

NC-06/2014-15/535/NMCG-NGRBA Cell
National Mission for Clean Ganga
Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Government of India

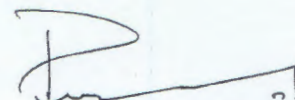
3rd Floor, Rear Wing
Doorsanchar Sadan, 9, CGO Complex
Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003
Dated 29th April, 2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Minutes of the 5th National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
meeting held on 26th March 2015**

A copy of the minutes of the 5th NGRBA meeting held on 26th March 2015 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, is forwarded herewith for kind information/necessary action.

Encl: As stated



(Puskal Upadhyay)

Additional Mission Director &
Director Finance, NMCG
Contact No :- 011-24361074

To

1. PS to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi-110011
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110016
4. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110001
5. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad road New Delhi-110018
6. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
7. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shshtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
8. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Vijay Chak road, New Delhi-110001
9. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi-110003
10. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
11. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, C Wing, 4th floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
12. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
13. PS to Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, 4 Subash Road, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Fourth Floor New Building, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin Code 248001
14. PS to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister's Office, Section-I, Lal Bahadur Shashtri Bhawan, Lucknow-226001
15. PS to Chief Minister of Bihar, Main Secretariat, Patna

16. PS to Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Chief Minister Secretariat, 3, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
17. PS to Chief Minister of West Bengal, NABANNA (14th Floor), 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Shibpur, Howrah-711102
18. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi.
20. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110001
21. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
22. Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
23. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shshtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
24. Secretary, Department Of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
25. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
26. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
27. Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, C Wing, 4th floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
28. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
29. Secretary, Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
30. Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, Uttrakhand Secretariat, Dehradun.
31. Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, Shastri Bhawan, Lucknow.
32. Chief Secretary, Bihar, Main Secretariat, Patna.
33. Chief Secretary, Jharkhand, Project Bhawan, Ranchi.
34. Chief Secretary, West Bengal, Nabanna, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Shibpur, Howrah-711102
35. Shri Mohan Singh Rawat Gaonbasi, NGRBA Expert Member, Jhali Mali Devi Ashram, Kyun Kaleswar, Pauri-Gharwal- 246001
36. Shri Giridhar Malviya, NGRBA Expert Member, 26 AN Jha Marg, George Town, Allahabad- 211002
37. Shri N. Vittal, NGRBA Expert Member, 12, 3rd Floor, Sreela Apartment, Building No.22, Gilcrist Avenue, Harrington Road Chetpet, Chennai- 600028
38. Dr. Bhure Lal, NGRBA Expert Member, 67, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003
39. Shri M.A. Chitale, NGRBA Expert Member, B-1, Vedant Grihakul Sawarkar Chowk, New Shreya Nagar, Aurangabad- 431005
40. Prof. Vinod Tare, Convenor, IIT Consortium, IIT Kanpur, Nankari, Kalyanpur, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 208016
41. Shri Navalawala, Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
42. Sh. Shriram Vedire, Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
43. Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.

Copy to: The Joint Secretary and Mission Director, MoWR, Rd&GR and NMCG

Internal Circulation:

PPS to Secretary (WR, RD & GR) / PPS to JS & FA (WRRD & GR) / PS to MD-NMCG / PS to AMD & Dir (F) NMCG / All NMCG Staff



Minutes of the 5th meeting of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)

held on 26th March, 2015 at 7, Race Course Road

1. The meeting was held with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Chairman of NGRBA in chair. List of participants is annexed.
2. Hon'ble Vice Chairman of NGRBA & Minister of WR, RD & GR delivered the welcome address, highlighted the enhancement in budget provision for FY 2015-16 and emphasized the socio-economic aspects of the river and its relevance to the livelihood of the large population residing on the banks of the river. While stressing that coordination with all the concerned State Governments and other concerned Union Ministries, constitution of High Level Task Force (HLTF) was specially mentioned. The Vice-Chairman thanked the guidance provided by Hon'ble Prime Minister and mentioned that the Ganga, in its current state of pollution, was earnestly looking to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairman NGRBA for its rejuvenation.
3. With the permission of the Chair, Hon'ble Finance Minister conducted further proceedings.
4. Secretary MoWR, RD & GR made a presentation in respect of agenda items no 1 & 2, giving details of action taken so far and future action plan for Namami Gange Programme. Hon'ble Chairman directed that exact assessment of pollution load from Kanpur be made since it is the most critical spot from a pollution point of view. He also suggested that it might be explored if river-cleaning machines may be installed in local boats and if services of local boatmen may be utilized. Possibility of in-situ treatment model with interceptors may be explored. Past experience of Udaipur City model may also be looked into.
5. Hon'ble Chief Ministers from various States made certain observations/interventions as summarized below:
 - a. **Uttarakhand (Shri Harish Rawat, Hon'ble Chief Minister)**
 - i. Members of Parliament, Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats need to be involved in developing policy, based on which action plan and actual implementation should take place.
 - ii. Power projects that are stalled due to the provisions of the notification of eco-sensitive zone from Uttarkashi to Gomukh need to be reviewed not only for utilizing the resources already sunk into incomplete projects (which are now stalled) but also from a strategic point of view.



- iii. Regulation of eco-sensitive zone is affecting the proper upkeep of existing infrastructure like roads. This may be looked into.
- iv. Pollution mitigation has to be approached from upstream zones first to optimize the downstream interventions.
- v. Depleting water flow in the upper reaches is a matter of concern as it aggravates the pollution scenario. Haridwar should witness adequate water flow in the river to effectively combat pollution in the river flowing through UP.
- vi. Availability of water could be enhanced by adopting measures such as:
 - Allowing people to develop local springs and canal systems.
 - Creating small water bodies to increase e-flow.
 - Allowing channelizing of small rivers to ensure perennial supply of water to the main river that is drying up make the dry rivers perennial and to reduce the deposit of silts.
 - Relevant approvals and clearance processes ought to be simplified.
 - Development of mixed forests instead of mono-species forest with species such as "Cheer" trees.
- vii. A final decision be taken on E-Flows.
- viii. The current cost sharing pattern of 70:30 between the Centre and the States be changed to increase the Centre's share.
- ix. Tourist influx and floating population with associated dimensions be taken into account while finalizing the action plans for Namami Gange.

b. Bihar (Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar)

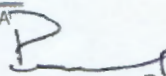
- i. *Aviralta* needs to be equally prioritized with *Nirmalta*, as substantial quantity of the water in the river water is being utilized upstream in Uttarakhand and UP, resulting in depletion of water flow to the Ganga as it reaches Bihar.
- ii. The special properties of Ganga Jal are continuously being depleted, which needs to be scientifically studied. This is on account of increased silting in the river and depletion of various unique minerals that were present in Ganga water in abundance earlier. A silt management policy needs to be developed.



- iii. Farrakka Barrage is causing extensive silt deposits leading to river meandering and flooding problem. A specific study on these adverse effects and outcomes needs to be conducted.
- iv. Construction of proposed barrages to develop the national waterway will introduce intermediate ponds in the river affecting its *aviralta*.
- v. STP and Sewer network be taken up as a single project and single window clearance be considered on mission mode, present funding pattern be reviewed, cost overrun of projects be considered for central funding and delegation of powers be made to State authorities for project approvals/clearances. Bidding documents may also be standardized.
- vi. Following specific suggestions were also made:
 - A single agency should conduct monitoring of projects instead of different union ministries dealing with sewerage projects;
 - Report of the IIT consortium be shared and considered as a guiding document for management of the river basin;
 - Projects for the state of Bihar under consideration be cleared early;
 - Projects for eliminating open defecation both in rural and urban areas be taken up;
 - Dolphin conservation, research, and census along with related awareness programmes dolphin census be taken up;
 - Other tributaries in Bihar including river Kosi also be prioritized for taking up pollution abatement projects besides Ganga river.

c. Jharkhand (Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Raghubar Das)

- i. Action plan submitted by the state for the entire 83 Km stretch of river including 2 towns and 33 GPs may be considered to take up projects for developing Jharkhand as a model state for Ganga;
- ii. All Ganga related projects may be clubbed together for clearance under a single window mechanism as multiplicity would affect project execution;



- iii. Pollution abatement of river Damodar (300 Km stretch in Jharkhand) due to pollution from CCL, BCCL, DVC (Power plants) need to be addressed separately on a priority basis.
6. Observations made by expert members are summarized below:

a. Mr. M A Chithale

- i. Solid waste management (including bio-medical waste) be prioritized and action plan be firmed up accordingly;
- ii. Ground water depletion resulting in river water assimilation in under ground aquifers needs to be reversed; action plans should incorporate necessary steps in this regard;
- iii. Improvement in sanitary conditions in Delhi is necessary for pollution abatement at Mathura/ Vrindavan.
- iv. Mr. M. A. Chithale, Expert Member suggested that in situ treatment technology practiced at Udaipur, Rajasthan may be ideal for small drains, with a rider that land requirement will be high for drains with higher discharge.

b. Mr. Bhure Lal

- i. Global warming and its effects on Ganga need attention as a study on 900 rivers across the world including Ganga shows that there is reduction of up to 20% in water flows during 1948 to 2005.
- ii. The concept of storing and releasing water needs to be encouraged.
- iii. Sanitary conditions of Delhi need to be improved.
- iv. Projects for STPs in 118 towns also need to address the problem of floating material, sludge and grit. (e.g. CETP Wazirabad having problems with deposited sludge/debris needs to be addressed on priority). Agricultural lands are getting reduced in vicinity of towns resulting in problems in disposal of sludge.
- v. Industrial waste of 764 GPs needs to be monitored and Zero Liquid Discharge should be implemented through reuse and recycling of treated water. Reverse boring for discharging polluted effluents into the ground water needs to stop.
- vi. Relevant provisions in law need to be amended so that water is drawn from the downstream for domestic and industrial purposes for the use of upstream population.

c. Justice Giridhar Malaviya



- i. Clean up efforts in Thames River should be studied;
- ii. Reuse and recycling of treated water being done in Nagpur should be studied and replicated;
- iii. People participation / awareness for in-situ treatment in towns such as Varanasi and Kanpur should be encouraged; action on drains discharging polluted water into the river needs to be taken on priority.
- iv. Evaluation of water quality should be conducted every fortnight and the report should be released.

d. Shri N. Vittal

- i. Toxicity from industrial pollution is the major problem for Nirmal Ganga and therefore abatement of industrial pollution needs a time-bound action plan;
- ii. IIT report on legislation along with other draft legislations needs to be finalized through Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) expeditiously;
- iii. Pricing mechanism of water needs to be developed for industries to stop / reduce use of fresh water;
- iv. Norms of industrial effluent discharge need to be enhanced as per global standards;
- v. NMCG should evolve into a consortium such as Delhi Metro to effectively handle the challenge of cleaning Ganga;
- vi. Decentralized, Swadeshi approach for taking pilot projects (e.g. in-situ cleaning technology developed by Dr. Raja Vijaykumar of Bengaluru to tackle the issue of toxicity produced by metal ions) and also taking up pilots based international best practices such as 750 km stretch of river in Mexico being treated with in-situ technology. Similar technologies being practiced in the Netherlands could also be considered.

7. Agenda Point 2: Status of progress of projects including World Bank and JICA assisted NGRB projects

NGRBA took note of the status of sanctioned projects under both World Bank and JICA assisted projects. Hon'ble Minister for Power, Shri Piyush Goyal advised that time bound and fast track mechanisms be put in place to complete all the on-going projects, on the pattern adopted by Railways, before taking up new



projects. Secretary, MoWR, RD and GR informed that completion of ongoing projects was being taken up on priority.

8. Agenda 3: Status of Ganga River Basin Management Plan by the Consortium of 7 IITs

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, specifically expressed the need for taking the states on board in finalization of the GRBMP and sharing of consortium report with States which was echoed by other Chief Ministers as well. Hon'ble MoWR, RD and GR clarified that consultation with States, which are principal stakeholders, will be done as mentioned in the agenda. It was proposed that a presentation of the proposed GRBMP could be organized for States, which was agreed to by the Chair.

9. Agenda 4: Deliberation on the proposed legislation for Rejuvenation of River Ganga

Hon'ble Chief Minister Uttarakhand desired that the states need to be taken into confidence before finalization of the draft legislation. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Bihar also requested for sharing the draft legislation with the States as and when the draft are ready. Hon'ble MoWR, RD & GR and Vice Chairperson informed that the draft legislation will be shared with the States for taking their views into account as and when it is ready for circulation.

10. Agenda 5: Status of Clean Ganga Fund

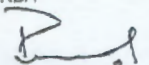
NGRBA took note of the developments including registration of the Trust and efforts being made to popularize the Fund and encourage people to donate. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttarakhand advised that the states may be made a partner in the process to make it a success. Hon'ble Minister for Power, Shri Piyush Goyal recommended that all banks may be involved along with SBI, to popularize the Fund. Justice Giridhar Malaviya opined that an appeal from Hon'ble Prime Minister would further bolster the fundraising efforts. It was also considered that suitable income tax benefits may be extended to donors.

11. Agenda 6: Designation of Mission Director, NMCG as ex-officio Secretary of NGRBA and to designate Secretary M/o WR, RD and GR as ex-officio Member of NGRBA

Approved as proposed.

12. Agenda 7: Delegation of powers to the Mission Director under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change suggested that a group of Union Ministers of Finance; WR, RD & GR, EF & CC and Law and Justice may consider this issue before further action is taken which was agreed to.



13. Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairman NGRBA addressed the meeting. He emphasized that pollution of river Ganga is a long pending problem and its early redressal is an immediate national priority. Saving the river, on which more than 40 percent of the country's population is dependent, is our responsibility for the future generations. The collective will of the nation has to be harnessed to make the pious river pollution free. All of us have "*Aastha*" (faith) in Ganga, but we need to convert it to "*Jimmewari*" (responsibility).

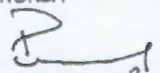
Hon'ble Chairman advised that the States need to set aside a fraction of the outlay in various ongoing developmental schemes for utilization in projects that would contribute to the rejuvenation of the river, setting in motion a Ganga centric approach in all developmental initiatives and help rationalize the financial requirement of the river restoration efforts.

People's participation in the river rejuvenation efforts should be substantially ramped up through initiatives such as involving NCC cadets in the river cleaning activities and organizing educational tours for students with "Ganga-Shram". Ex-servicemen living on banks of the river also needed to be involved. He laid emphasis on focusing on the banks of the river.

A comprehensive database with technology options for pollution abatement available globally (covering a wide spectrum from nuclear science applications to algae based solutions) should be created and factored in implementation process as much as possible. Instead of mere use of technology, it requires broader thinking in terms of initiatives incorporating traditional and technical specific initiatives.

While emphasizing the need for increasing the availability of water in the river, he cited the example Narmada river which has its source of water in dense forest areas and suggested that such plant species which enhance water availability for the river should be identified for plantation in forests in the upper reaches of the river. Studies may also be undertaken to increase different indigenous species of aquatic and land based fauna that were contributing to pollution abatement through natural ecological processes.

States may prepare a list of all departments involved directly or indirectly in pollution abatement of Ganga. The Chief Secretary of respective States may



coordinate so that these departments do not work at cross-purposes and that they harmoniously work towards achieving the common objective with the desired outcomes. Effective law should be there.

Options for extending financial incentive by developing and involving interest subvention and facilitating industries to procure Bank loans for effluent treatment equipment, so as to expedite pollution abatement efforts to industrial areas on a war footing should be explored. Contributions made to the Clean Ganga Fund could be utilized to meet the burden interest subvention.

Studies may be conducted on Farrakha barrage so that any adverse effects on the river and the ecological system may be addressed.

Initiatives on Ganga, once successful, could be a model for all other rivers in the country and the world. Accordingly the pollution abatement efforts and other initiatives on Ganga and its tributaries should be well documented for replication in other rivers of the country. Appropriate knowledge sharing mechanisms should be evolved to share the best practices globally.

Cleaning of Ganga has the potential to bring about massive economic transformation. The socio-economic benefits of various initiatives under the river rejuvenation effort should be appropriately evaluated. The economics of the entire mission for pollution abatement should be clearly analyzed by economists for focused and prioritized interventions.

Efforts should be made to sensitize all important institutions including the judiciary so that the key issues are clearly understood. Concerns of NGOs and other key stakeholders should be adequately addressed to develop a sustainable implementation mechanism.

It was noted that Government of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have sent their views. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation may examine the same.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NGRBA & Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt of India gave a vote of thanks.

