Mi/24/2020-HR NMCG
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
National Mission for Clean Ganga
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1st Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
New Delhi-110001

Dated: 10th June 2026

Sub: Minutes of 70th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mission for Clean Ganga

Please find enclosed minutes of 70th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) held on 15th May 2026 through hybrid mode, for kind information and necessary action.

10/06/26

(Vinod Kumar Gupta)
Deputy Secretary (Admin.)

To

1. Joint Secretary (PFC-I/PF-States), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi-110001
2. JS & FA, DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
3. Adviser (WR&LR), NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001
4. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Uttarakhand, 43/6, Mata Mandir Road, Dharmapur, Dehradun, Uttarkhand-248001.
5. Principal Secretary (UD), Urban Development Department (UDD), 834, Bapu Bhawan, Lucknow- 226001.
6. Principal Secretary (UD & Housing), Urban Development and Housing Department (UDHD), Vikas Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar-800015.
7. Principal Secretary (UD), Urban Development Department (UDD), 4th Floor, Project Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi- 834004.
8. Principal Secretary (UD), Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA), Nagarayan, Sector-I, Block-DF-8, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700064.
9. All Executive Directors/DDG of NMCG

Copy to: -

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti
2. PPS to Secretary (WR, RD & GR)
3. Project Director, SMCG Group, 105 (New No.545/941), Rajpur Road, Opp. RTO office, Dehradun 248001
4. Project Director, SMCG, Plot No. 18, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226010
5. Project Director, SPMG Group (Secretary, Urban Development), Government of Bihar, Vikash Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar – 800001
6. Project Director, SPMG Group Urban Development & Housing Department, Room no. 403, 4th Floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834004
7. Project Director, SMCG Group Unnayan Bhawan', 3rd Floor, DJ-11, Sector-II, Block-A, KMDA, Kolkata- 700091
8. PPS to DG, NMCG- for his kind information

Minutes of the 70th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) held on 15th May 2026 at NMCG Office, New Delhi

The 70th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held on 15th May 2026 at 02:00 PM at NMCG office, Delhi through hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Director General (DG), NMCG.

Executive Director (Admin.), NMCG welcomed the Director General, NMCG, members of the Executive Committee and other officials present in the meeting. Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 70.1: Minutes of 69th meeting of the Executive Committee of NMCG held on 6th February 2026 for information

The Executive Committee was informed that the minutes of 69th meeting of the Executive Committee of NMCG held on 6th February 2026 were circulated among all the committee members on 12th February 2026.

Agenda Item No. 70.2: Action Taken Report on the decisions of the Executive Committee taken in the 69th meeting held on 6th February 2026

The Executive Committee was informed that requisite action has been taken on the decisions taken in the 69th meeting of the EC held on 6th February 2026.

Agenda Item No. 70.3: Proposal on "Recovering Aquatic Wildlife of Gangetic Basin through On-Ground Conservation Actions" proposed by Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India (TSAFI), Lucknow, under the Namami Gange Mission

The Executive Committee (EC) was informed that a project proposal titled *"Recovering Aquatic Wildlife of Gangetic Basin through On-Ground Conservation Actions"* has been submitted by Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India under Namami Gange Mission-III for consideration. The project is proposed for a period of two years (FY 2026–27 to 2027–28) at a total cost of ₹395.83 lakh.

The Committee was apprised that the project aims to facilitate the recovery and conservation of selected aquatic wildlife species of the Gangetic plains through coordinated rescue operations, habitat improvement measures, species reintroduction initiatives, community participation, capacity building, and strategic policy support.

Discussion

The EC sought details regarding the movement of dolphins into irrigation canals. In response, TSAFI explained that once dolphins move downstream into irrigation canals, they are generally unable to return to their original river habitat. Therefore, such dolphins require rescue and safe release back into suitable natural habitats; otherwise, they may die or become vulnerable to injuries and conflict with local communities.

The EC further sought clarification on whether the project is site-specific or species-specific. TSAFI clarified that the project is species-specific in nature.

The EC also enquired whether the proposed manpower cost includes the salaries of permanent staff of the organization or is limited to project-specific personnel only. TSAFI clarified that the proposed manpower cost pertains exclusively to project staff who will be engaged specifically for implementation of the proposed activities.

TSAFI was to prepare and submit a status report on the conservation status of the three flagship species — Dolphin, Gharial, and Turtle — in the Ganga Basin.

The Committee noted that the Namami Gange Mission II (NGM II) has concluded on 31 March 2026. The EFC note seeking approval for NGM III was circulated on 28 November 2025 for Inter-Ministerial Consultations. The proposal was discussed with the Department of Expenditure (DoE) in a meeting held on 3 February 2026. Based on the advice communicated vide OM dated 4 February 2026, the EFC note has been revised and is under submission to the DoE currently. Pending final approval, the NGM has been accorded an interim extension until 30 September 2026. So far as the new sanctions under NGM III are concerned, it was noted that new sanctions can be issued for Projects/ activities within the approved framework of the NGM II and the approved expenditure limits for Q-1 and Q-2. Sanction value of such projects will be adjusted against the approved outlay of NGM III.

Decision

After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee approved the project titled "Recovering Aquatic Wildlife of Gangetic Basin through On-Ground Conservation Actions" at a total cost of ₹395.83 lakhs The approval is subject to the following condition:

i. ***The project has been considered to be funded under National Ganga Plan (NGP)-Component Non-EAP Component of Namami Gange Mission III.***

<u>Agenda Item No 70.5:</u> Tapping of newly identified drains falling in River Varuna in Varanasi City, Uttar Pradesh

a. DPR prepared by: Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Rural)
b. DPR cost: ₹174.98 Crores, including O&M for 15 years.
c. DPR appraised by IIT Roorkee.
d. Project Cost: ₹174.98 Crores including 15 years O&M and GST @18%.
e. Major components: -
    - Interception of 16 drains.
    - Laying of interceptor Sewer Lines (5,395 m).
    - Construction of 3 Nos. of sewage pumping stations.
    - Rising Main (SPS to manhole/trunk sewer leading to MPS/STP) – 6,250 m.
    - River crossing at 3 locations.
    - 15 years of Operation and Maintenance.
    - ESAMP, Public outreach, and GAAP, etc.
f. Financial Effect: Central Share as 100% of project cost, i.e. ₹ 174.98 Crores
g. Bidding process: DBOT mode.
h. Completion period – 21 Months (Excluding Bidding Period)

Discussions:

The Committee enquired about the status of the assessment of Varuna Interceptor Sewer project and by when the State shall submit the DPR for this stretch. Additionally, the State was requested to clarify whether the instant proposal is independent of the outcomes of the assessment study of the Varuna Interceptor project. The State representatives clarified that in the meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, the Varuna Interceptor, as per the assessment report, has been considered defunct and needs to be laid again, which is independent from the instant proposal. The State shall share a copy of the decision with NMCG.

The Committee noted that the Namami Gange Mission II (NGM II) has concluded on 31 March 2026. The EFC note seeking approval for NGM III was circulated on 28 November 2025 for Inter-Ministerial Consultations. The proposal was discussed with the Department of Expenditure (DoE) in a meeting held on 3 February 2026. Based on the advice communicated vide OM dated 4 February 2026, the EFC note has been revised and is under submission to the DoE currently. Pending final approval, the NGM has been accorded an interim extension until 30 September 2026. So far as the new sanctions under NGM III are concerned, it was noted that new sanctions can be issued for Projects/ activities within the approved framework of the NGM II and the approved expenditure limits for Q-1 and Q-2. Sanction value of such projects will be adjusted against the approved outlay of NGM III.

Decisions:

After detailed discussions, the Executive Committee (EC) resolved to approve the proposal for according administrative approval and expenditure sanction (AA&ES) on the proposal "Tapping of newly identified drains falling in River Varuna in Varanasi City, Uttar Pradesh" with O&M for 15 years under Namami Gange Program for an estimated amount of ₹174.98 Crore including GST (Capex – ₹56.14 Cr; Opex (Non-Power) – ₹43.87 Cr; Opex (Power) – ₹51.12 Cr; Other Costs – ₹5.95 Cr; GST – ₹17.90 Cr. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

- ii. *The project has been considered to be funded under National Ganga Plan (NGP)-Component Non-EAP Component of Namami Gange Mission III.*
- iii. *The project implementation shall be on DBOT Model.*
- iv. *State to ensure necessary actions and confirm in writing that after implementing this project, no untreated drains will fall in the river Varuna/Ganga from the town.*
- v. *The bidding, on a technology-neutral basis, would be completed within four months from the date of issue of AA&ES and the total time for completion of the project from the 'Date of Start' will be 21 months (18 months for the construction period and 3 months for the trial run).*
- vi. *The required land parcels for I&D, SPS etc. shall be procured within 4 months from the sanction date.*
- vii. *The observations of NMCG, TPA should be complied by the State Government/ Executing Agency at the time of finalization of bid document/ at the time of execution, and during O&M.*
- viii. *Cost of power connection has to be borne by State Government.*
- ix. *The cost towards O&M of the project assets, post commissioning for 15 years has been indicated in the project scope. The O&M provisions will be reviewed after 7 years on the basis of compliance of various General & Specific conditions of AA&ES by State Government/ SMCG-UP including insurance of assets created, reuse of treated water, levy of user charges, sewage cess etc. It is also proposed that as the Central Govt is giving funding for O&M of the sewerage assets for longer duration, the tax should be collected regularly as usual by ULB and kept in a corpus fund, which should be used by ULB for O&M of all these assets after NMCG funding is over.*
- x. *O&M beyond project scope shall be the responsibility of State Government/ ULB at its own cost.*
- xi. *Any cost escalation over and above the sanctioned cost attributable to State Government, including due to delay in land acquisition, change in scope post approval etc., will be borne by State Government".*
- xii. *NMCG logo and name to be inscribed at strategic locations.*

Agenda Item No. 70.6: Revised Administrative Approval & Expenditure Sanction towards additional cost for power connection and railway charges for project for I&D and STP at Bakhtiyarpur Project, Patna Bihar under Namami Gange Programme

The Project of Bakhtiyarpur I&D and STP Project was sanctioned under NGM-I, vide letter No. Pr-12014/15 dated 24.12.2018 at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.88 Crores. The contract was bided out with bided price of Rs 36.04 Crores. NMCG had earlier approved the Variation-I proposal and accorded revised Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (AA&ES) for the project amounting to Rs. 84.93 crore vide approval dated 29.11.2024. The revised sanction was issued after consideration of the additional project requirements and associated cost implications arising during the course of implementation, while retaining the overall scope and objectives of the project under the Namami Gange Programme.

Now, SPMG Bihar has submitted a variation second proposal regarding expenditure made on account of power connection at STP and 2 Nos of IPSs and charges paid to Railway department (for laying of sewer line), vide letter no 500 dated 05.12.2025 for additional impact of Rs 0.91 Crores.

Discussion:

As per the original AA&ES under NGM-I, 10 MLD STP and MPS was the original scope of work, and for electrical connection, Rs 15.00 Lakh was provisioned towards power connection charges, limited to the 10 MLD STP site only. Subsequently, due to a change in the STP location, 2 nos of intermediate pumping stations (IPSs) have been incorporated into the project scope and thus power connection was required at 3 sites instead of the original one STP site.

During approval of first variation, the State has not indicated the requirement of power connection charges therefore, no additional provision was made for power connection works. Inadvertently, no cost provision for power connection charges was included in revised AA&ES dated 29.11.2024. However, under second variation proposal, the state has submitted variation proposal of cost of Rs 0.91 crores. It was informed that these components were not considered at the state of approval of variation -1 because the quantum of charges were not known and now are being requested as per actual expenditure. The details of expenditure are as under:

i. Railway-related charges: 0.0078 crores

ii. Supervision charges to Electricity Department: 0.011 crores

iii. Electricity connection works: Rs 0.89 crores;

a. 10 MLD STP (500 KVA): Rs 0.31 crores

b. IPS-01 (4.9 MLD, 93 KVA): Rs 0.15 crores

c. IPS-02 (5.1 MLD, 70 KVA): Rs 0.43 crores

iv. **Total additional cost impact is Rs 0.91 crores**

It was discussed that the power connection charges were a known component at the time of approval of the first variation. Although the exact requirement may not have been known at that stage, an indicative provision should have been made while revising the AA&ES. The present case, therefore, appears to be one of inadvertent omission of this component at the time of approval of first variation proposal.

In NGM-II projects, the power connection charges are being borne by the State Government. However, since the present project pertains to NGM-I, the State Government has also not made any such provision. Accordingly, as per the prevailing policy, these charges are required to be borne as part of the Central share. Upon inquiry, it was confirmed that the said project was originally included under NGM-I.

Decisions:

After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee (EC) resolved to approve the proposal for revised Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (AA&ES) amounting to Rs. 0.91 crore towards power connection charges and Railway Department charges for the I&D and STP project at Bakhtiyarpur, Patna, Bihar, under the Namami Gange Programme. Accordingly, the revised total cost of the project stands at Rs. 85.84 crore, inclusive of a 15-year O&M period.

<u>Agenda Item No:70.7:</u> "Integrated Sanitation, Solid and Liquid Waste & Public Health Management Plan for Haridwar City Kumbh Mela 2027"

a. Proposal appraised by: National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA);
b. Project cost: Rs. 117.78 Crores including GST;
c. Financial Effect: 100% Central Sector;
d. Major Project Components:
    i. Toilet -13,915 Nos., urinal - 8,065 Nos. & bathroom - 2,000 Nos.
    ii. Solid waste collection bins (4,840 Nos.) and liner bags (31,38,480 Nos)
    iii. Vehicles for waste collection (491 Nos.).
    iv. Trash boom (2 Nos)
    v. Ghat cleaning machinery (15 Nos.).
    vi. Spraying machines & tractor (190 Nos.), fogging (55 Nos.), grass cutter (50 Nos.), pesticide, PPEs & first aid kits.
    vii. Street sweeping consumable.
    viii. Cloud-based dashboard for monitoring
    ix. Transfer stations (RC & MTF) facilities (8+32 = 40 Nos.)
    x. Gas-based crematorium (1 No.)
    xi. FSTP (6 Nos.)
e. Completion period – Installation by 31st December 2026; deployment for 120 Days, including Mela period of '14th January2027 to 20th April 2027'.
f. Bidding process:

1) For toilet, urinal & bathroom hiring
   i. Discovery of L1 cost for different toilet types based on a transparent 2-stage (technical & financial, with minimum eligibility criteria) bidding process.
   ii. Drawing a panel of service providers based on discovered L1 prices for different toilet types.
2) For other components – As per State Procurement Guidelines;

Discussions:

In response to the query about central assistance from other schemes for sanitation activities proposed in the instant proposal, the Mela Adhikari, Haridwar, and other State Government officials present in the meeting clarified that no financial assistance for the proposed sanitation works has been extended under SBM-U, the 15th Finance Commission, or AMRUT schemes, as these schemes are applicable only for regular city infrastructure and baseline population requirements. It was further informed that the proposal submitted to NMCG is specifically Kumbh Mela-centric and aimed at addressing the additional sanitation requirements arising from the anticipated massive influx of pilgrims during the event. Therefore, there is no duplication of funding.

The State Government representatives submitted that steel toilets are proposed to be strategically deployed within the designated parking and camping sectors, considering the anticipated peak footfall and initial congregation of pilgrims arriving in Haridwar. It was further informed that parking zones are expected to witness maximum demand, as pilgrims will first assemble in these areas before proceeding towards the camping sectors and ghats for the holy dip.

Further, the State Government informed that FRP toilets shall be deployed along major transit corridors and connecting routes from parking zones to the respective ghats to ensure continuous sanitation coverage during pedestrian movement. Additional buffer FRP toilet units are also proposed within the camping sectors to cater to fluctuating user demand and ensure adequate sanitation facilities during peak congregation periods.

It was observed that considering the estimated peak footfall of 2 crores during ***Shahi Snan***, the proposed toilet requirement does not appear to be adequate. To avoid any inconvenience to the visitors and ensure 'No Open Defecation' during Kumbh, the State officials were advised to review the requirements once again and may also consult Prayagraj Mela Authority, which recently organized the Maha Kumbh 2025.

The State officials informed that the proposed cloud-based monitoring dashboard will be developed, hosted, and maintained separately by the Nagar Nigam, owing to the requirement for AI-enabled data processing functions such as identification of solid waste through video analytics, generation of tickets for sanitary officers, deployment of the nearest available cleaner/sweeper, and real-time monitoring of sweepers in designated areas. Integration with the Mela Authority dashboard may result in server overload and delays in response to cleaning operations.

The Committee noted that the Namami Gange Mission II (NGM II) has concluded on 31 March 2026. The EFC note seeking approval for NGM III was circulated on 28 November 2025 for Inter-Ministerial Consultations. The proposal was discussed with the Department of Expenditure (DoE) in a meeting held on 3 February 2026. Based on the advice communicated vide OM dated 4 February 2026, the EFC note has been revised and is under submission to the DoE currently. Pending final approval, the NGM has been accorded an interim extension until 30 September 2026. So far as the new sanctions under NGM III are concerned, it was noted that new sanctions can be issued for Projects/ activities within the approved framework of the NGM II and the approved expenditure limits for Q-1 and Q-2. Sanction value of such projects will be adjusted against the approved outlay of NGM III.

Decision:

After detailed discussions, the Executive Committee (EC) decided to approve the proposal for issuance of Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (AA&ES) for "Integrated Sanitation, Solid and Liquid Waste & Public Health Management Plan for Haridwar City Kumbh Mela 2027" under Namami Gange Program at an estimated cost of 115.61 crores. The project has been considered to be funded under the National Ganga Plan (NGP). The approval is subject to the following conditions:

i. ***The project has been considered to be funded under National Ganga Plan (NGP)-Component Non-EAP Component of Namami Gange Mission III.***
ii. ***The approved central assistance shall be limited to Rs. 115.61 crore, subject to the condition that NMCG shall release funds based on quarterly demands from the State, limited to 75% of the approved assistance (₹115.61 crore) while remaining 25% shall be released to State Government, while complying with the State's policy for safe reuse of treated water, develops STP treated water reuse/recycling systems and demonstrates reuse/recycling of at least 100 mld STP treated water (50 mld at Dehradun and 50 mld at Haridwar-Rishikesh). In the event of non-compliance, the remaining 25% of the approved assistance shall be borne by the State from the State budget.***
iii. ***The state needs to exercise utmost economy while executing the works, as NMCG funding shall be limited to the lower of the actual expenditure or the sanctioned amount. Any additional expenditure shall be borne by the State.***
iv. ***SMCG-Uttarakhand shall sensitize the Mela authority and Executing Agencies about GoI fund flow mechanism in advance, including TSA onboarding, to avoid delay in fund flows. The mela authority shall availability of adequate capacity in financial management to ensure seamless funding, expenditure and reporting fund utilization.***

v. *The State Government shall ensure timely application and receipt of the necessary permission for organizing Kumbh 2027 event under 'The River Ganga Authority Order 2016'.*

vi. *The State Government & Mela Authority shall plan suitable measures in accordance with the 'Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For River-Sensitive Gatherings Along Riverbanks', published by NMCG and NIUA.*

vii. *The observations of NMCG and TPA would be complied with by the State Government, Mela Authority and Executing Agencies at the time of finalization of bid document, during execution, and during O&M.*

viii. *Mela Administrations / State Government are required to draw a comprehensive plan, including a contingency plan (in case of extreme events) for septage management to ensure that untreated septage is not discharged into the river Ganga in any eventuality.*

ix. *The SMCG UK, Mela Administration, and UK Peyjal Nigam shall jointly map the sewage generation points, sewage disposal locations for further conveyance and treatment, and cesspool vehicle routes well in advance, under intimation to traffic authorities for effective faecal sludge management.*

x. *Further, Mela Administration / SMCG UK to ensure regular desludging of the septic tanks through suction vehicle (or any other appropriate means), transportation, and treatment at STPs/FSTPs.*

xi. *The State Government may exercise flexibility in the number and type of toilets/ urinals with priority to cheaper pre-fab steel toilets (subject to market availability), within the overall approved budget, with prior intimation and approval of NMCG.*

xii. *To avoid any inconvenience to the visitors and ensure 'No Open Defecation' during Kumbh, the State officials were advised to review the toilet/urinal requirements once again and in consultation with Prayagraj Mela Authority, which recently organized the Maha Kumbh 2025. The review recommendations and further actions, if required, should be reported to NMCG.*

NMCG logo and name to be inscribed at strategic locations, wherever applicable.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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