

Minutes of the Seventy First Meeting of the Governing Body of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) held on 11th July, 2023

The 71st meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was held on 11.07.2023 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.

2.0 In his opening remarks, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR & Chairman, GB, welcomed the members and participants. He stated that the main agenda of the present meeting is to review the progress and status of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) projects. NWDA is actively pursuing Interlinking of Rivers as well as various Intra State link projects. He emphasized the need for regular and intensive interaction among States to arrive at optimal solution for water sharing in ILR projects leading to win - win possibilities for the States. Lack of regular interaction amongst State officials gives rise to various narratives over a period of time and render the task of dispassionate discussion, based on sound principles of inter-State basin management, challenging. He requested State officials to have continuous interactions with other States and institutions / agencies like CWC and NWDA etc. He, then, requested DG, NWDA to take up the agenda items.

3.0 Director General (DG), NWDA and Member-Secretary of the GB of NWDA welcomed the Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti & Chairman, GB of NWDA and also 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. 71.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 70th Meeting of the Governing Body of NWDA held on 15.11.2022

DG, NWDA informed that the minutes of the 70th meeting of GB of NWDA were circulated to all the members vide letter dated 25.11.2022. He mentioned that comments have been received from State of Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra and same have been suitably replied by NWDA. He briefly explained the comments / observations as received from these State Governments and also mentioned that the keen interest shown by States for deliberations during the meetings as well as thereafter, is commendable.

Governing Body confirmed the minutes as circulated.

2.2 Item No. 71.2: Follow up action on the decisions taken in the 69th Meeting of Governing Body of the NWDA.

DG, NWDA briefly explained the follow up actions on decisions that were taken in the 70th meeting on inclusion of JS & FA, DoWR, RD &GR, as member of GB of NWDA, constitution of Finance Committee in NWDA, addressing the manpower shortage in NWDA at middle level etc.

Governing Body noted the status.

2.3 Item No. 71.3: Budget Estimate and Actual Expenditure for year 2022-23 and year 2023-24

DG, NWDA informed the members about the budget estimate and actual expenditure incurred for the financial year 2022-23 and year 2023-24. He apprised the members that CAG has completed the audit of the Annual Accounts of organisation on 30.06.2023 and preparation of replies to draft SAR is under progress. Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts would be placed timely before Parliament in its Winter Session after due approval.

Chairman appreciated the progress and Governing Body noted the above information.

2.4 Item No.71.4: Progress achieved during the year 2022-23

DG, NWDA informed the members about the progress achieved during the year 2022-23 in terms of completion of updation / revision of Water Balance Studies, Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs), Feasibility Reports (FRs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). He informed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links under National Perspective Plan (NPP) have been prepared and work of preparation of six more DPRs is in progress. Twenty four (24) Feasibility Reports (FRs) are completed and remaining two planned to be completed this year. Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the links have been completed. He apprised the members about another important work of system studies of link projects which has made substantial progress during the year.

Governing Body noted the information.

2.5 Item No. 71.5: Programme of works for the year 2023-24.

DG, NWDA presented the link-wise targets in terms of implementation of link/ post DPRs works/ preparation of DPRs / FRs / PFRs/Water Balance Studies/system Studies etc. as planned for the year 2023-24. The work programme broadly includes implementation of Ken-Betwa Link project, modifying the DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli) –Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link, preparation of draft DPRs of six links, post DPR works of various links and consensus building, completing two FRs and updation of two FRs, preparation of two PFRs,

revision of 14 Water Balance Studies, System studies of four links etc. He told that NWDA is planning to complete 18 to 20 DPRs of links under NPP by year 2024-25.

Governing Body noted the information.

2.6 Item No. 71.6: Priority Links : 71.6.1 - Ken Betwa Link Project

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. He apprised the members about approval obtained from State Governments for inclusion of three wildlife sanctuaries under Project Tiger. Steering Committee and Ken Betwa link Project Authority (KBLPA) have conducted four meetings each, so far. Offices for KBLPA have been opened up at Bhopal, Chattarpur and Jhansi. He mentioned about constitution of a Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC), Tender Evaluation Committee for Daudhan dam, Monitoring Committee for Rehabilitation & Resettlement and progress regarding engagement of Project Management Consultant for KBLPA. He also presented the focus areas for the current financial year for the project like establishment of full fledged offices of KBLPA, hiring of PMC, completion of land acquisition for Daudhan dam, initiating conservation works of landscape management plan of PTR, completion of DPRs of remaining components like tanks/ two barrages/strengthening of weirs etc., floating of tender for Daudhan dam, initiate the land acquisition for Ken-Betwa link canal etc.

Item no. 71.6.2 - Godavari (Inchampalli)- Cauvery (Grand Anicut) 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. As per decisions of 3rd consultation meeting held on 18.02.2022, a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) was 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 and circulated to party States. The modified proposal will provide for 6.2 lakh hectare of irrigation and would benefit 1.88 crore of population using 1,471 MCM of water.

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 link canal to a higher contour upto Kattalai barrage instead of Grand Anicut.

DG, NWDA explained that the study of taking canal to Kattalai has been done by NWDA and this involves a lift of about 50 to 60 metres. He apprised the members that inter basin water transfer works on the principle of substitution and lifting is avoided, as far as possible.

Chairman opined to conduct a separate meeting with Tamil Nadu State officials to address the issue raised by them. He also emphasised to bring Chattisgarh on board during the deliberations of Godavari-Cauvery link project as the alternative proposal is based on

using Chattisgarh's unutilised water of Godavari river.

Advisor, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh put forth their disagreement for assumptions taken for quantifying the availability of surplus water in Godavari river.

Chief Engineer, ISW, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Kerala requested for involvement of Kerala in any further decision /deliberations while finalizing the DPR of this link. He also requested to share Cabinet Note on constitution of National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA).

Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Puducherry stressed for early implementation of the link and also requested to have a proper monitoring mechanism. The allocation of water to Puducherry as per Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, should not get disturbed while finalizing the DPR of Godavari-Cauvery link project.

Chairman, Governing Body informed that their issues have been noted and these can be taken up for further deliberations separately.

Item no. 71.6.3 - Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link duly integrated with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

DG, NWDA explained the inception of proposal of modified PKC link and approval of making the project as a part of National Perspective Plan (NPP) and declaring the phase-I of the link project as one of the priority links, by Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers in December, 2022. He apprised the members that first phase of Modified PKC Link is planned to provide annual irrigation of about 2.8 lakh ha along with meeting drinking water requirements of 13 eastern districts of Rajasthan and annual irrigation of about 2.58 lakh ha in Madhya Pradesh. PFR for the project was prepared by NWDA and sent to both the States in January, 2023. He mentioned about joint meeting held with both the States in February, 2023 wherein planning for preparation of DPR was finalized. He informed that CWC is finalising the hydrology study and that would form the basis for further deliberations on water sharing. The draft DPR of Phase-I is planned to be completed by September, 2023.

Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Rajasthan put forth their views and mentioned that they have already submitted their observations on PFR in writing, regarding assessment of water and water regeneration quantification. He also requested to consider Kalisindh river as an intra-State river.

Chairman, Governing Body informed that a meeting with both the States is scheduled to be convened shortly and these issues can be deliberated during that meeting.

Item no. 71.6.4 - Kosi – Mechi Intra State link project

DG, NWDA explained the status of progress made for the link project regarding MoU signed with Govt. of Bihar for preparation of working DPR, updating of the DPR at current price level and submission of a PIB Note in the Ministry.

Engineer-in-Chief (HQ), Govt. of Bihar raised the issue of early preparation of working

DPR by NWDA. Also, he requested for approval of funding pattern on same lines as given for KBLP.

Chairman, Governing Body clarified that issue of funding pattern is a separate issue which cannot be discussed in the present meeting. He underlined that funding pattern shall be finalized by Central Government.

2.7 Item no. 71.7 - Damanganga-Pinjal (DP) and Par-Tapi-Narmada (PTN) link projects

DG, NWDA informed the members that DPRs for both the projects have been completed and draft MoU for implementation for both the projects was sent to States in 2017. Water sharing issue for PTN is yet not resolved and both the States are not keen to pursue PTN link. Recently, both the link projects are discontinued from status of “priority links of NPP” as per decision of Ministry.

The information was noted by the Governing Body.

2.8 Item no. 71.8 : System Studies of four link projects :

DG, NWDA apprised all the members of GB there is a need to develop a framework to see impact of various factors on the link proposals, for which system study work of link projects has been taken up. He informed that system study of Mahanadi-Godavari link project is completed and Final Report has been submitted by NIH, Roorkee in May, 2023.

System studies of four more link projects viz; Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga Link, Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha Link, Subernarekha-Mahanadi Link and Farraka-Sunderban Link have been awarded to IIT Guwahati, NIT Patna, NIT Warangal and NIH Roorkee respectively. Work is progressing and their status was reviewed in 2nd meeting of Sub Committee for “Comprehensive Evaluation and System Studies for ILR” held on 30.06.2023. It is planned to complete system studies of these four link projects by March, 2024.

Action for taking up the system studies for Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery – Vaigai- Gundar links system has also been initiated.

Members of Governing Body noted the status.

2.9 Item no. 71.9: Status of Intra State link projects:

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

Secretary (CAD), WRD, Govt. of Maharashtra requested for providing the DPR of Damanganga-Vaitarna-Godavari Intra State link project at the earliest.

DG, NWDA informed that some design work for the link project is under progress at

CWC for finalizing the DPR. It is planned to be finalised by July, 2023 and shall be provided to Govt. of Maharashtra at the earliest.

Superintending Engineer, Inter State Waters, Punjab requested to include Punjab as a beneficiary State for Sardar-Yamuna link project.

Chairman, Governing Body informed that Ministry has already received letters in this regard from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab and the matter is being examined in Ministry.

2.10 Item No. 71.10: National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)

DG, NWDA mentioned that by year 2024-25, most of the DPRs for link projects under NPP would be completed; so next important task would be implementation of the link projects for which consensus building among States is very important factor and NIRA would serve as the most appropriate platform for this. He informed that the proposal for the constitution of National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) is under active consideration in the Ministry.

The draft proposal of constitution of NIRA after getting approved by the Special Committee on ILR in its 19th 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 prepared and circulated amongst concerned Central Ministries/ Departments for comments in February, 2022. The Note was modified suitably after incorporating the observations received from various Ministries / Departments.

DG, NWDA emphasised 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 that NIRA would focus on consensus building and consultation with States. 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 on consensus building is needed. NIRA would strengthen consensus building process with more intense interaction and active and frequent participation of States.

The information was noted by the Governing Body.

2.11 Item No.71.11, 71.11.1 & 71.12:

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

Governing Body noted the information.

2.12 Item No.70.13: Administrative matters of NWDA

DG, NWDA informed about direct recruitments and posts filled by deputation, in NWDA during the year 2022-23 at various offices of NWDA.

He apprised all the members that to deal with shortage of staff at middle level in NWDA, a proposal of NWDA for amendments / modification in existing recruitment rules for the post of Assistant Director (Hydrology), Deputy Director (Hydrology), Deputy Director (Technical) / Executive Engineer, Director (MDU) and Director (Technical) has been approved by ministry. This will help in filling some of the post by promotion. The competent authority has approved RRs for these posts.

The revised RRs as approved by the Ministry in respect of these posts were placed for ratification by Governing Body.

Governing Body ratified the revised Recruitment Rules for these posts.

Further DG, NWDA informed that the posts which cannot be filled up by promotion presently, were circulated for filling up on deputation basis. He requested State Governments to allow the interested and experienced officials for working in NWDA on deputation basis.

Chairman, Governing Body endorsed the request of DG, NWDA and mentioned that NWDA is a central agency that is working for Interlinking of Rivers programme which primarily involves various States. The State Governments may allow officials from their States to work in NWDA and participate in work of ILR projects.

2.13 Item No. 71.14 & 71.15: 8th India Water Week & G-20 Summit activities

Director General, NWDA informed about the successful organization of 7th India Water Week in November, 2022 and contribution of NWDA in organizing Environment & Climate Sustainability Work Group (ECSWG) meeting during 27th to 29th March, 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat under G-20 Summit activities. The Chairman appreciated NWDA for successful organisation of 7th India Water Week and their role in G-20 event. DG, NWDA informed that 8th India Water Week (IWW-2024) is planned to be held in year 2024, and a proposal for organizing it is under consideration in the ministry.

Governing Body noted the information.

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

List of Members and Participants who attended the 71th Meeting of Governing Body of NWDA held on 11th July 2023 in Hybrid mode

	Chairman	
1.	Shri Pankaj Kumar Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	In Chair
	Members	
2.	Shri Avinash Mishra Advisor (WR & LR), NITI Aayog	Member
3.	Sh. Navin Kumar, Member (WP&P), CWC	Member
4.	Ms Richa Misra JS & FA, DoWR, RD&GR	Member
5.	Sh. Manoj Tiwari Chief Engineer, HSO, CWC	Representing Member (D&R), CWC
6.	Sh. M K Sahoo Adviser, Department of Expenditure	Representing Secretary, Ministry of Finance
7.	Dr. Parveen Arora Head(Water Technologies Cell) & Scientist G, Department of Science & Technology	Representing Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology
8.	Sh. Ved Prakash Mishra Director (CP Division), MoEF&CC	Representing Secretary, MoEF & CC
9.	Smt. T S Anitha Shyam Member, Central Ground Water Board	Representing Chairman, CGWB
10.	Shri P.K. Shukla Chief Engineer, Central Electricity Authority	Representing Chairman, CEA
11.	Dr. Rahul Saxena Scientist, India Meteorological Department	Representing Director General, IMD
12.	Sh. Subrata K Basu Deputy Secretary (E.W), DoWR, RG&GR	Representing Joint Secretary (Admn), DoWR, RD&GR

13.	Sh. M Venkateswara Rao Adviser to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Water Resources Department	Representing Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
14.	Sh. Om Prakash Singh Engineer in Chief (HQ), Govt. of Bihar	Representing Govt. of Bihar
15.	Shri M. R. Patel Chief Engineer (South Gujarat) & AS, Gujarat	Representing Govt. of Gujarat
16.	Sh. Prashant Kumar Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand	Representing Govt. of Jharkhand
17.	Sh. Anil Kumar, Principial Adviser, ISW, Govt. of Karnataka	Representing Govt. of Karnataka
18.	Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Kerala	Representing Govt. of Kerala
19.	Dr. Sanjay Belsare Secretary (CAD), WRD, Govt. of Maharashtra	Representing Govt. of Maharashtra
20.	Sh. Sagar Mohanty Chief Engineer, Govt. of Odisha	Representing Govt. of Odisha
21.	Dr. D Manikandan Secretary (Public Works), Govt. of Puducherry	Representing Govt. of Puducherry
22.	Sh. Rakesh Kumar Krail Chief Engineer(HQ), Govt. of Punjab	Representing Govt. of Punjab
23.	Sh. Ravi Solanki Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Rajasthan	Representing Govt. of Rajasthan
24.	Dr. Sandeep Saxena Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Tamil Nadu	Representing Govt. of Tamil Nadu
25.	Sh.S.K.Saha Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Representing Govt. of Uttarakhand
26.	Sh. Sanjay Kundu Secretary, Irrigation and	Representing Govt. of West Bengal

	Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal	
27.	Sh. C. Muralidhar Engineer in Chief , Govt. of Telangana	Representing Govt. of Telangana
	Member Secretary	
28.	Shri Bhopal Singh Director General, NWDA, New Delhi	Member Secretary
	Other Officers from Central & State Government	
29.	Sh. O P Gupta SJC (PP), DoWR, RG&GR	DoWR, RG&GR
30.	Sh. Yogesh Paithankar Chief Engineer (PAO), CWC	DoWR, RG&GR
31.	Sh. P Partibhan Deputy Secretary, Department of Expenditure	Ministry of Finance
32.	Sh. Narayana Reddy Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
33.	Sh. Nagesh Mishra Engineer in Chief, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand	Govt. of Jharkhand
34.	Sh. Sriramaiah, Technical Adviser, ISW, Govt. of Karnataka	Govt. of Karnataka
35.	Sh. Srinivas, Chief Engineer, ISW, Govt. of Karnataka	Govt. of Karnataka
36.	Sh. Priyesh R Chief Engineer, ISW, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Kerala	Govt. of Kerala
37.	Sh. Vijaya Kumar P G Nodal Officer, WRD, Govt. of Kerala	Govt. of Kerala
38.	Ms. Jaya Potdar Dy. Secretary, WRD, Maharashtra	Govt. of Maharashtra

39.	Sh. Milind Nike Chief Engineer, Konkan Region, Govt. of Maharashtra	Govt. of Maharashtra
40.	Sh. B Palaniappan Chief Engineer, PW, Govt. of Puducherry	Govt. of Puducherry
41.	Smt. G Gajalakshmi Executive Engineer, Planning, Govt. of Puducherry	Govt. of Puducherry
42.	Sh. R Radhakrishnan Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Govt. of Puducherry	Govt. of Puducherry
43.	Sh. Gurdeep Singh Superintending Engineer, Inter State Waters, Govt. of Punjab	Govt. of Punjab
44.	Sh. Niwas Nehra Superintending Engineer (Inter State), Govt. of Rajasthan	Govt. of Rajasthan
45.	Sh. M. Selvaraju Chairman (i/c), Cauvery Technical Cell-cum-Inter State Waters Wing, WRD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
46.	Smt. V Meera Assistant Executive Engineer, Cauvery Technical Cell-cum- Inter State Waters Wing, WRD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
47.	Sh. Manas Chakraborty Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal	Govt. of West Bengal
48.	Sh. K Ramesh, Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Govt. of Telangana	Govt. of Telangana
49.	Sh. P. Kashi Viswanath, Superintending Engineer, Hydrology, Govt. of Telangana	Govt. of Telangana
50.	Sh. Subramanyam Prasad, Deputy Director, ISWR, Govt. of Telangana	Govt. of Telangana

	Officials of NWDA	
51.	Shri Baleshwer Thakur, Chief Engineer (HQ)	NWDA, New Delhi
52.	Dr. R. N. Sankhua, Chief Engineer (S)	NWDA, Hyderabad
53.	Shri Shiva Prakash, Chief Engineer (N)	NWDA, Lucknow
54.	Shri Subrata Halder, Director (Finance)	NWDA, New Delhi
55.	Sh. Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, BBSR
56.	Sh. S A Naidu, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, Hyderabad
57.	Sh. R. Balakrishnan, Executive Engineer	NWDA, Chennai
58.	Sh. N P Sahu, Executive Engineer	NWDA, Gwalior
59.	Sh. P Sreenivasulu, Executive Engineer	NWDA, Hyderabad
60.	Smt. Deepti Verma, Deputy Director	NWDA, Lucknow
61.	Smt. Deepika Sharma, Deputy Director	NWDA, New Delhi
62.	Sh. S. James, Assistant Director	NWDA, New Delhi
63.	Sh. Krishnamurthy M P, Assistant Director	NWDA, New Delhi
64.	Sh. Sharanappa.B.Mundaragi, Assistant Executive Engineer	NWDA, Chennai
65.	Sh. Hari Om Varshney, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
66.	Sh. Lalit Kumar Siyaniya, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
67.	Sh. S P Tomar, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
68.	Sh. Ashok Bhatele, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
69.	Sh. M D Dhimmarr, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
70.	Sh. Ankit Kumar, Assistant Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi

71.	Sh. Dharm Singh Bairwa, Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
72.	Sh. Nikhil V. J., Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
73.	Sh. Subodh Kumar, Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
74.	Sh. Shivam Sharma, Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
75.	Sh. Krishna Gurjar, Junior Engineer	NWDA, New Delhi
76.	Sh. R.K. Kharbanda, Consultant	NWDA, New Delhi
77.	Sh. R P Singh, Consultant	NWDA, New Delhi