

Minutes of the meeting of the 7th State Ganga Rejuvenation Protection and Management Committee (SGC), West Bengal under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and ex-officio Chairperson of the State Ganga Committee (SGC) held on 18th December, 2023 at 12:00 Noon.

Venue: Conference Hall, Nabanna, 13th Floor.

List of participants: As per list enclosed (Annexure – 1)

Agenda – 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 6th State Ganga Committee (SGC) meeting on the workings of the West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group held on 7th November, 2022.

The minutes of the 6th meeting of State Ganga Committee (SGC) held on 7th November, 2022 were read out and confirmed.

The decisions taken in the 6th State Ganga Committee Meeting under NGRBA framework were taken up for discussion pointwise and the related progress was reviewed.

Agenda – 2: Adoption of Annual Accounts of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) for the Financial Year 2022-2023.

The audited Annual accounts for the Financial Year 2022-2023 was placed before the committee for perusal which has been adopted and approved.

West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) has been advised to take consequent action like inviting the Principal A.G. (Audit – I), West Bengal for the transaction and Accounts audit, Statement of expenditure (SoE) audit for World Bank Financed Projects and observing other relevant statutory compliances subsequently to adoption of Accounts.

Agenda – 3: Review of Liquid Waste Management

Water Quality of Rivers

The Program Director, WBSPMG presented the PPT on Liquid Waste Management.

In her deliberation, she highlighted that the Water Quality of all rivers, except that of Mahananda complies with the bathing standard set by Hon'ble NGT. On this point Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal wanted to know the reasons of poor quality of River Mahananda. The Commissioner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) who was present through Video Conference stated that the reasons for poor water quality of water is mainly due to the discharge from Khatahs from the banks of the river Mahananda. Commissioner, SMC was directed to take immediate corrective measures and also instructed to prepare action plan for its Pollution Abatement including establishment of CBG Plant.

In the meeting, Program Director, WBSPMG conveyed that in the recently conducted RRC Meeting chaired by the Member Secretary, WBPCB and Chairman of RRC Committee, raised concerns on the poor quality of water of river Mahananda. All Stakeholders were directed to take concerted effort, so that Pollution in river Mahananda can be brought under control immediately.

So far as the water quality of River Ganga is concerned it may be mentioned that excepting three (3) locations namely at Farakkha, Garden-Reach & Howrah water quality of all other locations are complying with the Hon'ble NGT norms and within the permissible limit of BOD of 3.0 mg./ ltr.

Progress of on-going STP projects:

The progress of the installation of the on-going STP projects was reviewed at length Project wise and Hon'ble CS expressed his satisfaction on the work being done by the West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG). On this point the Program Director, WBSPMG intimated that the Howrah – Bally – Baranagar STP Project, implemented under HAM, is going to be commissioned partially on December 19, 2023 which will augment Liquid Waste treatment capacity of the State by 50 MLD.

She also intimated in the meeting that the STP Project at Hooghly-Chinsurah will also go for partial commissioning from the end of December, 2023.

The progress of three (3) STP Projects being implemented by the KMC under KEIIP at Joka (45 MLD), M.G. Road (40 MLD) & Rania (23 MLD) was reviewed. It is observed that the progress of work excepting that for Rania is required to be expedited and upscaled.

Upcoming Projects:

Program Director, WBSPMG informed in the meeting that the upcoming STP Projects at Katwa, Murshidabad are under examination of NMCG.

Up-coming Pollution Abatement of Adi Ganga EAP Project under World Bank funding:

Program Director, WBSPMG intimated in the meeting that the pre-Bid quires for the project, involving three STPs and critical networking have been uploaded in the e-tender Portal and Bid submission deadline has been extended upto **10th January, 2024**. On this point Hon'ble CS stated that we can hope to start the work immediately after finalization of Bid.

Dredging Work in Tolly Nullah (Adi Ganga):

Hon'ble CS inquired about the progress of dredging work of Tolly Nullah, which has been funded from State Budget. The Commissioner, KMC conveyed that 14.5 KM dredging work from confluence of Adi Ganga to Chetla bridge is expected to be completed prior to the upcoming monsoon.

Pollution Abatement on River Churni under Ranaghat Municipality:

Progresses of installation of 2 STPs are seemed to be satisfactory but land issues at Jianagar (5.2 MLD) are there which need to be sorted out immediately. On this point District Magistrate, Nadia was taken on the Video Conference & Hon'ble CS heard his submission and directed to sort out issue immediately

➤ Bagjola STP Project for Pollution Abatement of River Vidyadhari & Bagjola Canal:

Four (4) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are planned for installation along the Bagjola Canal to address its pollution. Among these, one is scheduled for installation in Baranagar, while the remaining three are earmarked for North Dumdum, South Dumdum, and Bidhannagar. The bidding processes for all the STPs are currently at various stages. On this point Hon'ble CS enquired about non-participation of bidders on successive occasions and directed to address the issues for successful tendering.

➤ Pollution Abatement Work at River Damodar:

Revised DPR for Asansol & Durgapur STP & FSTP Projects are likely to be finalized by the KMDA and submitted with the West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) for taking up the matter with the NMCG by 29/12/2023.

➤ **Preparation of Micro Planning for Pollution Abatement in the District:**

In the discussions on the issue of Liquid Waste Management (LWM) in both Urban and Rural areas of the state arose. On this point the Hon'ble CS has instructed for **preparation of District-wise micro planning in all the 128 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** and the Rural Areas. The focus of this micro planning is to outline sewage generation taking into account the anticipated population for the year 2038, and account for the existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and FSTPs along with proposed installations. In the micro planning, it is essential to integrate convergence of sewage management in the urban and rural areas.

Status of implementation of FSTP Projects:

Ganga Towns:

One FSTP Project in Burdwan Town (50 Kld.) is under bidding process, another at Bansberia has recently been sanctioned by the NMCG. 5 FSTP Projects (Uttarpara, Ranaghat, Pujali, Chakdha & Garulia Municipalities) are under process of implementation by NMCG.

On this point the Hon'ble CS desired to know the quantum of septage generated per capita. Prof. Dr. Arunabha Majumder stated that 120 Ltr. per capita per year septage is usually taken for ascertaining the capacity of FSTP to be installed.

FSTP Projects at Non – KMDA, Non – Ganga Town Area:

2 Pilot Projects at Siliguri & Kharagpore are under bidding process.

Out of the 54 Non – Ganga Towns, 17 FSTPs for 17 Amrut Cities are likely to be setup from the fund of AMRUT. For Setting up of 37 FSTPs, preparation of DPRs is under process in MED, UD & MA Department, GoWB in collaboration with IIT, Kharagpore as technology partner.

Co – Treatment of Faecal Sludge:

Program Director, WBSPMG highlighted the successful co-treatment of faecal sludge in operational STPs with an incremental co-treatment of 755.4 KL. This achievement has been documented in the WBPCB water Quality Report October 2023 showcasing a notable reduction in Faecal Coliform level at Palta Shitalatala and Serampore stations.

Agenda 4: Status of the River Ghat Development Projects (RFD) and Electric Crematoria:

Progress on Ghat Development and Electric Crematoria is outlined as below:

- ❖ Prabhupada Ghat at ISKCON: 62% completion
- ❖ Electric Crematorium at Kalyani: 21% completion (NOC from KoPT is pending)
- ❖ Electric Crematorium at Kaliganj: 4% completion.
- ❖ Eco Green Crematorium at Barrackpore: Under bidding (1st call did not mature, 2nd call under process).

Agenda 5: Miscellaneous

i) Strengthening of Laboratory under WBPCB:

On this point WBPCB pointed out that the Regional Laboratory at Malda is under process of strengthening and procurement of different equipments both for the Central & Regional Laboratories is under progress.

ii) Forestry Intervention to Clean Ganga (FIG)

NMCG has been releasing fund for forestry Intervention Project under Ganga Pollution Abatement Work and a sum of Rs. 21.56 Cr. has already been spent for afforestation under Namami Gange Project. Necessary care and protection need be extended so that the saplings can grow up.

iii) Ratification of engagement/extension of Service of Contractual Offers/Employees:

Terms of Contractual Engagement of Officials/Employees, engaged earlier and extended for a further period of 1 year, has been ratified.

Fresh engagement of 5 Officials as per approved setup and guidelines of NMCG for 1 year term has also been ratified.

The matter of filling of 3 vacant posts including that 1 for IEC Wing also came up for discussion and the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal directed to take up the issues with the NMCG, so that the 3 vital posts for the working of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) is filled up without any loss of time.

iv) Proposal for introduction of Medical Insurance and Contributory Provident Fund for the existing Employees of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG):

The matter of introduction of Medical Insurance and Contributory Provident Fund for the existing Employees of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) also came up for discussion and it is decided to explore the scope of implementation and take up the matter with the NMCG as they are the funding agency.

v) Issues & Concern:

a) North Barrackpore STP Project under HAM (8 MLD STP):

It is resolved to take up the matter with the Barrackpore Cantonment Board to allow for setting up of STP on the land of Cantonment Board since the approach road for **Monirampore STP (8 MLD)** is yet to be resolved.

b) Kaliganj Electric Crematorium:

The District Magistrate, Nadia intimated that the land selected earlier cannot be spared, in place, an alternative land is on the process of identification.

c) Land issue of STP (5.2 MLD) for Churni River at Jianagar:

Land issues at Jianagar for setting up of STP (5.2 MLD) is yet to be resolved. On this point, Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal directed the District Magistrate, Nadia to sort out the issue immediately.

d) Issues for setting up of Krishnanagar STP Project under NMCG:

Program Director, WBSPMG intimated in the meeting that AA & ES has been issued but some scope of work like Power Connection Charges, Utility Shifting Charges and cost of Cess Pool vehicle has been excluded by the NMCG in the sanction with the condition that such expenditure should be borne by the State. This proposal is under active consideration of the State Government.

➤ **Construction of CBG Plant:**

The matter of construction of CBG Plant at Dankuni, Hooghly and Palta, North 24 Parganas also came up for discussion.

The Program Director, WBSPMG informed that the soil test is being carried out at the proposed site for CBG Plant at Dankuni by the HPCL itself to ascertain the proposed soil condition of the site.

GAIL, CPSU examined the possibility of setting up of CBG Plant at Palta, North 24 Parganas. The GAIL intimated that they will be unable to lift the Cow Dung from the Khatal and the State is to arrange for delivery of Cow Dung alongwith segregated Municipal Solid Waste at the Plant with free of cost. On this point the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal suggested to develop a Revenue Model so that the project can be made feasible as some benefit will be required to be passed over to the Khatal Owners otherwise the arrangements may not be workable.

➤ **Legacy Waste Management:**

The Program Director, WBSPMG presented the status as below:

- ❖ Total No. of dump sites: 84 (70 ULBs).
- ❖ Incremental progress on Handing over of Dump sites from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 4.
- ❖ Incremental progress on quantity processed from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 1.93 Lakh MT (6%)
- ❖ Incremental progress in total disposal from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 0.91 Lakh MT (3.2%)
- ❖ Incremental progress on Disposal of RDF from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 0.24 Lakh MT (12.1%)
- ❖ Incremental progress on Disposal of Inert from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 0.38 Lakh MT (3.6%)
- ❖ Incremental progress on Disposal of Good Earth from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 1.12 Lakh MT (7.3%)
- ❖ Incremental progress on Land Reclamation from August, 2023 to November, 2023: 11.97 Acres (6.51%)

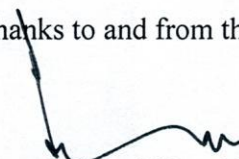
Program Director, WBSPMG pointed out that the land reclaimed by processing of Legacy Waste is being occupied by dumping of fresh Solid Waste.

She also intimated that integrated Solid Waste Management Program has been taken up in 16 Municipalities for which Tender floated has been extended upto 15/01/2024 for submission of bid.

Instruction given by Hon'ble CS.

Directions have been received from Chief Secretary for forming a Task Force under WBPCB for monitoring of Liquid Waste, Solid Waste and Bio Gas Management in a comprehensive manner, for preparation of micro level planning in each district by taking into account the convergence of urban and rural areas towards Solid, Liquid Waste Management and Construction of CBG Plant. The Task Force may take up any/all issues related with the total waste management of the State. Hon'ble CS has given three months' time to present the first draft.

Since there were no other issues to discuss, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
&

Chairperson, State Ganga Committee
West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group

List of Members and other Officials present in the 7th State Ganga Rejuvenation Protection and Management Committee (SGC), West Bengal held 18th December, 2023 at 12:00 Noon in the 13th Floor Conference Hall of Nabanna, Howrah.

Members present in the meeting -

1. Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee
2. Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest & Ex-Officio, Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG
3. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Ex-Officio, Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG
4. Shri P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary, Department of Irrigation & Waterways & Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG
5. Shri Khalil Ahmed, Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs & Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG
6. Shri Binod Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority in the rank of Principal Secretary & Ex-Officio Member of the State Ganga Committee
7. Program Director, West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG)
8. Prof. Arunabha Majumder, Department of School of Water Resources, Jadavpur University, Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG
9. Prof. Anirban Gupta, Department of Civil Engineering, IEST, Shibpur, Member of the State Ganga Committee of SPMG

Officials present in the meeting-

1. Member Secretary, West Bengal State Pollution Control Board
2. Dhaval Jain, Commissioner, HMC
3. Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Department
4. Capt. Abhijit Ghosh, Director, Marine Department, SMPK
5. Dharmdeo Ravi, CEO, Department of Environment
6. Biswajit Ghosh, DCP (HQ), Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate
7. S. Ghoshal, Director, State Urban Development Agency
8. Joly Chaudhury, Additional Secretary, UD&MA Department
9. K. Radhika Aiyar, Project Director, KEIIP
10. Pratik Dhumal, Assistant Project Director, WBSPMG
11. Ranjan Kumar Jana, Director (Finance & Administration), WBSPMG
12. Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Technical Advisor, WBPCB
13. Kamalesh Basak, DG, GAP, KMDA
14. Dr. Sukdeb Das, Special Law Officer, UD&MA Department
15. Asraful Islam, Chief Engineer, KMDA
16. Sujay Mitra, Chief Manager, Planning & Monitoring
17. Suman Saha, Chief Engineer (E/M), KMDA
18. Kingshuk Roy, Chief Engineer, MED
19. D. Sarkar, Deputy Chief Engineer, KEIIP, KMC
20. Prantik Ray, Chief Engineer, GAP, KMDA
21. Rajib Sadhu Chief Engineer, SD&SWM
22. Public Health Engineer, WBSPMG
23. Dr. A. K. Nath, Kolkata Port Trust
24. P. P. Dutta, Kolkata Port Trust
25. R. Mukherjee, SMPK
26. Shibaji Bandopadhyay, Executive Engineer, KMC
27. Vibha Shankar, Kolkata Port Trust
28. Moumita Mitra, Law Officer, UD&MA Department