

## **Minutes of the Seventieth Meeting of the Governing Body of National Water Development Agency held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

The seventieth meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was held on 15.11.2022 under the chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi in hybrid mode. The list of members and other participants in the meeting is annexed.

**1.0** In his opening remarks, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR & Chairman, GB, welcomed the members and participants. He stated that the Governing Body of NWDA manages, administers and directs the affairs of NWDA Society and reviews the performance of the organisation and set priorities of works pertaining to interlinking of rivers in the country. In the meeting, the work programme and progress made during the current year shall be deliberated along with the Annual Report and audited accounts of NWDA for the FY 2021-22. He appreciated timely completion of audit of NWDA and preparation of annual report for the financial year 2021-22, so that it can be laid in the winter session of Parliament. He mentioned that year 2021 was a historical milestone in history of NWDA as implementation of first link project, viz., Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP) initiated after obtaining approval from Government of India. He congratulated DG, NWDA and his team for this commendable achievement. He apprised the participants about various activities undertaken for further progress of work of KBLP like setting up of KBLPA, constitution of Steering Committee, land acquisition, environmental clearance related work, release of funds, etc. He emphasized that consensus building amongst States is the major plank for implementation of the link projects and it requires active involvement and cooperation of States. He, then, requested DG, NWDA to take up the agenda items.

**2.0** Director General (DG), NWDA and Member-Secretary welcomed the Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti & Chairman, Governing Body (GB) and thanked him for his encouraging words. He extended a warm welcome to all the members and participants who joined the meeting physically and online. DG, NWDA made power point presentation of agenda items for discussion. The deliberations held and decisions of GB are given below in brief:

### **2.1 Item No. 70.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of NWDA held on 19.1.22**

DG, NWDA informed that the minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of GB of NWDA held on 19.01.2022 were circulated to all the members vide letter dated 09.02.2022. He mentioned about the comments received from Government of Kerala and reply of NWDA on the same.

Since no further comments were received from any members, **the minutes as circulated were confirmed by the Governing Body.**

## **2.2 Item No. 70.2: Follow up action on the decisions taken in the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body of the NWDA.**

DG, NWDA briefly explained the follow up action on the decisions taken in the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting. He informed that approval of Hon'ble Minister (Jal Shakti) was obtained for Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2020-21 and, thereafter, the same has been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in March, 2022. Annual Report for the year 2020-21 has been circulated to all the members of the NWDA Society and Governing Body and uploaded on the website of NWDA.

*Governing Body noted the status.*

## **2.3 Item No. 70.3: Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2021-22.**

DG, NWDA informed that certification audit had been carried out by the office of Director General of Audit (Agriculture, Food and Water Resources), New Delhi in July, 2022 and audit certificate was received on 20.10.2022. He explained the major observations of audit and actions taken by NWDA to comply with them. After completion of audit, the audited accounts, audit report along with the audit certificate and replies of NWDA to the audit report have been included in the Annual Report for the year 2021-22 and are placed before the Governing Body for approval.

The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor (JS&FA), DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS pointed out that few minor audit observations which were made in last year's Audit Report are seen repeated in the Audit Report of year 2021-22. She suggested that observations which are once pointed out by auditors should be complied with and should not be repeated in next Audit Report.

DG, NWDA thanked JS & FA, MoJS for her guidance and assured that the observation pointed out by her will be complied with, for further improvement. DG, NWDA gave a brief about chapters of Annual Report.

The Chairman of GB suggested few modifications in the Annual Report emphasizing on reframing of "highlights" mentioned in the Annual Report suggesting that highlights should reflect the major achievements of NWDA like approval of implementation of KBLP by Govt. of India and significant actions in regard to that project. Also, few minor corrections in captions of photographs were suggested by him.

The Chairman then requested members of GB for their comments, if any, on audited accounts and annual report.

The Chairman requested DG, NWDA to modify the Annual Report as suggested before submitting it for approval of Hon'ble Minister.

*With these suggestions, the Governing Body approved the annual report & audited accounts for the year 2021-22.*

#### **2.4 Item No. 70.4: Budget Estimate and Actual Expenditure during the financial year 2021-22.**

DG, NWDA informed the members about the budget estimate and actual expenditure incurred for the financial year 2021-22.

*Governing Body noted the above information.*

#### **2.5 Item No.70.5: Progress achieved and Programme of works for the year 2022-23**

DG, NWDA informed the members about the work programme for year 2022-23 and progress achieved in terms of completion of DPRs, FRs and PFRs of link projects. He informed all the members that eight (8) Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are completed and work of preparation of eight (8) more DPRs has been taken up. It is planned to complete 18 to 20 DPRs by year 2024. Twenty four (24) Feasibility Reports (FRs) are completed and two (2) more are being prepared. FRs of all the link projects would be completed by March, 2023. Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the links have been completed. Fifteen (15) Water Balance studies have also been completed during the this year. He apprised the members about another important work of system studies of link projects which has made substantial progress since last year.

*Governing Body noted the information.*

#### **2.6 Item No. 70.6: Priority links / Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) completed.**

DG, NWDA explained about substantial progress of works achieved for Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP) in details. He explained that initial focus is on land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation planning and compliance of conditions for Wildlife and Forest land clearance. Steering Committee and Ken Betwa link Project Authority (KBLPA) has conducted its two meetings each, so far. Office spaces for KBLPA have been identified and their renovation works have been initiated. Process of constitution of a Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC) is under progress. Engagement of Project Management Consultant has been initiated by a Consultation Evaluation Committee (CEC) constituted for the same. Work of tender preparation for Daudhan dam is under progress and tender is planned to be floated by early next year. The proposal for notifications of three (3) Wildlife Sanctuaries under Project Tiger have been approved by both the States.

Additional Chief Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh briefed about development of works related to KBLP and apprised the members that land acquisition work of 21 villages will be completed by December, 2022 as per schedule. Regarding constitution of Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC), he informed that work is under progress and a meeting with Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is planned to be held shortly. He assured Chairman, that the KBLP work has been accorded top priority by Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

Chairman suggested that if required, a meeting with ACS, WRDs of both the States can be planned to further gain momentum in the work.

DG, NWDA mentioned that Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects have not shown much progress owing to reluctance of both the States to pursue these link projects. Chief Engineer, Govt. of Maharashtra informed that work related to Damanganga-Pinjal link project is being pursued at State level. Also, he requested to conduct a joint meeting of both the States to solve the pending issues of the link project.

Regarding Godavari-Cauvery link project, DG, NWDA informed that after circulation of DPR in April, 2021, continuous efforts are being made to build consensus amongst States for the implementation of this link so that further course of action can be taken up. He informed that four consultation meetings with party States/UT have been held so far. The last meeting was held on 18.10.2022. As per decisions of 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation meeting held on 18.02.22, a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) has also recently been prepared by NWDA to recast the proposal limiting the transfer from 7,000 MCM to about 4,000 MCM from Godavari along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link. In the modified proposal, the size of water conductor system has also been reduced as per current requirement unlike ultimate requirement basis taken in the proposal of transfer of 7,000 MCM of water. So cost of the project has reduced substantially to 46,000 crore from 85,000 crore. If States agree, then NWDA can take up the preparation of DPR for the same.

Additional Chief Secretary, WRD, Tamil Nadu appreciated the efforts made by NWDA and mentioned that Govt. of Tamil Nadu supports the link project. He raised the issue of taking the canal to a higher contour upto Kattalai barrage instead of Grand Anicut so that there is no gap / delink between link canal terminating point of Phase-I and starting point of Phase-II. He mentioned that on request of Tamil Nadu Govt., NWDA has prepared Pre Feasibility Report of Pennar ( Somasila) - Palar- Cauvery (Kattalai) link project and requested to share the same with them.

He also referred to discussions held during 4<sup>th</sup> consultation meeting and requested to revise the Phase-I alignment till Kattalai and requested that flexibility of States to utilise excess available water at a point of time based on the need at that time. He requested to explore the possibility to increase the water allocation to Tamil Nadu.

Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh referred to the discussions held during 4<sup>th</sup> consultation meeting and indicated that their views as mentioned in draft minutes of the meeting need to be modified / incorporated properly before finalizing the same.

Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka referring to 4<sup>th</sup> consultation meeting, mentioned that allocation of 9.8 TMC of water to Karnataka as per revised proposal of Godavari-Cauvery link is very less and allocation needs to be revisited. Also, he requested to convey them the guidelines on basis of which this water allocation has been made.

Chairman assured him that their views would be taken into account while finalizing the minutes of the consultation meeting.

Engineer-in-Chief, Telangana requested to consider their views on Godavari-Cauvery link, already submitted by them to NWDA.

Chief Engineer, Water Resources, Govt. of Kerala indicated that Kerala being the basin State in Cauvery basin, the involvement of Kerala in any further decision is necessary while finalizing the DPR of this link. Also, she mentioned that demand of water to be allocated to Kerala was not addressed adequately in Cauvery Tribunal so it should be considered while finalizing the allocation of water to Kerala State.

DG, NWDA informed that DPR of Kosi – Mechi intra-State link project is ready for implementation as all necessary approvals have been obtained. He also informed that the Govt. of Bihar has requested NWDA to take up the working DPR for implementation of project and NWDA submitted a proposal for taking up this work and the matter will be sorted out shortly.

Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Govt. of Bihar mentioned about few issues related to command area level planning and work for the project as well as other Intra State links.

DG, NWDA replied that all such issues will be sorted out in a separate meeting with them.

*The status was noted by the Governing Body.*

#### **2.7 Item no. 70.7 : Integration of PKC with ERCP :**

DG, NWDA explained that issues relating to the integration of ERCP with PKC link under NPP are yet to be resolved. Based on deliberations at various platforms, a proposal of modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (Modified PKC) link, incorporating the components as proposed by Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in Kuno, Parbati and Kalisindh sub-basins along with components of ERCP corresponding to divertible water available at 75 percent dependability, has been framed. As per 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) held on 17.05.2022, it was decided that the proposal of modified PKC link may be proceeded **in phase-I** and proposal be placed before Special Committee – ILR for declaring Modified PKC link as a priority link. This proposal is under discussion with both the States.

*The status was noted by the Governing Body.*

#### **2.8 Item no. 70.8 : System Studies of four link projects :**

DG, NWDA apprised all the members of GB about objective of carrying out system studies. He explained that there is a need to develop a framework to see impact of various factors on the link proposals. System studies of Mahanadi-Godavari link project is nearing finalization, System studies of four more link projects viz; Manas - Sankosh-Tista-Ganga Link, Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha Link, Subernarekha-Mahanadi Link and Farraka - Sunderban Link has been awarded to IIT Guwahati, NIT Patna, NIT Warangal and NIH , Roorkee respectively. The action for taking up the system studies for Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery – Vaigai- Gundar links system has also been initiated.

Additional Chief Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu queried whether DPRs would be influenced with outcomes of the system studies of link projects. DG, NWDA replied that water management is a dynamic issue and through system studies, various scenarios can be generated and likely impacts of various factors like climate change, changes in food consumption, ground water changes etc. on link projects can also be analyzed. These analyses can be helpful in fine tuning the DPRs as well as carrying post project studies. Once the link projects are ready, system studies coupled with forecast models may be used to build a Decision Support System (DSS) to utilize the resources optimally.

#### **2.9 Item no. 70.9: Status of Intra State link projects :**

DG, NWDA informed the members about latest status of work related to intra-State links.

#### **2.10 Item No.70.10 : National Interlinking of River Authority (NIRA)**

DG, NWDA informed that the proposal for the constitution of National Interlinking of River Authority (NIRA) is under active consideration in the Ministry. The issue was deliberated at length in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Task Force-ILR (TFILR) and its structure, functions, modalities for subsuming NWDA into NIRA, requirement of additional posts etc. was firmed up. The draft proposal of constitution of NIRA after getting approved by the Special Committee on ILR in its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting held in November, 2021, was submitted to the Ministry in December, 2021. After getting approved by Hon'ble Minister, a Cabinet Note on the proposal was circulated amongst concerned Central Ministries/ Departments for comments in February, 2022. The Note has been modified suitably after incorporating the observations received from various Ministries / Departments and is likely to be placed before Cabinet for approval shortly. DG, NWDA stressed that the consultation and building consensus amongst party States shall continue to be the guiding principle of NIRA for the implementation of any link project in the country.

Chairman also apprised all the members about the objective of NIRA and emphasized that it would focus on consensus building and consultation with States. NIRA would provide more heft to organization for inter-State consultations. He mentioned that, by now, considerable work from technical perspective has been carried out as several technical studies have been conducted by NWDA. Now more effort for consensus building is needed and NIRA would provide as the suitable platform / body for more intense interaction and active and frequent participation of States. NIRA would focus on implementation of link projects with consensus building amongst concerned States.

*The status was noted by the Governing Body.*

#### **2.11 Item No.70.11, 70.11.1 & 70.12:**

Director General, NWDA informed about status of meetings of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) and Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) held so far.

He also apprised members of GB that there were four (4) sub-committees functioning under SCILR. Two committees have already submitted their reports and remaining two sub-committees have recently been merged by Ministry of Jal Shakti and merged sub-committee has been reconstituted as “Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation and System Studies on Interlinking of Rivers” under the chairmanship of Shri A. B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID, New Delhi and Prof. P B S Sarma, Retd. Professor, IIT, Delhi would be the vice chairman of the sub-committee.

***Governing Body noted the information.***

**2.12 Item No.70.13: Direct Recruitment in NWDA During 2022-23 :**

DG, NWDA informed about direct recruitment of officials in NWDA during the year 2022-23 at various offices of NWDA.

He expressed the severity of crisis for middle level officers in NWDA, specifically for the posts at Executive Engineer and Superintending Engineer level, for next 3 to 4 years as most of the senior officials of NWDA would be retiring by next year.

Chairman asked DG, NWDA to put forth the requirements well in advance so that necessary process for bringing officers on deputation can be completed in time. He asked JS (Admn.), MoJS to look into the matter and help NWDA to solve the crisis of middle level officers.

***Governing Body noted the information.***

**2.13 Item No. 70.14 : 7<sup>th</sup> India Water Week**

Director General NWDA informed that the 7<sup>th</sup> India Water Week was successfully organized during 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida with theme “Water Security for sustainable Development with Equity”. The mega event was organized by DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, in association with other Nodal Ministries/Departments viz. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development, related State Government departments, associated expert organizations, key international bodies and business groups. More than 2,000 delegates from 28 countries participated in the event.

Chairman appreciated DG, NWDA and his team for their hard work and congratulated them for successful organization of the event.

***Governing Body noted the information.***

**2.14 Item No. 70.17: Any other Item with the permission of the Chair:**

Chief Engineer, Ground Water Management Council, Punjab referred to Sarda-Yamuna link project and requested to consider Punjab as one of its beneficiary States. DG, NWDA

informed that their letter regarding this request has been received.

Engineer-in Chief, Odisha raised issue related to PFR of Nagavalli-Vamsadhara-Rushikulya (NVR ) Intra State Link. He mentioned that as per PFR, the link is infeasible and they wanted to deliberate on the same.

DG, NWDA replied that issue related to outcomes of the PFR will be discussed in a separate meeting.

Deputy Commissioner (RFS), MoA & FW mentioned about importance of micro irrigation system. He requested that NWDA can help in promotion of this system especially for water deficit States.

His suggestion was noted.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair and all the members/participants.



**List of Members and Participants who attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body of NWDA held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Hybrid mode**

Members		
1.	Shri Pankaj Kumar Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	In Chair
2.	Shri Avinash Mishra Advisor (WR & LR), NITI Aayog	Member
3.	Sh. Sunil Kumar, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board	Member
4.	Shri Anil Jain, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission	Representing CWC
5.	Shri Subodh Yadav Joint Secretary (Admn, IC& GW), DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS	Member
6.	Sh. R.A.S Patel, Deputy Commissioner (RFS), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.	Representing Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
7.	Shri P.K. Shukla, Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority	Representing CEA
8.	Sh. Mritunjay Mohapatra, DG, IMD	Member
9.	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Scientist D, Department of Science & Technology	Representing DoS&T
10.	Sh. Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	Member
11.	Sh. Ishwar Chand Thakur, Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Bihar	Representing Govt. of Bihar
12.	Sh. S.G Pandya, OSD, WRD Government of Gujarat	Representing Govt. of Gujarat
13.	Sh. Motilal Pingua, Chief Engineer, WRD	Representing Govt. of Jharkhand
14.	Shri B. Kulkarni ,Secretary, WRD Sh. Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, WRD Govt. of Karnataka	Member
15.	Smt. P. Sreedevi, Chief Engineer, WRD, Kerala	Representing Govt. of Kerala

16.	Shri S. N. Mishra Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Member
17.	Ms. Jaya Potdar Dy. secretary, WRD, Maharashtra	Representing Govt. of Maharashtra
18.	Sh. Ashutosh Das, Special Secretary-II cum Engineer-in -Chief Water Resources Department	Govt. of Odisha
19.	Shri I. D. Goyal, Chief Engineer, WRD	Representing Govt. of Punjab
20.	Sh. Ravi Solanki Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Rajasthan	Representing Govt. of Rajasthan
21.	Dr. Sandeep Saxena Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Tamil Nadu	Member
22.	Sh. Biplab Mukherjee, Joint Secretary	Representing Govt. of West Bengal
23.	Sh. V. Sathyamurthi, Chief Engineer, Public works	Representing Govt. of Puducherry
24.	Sh. C. Muralidhar, Engineer in Chief	Representing Government of Telangana
25.	Sh.S.K.Saha, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department	Representing Govt. of Uttarakhand
Special Invitees		
26.	Ms Richa Misra, JS & FA, DoWR, RD and GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Special Invitee
27.	Sh. R.N. Singh, Deputy Commissioner (BM), Ministry of Jal Shakti	Representing SJC (BM)
Member Secretary		
28.	Shri Bhopal Singh, Director General, NWDA, New Delhi	Member-Secretary
Officers from Central and State Governments		
29.	Sh. M.S Dawar, Engineer in Chief	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
30.	O.P. S. Kushwah, Consultant	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

31.	Sh. Narayana Reddy, Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
32.	Sh. Alok Kumar, Executive Engineer, WRD,	Govt. of Jharkhand
33.	Shri M. R. Patel, CE South & Gujarat, WRD	Govt. of Gujarat
34.	Sh. Vijay Ghogre, Chief Engineer, WRD	Government of Maharashtra
35.	Sh. Rajasekhar, Superintending Engineer,	Govt. of Puducherry
36.	Sh. R. Subramanian, Chairman, CTC	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
37.	Sh. V. Mohan Kumar, Chief Engineer(ISW)	Government of Telangana
38.	Sh. Subramanya Prasad, Executive Engineer(Inter State Godavari basin)	Government of Telangana
39.	Smt. A. Nisha Rani. Assistant Engineer, Cauvery Technical Cell	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
<b>Officials of NWDA</b>		
40.	Shri Baleshwer Thakur, Chief Engineer (HQ)	NWDA, New Delhi
41.	Dr. R. N. Sankhua, Chief Engineer (S)	NWDA, Hyderabad
42.	Shri Shiv Prakash, Chief Engineer (N)	NWDA, Lucknow
43.	Shri D. K. Sharma, Director (Tech)	NWDA, New Delhi
44.	Shri Chirbrata Sarkar, Director (Admn.)	NWDA, New Delhi
45.	Shri S. C. Awasthi, Superintending Engineer- N	NWDA, New Delhi
46.	Shri S. R. Mahor, Superintending Engineer- S	NWDA, New Delhi
47.	Sh. B.S.Ucharia, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, Patna
48.	Sh. R. K. Gupta, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, BBSR
49.	Sh. B.L. Sharma, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, Gwalior
50.	Sh. R. Balakrishnan, Executive Engineer	NWDA, Chennai

51.	Sh. R. Vinod Kumar, Executive Engineer (HQ)	NWDA, New Delhi
52.	Shri R. Chandrasekaran, Deputy Director	NWDA, New Delhi
53.	Sh. R.K. Kharbanda, Consultant	NWDA, New Delhi
54.	Smt. Deepika Sharma, Deputy Director	NWDA, New Delhi
55.	Sh. S. James, Assistant Director	NWDA, New Delhi
56.	Sh. Hari Om Varshney, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, Lucknow
57.	Sh. Ankit Kumar, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
58.	Sh. Nikhil V. J., Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi