

Minutes of the Meeting of the 8th State Ganga Rejuvenation Protection and Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as the State Ganga Committee for 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 06th November, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

Venue: Conference Hall, Nabanna, 13th Floor.

Chairperson: Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and ex-officio Chairperson of the State Ganga Committee

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

The Chief Secretary welcomed all the members of the State Ganga Committee in the Meeting and initiated the discussion.

Secretary, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department, West Bengal and Executive Chairperson, WBSPMG presented the status of the implementation of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) Program in the State. The Secretary, UD & MA Department, West Bengal narrated in detail and requested Program Director, WBSPMG to present the status of the Liquid Waste Management (LWM) Programme in the State.

- **Agenda – 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 7th State Ganga Committee (SGC) Meeting on the working of the West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) held on 18/12/2023:**

The minutes of the 7th State Ganga Committee (SGC) Meeting held on 18/12/2023 were read, reviewed and confirmed.

- **Agenda – 2: Adoption of Annual Accounts of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) for the Financial Year 2023-2024.**

The audited annual accounts for the Financial Year 2023-2024 were placed before the committee for perusal which were adopted and approved.

West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) was directed to take consequent actions:

- a. Invite the Principal A.G. (Audit – I), West Bengal for the transaction and accounts audit
- b. Statement of Expenditure (SoE) audit for World Bank financed projects and
- c. observing other relevant statutory compliances subsequent to adoption of Accounts

[Action: WBSPMG]

- **Agenda – 3: Review of Liquid Waste Management**

The Program Director, WBSPMG presented the status of the implementation of the Liquid Waste Management (LWM) Program in the State as below:

✓ **Sewage Generation in Ganga Towns**

- a) Estimated Sewage Generation (based on Estimated Population in Urban areas in the year, 2022 taking 2011 Census as base.)

Kolkata –	356.10 MLD
DGCs–	1044.90 MLD
Total –	1401.00 MLD

b) Details of Sewage Management in Ganga Towns:

i	Capacity of 39 existing operational STPs	:	622.00 MLD
ii	Capacity of 9 STPs under Construction	:	204.50 MLD
iii	Capacity augmentation through renovation of Garden–Reach STP and the Keorapukur STP	:	13.00 MLD
iv	Capacity of 17 STPs under Proposal/ Tendering Stage	:	400.74 MLD
v	Capacity of Existing Private STPs (as per list received from WBPCB)	:	78.00 MLD
	Total Treatment Capacity	:	1318.24MLD
	Gap in Sewage Generation & Treatment facility to be covered by setting up further STPs/ FSTPs	:	83 MLD

In this regard, it was informed that affirmation was made before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (HNGT) that 86% of the capacity of the functional STPs, including that of East Kolkata Wetland (EKW), has been utilized. The situation has since improved slightly & the present capacity utilization is 89%, including that of EKW.

The Chief Secretary directed KMC & WBPCB to conduct a joint inspection at the earliest to verify the actual quantum of sewage being treated in EKW (stated to be 910 MLD).

[Action: KMC & WBPCB]

• **Status of Water Quality of River Ganga:**

- ✓ **During the year 2018**, River Ganga was Prioritized under Polluted River Category **III** with maximum BOD level 12.0 mg/L.
- ✓ **In the year 2022**, it was in the **Category IV** with maximum BOD 8.0 mg/L.
- ✓ **In September, 2024**, River Ganga is now in **Priority Category V** in terms of BOD Parameter with maximum BOD Level 2.92 mg/L (Source: WBPCB report).

However, high Faecal Coliform remains a matter of concern. The department is addressing this issue by setting up new STP/FSTPs and **in-situ treatment** of sewage in the drains discharging in River Ganga.

The incremental progress of ongoing STP projects since last SGC meeting held in December, 2023 were presented:

SL. No	Project Name	Progress as on last review meeting	Progress as on September 2024	Incremental Progress
1	Howrah-Bally Baranagar	94.91%	96.24%	1.33%
2	Jangipur & Raghunathganj	56.30%	62.20%	5.90%
3	Berhampore	49.50%	57.26%	7.76%
4	Hooghly Chinsurah	81.00%	88.40%	7.40%
5	Maheshtala	43.35%	83.13%	39.78%
6	North Barrackpore	2%	42.853%	40.853%
7	Chakdah	Technical Bid under evaluation under NMCG	17.20%	17.20%
8	Garden Reach	-	Work Just Started	-

KEIIP Project, Funded by ADB

SL. No	Project Name	Progress as on last review meeting	Progress as on September 2024	Incremental Progress
1	Joka	66.90%	68.60%	1.70%
2	M.G.Road	72.60%	76.50%	3.90%
3	Rania	93.00%	98.80%	5.80%

The details of the upcoming projects which are under tendering, DPRs under examination of NMCG & the DPR under preparation under the Executing Agencies are listed below:

✓ Under Tendering:

Sl. No.	Project Details	Value of the Project (Rs. In Crore)	Status
1	FSTP in Burdwan (50 KLD)	6.46	TPA completed on the revised DPR; Awaiting approval from NMCG.
2	Krishnanagar STP (14 MLD)	91.88	TBER is under examination at NMCG
3	Bansberia FSTP (15 KLD)	4.56	Tender floated.
4	Katwa STP (14 MLD)	133.46	Under tendering stage.
5	Murshidabad STP (4 MLD SBR-New & 2 MLDWSP-Renovation)	72.63	

✓ **DPR under examination in the NMCG:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Status
1	Serampore STP (115 MLD)	DPR is under examination at NMCG
2	STP on Kestopur (41 MLD)	The revised & updated DPR is under examination at NMCG.

✓ **DPR under preparation by the Executing Agency:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Status
1	Santipur STP (18.10 MLD)	Revised DPR preparation is under progress.

✓ **Upcoming Projects BY KMC:**

Sl. No.	Projects Details	Status
1	Keorapukur STP (50 MLD) Project	Revised and updated DPR was placed before NMCG and TPA visit has been completed.
2.	Tolly's Nullah (Adi Ganga Project)	Combined Bid Evaluation Report is under finalization.

• **Fund Provision under NG II:**

The Namami Gange Project – I came to an end on 30/12/2021. Subsequently, NMCG initiated the Namami Gange II Programme, with the earmarked fund allocation of Rs. 2885 Crore for carrying out pollution abatement work for River Ganga in West Bengal. The status of the cost of the sanctioned projects, projects under NMCG's examination and projects under preparation stage under NG-II are as follows:

A	Sanctioned Project Cost	Rs. 1450.40 Cr.
B	Project Cost which are under examination of NMCG	Rs. 1213.58 Cr.
C	Project cost which are under revision stage (Santipur, Asansol & Durgapur)	Rs. 525 Cr.

It was resolved to take up the issue with NMCG for augmentation of fund for priority STP projects in the State such as STP-I (on the right bank) of river Mahananda, Champdani, Diamond Harbour, Haldia, Rishra, Dhulian and Uluberia Municipal Towns.

[Action: WBSPMG & NMCG]

• **Faecal Sludge & Septage Management:**

- ✓ At present, there are 2 functional FSTPs at Promodnagar and Dum Dum with a total capacity of 60 KLD.
- ✓ DPRs on FSTP in Burdwan (50 KLD) and Bansberia (15 KLD) are under tendering stage.
- ✓ DPRs on FSTP for Uttarpara, Ranaghat & Pujali Municipalities have been submitted to NMCG and it is under their examination.
- ✓ DPRs for setting up of FSTP for Bhadreswar and Garulia towns under PBIG Scheme are under examination of NMCG.

The Chief Secretary instructed to expedite completion of FSTP projects for addressing Faecal Coliform issue.

[Action: WBSPMG & NMCG]

• **Status of Sludge & Septage Management in the Functional STPs:**

- ✓ There has been a reduction in the Faecal Coliform Level in River Ganga at the monitoring stations of Farakka, Khagra, Berhampore, Gorabazar, Nabadwip, Tribeni, Palta Shitalatala, Palta, Serampore, Dakhineswar, Garden Reach, Howrah-Shivpur, Uluberia and Diamond Harbour in September, 2024 (Source: WBPCB report) due to co-treatment of septage in the functional STPs in the State as furnished below:

✓ **Status of co-treatment:**

Total as on the last SGC Meeting (December, 2023)	Total as on (October, 2024)	Incremental Progress
1353.60 KL	7911.65 KL	6558.05 KL

• **Ghat Development:**

Program Director, WBSPMG reported that the progress of Ghat Development work at Prabhupada Ghat, Mayapur, Nabadwip stands at 73.7% and it is expected to be completed by February, 2025.

The Chief Secretary directed WBSPMG and EPIL to complete the project within the schedule timeline.

[Action: WBSPMG & EPIL]

• **Achievement of LWM Programme in West Bengal:**

Program Director, WBSPMG highlighted the following achievements in Liquid Waste Managements in the State in recent times

- ✓ STP capacity has been enhanced by 187 MLD in Howrah-Bally-Baranagar, 26.5 MLD in Hooghly-Chinsurah & 6.6 MLD in Ranaghat (Churni River) for a total capacity of 220.1 MLD.
- ✓ State has received sanction for an incentive grant under PBIG for renovation of 3 (Three) electric crematoria in Santipur, Chakdah and Garulia which is first instance of its kind under NMCG.
- ✓ NMCG has sanctioned Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 1 (One) Crore for preparation of DPR for Pollution Abatement Programme of river Ganga making it the first instance among 5 Ganga States.

- ✓ KMC and CESC are exploring possibility of the re-use of treated waste water from Garden Reach STP in nearby power plant.
- ✓ Through sustained efforts under LWM programme coupled with mass awareness campaigns, the State has successfully improved the water quality of river Ganga from pollution Category-III to Category-V.

• **Agenda – 4: Finalization of the list of Ganga Towns in West Bengal:**

The draft list of Ganga Towns as on date was put up before the SGC for consideration, keeping in view the communication received from the NMCG.

It was resolved in the meeting that the matter may be put up before the forthcoming **RRC Meeting** in the State scheduled to be held on November 29, 2024.

However, Chief Secretary directed to keep all the Ganga Towns previously selected along with new ones while finalizing the fresh list.

[Action: RRC Committee]

• **Agenda – 5: Sewage Generation based on population as on 2024:**

It was decided that the issue of sewage generation in Ganga Towns based on population data 2024 is to be taken up in the forthcoming RRC Meeting, on priority basis, scheduled to be held on November 29, 2024.

[Action: RRC Committee]

• **Agenda – 6: Renaming of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) to State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG), West Bengal:**

The proposal was considered and decision was taken to initiate action for renaming of West Bengal State NGRBA Program Management Group (WBSPMG) to **State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG), West Bengal**.

[Action: UD&MA Department]

• **Agenda – 7: Miscellaneous:**

- ✓ **Status of Project “Strengthening of Laboratory of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (Nov. 2023-Oct. 2024) –**The Strengthening of Laboratories under West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) was reviewed at length. WBPCB has been requested to establish more Water Quality Monitoring Stations in Hooghly and North 24 Parganas districts as most of Ganga Towns are located in these two districts.

The Member Secretary, WBPCB suggested that laboratories under the PHE Directorate (PHED) could be utilised for testing of water quality parameters including BOD, COD & other related matrix.

The Chief Secretary instructed concerned departments to explore the feasibility of utilising PHE laboratories for testing of water quality in accordance with the standard norms.

[Action: PHE Department, UD&MA Department, WBPCB, Department of Environment]

✓ **Forestry Intervention to Clean Ganga –**

The Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) participated in the meeting virtually and informed the committee that some fund has been lying with them unutilised and they have not received any fund for the last 2 (two) years from NMCG and they proposed to refund the unutilised fund.

The Chief Secretary instructed the PCCF to utilize the allocated fund already allocated to them fully and to submit the utilization certificate accordingly.

He further directed PCCF to coordinate with NMCG for fresh release of fund for taking up forestry intervention in West Bengal.

[Action: Department of Forest and WBSPMG]

✓ **Extension of Contractual Engagement –**

The extension allowed to the 13 (thirteen) Officials & Employees of WBSPMG after the last State Ganga Committee meeting was ratified.

It was also informed in the meeting that the 3 (three) Senior Officials engaged in the WBSPMG as (i) Senior Financial Specialist, (ii) Senior Civil Engineer & (iii) Public Health Engineer will soon attain 65 (sixty-five) years of age. They have been playing pivotal role in the implementation of the NMCG Programme in the State. NMCG allowed 3 (three) months extension to the concerned officials and recommended that younger professionals be considered for future appointments to the said positions. WBSPMG suggested setting up the maximum entry age for these positions at 62 years given the technical and managerial expertise.

The Chief Secretary considered the views and directed WBSPMG to take up the issue with the NMCG.

[Action: NMCG and WBSPMG]

- ✓ **Land Issue:** WBSPMG also reported that they have been facing challenges in acquiring land for setting up of new STPs due to non-availability in of land in certain areas. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the state has an established land policy. If land is not available in accordance with this policy, alternative option should be explored to ensure optimal utilization of land resources.

[Action-UD & MA Department and WBSPMG]

✓ **Operation & Maintenance of Existing STPs/ FSTPs:**

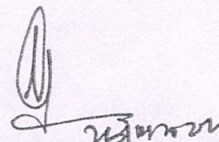
It was informed that after installation of STPs, NMCG took the responsibility for their Operation & Maintenance for a period 5/10/15 years as stipulated in the issued AA&ES.

As of now, some of the assets created have already completed their primary maintenance period under NMCG.

The Chief Secretary has directed UD&MA department to formulate a suitable policy within 1 (one) month to address this issue.

[Action: UD&MA Department]

Having 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**