



राष्ट्रीय जल विकास अभिकरण
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
(जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग)
National Water Development Agency
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
(Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)

nwda.gov.in



No.: SCILR/Tech/400/5/2023/3924-33

Date: 28.11.23

Sub: Minutes of the Eighteenth (18th) meeting of the "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" held on 10.11.2023 at Hyderabad in hybrid mode - reg.


Madam / Sir,

The eighteenth (18th) meeting of the "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" was held on 10.11.2023 at 3:00 PM, at Jal Soudha, BOC Hall, First floor, Errum Manzil, Hyderabad under the Chairmanship of Shri Sriram Vedire, Chairman of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers and Advisor, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The meeting was held in Hybrid mode.

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting duly approved by the Chairman, Task Force, is enclosed for kind information.

Yours faithfully,

Encl : As above


28/11/2023

(Baleshwar Thakur)
Chief Engineer (HQ)
cehq-nwda@nic.in

To

1. **Shri Sriram Vedire**, Chairman, Task Force for ILR and Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Room No. 428 B, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, E mail: advtomin-mowr@gov.in, Phone 011-23708418, 09441002730 (M).
2. **Chairman CWC**, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi -110066. Email: chairmancwc@nic.in, Phone : 011-26195415.

3. **Additional Secretary** (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. Email: aswrs-mowr@nic.in, Phone 011- 23714609.
4. **Shri Prodipto Ghosh**, Former Secretary, MoEF & Distinguished Fellow TERI, Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. E-mail: prodipto@teri.res.in, prodipto5@gmail.com Phone: 0 1 1 - 24682100, 9810490639 (M).
5. **JS & FA**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. E mail: fawr - mowr @nic.in, Phone 011- 23710297.
6. **Shri A.D. Mohile**, Ex. Chairman, CWC, New Delhi. E-mail: anildmohile@gmail.com, Phone: 0124-4055262, 9891154061(M).
7. **Shri M. Gopalakrishnan**, Former Secretary General, ICID, D-1/12, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Email: mgopalakrishnan@hotmail.com, mgopalakrishnan.in@yahoo.com, mgopalakrishnan_in@yahoo.com. Phone: 09538923627 (Bangalore), 011-28524495 (R), 09811301279 (Delhi).
8. **Dr. Shobha (Vrushali) Waghmare**, 204, Rukmini Heights (Tulsi Developers), Sharda Nagar, Nanded – 431602. E-mail: drvrushaliwaghmare618@gmail.com, Phone: 09823208618 (M).
9. **Prof. Chandan Mahanta**, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, Indian institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati - 781014 (Assam) , E-mail: chandan@iit g.ernet.in, Phone: 0361-2582407.
10. **Prof. K. V. Raju**, Theme Leader, Policy and Impact, Regional Program-Asia, ICRISAT, Lakshmi Nilaya, No. 20, 3rd Floor, 17th Cross, 151 Main, 5th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangaluru - 560078. Email: kvraju2008@gmail.com, Phone: 98454 15305 (M).
11. **The Joint Secretary (North)**, Ministry of External Affairs, Room no.149-A, South Block, New Delhi - 110011, E-mail: jsnorth@mea.gov.in, usnepal1@mea.gov.in. Phone no.: 011-49016745.
12. **Director General**, NWDA & Member Secretary, TFILR, 18-20, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi -110017, E mail: dg-nwda@nic.in, Phone: 011-2327582.

Copy to:

1. Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA, Saket, New Delhi, Email: cehq-nwda@nic.in. Phone: 011-26852735, Fax: 011-26960841.

2. Chief Engineer (South), NWDA, Hyderabad, E-mail: cesnwda@rediffmail.com, ceshyd-nwda@nic.in.
3. Chief Engineer (North), NWDA, 4/193 F, Vishal Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P). E-mail : cenlko-nwda@nic.in, Phone : 0522-2304447.
4. Superintending Engineer (North), NWDA, Palika Bhawan, R.K. Puram, Sector-13, New Delhi -110066, E-mail: se3nwda@rediffmail.com, Phone : 011-26852735.
5. Superintending Engineer (South), NWDA, Palika Bhawan, R.K. Puram, Sector-13, New Delhi-110066, E-mail: se1nwda@rediffmail.com, Phone: 011-24195731.
6. Superintending Engineer, IC, NWDA, Bhubaneswar /Patna / Hyderabad/ Gwalior / Valsad.

Copy for kind information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, New Delhi. E-mail: psmwr-mowr@nic.in, Phone: 011-23714200, Fax: 011-23710804.
2. PS to Advisor, Ministry for Jal Shakti, Room No. 428 B, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi, E-mail: advtomin-mowr@gov.in Phone 011-23708418.

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) held on 10th November, 2023 at Hyderabad.

The eighteenth meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 10th November, 2023 at Hyderabad in hybrid mode, under the Chairmanship of Shri Sriram Vedire, Chairman, Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers & Advisor, Ministry of Jal Shakti. List of the participants is given at **Annexure-I**.

1.0 At the outset of the meeting, Director General welcomed Chairman of Task Force, its members and all the invitees.

2.0 In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers appreciated the efforts of NWDA and CWC for proceeding with desired vigour and fast pace for work related to Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme. He referred to the big achievement of ongoing implementation of Ken Betwa Link Project. He apprised the members about deliberations held during 5th consultation meeting with Party States for Godavari - Cauvery Link Project that most of the technical issues have been sorted out among party States and few minor issues shall be solved shortly so that MoU for the implementation of link project may be signed by party States/UT soon. He mentioned about good progress made in last few months in respect of modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) and he informed that MoU for preparation of DPR for the link project and its broad layout has been broadly agreed upon by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and is expected to be signed soon. He thanked both the States for their cooperation in arriving at consensus on various issues of the link project. Regarding National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA), he informed the members that Draft Cabinet Note has been sent to Cabinet Secretariat for the consideration of the cabinet.

Thereafter, he requested DG, NWDA to take up the agenda items.

3.0 DG, NWDA thanked Chairman, TFILR for his efforts in consensus building process for the link projects. He made a power point presentation covering agenda items one by one. The deliberations held and decisions taken on agenda items are as follows:

3.1: Item 18.1: Confirmation of minutes of the 17th meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers that was held on 6.3.23 at Hyderabad.

Director General, NWDA informed that the minutes of 17th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) were circulated and no comments were received from any of the members, the minutes of 17th meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers may be confirmed as circulated.

The members of the Task Force confirmed the minutes.

3.2 Item no. 18.2: Action Taken Report on the Decisions Taken in the 17th Meeting of TF-ILR

DG, NWDA informed the members that the necessary actions have been taken on decisions of last meeting and shall be deliberated in the in subsequent agenda.

3.3 Item 18.3: Implementation of Ken–Betwa Link Project:

DG, NWDA briefed the members about the present status and progress made in moving forward towards implementation of Ken Betwa Link Project subsequent to signing of tripartite agreement between party States and Centre and approval by Govt. of India in December, 2021. He explained that initially the focus is on land acquisition, R&R, fulfilling the compliances to the conditions of forest clearance and wildlife clearance. Recently, Stage –II Forest clearance has been accorded by MoEF &CC in October, 2023. The work on State specific components like Lower Orr, Kotha Barrage and Bina Complex Multipurpose Project is already in progress. He mentioned that EPC Tender for Daudhan dam has been floated in August, 2023 and is likely to be awarded in this financial year. He informed the members about the issues requiring attention like completion of land acquisition work, hiring of Project Management Consultant, awarding of the work of Daudhan dam, Finalization and implementation of R&R Plan, completion of DPRs of tanks/barrages and initiation of land acquisition for Ken Betwa link canal etc.

Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan queried that if any sequencing of the issues requiring attention can be done on basis of priority.

DG, NWDA explained that few issues like hiring of Project Management Consultant, completion of DPRs of tanks/barrages/weirs, land acquisition and awarding

of work of Daudhan dam are very crucial issues among all the issues that require attention.

Sh. A.D. Mohile enquired about funding mode for the project that if project funds have been separated from capital funds of India. DG, NWDA explained that a dedicated account (TSA i.e., Treasury Single Account) has been opened, from which funds are being transferred to State and KBLPA to fulfil immediate requirements. The amount spent by States is being reimbursed presently. As discussed with Ministry of Finance, SNA (Single Nodal Account) has to be opened by the States for disbursement of funds both by center and the states. The project is not likely to face requisite fund flow challenge.

3.4 Item 18.4: Modified Parbati – Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link Proposal: Integration of Parbati – Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link as proposed under Peninsular Component of NPP with proposed Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) of Rajasthan

DG, NWDA apprised all the members that as per recent progress and developments, Modified Parbati – Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link project can very well be the next link taken for implementation.

He briefed about inception of proposal of modified PKC link, its components and benefits. This link project proposes to provide drinking and industrial water in 13 districts of eastern Rajasthan and Malwa and Chambal regions of Madhya Pradesh apart from providing irrigation in 2.8 lakh ha. area or more, each in both the states including supplementation of en- route tanks in the states. The various components of Modified PKC link including areas of benefit shall be firmed up at DPR stage in consultation with both the states.

DG, NWDA explained the components benefitting both the States and emphasised that Doongri Dam can be termed as fulcrum of this link proposal as it has potential of storing about 2000 MCM of water and shall play an important role as most of the water will be available in flood season only. As per deliberations held with both States in a joint meeting held in September, broad planning for DPR was agreed upon by both the

States. Regarding contentious issue of water availability at 75 % or 50% dependability, both the states have agreed that water in Kalisindh sub basin and other sub-basins can be harnessed below 75 % dependability up to 50% dependability as per requirements of water for various purposes assessed based on applicable norms and efficiency.

Chairman informed the members that MoU between the States is likely to be signed soon. He said that several meetings were held by the ministry with both the states separately and also together, few of them were chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti himself to build consensus amongst both the states. Those meetings were fruitful and signing of MoU is expected in the month of December 2023.

DG, NWDA appraised the members that work on preparation of DPR for various components has already been started and DPR shall be completed by March, 2024.

Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan, raised following issues:

1. Dependability criterion for planning purpose of the project.

DG, NWDA explained that for project planning, guidelines for preparation of DPR, 2010 shall be followed and overall, applicable success criterion like 75% success for irrigation application, 100 % success for drinking water needs etc. shall be followed.

2. Augmenting the role of Gandhi Sagar reservoir and need for providing auxiliary spillway in Gandhi Sagar dam.

DG, NWDA explained that as per draft MoU, the existing agreement between two states for utilisation of Chambal River water shall not disturbed. The MP shall be able to use only that much water in Upper Chambal that can be brought from Kalisindh to Gandhi Sagar (about 400 MCM).

3. To consider climate change factor for hydrological studies and pricing factor as water is being brought from one basin to other incurring cost.

Sh. Prodipto Ghosh, Member, TFILR also endorsed the viewpoints of Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan. He emphasised the need of conducting sensitivity analysis for climate change scenario. He also highlighted the importance of water tariff for irrigation water. The project reports should reflect computation of total and marginal cost of irrigation water. He mentioned that cost recovery may be a political decision but technical

institutions shall provide this information to Government in their reports so as to take well informed and rational decisions on the cost of water involved.

DG, NWDA explained that climate change factor has already been considered in system studies that have been undertaken for various Interlinking of Rivers projects. The system studies of this link project may also be taken up. Considering the cost involved in IBWT, the draft MoU clearly stipulates that the transferred water shall be used in most judicious / efficient manner.

Chairman, TFILR requested DG, NWDA and Member, WP & P, CWC to discuss this issue and to prepare a generalised note on the same for water resources projects so that it can be taken / put forth in Ministry for discussions at higher level.

Chairman, Task Force also directed NWDA to take up the System studies of Modified PKC link appropriately.

3.5 Item no. 18.5: Godavari (Inchampalli barrage) – Cauvery link proposal

DG, NWDA briefly mentioned about DPR of the link project that was circulated to party States in April, 2021 and five consultation meetings held with States so far. The 5th meeting was held on 10.11.23. He informed that as per decisions taken during 3rd consultation meeting, a Technical Feasibility Report for proposal of limiting the transfer from 7000 MCM to about 4000 MCM from Godavari along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link has been prepared by NWDA and circulated to concerned States in January, 2023. He gave details of quantum of water diversion and benefits to party states from the modified proposal. He informed the members that meetings are being held with party states frequently to expedite consensus building. Work on modification of DPR for transfer of about 4189 MCM of water from Godavari along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link, in interim phase has been taken up. A draft MoU for preparation of final DPR has also been prepared in consultation with States and is likely to be signed soon. The modified DPR for transfer of about 4189 MCM of water from Godavari is in progress is likely to be completed and circulated by December, 2023.

Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan, mentioned that water being a state subject, states' opinion may be considered on inter sectoral use of total water allocated to them. Sh. A.D. Mohile also queried about basis of sectoral allocation of water to States. He further opined to consider the factor of return flows while assessing water availability.

DG, NWDA clarified that the proposed utilisation from the link project for irrigation / domestic / industrial uses for States have been arrived based on topographical and the link alignment giving preference to domestic and industrial usages in the states/UT. The allocation shall be further fine-tuned based on the consultation with States.

DG, NWDA further submitted to the committee that proposed diversion of Godavari water for the link project on interim basis is being proposed based on unutilised water in Indrāvati sub-basin by the state of Chhattisgarh allocated as per GWDT award. It has been reiterated from time to time that the state of Chhattisgarh shall be free to use its share in Godavari. Therefore, whether an appropriate study projecting the availability of water in Godavari in coming years say next 30-40 years at the intake point of link project be taken up to address the scenario when the state of Chhattisgarh is able to utilise its share and at what point the augmentation of Godavari by waters of Mahanadi and northern rivers like Brahmaputra shall be needed. As of now, there is plenty of water in Godavari in its lower reaches and the same is likely to be available in short and medium term.

Sh. A. D. Mohile supported the need for such a study to project water availability scenario in river Godavari. This may be useful in justifying huge investment on such a project in which water may not be available on allocation basis as per GWDT award but still available for the link project for fairly long period on account of various constraints/challenges in the utilisation of Godavari water by various states as per GWDT award. Sh. Mohile mentioned that he would provide broad inputs on scope and framework for such a study.

Chairman, TFILR appreciated the idea and agreed that such studies should be taken up. He opined that NIH, Roorkee may be explored for conducting such study.

3.6 Item no. 18.6: Kosi-Mechi Link project

DG, NWDA explained that Kosi-Mechi is under Himalayan component of NPP and its PFR was prepared in year 1997. The Kosi-Mechi link canal was proposed originating from Chatra barrage in Nepal and traversing through Nepal territory. However, further studies of the Kosi-Mechi link could not be taken up due to international dimension involved with Nepal in the link.

Accordingly, on the request of Government of Bihar, the study of Kosi Mechi Intra State link which starts from existing Hanuman Nagar Barrage and benefitting the state of Bihar was undertaken by NWDA. The PFR and DPR of Kosi – Mechi intra-State link project was prepared and sent to Govt. of Bihar. All the statutory clearances have been obtained for the link. An MoU has been signed between NWDA and WRD, Bihar for preparation of DPR of the link project.

Based on the discussions by officials of CWC, it is learnt that Nepal is not keen to align the Kosi-Mechi link canal through their territory because of land acquisition issues. It is therefore suggested that link canal benefitting the command in India can be taken from Hanuman Nagar Barrage while link canal of smaller size can be planned in Nepal benefitting the areas in Nepal.

Accordingly, DG opined that Kosi – Mechi Intra State link project can be considered as an alternate of the original Kosi – Mechi link and be considered as a part of NPP.

Sh. A. D. Mohile suggested to try for the Inter State link proposal as it would pave a way for improving Indo- Nepal cooperation.

DG, NWDA explained that interests of Nepal shall be well considered and a link canal of smaller size can be planned in Nepal originating from Chatra barrage for providing benefits in Nepal while the link canal from Hanuman Nagar Barrage shall serve command in India.

Sh. Amit Shukla, MEA, apprised the members that discussions regarding Kosi High Dam were held with Nepal recently during site visit for Chatra Barrage. He explained that land acquisition in Nepal would be a challenging task and as per discussions of MEA representatives with Nepal, it is suggested to have Kosi - Mechi

link canal within Indian territory. Nepal would take one canal from this link canal for Nepalese use.

Chairman, TFILR endorsed the view point of MEA and agreed with the proposal of NWDA making Koshi-Mechi intra state link of Bihar as an alternative of Kosi-Mechi link under NPP.

DG, NWDA thanked TFILR for endorsing the proposal and submitted that the proposal would be placed in forthcoming meeting of SCILR for its approval.

3.7 Item no. 18.7: System studies of Link projects

DG, NWDA briefed about status of progress of system studies work of 5 link projects. He stated that NIH, Roorkee has completed the system studies for Mahanadi-Godavari link project and has submitted its Final Report in May, 2023. He briefed about the key outcomes of that study and said that these outcomes shall be incorporated in DPR of the link project suitably. He briefed about status of system studies of four more link projects viz; Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga Link, Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha Link, Subernarekha-Mahanadi Link and Farraka - Sunderban Link.

He apprised the members that a System Studies Unit is being established in NWDA with a dedicated team for work.

He put forth the opinion of Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation and System Studies on Interlinking of Rivers, that was held on 13.10.23 regarding inclusion of Chairman of Sub Committee as a member of TFILR.

Chairman, TFILR recommended that Chairman, Sub Committee can be included as a Special Invitee for TFILR meetings as and when required, as per the agenda of TFILR.

3.8 Item 18.8: National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA): DG, NWDA briefed about status of Cabinet Note for constitution of NIRA. Draft Cabinet Note was submitted to Ministry and after approval from Hon'ble Minister (Jal Shakti), it was circulated to various Ministries / Departments. The views so obtained were suitably incorporated and submitted to Ministry. Other Ministries/Departments have

supported the constitution of NIRA. The modified Cabinet Note is under active consideration in the cabinet secretariat.

3.9 Item 18.9 : Any other item with permission of the Chair

Dr. Shobha Waghmare referred to issues related to Kaleshwaram project. Chairman, TFILR requested to take this issue in a separate meeting.

Sh. A.D. Mohile, Member, TFILR made some observations, which are taken note of by NWDA.

Chairman, TFILR thanked all the members and participants. He appreciated the significant progress made in ILR works in last few months.

In the end, DG, NWDA thanked Chairman, TFILR for his guidance and concerted efforts on interlinking of river programme the country. He expressed his deep gratitude to all the members for their valuable guidance and suggestions.

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Mode of Joining
Members of TFILR		
1.	Sh. SriramVedire, Chairman, TFILR & Advisor, MoJS, DoWR, RD&GR	Physical
2.	Sh. Navin Kumar, Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission on behalf of Chairman, CWC	Online
3.	Sh. Prodipto Ghosh, Former Secretary, MoEF & CC & Distinguished Fellow TERI	Online
4.	Sh. A.D. Mohile, Ex-Chariman, CWC	Physical
5.	Sh. M. Gopalakrishnan, Former Secretary General, ICID, Former Member D&R, CWC	Physical
6.	Dr. Shobha Vrushali Waghmarc	Online
7.	Sh. Amit A Shukla, Director (North), Ministry of External Affairs, on behalf of Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs	Online
8.	Sh. Bhopal Singh, Director General, NWDA & Member Secretary, TFILR	Physical
Officers from other Departments		
9.	Sh. D. Ranga Reddy, Chief Engineer, KGBO, CWC, Hyderabad	Physical
Officers from NWDA		
10.	Sh. Baleshwar Thakur, Chief Engineer (HQ), New Delhi	Online
11.	Dr. R.N.Sankhua, Chief Engineer(South), Hyderabad	Physical
12.	Dr. Dilip Kumar, Director (MDU), New Delhi	Online
13.	Sh. Shajatnan K.H., Superintending Engineer (South), New Delhi	Online
14.	Ch.Y.Subrahmanyam, Superintending Engineer, IC, Valsad	Online
15.	Sh. S.A.Naidu,	Physical

	Superintending Engineer, IC, Hyderabad	
16.	Sh. R. Balakrishnan, Executive Engineer, ID, Chennai	Online
17.	Smt. Y.Gopi Lavanya, Executive Engineer, ID, Hyderabad	Physical
18.	Smt. Deepika Sharma, I/C Deputy Director (Tech.), New Delhi	Online
19.	Sh. S.Suresh, Assistant Executive Engineer, ID, Hyderabad	Physical
20.	Sh. S.P Tomar, Assistant Engineer, New Delhi	Online
21.	Sh. Hari Om Varshney, Assistant Engineer, New Delhi	Online
22.	Sh. Dindi Ramamohana Rao, Assistant Engineer, Hyderabad	Online
23.	Sh. Subhash Chandra Parui, Assistant Engineer, ID, Kolkata	Online
24.	Sh. Nikhil V J, Junior Engineer, New Delhi	Online
25.	Sh. Subodh Kumar, Junior Engineer, New Delhi	Online
26.	Sh. Abir Sarkar, Junior Engineer, New Delhi	Online
27.	Sh. Krishna Gurjar, Junior Engineer, New Delhi	Online
28.	Sh. Rakesh Kumar Kharbanda, Consultant (Tech.), New Delhi	Online