken by NWDA for the decisions taken during the 13th meeting, highlighting the main achievement of signing of MoA for Ken- Betwa link, completion and circulation of final DPR of Godavari – Cauvery link, initiation of System studies of Manas – Sankosh – Tista - Ganga link project and efforts being taken by NWDA by interacting with States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for integration of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link of NPP with proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project.

Item no. 14.2: Status of Ken – Betwa Link Project

DG, NWDA apprised the members that a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the implementation of the project jointly has been signed by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti and Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 22nd March, 2021, in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

He informed that most of the statutory clearances for the project have been accorded/recommended by concerned Ministries/Departments except the stage-II forest clearance. He informed that a meeting regarding the Forest Clearance issue is scheduled for 30.9.2021.

He also mentioned that Public Investment Board (PIB) Memo for appraisal of link project has been circulated to various Ministries/ Departments for views/comments and finally submitted to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which further sent it to Ministry of Finance on 30.07.2021 and is under consideration. The estimated cost of the project has also been revised to Rs. 44605 Crore at 2020-21 price level. Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz., Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) is proposed to be formed for implementation of the project.

He explained about the further line of actions to be taken for initiating the implementation of the project and present status of each of these. He informed that targeted timeline for laying of foundation Stone and commencement of works of the project is November, 2021.

Sh. S.M. Husain enquired about the latest status of Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recommendations. DG, NWDA apprised that the Compliance report on CEC observations on Wildlife clearance has been submitted to CEC in July, 2020 and Landscape Management Plan (LMP) for PTR being prepared by WII is at advance stage. Ist Draft report has been submitted and study is to be completed by March, 2022.

Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan requested to provide a copy of documents related to funding mechanism and SPV constitution for the implementation of project.

Sh. A.D. Mohile enquired about the proposed funding pattern and monitoring mechanism for implementation of KBLP. He also suggested to focus on empowerment of the Authority or SPV as different states are involved in ILR projects' implementation so disputes may arise frequently and suitable powers should be given to the proposed Authority to resolve these disputes / issues.

Sh. S.M. Husain suggested to refer the previous records available in NWDA as extensive work has been done by NWDA on constitution of a Special Purpose Vehicle in last few years.

Chairman, TFILR informed about constitution of National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) is under consideration in the ministry. NIRA would act as an Umbrella for all the links and each link will have its own SPV like KBLPA for KBLP. He also told that the matter was referred to Ministry of Law and Justice. After deliberation internally in Ministry, it is proposed to constitute NIRA as a non Statutory Authority formed by obtaining approval of the Cabinet. He informed the members that the proposed functions and structure of NIRA is under preparation and shall be placed before TF-ILR very shortly for advice.

He asked DG, NWDA to convene next meeting of TFILR in mid-October with single agenda related to constitution of NIRA so that it can be deliberated in details with the members of the Task Force and thereafter, it can be recommended to Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers.

DG, NWDA took note of this for compliance and also informed the members that draft proposal covering mandate and functions of NIRA and its structure will be placed before TF-ILR for consideration and advise.

Item 14.3: Present Status of Integration of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link as proposed under Peninsular Component of NPP with proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

DG, NWDA briefed the members about the background of the issue. He informed that the issue of this integration was discussed in 11th and 12th meetings of TFILR and in a meeting of Chairman, TFILR with Principal Secretaries of both the states in 2019. NWDA prepared its Pre-Feasibility report and circulated to both the states and CWC on 29.6.2020. In the PFR, an exchange of 131 MCM of water in Kuno sub-basin and Parbati sub-basin was proposed and same has been broadly agreed by both states. Efforts are now being made for the similar exchange of surplus water of about 564 MCM available at 75 percent dependability in Kalisindh sub-basin in Madhya Pradesh. The Working Group formed under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC to suggest water sharing, exchange of water between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan has held three meetings so far, on 04.09.2020, 25.09.2020 and 09.07.2021.

Recently a meeting was held on 03.09.2021 with the officials of WRD, Govt. of MP to discuss the plan for utilization of surplus water available in Kalisindh sub-basin. The proposal discussed during the meeting for utilisation of 564 MCM was circulated to

both the States. Finally, he summarized that there are two key issues which need to be addressed: i) Dependability Criteria for the diversion of Water of the right Tributaries of Chambal i.e. Kuno, Parbati and Kalisindh to ERCP by Rajasthan. ii) Finalising the layout of modified PKC Link including its Integration with ERCP and signing of Agreement for taking up FR/ DPR of the project.

DG, NWDA opined that considering the needs of Rajasthan, diversion at Kalisindh can be done at dependability of less than 75%.

He requested the members to advise so as to reach at some consensus for moving further.

Chairman, TFILR asked representatives of both the States, Chairman, CWC and CED, WAPCOS to put their views first and suggested that, thereafter members of the TFILR can deliberate on the issue and give their opinion.

Chief-in-Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh reiterated that diversion of water at less than 75% dependability is not agreeable to Madhya Pradesh. He informed that their Chief Minister has also written a letter in this regard. He explained that Madhya Pradesh is a donor State and has to share/ divert water for many downstream states, so it cannot compromise on the diversion of water at dependability less than 75%.

Chairman, TFILR requested representative of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh to reconsider their stand as Madhya Pradesh, being an upstream state should have a broad approach towards the downstream states and suggested to divert water from Doongri reservoir for catering the water needs of Gwalior and other areas of Madhya Pradesh in that region.

Sh. G.P. Soni, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh clarified that they follow 75% dependability criteria for all the projects as per guidelines and cannot compromise on this factor.

Sh. Ravi Solanki, Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Rajasthan informed that yield of water has been taken as per the decision made in 13th meeting of Chambal Board between both the states held in August, 2005. He explained that 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan are facing acute problem of drinking water supply, so it was planned to divert water at 50 % dependability for optimum utilization of water. If 75% criteria is adopted for all the components of the project then the project may not be viable. He further requested that as Rajasthan is a water deficit state, officials from CWC should visit the state and assess the water related problems being faced by them.

Sh. Shambhu Azad, CED, WRD, WAPCOS also mentioned about decisions taken during 12th and 13th meetings of Inter State Control Board and emphasised that Rajasthan has planned the Project as per the decisions taken during these meetings. He cited few examples where diversion of water is done at less than 75% dependability criteria. He requested CWC to intervene and clarify the issues to both the States.

Sh. S.K. Haldar, Chairman, CWC highlighted that the issue is under consideration since more than one year but no solution could be arrived and dilution of dependability criteria is not possible as per existing guidelines. He opined to have a Memorandum of Agreement between the states and then only, we should proceed further for work of integrated link.

Sh. Kushvinder Vohra, Member (WP &P), CWC explained that CWC is bound to follow the guidelines of Planning Commission and Ministry of Irrigation for appraisal of all the projects and he intimated about decision conveyed by the Ministry long back, to design all major / medium irrigation projects on inter-state rivers at 75% dependability. He clarified that any relaxation in the prescribed guidelines, is not under the purview of CWC and such relaxations etc. need a broader and higher level view say by Ministry or NITI Aayog.

Sh. A.D. Mohile felt that the whole issue needs to be seen in terms of three aspects i.e. how to go for hydrological planning for such projects, Interstate implications and how to specifically proceed for this integration. He suggested that the dependability of the input (water availability series) is not important and it is the success rates of the outcome for the desired purpose i.e. irrigation or domestic and industrial water which should be the deciding criteria. We should explore the optimum utilization of water resources benefiting both the states particularly in arid or semi-arid regions which faces high variability in flows. He suggested to carry out detailed simulation studies covering all rivers of the area on monthly or 10-daily basis taking a time period of 20 to 30 years and the results of such simulation studies can be used to convince both the states and will help to remove their apprehensions. He emphasized that such study should be undertaken by CWC / NWDA/ WAPCOS on their own without involving any consultants and suggested to use simple models like HEC 3 etc. for the study.

Sh. S.M. Husain opined that issue related to dependability criteria is a broader issue and can be encountered for other projects also, so Ministry or CWC may constitute an Expert Group to resolve such issues and guidelines should also be reviewed by Ministry.

Chairman, TFILR, emphasized to take note of suggestions of Sh. A. D. Mohile to move further in this issue. He, further, suggested that TFILR should request MoJS to constitute a Sub – Committee for resolving the issues related to integration of PKC Link and ERCP and to obtain consensus from both the states.

DG, NWDA informed that there is a Working Group already constituted under the chairmanship of Member (WP & P), CWC to review the status and progress of the integration of the link projects. Chairman, TFILR opined to include Sh.A.D.Mohile in the Working Group as an expert member to advise the organization to take up simulation study work and timeline for the same, in the forthcoming meeting of Working Group.

Item 14.4: System studies of Mahanadi – Godavari link being carried by NIH, Roorkee.

DG, NWDA informed all the members that work of system studies of Mahanadi – Godavari link is being carried out by NIH, Roorkee and detailed presentation was made by NIH, Roorkee during the 17th and 18th meeting of the Sub-Committee – II held on 8.4.2021 and 25.8.2021 on the status of the study. NIH submitted an Inception Report covering the approach and methodology to be used in the study. NIH, Roorkee has also submitted a brief progress report covering “Study of Various Possible Scenarios for Understanding the Long-term Effect of Enroute Canal Irrigation for Proposed Mahanadi – Godavari Link”.

DG, NWDA also apprised the members of the TFILR that apart from Mahanadi-Godavari link project, system studies of four more links viz; M-S-T-G link, Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link, Subernarekha-Mahanadi link and Farakka- Sunderbans link have been initiated and four institutes have been shortlisted for the same : NIT, Patna, NIT, Warangal , IIT, Guwahati and NIH, Roorkee.

He, then, requested Dr.M.K.Goel, NIH, Roorkee to make a presentation on the system studies of Mahanadi-Godavari link undertaken by them.

Dr. M.K.Goel made a presentation citing the main objectives of the study and main analyses undertaken for the study and other aspects in details like study area, the approach and progress on likely impact of climate change on precipitation and temperature, ground water model set up for the study area, trend analysis in GW levels, assessment of crop water requirement and land and water productivity , important considerations for their system model, scenarios considered etc. He informed that the draft report of System Study will be submitted by 30.9.2021.

Chairman, TFILR appreciated the efforts of NIH, Roorkee.

Sh. A.D. Mohile pointed out that the System Studies model developed by NIH, Roorkee seems to be a Ground Water based model and suggested to extend it further by including surface water aspects and reservoirs in the study area. DG, NWDA explained that reservoir component will be covered in this system study. Sh. A.D. Mohile also requested that DG, NWDA should make a presentation of this system study model in simplified way.

Sh. S.M. Husain raised a query related to Terms of Reference of this System Study and scope of the work.

Sh. Prodipto Ghosh, TERI, appreciated that the model developed by NIH, Roorkee envisages aspect of implications of climate change and further, suggested to include the implications of climate change on demand side also as NIH, Roorkee has considered this aspect for supply side only, so as, to get a better and complete climate change impact.

Chairman, TFILR suggested DG, NWDA to revisit the scope of the work and rectify the terms of Reference, if required.

Item 14.5: Any other Item with the permission of the Chair

Chairman, TFILR proposed to hold the next meeting of TFILR in mid-October with agenda of constitution of NIRA. Thereafter, he requested DG, NWDA for concluding remarks.

DG, NWDA thanked Chairman, TFILR, all the members and special invitees for their valuable and fruitful guidance and deliberations.

Annexure- I**List of Participants of the 14th meeting of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers held on 29th September, 2021 at New Delhi along with Video Conferencing mode.**

1.	Shri Sriram Vedire Chairman, Task Force for ILR & Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Chairman
2.	Shri S.K. Halдар Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
3.	Shri Prodipto Ghosh Former Secretary, MoE&F & Distinguished Fellow, TERI	Member
4.	Shri A.D. Mohile Former Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
5.	Shri M. Gopalakrishnan Former Secretary General, ICID & Former Member, Central Water Commission	Member
6.	Dr. Shobha (Vrushali) Waghmare Social Worker, Working for Sinchan Sahyog, Maharashtra	Member
7.	Shri Bhopal Singh Director General, NWDA	Member-Secretary
8.	Shri K. Vohra Member (WP&P), CWC, New Delhi	Special Invitee
9.	Shri T. S. Mehra Commissioner (B&B), DoWR, RD & GR	Special Invitee
10.	Shri Rakesh Kumar SJC (BM), DoWR, RD & GR	Special Invitee
11.	Shri Shambhu Azad Chief Executive Director, WAPCOS	Special Invitee

12.	Shri S. Masood Husain Former Chairman, Central Water Commission	Special Invitee
13.	Sh. M. S. Dawar Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	Special Invitee
14.	Sh. Ravi Solanki Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Rajasthan	Special Invitee
15.	Sh.G.P. Soni Chief Engineer, BODHI, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	Special Invitee
16.	Dr. J.V. Tyagi Director, NIH, Roorkee	Special Invitee
17.	Dr. M.K. Goel Scientist "G", NIH, Roorkee	Special Invitee
18.	Shri R.K. Jain Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA	Special Invitee
19.	Shri Shiva Prakash Chief Engineer (N), NWDA	Special Invitee
20.	Shri R.N. Sankhua, Chief Engineer (S), NWDA	Special Invitee
OTHER OFFICERS from NWDA		
21.	Shri D. K. Sharma Director (Technical), NWDA	
22.	Shri S.R. Mahor Superintending Engineer (S), NWDA	
23.	Shri S.C. Awasthi Superintending Engineer (N), NWDA	
24.	Shri N.S.R.K. Reddy Superintending Engineer, IC, Hyderabad	