

No. Admin-01/2016-17/595/NMCG
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River
Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
National Mission for Clean Ganga

1st Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 15th October, 2020

Subject: - Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on River Ganga held on 25th September, 2020 at 11.00 AM.

A copy of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the Empowered Task Force on River Ganga held on **25th September, 2020 at 11.00 AM** through video conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti is forwarded herewith for kind information and necessary action.

2. You are requested to forward the latest status on action points pertaining to your Ministry/ Department/ State.

(Rajiv Ranjan Mishra)
Director General, NMCG & Member Secretary, ETF
Contact No: 011-23049528

To

- 1) PS to Union Minister for Jal Shakti
- 2) PS to Minister of State for Jal Shakti
- 3) Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog
- 4) Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- 5) Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- 6) Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
- 7) Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- 8) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- 9) Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- 10) Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
- 11) Secretary, Ministry of Culture
- 12) Secretary, Ministry of Shipping
- 13) Secretary, Ministry of Power
- 14) Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
- 15) Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology
- 16) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand
- 17) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar-Pradesh
- 18) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar
- 19) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand
- 20) Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
- 21) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

Copy to :-

- (i) PS to DG, NMCG
- (ii) PS to all Executive Directors, NMCG

Minutes of the 6th meeting of Empowered Task Force (ETF) on River Ganga held on 25th September, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti

The 6th meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on River Ganga was held on 25th September, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti through Video Conferencing.

2. The list of participants is annexed.
3. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) welcomed the Hon'ble Minister, Secretary (Jal Shakti) and the members present in the meeting and explained the constitution of NMCG as an Authority, the powers vested in NMCG as an Authority and also highlighted the role and functions of ETF.
4. Shri Rozy Agarwal, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG made a presentation on agenda items.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up with the permission of the Chair.

Agenda No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 5th meeting of Empowered Task Force (ETF) held on 10.02.2020

The minutes of the 5th meeting of ETF held on 10th February 2020 were confirmed, as no comments have been received from any quarter.

Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 5th meeting of Empowered Task Force

As a follow up on the 5th meeting of the ETF, a number of interventions have been taken up by Ministries / Departments of the Government of India as well as the State governments towards rejuvenation of river Ganga. Some of the major outcomes achieved, in accordance with the decisions taken in the last meeting of ETF, for implementing the decisions of National Ganga Council were summarized as under -

- Sanction of Organic Farming by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in large areas in the states of Uttarakhand and UP scaling up the previous interventions by many folds.
- Setting up Ganga Nurseries in the State of UP under Mission Integrated Development for Horticulture (MIDH) by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Identification of Data Base on Archaeological sites along Ganga by the Ministry of Culture.
- Sanction of 'Project Dolphin' – a Special Project for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- Project for promotion of Fisheries by CIFRI.
- Development of Digital dashboard for Ganga Districts by NMCG and NITI Aayog.
- Inclusion of a special Category for Ganga Districts in PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2020.

Agenda No. 3: Appraisal and discussion on Agenda of 5th meeting of Empowered Task Force

The ETF thereafter took up discussion on agenda of 5th meeting and sought response from all the Line Ministries of Government of India and the State Governments: -

(i) All Ministries and Departments were again reminded to set up dedicated Ganga cells and to hold regular meetings for taking up interventions for rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries. The Ministries and Departments were also asked to nominate Nodal officers for this activity.

(ii) **Department Of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**

Secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry informed the ETF that the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has given priority to Ganga Villages and a comprehensive plan has been worked out for Solid and Liquid waste management in Ganga belt. It is also proposed to build 100 more family community sanitation complex in the rural areas. Besides, it is also being planned to not only construct toilets but also to make available running water for making them hygienic.

(iii) **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)**

The MoA&FW informed the ETF that all schemes are giving priority attention to Ganga villages. There has been significant surge in organic farming clusters and sanctions for organic farming have also been scaled up. Area taken up for organic farming has increased from 840 hectares to 50,000 hectares in Uttarakhand, from 6400 hectares to 35,780 hectares in Uttar Pradesh and from 2060 hectares to 14,000 hectares in Bihar. Special attention is also being given on Micro irrigation and Agro forestry is being taken up on large scale in UP, Jharkhand, Bihar. A special drive has been taken up for plantation of Bamboo

under the Bamboo mission to promote Agro forestry. Farmers are also being educated for changing crop patterns and skill awareness campaigns are being taken up in Ganga Villages.

(iv) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

MoEF&CC apprised the ETF that proposal for release of CAMPA funds for afforestation in Ganga basin is under active consideration. The Hon'ble Jal Shakti Minister asked the Secretary Jal Shakti to seek a report from MoEF&CC on the present status as despite the matter having been discussed at various levels no fruitful results are seen. DG, NMCG informed that a detailed meeting was held with MoEF&CC and State Forest officials to assess the state wise extent for taking up afforestation under CAMPA. This needs to be followed up and implemented by MOEF & CC. It was also desired that DG, NMCG be involved in discussion of release of CAMPA funds to states for taking up forestry interventions along Ganga. The ETF also desired to know the status of project Dolphin and the future action plan for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin. An action plan was also desired for conservation of Wetlands. DG NMCG explained that the authority to be constituted under Wetland Conservation Rule, 2017 of MoEF&CC needs to be strengthened.

(v) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

MoHUA informed that the processing capacity of Solid Waste Management of UP is now 81%, that of Uttarakhand 53%, but only 13% in Bihar. It was noted that the latest progress report on the SWM in Ganga towns and on maintenance of Nalas

and jaalis on them is not available. The Ministry is developing a strategic action plan for SWM in Ganga towns and it is proposed to increase the solid waste management capacity in Ganga towns. Also, urban water bodies will be protected on priority. A blue print is also being developed for River Cities which will be circulated to the states and workshops will also be held with Central and state authorities to drive home the agenda of Clean River cities.

(vi) Ministry of Tourism;

The Ministry of Tourism informed that an action plan is being developed for promoting Tourism on important tourist sites across Ganga and the same will be shared within one month. Dolphin Tourism is also being planned in certain circuits. DG Tourism informed that cruise on Ganga is being planned specially to promote craft and heritage circuits and develop cultural and heritage sites along with. It was informed by DG,NMCG that under a project of NMCG, Cultural Mapping of Ganga is being done by INTACH. Based upon this, certain projects for tourism promotion & cultural heritage preservation have been identified and shared with Ministry of Tourism for developing detailed projects. Secretary, Jal Shakti also made several suggestions about diverse nature of tourism activities, which could be developed.

(vii) Ministry of Culture

Ministry of Culture has identified 136 venues for Ganga Sanskriti Yatra but could not take up due to onset of Covid-19. It was informed that there are 5 Museums under the Ministry, who will be asked to put up Ganga Galleries/ exhibitions dedicated to Ganga. The action plan in this respect will be shared with NMCG

shortly. They are also working with NMCG to develop a database of archaeological and cultural sites along Ganga and its tributaries for promotion of tourism on these sites.

(vi) Ministry of Power:

The Ministry of Power informed that instructions have already been given to Thermal power plants within 50 Km radius of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) to build the necessary pipelines for transporting the treated water at their cost. It was further informed that 39 Thermal Power Plants have been identified in the vicinity of STPs out of which 5 have already started using treated waste water, 4 are under construction phase, another 11 will be ready by 2022-2023 and on 19 feasibility studies are being conducted. It was desired to share the status with NMCG. The Ministry also raised the issue of quality and quantity of water for use in the Thermal Power Plants and were advised to adopt a cluster approach as against looking for a minimum quantity of water from individual STPs. DG, NMCG informed that this exercise is being done by Ministry of Power closely interacting with NMCG and also observed that in the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Power Minister, it was agreed that such plan should include the proposed STPs under Namami Gange and also the combined capacity of multiple STPs in a place should be considered for deciding upon the feasibility.

(viii) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD):

The MoRD informed that the Ministry is closely monitoring the work under MNREGA for activities for Ganga rejuvenation. A lot of convergence is taking place in the Ganga districts under MNREGA specially for digging trenches, de-silting and

rejuvenation of rivers, rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, plantation activities etc. A GIS based plan is also being worked out to monitor the progress under various schemes. Gram Panchayats are being closely associated in these activities.

(ix) Ministry of Science & Technology:

The Ministry of Science and Technology informed that water related technologies are being developed and academic institutions have been approached who want to work for betterment of Ganga. A research is also being done on Hindon river basin for pollution abatement and for increasing water use efficiency. The Ministry also offered to support new technologies for reuse of water and other waste products. A separate meeting was desired with the Ministry to explore technologies for Ganga rejuvenation.

(x) Ministry of Shipping:

The Ministry of Shipping apprised the ETF that a Jal Marg project has been taken up aided by World Bank under Arth Ganga concept which aligns with development of waterways on Ganga. It includes setting up of road terminals and jetties and aims at multi-mode connectivity. Three terminals are proposed under the project at Varanasi, Haldia and Sahibganj. A detailed presentation was earlier given by the Ministry before VC, NITI Aayog and Hon'ble Jal Shakti Minister.

(xi) NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog is partnering with NMCG to work out a model and framework for operationalizing the Arth Ganga concept and one meeting of the Group has taken place under the Chairmanship of VC NITI Aayog.

(xii) **Agenda items taken up with State Government :**

a) Uttarakhand: The Secretary Irrigation, Government of Uttarakhand apprised the ETF that regular meetings of SGC and DGC are taking place and the Ganga Yatra could not be taken up due to Covid-19. The ETF was also informed that work has been taken up for rejuvenation of small rivers like Rispana & Binadal, Kosi, Udgar under MNREGA and 21 other rivers have been identified for rejuvenation in the state. The State of Uttarakhand also cited timely completion of projects and also reuse of treated water for irrigation purposes. Efforts were also on for SWM in Ganga towns under MNREGA.

b) Uttar Pradesh: A Ganga Yatra was successfully held in the State in January 2020 which joined lakhs of people to the movement. The minutes of the SGC and DGC meetings are regularly uploaded on the website and all out efforts are being made to expedite projects under Namami Gange. Rejuvenation of Talabs has been taken up on large scale under MNREGA. Organic farming is also being promoted through integrated schemes and includes setting up of nurseries, plantation activities, zero budget farming and promotion of organic products. For promoting Tourism, the State is setting up Eco-parks in 15 out of 27 Ganga districts and ethnic/cultural hubs are being set up. Cycle tracks and adventure sports are also being developed along with water sports. Cruise on Ganga at Varanasi has started which also aims to connect Chunar-Mirzapur circuit to promote heritage tourism. A Bio-diversity park is also proposed to be taken up along Ganga. The State

also reported utilization of CAMPA funds for plantation activities under which 8,50,000 plants have been planted in 1855 hectares.

c) Bihar: The State of Bihar assured the ETF that all measures are being taken to expedite the progress of projects sanctioned under Namami Gange. The ETF was apprised that a Dolphin Restoration Centre is being developed at a cost of Rs. 30 crores which will be the biggest of its kind in Asia. Organic farming is being carried out in 13 districts in 21,000 hectare and afforestation activities have been taken up under Annual Plan of Operations funded through CAMPA. Keeping in view low percentage of SWM in Bihar, a separate plan is being taken up for SWM in all towns including in Ganga towns.

d) Jharkhand: The State of Jharkhand apprised the ETF that regular meetings of SGC and DGC were taking place and 98 water bodies have been rejuvenated. The State of Jharkhand has already adopted a waste water policy in 2017. The State has also been declared ODF and 1.5 lakh plants have been taken up through CAMPA funds. Under MNREGA, rain water harvesting has been taken up and SWM and LWM has also been taken up in Gram panchayats along Ganga.

Agenda No. 4: Status Report on Arth Ganga

Arth Ganga, an initiative for integrating people's participation and economic development with Ganga rejuvenation was emphasized during the meeting. The ETF was apprised of the action taken on development of Arth Ganga model. Subsequent to 5th meeting of the ETF, various measures have been taken by NMCG in association with various Line Ministries and State Governments to develop a model

framework for implementation of Arth Ganga in Ganga belt. A brief status report was presented to the ETF on the following lines:

- I. A model concept paper has been developed on Arth Ganga which has been shared with Central Ministries and State governments eliciting their inputs in developing a robust model for Arth Ganga.
- II. A Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of VC NITI Aayog for developing a sustainable economic development model for Arth Ganga – one meeting of the Group has taken place.
- III. The efforts on Arth Ganga will be segregated into six sectoral interventions – Sustainable Agriculture and Allied Areas, Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation, Culture and Tourism Development, Inland Waterways, Promoting Clean Energy towards Sustainable Livelihood, Rejuvenation of Water Bodies.
- IV. As a follow up on directions of 5th ETF meeting, all Central Ministries have reported substantial activities for taking forward the Arth Ganga model - action has been reported for promoting Organic farming in Ganga Grams, development of Horticulture and Agro-Forestry along Ganga, promotion of Micro-farming and crop pattern changes, developing tourist circuits along Ganga, construction of Inland waterways on Ganga with multi-mode connectivity, special action plan for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin and bio-diversity in Ganga, reuse of treated waste water in various sectors. The State Governments are implementing these projects in close association with Central Ministries towards developing a sustainable economic model along Ganga.

- V. A Consortium of IIM Lucknow and IITs of Kanpur and Roorkee has been constituted by NMCG for carrying out a comprehensive study and developing a framework for Arth Ganga and later for assisting in implementing the same through multiple stakeholders.
- VI. A preliminary paper has been developed by the IIM-IIT Consortium and a financial proposal has been forwarded by the Consortium which is under consideration and approval.

The ETF took note of the current status of Arth Ganga model and called upon all stakeholders to take up concerted action in the direction of grounding the model for generating sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic development in Ganga belt.

6. Summing up the discussions, the Hon'ble Jal Shakti Minister appreciated the work being done by all Central Ministries and Departments as well as by the State governments. The Hon'ble Minister said that all have worked tirelessly in the past 5 years to work for Ganga rejuvenation and time has now come to scale up the interventions by working in a mission mode. The Hon'ble Minister further added there was a change in narrative for Ganga rejuvenation and the overall perception is changing for Ganga cleaning efforts. In order to continue establishing people-river connect, it is imperative that the projects of 'Namami Gange' be executed on ground in a time bound manner and ensuring quality standards. The Hon'ble Minister further said that there were still some gaps in implementation of Ganga conservation works and emphasized that all Central Ministries and Departments, State Governments and NMCG need to work in a synthesized manner to scale up the interventions at every level. There was a need for the States to be more serious and pro-active in

addressing issues in implementation of projects like land acquisitions, clearances, procurement issues and should be brought to the notice of the Chief Ministers for quick solutions. Ganga was everyone's responsibility and ultimately the States are the final beneficiaries of these efforts and hence the need to work with right approach and in the right direction. The Hon'ble Minister also reiterated the need to work in tandem to achieve the objectives of Arth Ganga as set out by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Hon'ble Minister indicated that he would like to hold separate meetings on some of the sectors with concerned Ministries/ departments to discuss in detail. He called upon everyone to work together with scale and speed to maximize optimum results from the interventions being taken up for Ganga rejuvenation.

7. In the light of detailed discussions and the progress reported by Central Ministries and the State Governments, the following decisions were taken for follow up action-

1) The Line Ministries / Departments and Chief Secretary's offices in States to form a dedicated Ganga Cell and appoint a Nodal officer to coordinate the activities relating to Ganga. Regular meetings must be held to review the progress on Ganga related agenda and work in a mission mode to achieve the objectives.

(Action: All Ministries/Departments/State Governments)

2) Focused attention is to be given for Solid and Liquid waste management along Ganga Grams including ensuring water availability for maintaining hygiene.

(Action: Department of Drinking water and sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti)

3) Efforts to be scaled up for Organic farming and Agro-Forestry in Ganga states for sustainable agricultural growth and for innovative practices to provide better

opportunities in agriculture sectors to boost farm incomes. Efforts also need to be made for improving water use efficiency in agriculture.

(Action: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare)

- 4) A policy for distribution of CAMPA funds to Ganga States should be decided at the earliest for up scaling afforestation activities in Ganga belt. DG NMCG should also be involved in deciding allocation of CAMPA funds in Ganga belt for forestry works. A detailed plan of action also needs to be decided on priority to take forward the 'Project Dolphin' for conservation of Gangetic Dolphin. A comprehensive list of wetlands be also developed along with action plan for their restoration and conservation.

(Action: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

- 5) A need was felt to give more attention for Solid waste management along Ganga towns and for increasing waste processing capacities in the States. The Liquid waste management also needs to be scaled up ensuring tapping of Nalas and provision of Jaalis at the confluence with the river. A blue print also needs to be developed for planning a framework for planning and management of river cities. It was decided to have a separate engagement on the subject for focused action.

(Action: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)

- 6) A comprehensive plan be worked out for developing tourist circuits along Ganga taking into account the studies conducted by INTACH. Due attention be given for promoting Heritage and Cultural aspects of Ganga.

(Action: NMCG, Ministry of Tourism)

- 7) Dedicated Ganga galleries be set up in Museums to spread awareness on Ganga. An action plan in this regard be developed and shared with NMCG for taking up this work in a time bound manner.

(Action: Ministry of Culture)

- 8) Concerted efforts be made for reuse of treated water in Thermal power plants by adopting cluster approach in a region with a view to identifying more plants which could take reused water for thermal generation of power.

(Action: Ministry of Power)

- 9) Efforts need to be taken for convergence of schemes particularly MNREGA for rejuvenation of small rivers and water bodies in Ganga catchment areas.

(Action: Ministry of Rural Development)

- 10) Technology needs to be leveraged for finding solutions for Ganga rejuvenation. Water related technologies be developed for supporting Ganga rejuvenation efforts and interventions taken up by NMCG be guided by technical assistance for monitoring and other activities. A separate meeting was desired with Ministry to scale up technological assistance for Ganga rejuvenation program.

(Action: Ministry of Science and Technology)

- 11) All State Governments were asked to expedited execution of projects under Namami Gange program in a time bound manner and hold regular meetings on Ganga related activities. The States must also focus on revival of small rivers and water bodies and adopt policies for reuse of treated water and other by products. Focused attention is also required from State authorities for ensuring SWM along Ganga belt and promote organic farming and forestry works in Ganga catchment by converging various Central and State schemes like MNREGA.

(Action: All States)

12) Arth Ganga concept be developed on priority in association with all Line Ministries and Departments including with IIM-IIT Consortium and an implementation model be worked out on priority. NITI Aayog to take lead in coordinating the activities of all stakeholders in this regard.

(Action: NMCG, All Central Government Ministries and Departments, NITI Aayog)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and to the Chair.

List of Participants
of the 6th meeting of Empowered Task Force held on 25.09.2020 at New Delhi

1. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti
2. Shri Ratan Lal Kataria, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti
3. Shri U.P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development, Ministry of Jal Shakti
4. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, NMCG
5. Ms Amita Prasad, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India
6. Ms. Alka Bhargava, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
7. Shri Kamran Rizvi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
8. Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Director General, Ministry of Tourism
9. Shri Rozy Agarwal, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG
10. Shri D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG
11. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Executive Director (Projects), NMCG
12. Ms Neerja Additam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
13. Shri Jigmet Takpa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
14. Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power
15. Shri Rohit Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
16. Shri Rajat Sachar, Senior Economic Adviser, Ministry of Shipping
17. Shri Sanjay Bajpai, Advisor, Survey of India, Ministry of Science and Technology
18. Shri Avinash Mishra, Adviser, NITI Aayog
19. Shri Nitish Kumar Jha, Secretary, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand
20. Shri Anurag Srivastava, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
21. Shri Devesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
22. Shri Mukesh Meshram, Principal Secretary, Tourism, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
23. Mr. K.P. Dubey, Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
24. Mr. Anand Kishore, Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of Bihar
25. Shri Shashi Ranjan, Director, State Urban Development, UDD- Jharkhand
26. Ms. Deepika Pokharna, Director, Ministry of Culture