



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)



By E-mail

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No. SCII.R/Tech/400/5/2021/1528-1552


Sub: Thirteenth meeting of the "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" held on 25.02.2021 at Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi as well as through Video Conferencing – reg.

Sir,

The 13th meeting of "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" was held on 25.02.2021 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Sriram Vedire, Chairman of the Task Force & Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR. A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting duly approved by the Chairman, Task Force is enclosed for kind information.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As above.


(Muzaffar Ahmad)
Director (Technical)
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22/3/2021

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).
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3. **Additional Secretary** (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. E mail: aswrs-mowr@nic.in Phone 011- 23710619, Fax 011-23725477.

Contd./-



4. **Shri Prodipto Ghosh**, Former Secretary, MoE&F & Distinguished Fellow, TERI, Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-1101003. E-mail: prodipto@teri.res.in, prodipto5@gmail.com Phone: 011-24682100, 9810490639 (M).
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6. **Shri A.D. Mohile**, Ex. Chairman, CWC, New Delhi. E-mail: anildmohile@gmail.com Phone: 0124-4055262, 9891154061(M).
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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, Fax: 0361-2582440.
10. **Prof. K.V.Raju**, Theme Leader, Policy and Impact, Regional Program-Asia, ICRISAT, Lakshmi Nilaya, No. 20, 3rd Floor, 17th Cross, 15th 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. Phone no. : 011-49016745.
12. **Director General**, NWDA, 18-20, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017, E-mail: dg-nwda@nic.in, Phone: 011-2327582.

Special Invitees:

1. **Shri S Masood Husain**, Former Chairman, CWC, BD/11/D, DDA Flats, Munirka, New Delhi-110067. Email : seyedsmhusain@yahoo.co.in
2. **The Commissioner (FM)**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR,RD & GR, RN.827, Block-11, CGO Complex, New Delhi. Email: commer-mowr@nic.in Phone 011-24368238.
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4. **Shri Shambu Azad**, Chief Executive Director, WAPCOS Ltd. 76-C, Sector-18, Gurugram, Haryana. Email : wrd@wapcos.co.in
5. **Chief Engineer (HQ)**, NWDA, Saket, New Delhi, , E-mail: cehqnwda@rediffmail.com Phone: 011-26852735, Fax: 011-26960841
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7. **Chief Engineer (North)**, NWDA, 4/193 F, Vishal Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P) E-mail: cenlko-nwda@nic.in, Phone: 0522-2304447.
8. **Senior Joint Commissioner (BM)**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR,RD & GR, CGO Complex, Lodhi road, New Delhi. Email: sjcbm-mowr@nic.in.
9. **Superintending Engineer-I**, NWDA, Palika Bhawan, R.K. Puram, Sector-13, New Delhi-110066, E-mail: se1nwda@rediffmail.com, Tel: 011-26852735.
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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, Fax: 011-26960841.
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Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers Held on 25th February, 2021, at MoJS, New Delhi.

The Thirteenth Meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 25th February, 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 **Annex-I**.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers welcomed all the participants and mentioned that Central Government is very keen to implement the ILR programme in the country. He expressed the hope that the consensus amongst the states of the corresponding links would emerge soon so that the ILR projects for which DPRs are already prepared would get implemented at the earliest. On the behalf of Task Force for ILR, Chairman appreciated the efforts of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) for trying to build the consensus amongst the states and also appreciated MoJS for taking the ILR Programme forward in a coordinated manner. Chairman also emphasized the need for good suggestions/ advice from the experts in the water resources sector for arriving consensus among States for implementation of ILR projects. He gave a quick brief about the Secretary level meetings held recently by the ministry for the finalization of MoA for the implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project. The Chairman then requested Director General, NWDA to take up the Agenda items for discussions.

Item 13.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 12th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 16th July, 2020 through Video Conferencing.

Director General, NWDA informed that the minutes of 12th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) held on 16.7.2020 were circulated to the members vide letter dated 29.7.2020. Since no comments were received from any of the members, the Minutes of 12th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers may be confirmed as circulated.

Follow up action on important decisions taken during 12th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers:

As decided in 11th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers, to include a representative of appropriate level from Ministry of External Affairs in TFILR, a request was sent by Ministry of Jal Shakti to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for the same vide DO letter dated 31st July, 2020.

In this regard, it is intimated that the MEA has nominated Shri Arindam Bagchi, Joint Secretary (North) as a representative for inclusion in Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers. However, due to some communication gap, the representative from MEA could not be invited to this meeting of Task Force of ILR. The same is regretted. Henceforth, the representative from the MEA shall be invited to all the meetings and deliberation of TF-ILR.

Item 13.2: Present Status of Integration of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link as proposed under Peninsular Component of NPP with proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project

DG, NWDA gave brief background of the preparation of Pre-feasibility report of integration of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project of Rajasthan. He also informed about the planning, technical and hydrological parameters of the proposal. In the PFR, an exchange of 131 MCM of water in Kuno sub-basin and Parbati sub-basin was proposed and same has been agreed by both states. It would help in reducing the canal length in ERCP thus reducing the cost. Efforts are being made for similar exchange of surplus water of Kalisindh sub-basin also. DG, NWDA informed that the PKS link has been planned based on water availability at 75% dependability. However in the proposed ERCP scheme, the Rajasthan Government aims to utilize about 3500 MCM of water at 50% dependability to meet drinking water requirement of 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan as well as providing irrigation to new command area of about 2 lakh ha and stabilisation of about 0.80 lakh ha of existing command area. Govt. of Madhya Pradesh is insisting to plan all components of ERCP at 75% dependability. A working group was constituted under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC to suggest the water sharing and exchange of water between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with respect to integration of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) Link and also suggest the dependability criteria to be adopted for diversion of water in ERCP in view of objection raised by Govt. of MP. The WG has held two meetings so far.

DG, NWDA informed the members of the TF-ILR that the Chairman of TF-ILR is having frequent consultations and meetings on the matter and informed that the latest review meeting was held by him on this matter on 27th January, 2021 with Chairman CWC, DG NWDA and other senior officers of CWC, NWDA and WAPCOS. DG, NWDA further informed that it was opined in that meeting to plan the ERCP in two phases. Under phase-I, planning may be carried out for utilising about 2000 MCM of water which could be available at 75 percent dependability.

Thereafter, utilisation of water beyond 75% dependability could be planned under Phase-II with consent of both the states.

Sh. S.K.Haldar, Chairman, CWC and Sh. M.Gopalakrishnan, Member, TF-ILR, suggested that all the components of ERCP should preferably be planned considering the water availability at 75% dependability. Sh.S.Masood Husain, former Chairman, CWC also supported the view of considering the water availability at 75 % dependability. Sh.A.D.Mohile opined that in this case, the phase-II is unlikely to come and suggested to reflect advantages for Rajasthan in going with integrating ERCP with PKC versus planning and implementation by Rajasthan of ERCP as a standalone project. After deliberations, it was decided to go ahead with the planning the components of ERCP in two phases and NWDA was asked to organize meetings with both the States to discuss the matter and seek their opinion and also try to obtain consensus for Phase-I initially. NWDA was asked to start the work of preparation of FR/DPR phase-wise starting with phase-I.

Item No.13.3: Status of Ken-Betwa link project

DG, NWDA informed that as per draft MoA, broadly agreed by both the states, in a normal year (annual gross yield in Ken basin upto Daudhan dam being 6590 MCM or more), the state of MP shall utilise total of 2350 MCM (83 TMC) while state of UP shall utilise total of 1700 MCM (60 TMC) annually from the Ken system upto Bariyarpur. The committed releases to MP and UP from the storages in Daudhan reservoir during non-monsoon period (November to May) shall be 1834 MCM and 750 MCM respectively.

DG, NWDA also apprised that both the states will restrict the utilisation of water as per MoA. This will leave more water for environmental needs. In the years of scarcity, the deficit shall be borne by both the states in the ratio of their respective utilisations from Ken system and any deficit in storage of Daudhan reservoir shall be shared by both the states in ratio of their share from Daudhan reservoir storage. Further, on queries regarding the observations of Central Empowered Committee (CEC), DG NWDA intimated that a reply to observations of CEC has been submitted. In the reply it is stressed that the project has been conceived after very long deliberations and it is very much important for Bundelkhand region and there cannot be any alternative to the project. Regarding long term conservation interest of Panna National Park and Panna Tiger Reserve, a Landscape Management Plan (LMP) is being prepared by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, which will take care of many apprehensions and issues in this matter.

Chairman of TF-ILR informed the members that there have been several meetings held by MoJS with both MP and UP and huge efforts were made to sort out the issues. He also informed that Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti has discussed this matter with both Chief Ministers and was able to build consensus on many critical issues. He said that signing of MoA for implementation of the Ken-Betwa link project is round the corner and applauded the efforts of the Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti in sorting out the pending issues and making both the Governments of UP and MP agree to sign the MoU for implementation of the Ken-Betwa link project at the earliest. The members of the task force expressed their appreciation and hoped that the MoA would be signed at the earliest.

Item No.13.4: Par-Tapi-Narmada (PTN) link and Damanganga-Pinjal link projects

DG, NWDA gave brief of the present status of these two link projects. As per the decisions taken in the third meeting of Sub-Committee on consensus building, NWDA carried out the simulation study for assessing the additional quantity of water which can be transferred to Ukai dam through PTN Link. It has been assessed that additional quantum of about 200 MCM can be diverted at 75 percent dependability by way of spills from six reservoirs. The proposal was discussed with both the states in the 4th meeting of Sub-Committee on consensus building held on 10.12.2020.

The proposal not only keeps all the benefits of PTN link as planned with utilization of 1330 MCM of water at 75% dependability intact, but also provides additional water of about 200 MCM for use by state of Maharashtra in Tapi basin which is a deficit basin.

The Chairman, TF-ILR opined that the above proposal of diverting about 200 MCM water in addition to 1330 MCM for PTN link for needs of Tapi basin is very rationale and should be acceptable to both the states. He informed that the matter is being discussed at the highest levels of both the states and it is hoped that a consensus will be arrived soon between both the states on this matter.

All the members opined that the matter should be pursued at the highest levels of both the states to achieve consensus and thus paving the way for signing of the MOA.

Item No.13.5: Alternative proposal of Diversion of Godavari waters upto Cauvery basin (Phase-I)

DG, NWDA gave a brief background of the proposal and its present status. He informed that NWDA has circulated the Draft DPR of this link to the concerned states and most of the states conveyed their suggestions/observations on the draft DPR. He conveyed to the members

that the final DPR is under finalisation after taking into consideration to the extent feasible all the observations that came from the states. He informed to the members that two options exist with regards to the source location of this link on river Godavari. The first option is Inchampalli which is immediately after the confluence of rivers Indravati and Godavari. The second option is at Janampet which is farther downstream of Inchampalli. He also informed that of the several suggestions received from the states and experts, one significant one was to have this link start at the highest elevation possible on river Godavari so that more areas of the concerned states en-route the canal can be brought under new command. Members were asked to deliberate on this issue and suggest the best option to go with. Members discussed this link at length. One observation that was made during the deliberations was that there are few projects that are constructed by Telangana state near to Janampet location and so the command areas of these projects taken up by the state would overlap with the contemplated command area of this link en-route the link canal if the link would originate from Janampet. In this case it would amount to wastage of public exchequer. After taking into consideration this aspect as well as the earlier identified observation to have the link start at the highest possible elevation, the members arrived at the final conclusion that the link should be taken up from Inchampalli only. Accordingly, NWDA was asked to firm up Inchampalli as the source location of this link and accordingly finalise the DPR. NWDA was also asked to have consultations with the concerned states and bring up consensus amongst them.

Item 13.6: Way forward for water balance in Godavari and Cauvery basins and sharing of Cauvery and Godavari water by visiting/revisiting the existing tribunal award.

DG, NWDA gave a brief about Surplus Water for Transfer and Utilisation of Transferred Water in Deficit Basins. He informed that the water balance in Godavari basin between Sriramsagar and Inchampalli was estimated in March 2018, as 5002 MCM at 75% dependability, after duly considering all the existing, ongoing and proposed upstream reservations and downstream commitments in the basin and same is proposed to be transferred along with some portion of unutilised water in Indravati sub-basin. State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh insist that there is no surplus in Godavari basin and they plan to use all the water in the basin as allocated by Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal (GWDT) award. In the Alternative proposal of Diversion of Godavari waters up to Cauvery basin (Phase-I), it is proposed to transfer 7000 MCM to Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins benefiting only states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu but other states (Karnataka, Kerala etc) are also asking for share in the transferred water in Krishna and Cauvery basins in the phase-I itself.

The Chairman of TF-ILR suggested to impress upon the States to drop those project(s) that are targeting the common command areas as covered by interlinking of rivers plan of Central Govt. under NPP. It would help in the implementation and integrating state proposals serving common objectives in terms of funding and benefits.

Sh.A.D.Mohile opined that current system of state wise allocation of water in a basin by a tribunal is not conducive for optimal and economic utilization of water resources in the country. It has led to planning of a number of schemes involving huge lift which may not be that viable economically. He was of the opinion that there is ample scope for taking up some of identified links of peninsular component for driving early benefits. He also stressed that water transfer to a basin should benefit all the co-basin states to the extent feasible economically.

Sh. M.Gopalakrishnan stressed that water resources is a common good of the country and should be utilized optimally in the best interest of society. There should be a master plan for each basin indicating their surpluses and deficits and the co-basin states in a river basin should themselves project their inputs for a Basin Master Plan (existing as well as future, with available hydrological data). He also stated that the issues concerning Inter State Water Disputes and ILR and the present method of making progress might be extremely tedious, notwithstanding pursuing the same approach, which is well known. We should attempt pari passu, introducing all the bills and vigorously push it. Task Force as an advisory committee of SCILR should handle this delicate task during main SCILR meetings.

Sh.S.Masood Husain expressed his views that building consensus is a difficult task if States are asked to give their surpluses. He opined to consider the recommendations of Working Group on Legal Aspects for this purpose and initiate requisite legal and institutional reforms.

Item 13.7: Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link project

DG, NWDA informed that as inter-basin water transfer from Mahanadi to Godavari and further south is very critical not only for proposed water transfer of Brahmaputra water to Ganga and further south but also for making any progress on Mahanadi-Godavari link and Godavari-Cauvery link system.

The feasibility studies of MSTG link have been carried out in following three scenarios:

(i) Considering proposed Manas and Sankosh Dams (Alternative-I) when both Dams will come.

(ii) Without considering proposed Manas dam but with Sankosh Dam (Alternative-II) when only Sankosh Dam will come and having unregulated flow of Manas river.

(iii) Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link (Alternative-III) no contribution from Manas River and avoiding Manas-Sankosh link.

The FR has been completed and circulated to all concerned states and organisations for comments.

Chairman, TF-ILR stated that MSTG link is very critical for any progress on Mahanadi-Godavari and Godavari-Cauvery link systems. He suggested that the preparation of DPR of the link with alternative-II above be taken up.

In this regard, Sh T. S. Mehra, Commissioner(B&B), MoJS intimated that a Working Group under the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power with representation from MoJS is already working on negotiation on Sankosh HEP with Royal Govt. of Bhutan. There is already a provision for head works below Sankosh dam for utilization of water suitably by India and as such this issue of diversion of water through MSTG link may not be required to be taken up separately. With regard to Bangladesh, there is existing bilateral mechanism like Joint River Commission in which the issue can be discussed with Bangladesh. Some compensation in Teesta to Bangladesh would be helpful in bringing the Bangladesh on board.

It was agreed to suggest Ministry of Jal Shakti to start involving Ministry of External Affairs in this matter right away, for taking the work on MSTG link forward.

Item 13.8: Mahanadi (Barmul) – Godavari (Dawleswaram) link project

DG, NWDA informed the issue of Mahanadi-Godavari link was deliberated with the officials of Govt. of Odisha in the meeting held by DG, NWDA on 11th January, 2021 at Bhubaneswar.

Government of Orissa is looking forward for proposed water transfer from Subarnarekha to Mahanadi (S-M) before considering the proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari link.

FR of S-M link has been completed and circulated. NWDA is further, planning to take up the work of preparation the DPR of Mahanadi-Godavari link in this year in close coordination of state of Odisha.

Item 13.9: Any other Item with the permission of the Chair

DG, NWDA proposed to increase the frequency of meetings of Task Force on ILR and suggested to take issues of one or two links at a time for discussion in detail. The Chairman agreed with the proposal and decided to conduct the meetings of TF-ILR more frequently preferably on quarterly basis.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair as well as participants.

Annex- I

List of Participants of the Thirteenth meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 25th February, 2021 at New Delhi along with Video Conference.

1.	Shri Sriram Vedire Chairman, Task Force for ILR& Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Chairman
2.	Shri S.K. Halder Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
3.	Additional Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Member (Did not attend)
4.	Shri Prodipto Ghosh, Former Secretary, MoE&F& Distinguished Fellow, TERI	Member (Did not attend)
5.	JS & FA, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Member (Did not attend)
6.	Shri A.D. Mohile Former Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
7.	Shri M. Gopalakrishnan Former Secretary General, ICID & Former Member, Central Water Commission	Member
8.	Dr. Shobha (Vrushali) Waghmare Social Worker, Working for SinchanSahyog, Maharashtra	Member
9.	Prof. Chandan Mahanta, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Guwahati	Member (Did not attend)
10.	Prof. K. V. Raju Theme Leader, Policy and Impact, Regional Program-Asia, ICRISAT, J.P. Nagar, Bangaluru	Member
11.	Shri Bhopal Singh Director General, NWDA	Member-Secretary
12.	Shri K. Vohra Member (WP&P), CWC, New Delhi	Special Invitee
13.	Shri Vijay Saran Chief Engineer (PAO), CWC, New Delhi	Special Invitee
14.	Shri Atul Jain Commissioner (FM), DoWR, RD & GR.	Special Invitee

15.	Shri T. S. Mehra Commissioner (B&B), DoWR, RD & GR	Special Invitee
16.	Shri Shambhu Azad Chief Executive Director, WAPCOS.	Special Invitee
17.	Shri S. Masood Husain Former Chairman, Central Water Commission	Special Invitee
18.	Shri R.K. Jain Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA	Special Invitee
19.	Shri K.P. Gupta Chief Engineer (N), NWDA	Special Invitee
20.	Sh. R.N.Sankhua, Chief Engineer (S), NWDA	Special Invitee
	OTHER OFFICERS	
21.	Shri Muzaffar Ahmad Director (Technical), NWDA	
22.	Shri D. K. Sharma Superintending Engineer , NWDA	
23.	Shri R. K. Kharbanda Superintending Engineer , NWDA	
24.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta Deputy Director (Technical), NWDA	