

Minutes of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Governing Body of National Water Development Agency held on 19th January, 2022

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Governing Body of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was held on 19th January 2022 under the chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti through video conferencing. The list of members and other participants in the meeting are given at **Annex-I**.

At the outset, Director General (DG), NWDA and Member-Secretary welcomed the Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti & Chairman, Governing Body (GB) and all the members and participants who joined the meeting.

The Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR & Chairman, GB, in his opening remark, welcomed Addl. Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/ Engineers-in-Chief/Chief Engineers of the State Governments, all the organizational heads representing as members of GB and all other participants. The Chairman highlighted that during 2020-21, the major development was signing of agreement (MoA) for Ken – Betwa link project amongst the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Union Government. Consequently, the Govt. of India accorded approval for implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project on 8th December, 2021 and allocation has been made in the current financial year itself for implementation of the project. He informed that the activities of NWDA and draft Annual Report along with audited accounts would be deliberated in the meeting. He then requested DG, NWDA to take up the agenda items. DG, NWDA made power point presentation of agenda items for discussion and decisions of GB.

Item No.69.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 68th Meeting of the Governing Body of NWDA held on 17.08.2021.

The minutes of the 68th meeting of GB of NWDA held on 17.08.2021 were circulated to all the members vide letter dated 31.08.2021. The comments received from Governments of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry and Karnataka were replied by NWDA vide letters dated 17.12.2021, 12.10.2021, 17.11.2021 and 17.01.2022 respectively.

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

Item No.69.2: Follow up action on the Decisions taken in the earlier 68th Meeting of Governing Body of the NWDA Society held on 17.08.2021.

The 68th meeting of the GB approved annual report of the NWDA for the year 2019-20. This annual report was approved in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NWDA Society held on 12.11.2021 and has been laid on the table of both houses of parliament and circulated to all members and uploaded on the website of NWDA.

Item No.69.3: Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2020-21.

DG, NWDA informed that certification audit has been carried out by the Principal Director of Audit, Agriculture, Food and Water Resources, New Delhi during the period from 27.07.2021 to 06.08.2021 and the audit certificate was received on 15.12.2021. The audit report along with audit certificate and replies of NWDA to the audit report have been included in the annual report for the year 2020-21 and are placed before GB for approval.

The Chairman of GB suggested that organization name and year of annual report may be printed on the spine of the report and the quality of final report may be improved. Also, the Chairman stressed on corrective measures from this year onwards as per the replies sent by NWDA to the suggestions/observations made by the audit, so that repetition of audit observations is avoided next year. Assurances given in reply to audit observations may be adhered to. The Chairman added that the responsibilities of NWDA have further increased with the financial management of Ken–Betwa link project and suggested that its finance wing may be strengthened. If required a proposal for strengthening the financial wing may be moved as per the enhanced work responsibilities for coming years. The Chairman then requested for comments from members of GB on audited accounts and annual reports.

The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor (JS&FA), DoWR,RD&GR, MoJS made suggestions/observations based on the audit reply sent by NWDA. The JS&FA observed that interest earned on grant in aid has to be credited to CFI as per GFR. JS&FA suggested few more procedural corrections and modifications of few audit replies as well as strengthening internal audit wing of NWDA. JS&FA also suggested to constitute a Finance Committee in NWDA. He also pointed out that JS&FA is a Special Invitee in GB and suggested to include as member of GB.

The Chairman requested DG, NWDA to modify audit reply as per the suggestions made by JS&FA and finalise the reply with his guidance and include them in the final annual report accordingly for laying in the parliament.

DG, NWDA agreed to carry out all procedural corrections as observed by the audit.

With these suggestions, the Governing Body approved the annual report & audited accounts for the year 2020-21.

Item No.69.4: Budget Estimate and Actual Expenditure during the financial year 2021-22.

DG, NWDA informed that the budget estimate for the financial year 2021-22 was Rs. 87.00 crore. The revised budget estimate for financial year 2021-22 was Rs. 70.00 crore, out of which, Rs. 65.00 crore is grant and remaining 5.00 crore is to be spent from consultancy funds of NWDA. The actual expenditure incurred during financial year 2021-22 up to

December 2021 was 53.29 crore.

Governing Body noted the above information.

Item No.69.5: Programme of works for the year 2021-22

DG, NWDA informed that the work programme for year 2021-22 was discussed in the 68th meeting of GB held on 17.08.2021 and highlighted the progress of works made during the nine months of the year 2021-22 to GB. In this period, substantial progress has been achieved in Ken-Betwa link project. DG, NWDA also intimated the GB the efforts are being made on consensus building on water sharing and implementation of other priority projects.

The draft DPRs of two intra-State links of Maharashtra i.e. Damangana (Ekdare)-Godavari link and Damanganga-Vaitarana-Godavari have been completed in this year and submitted to State for observations. The draft DPR of Bedti-Varada link under NPP has been completed and submitted to State Karnataka for observations. The work for preparation of DPRs of 6 link projects under NPP have been initiated in this year. The work of preparation DPR of one link has been given to CWC on consultancy basis. The work of DPR of Damanganga – Sabarmati – Chorwad intra-State link project is likely to be taken on consultancy basis after signing of MoU with Gujarat State soon.

Regarding Feasibility Reports (FRs) of remaining NPP links, the DG informed that FRs of two links have been completed and remaining will be completed in this year, except Netravati – Hemavati link which is found to be technically not feasible as sufficient water will not be available for this link due to the implementation of Yettinahole drinking water project by Karnataka State. DG also informed GB that out of five PFRs of 5 intra-State links planned for this year, two PFRs have been completed and submitted to respective States and three PFRs are under finalization. The revision of eleven (11) water balance studies out of twenty (20) have been completed and the balance would be completed by March 2022.

With regard to system studies, one study (Mahanadi – Godavari) would be completed and four more studies will be taken up in the year under the guidance of Sub-Committee on System Studies.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No.69.6: Priority links / Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) completed

Item No.69.6.1 : Ken – Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

DG, NWDA informed the GB that substantial progress has been made on Ken-Betwa Link project (KBLP). The project was approved by Public Investment Board (PIB) in October, 2021 and subsequently by Govt. of India approved the implementation of the project on 8th December, 2021 with estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore (2020-21 price level) with central support of Rs. 39,317 crore and setting up of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz., Ken-

Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA). He also informed about the preparatory works for implementation of KBLP viz., formation of KBLPA, R&R and land acquisition etc. He informed that an amount of Rs 4,300 crore has already been allocated in the revised budget estimate of 2021-22 for land acquisition, compensatory afforestation and NPV purposes. He, also informed that the TAC of DoWR, RD & GR has approved projects under Phase – II of KBLP in its 148th meeting held on 17.01.2022.

The representative of Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that gazette notifications for land acquisition in Panna and Chhattarpur districts are likely to be issued shortly as all requisite formalities have been completed in this regard.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No. 69.6.2: Damanganga – Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Projects.

DG, NWDA informed that DPRs of these twin links benefitting Maharashtra and Gujarat States have been prepared and submitted to both the State Governments. The Damanganga – Pinjal Link Project has already been approved by the TAC of DoWR, RD & GR. The contentious issue is compensation to Maharashtra in lieu of transfer of 434 MCM of water from its share to Gujarat under Par-Tapi-Narmada link and to resolve this, a proposal to compensate the State of Maharashtra in Tapi basin with 200 MCM has been submitted to both the States. He also informed that recently the Govt. of Maharashtra has conveyed that they are not keen to take up the PTN and a request has been sent by NWDA to reconsider their decision as these are key NPP link projects. The Chairman requested both the States to have a fresh look at the proposals and continue technical level discussions to explore win-win solution.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No.69.6.3: Godavari (Inchampalli barrage) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link proposal

DG, NWDA informed that DPRs of three links viz., Godavari – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link under Godavari – Cauvery alternative link scheme have been finalized incorporating the views/suggestions of the party States/UT to the extent feasible and circulated during April 2021 and efforts are on to build consensus amongst States for the implementation of this link so that further course of action can be taken up. All concerned States/UT stated their position in the consultative meeting held with all stakeholders in October, 2021. He informed that there are many challenges in this link especially the provision of water allocations by various Tribunals viz., GWDT, KWDT and CWDT and sharing of transferred water. DG, NWDA further stated that there would be surplus flood water going into sea in Godavari and Mahanadi in coming years and utilizing that water in the Krishna basin and further down south will be beneficial to all. The proposed transfer of water from Himalayan links to south may take time as international dimensions are involved.

Additional Chief Secretary, PWD, Tamil Nadu appreciated the efforts made by NWDA for the this kind of forward looking proposal of Godavari – Cauvery link project for utilizing surplus flood waters and urged to convene a meeting of all stake holders in physical mode to resolve the contentious issues and assured all cooperation of State of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Special Chief Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh informed that the replies to the observations of Andhra Pradesh on the DPR have been received from NWDA and are under examination. He indicated that the main concern of AP is the water availability and net yield at Inchampalli computed by various organisations at different times is showing lot of variations and a finality of figure needs to be arrived at after considering present and future utilizations of all riparian States for transfer to Cauvery basin through this link. Also a proper study has to be carried out on the proposal of utilising the existing Nagarjunasagar, Srisailem and Somasila reservoirs for this link.

Addl. Chief Secretary, Water Resources, Govt. of Kerala indicated that Kerala being the basin state in Cauvery basin, the involvement of Kerala in consultation process is necessary while finalizing the DPR of this link.

Engineer-In-Chief, Irrigation, Govt. of Telangana suggested that the hydrology may be firmed up first to ascertain the quantum of diversion of water available and planning for transfer mechanism can be successfully planned only after that.

Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka, stressed that the share of Karnataka State in the transferred water should be decided first. He informed that Karnataka has more drought prone area than Tamil Nadu in Cauvery catchment and other beneficiary States. As per KWDT award, any augmented water in the basin shall be shared with all riparian States and hence the share of Karnataka under this link has to be decided before finalizing the DPR.

Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR requested DG, NWDA to convene a meeting of all stake holders of link project at the earliest in physical mode with a focus on finalizing hydrology and resolving the other issues. The DG, NWDA informed GB that a physical meeting was to take place on 06.01.2022 but due to Covid-19 conditions it has been postponed and the meeting will be re-convened soon.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No.69.6.4 : Kosi – Mechi Intrastate Link

DG, NWDA informed that DPR of Kosi – Mechi intra-State link project is ready for implementation as all necessary approval 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 on consultancy basis and assured that all possible support would be provided by NWDA for its implementation.

Engineer-in-Chief, WRD, Govt. of Bihar thanked NWDA for sending consent and estimate for the preparation of working DPR of this link based on the request made by Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Govt. of Bihar during 39th AGM of NWDA held on 12.11.2021. He also informed that the proposal received from NWDA is under consideration and approval will be communicated soon. He has requested to provide central support to the this link project on 90:10 funding pattern instead of existing 60:40 funding considering financial condition of State of Bihar.

The Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, indicated that the national projects are being funded on pattern of 60:40 funding (90:10 for special category States) and advised that the project may be taken up in the same funding pattern for early implementation. He informed that if the State demands for 90:10 funding, the matter has to be submitted to Finance Ministry for special consideration and the acceptance of same by Finance Ministry cannot be foretold. He also informed that 90:10 funding for Ken-Betwa link project has been approved as stand alone case and this shall not be applicable to any other project. The Chairman suggested to take up the implementation of the project as per the prevailing funding pattern norms for early completion.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No. 69.7: Detailed Project Report in Progress

(i) Bedti – Varada link (IBWT)

DG, NWDA informed the draft DPR is under submission for their observations. The alternative as suggested by Govt. of Karnataka having storage at Hirevaddti village is also being examined by NWDA for the techno-economical viability. If found viable, the DPR of the alternative shall also be taken up in consultation with State Govt.

(ii) & (iii) Damanganga (Ekdare) – Godavari and Damanganga – Vaitarna – Godavari intra-State links

DG, NWDA informed that the draft DPRs have been completed by NWDA on consultancy basis and submitted to Government of Maharashtra and design of few components of these links are under finalization in CWC.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No.69.8 : 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 15th meeting of Task Force-ILR (TFILR) in October, 2021 and firmed up the structure, functions, modalities for subsuming NWDA into NIRA, requirement of additional

posts etc. The draft proposal of constitution of NIRA was considered by the Special Committee on ILR in its 19th meeting held in November, 2021 and the modified proposal was accepted. Accordingly, a draft Cabinet note for the constitution of NIRA has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry in December, 2021 and is under active consideration. He further explained that there is no draft bill for constitution of NIRA is under consideration in the Ministry and as was requested for circulation by few State Governments. NIRA is proposed to be constituted by restructuring and strengthening of NWDA through a Cabinet decision with some additional functions for implementation of ILR/other projects as circulated and discussed during 19th meeting of SCILR held on 12.11.2021.

The Chairman informed that proposal for restructuring of NWDA and constitution of NIRA is under consideration in DoWR, RD & GR.

The status was noted by the Governing Body.

Item No.69.9: Special Committee for “Interlinking of Rivers”.

Director General, NWDA informed that the Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) was constituted in 2014 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister for Jal Shakti and nineteen (19) meetings of SCILR have been held so far; the last meeting was held on 12.11.2021.

Governing Body took note of the status.

Item No. 68.10: Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers

DiG, NWDA informed that in order to support the SCILR in technical matters a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) had been constituted. Fifteen (15) meetings of the Task Force have been held so far and the last meeting was held on 22.10.2021.

Governing Body took note of the status.

Item No.69.11: Items for information of Governing Body

- a) DG, NWDA informed that NWDA has recruited 15 junior engineers, 5 junior accounts officers, 5 stenographers, 12 UDCs and 20 LDCs through direct recruitment. 53 candidates have joined at various offices of NWDA.
- b) Other administrative matters such as promotions, transfers and posting, Implementation of e-office were also briefed by DG, NWDA.

Governing Body took note of the status.

Item No. 69.12 : 7th India Water Week

Director General NWDA informed that the 7th India Water Week planned to be organized during 16-20 November, 2021 has been postponed to 1-5 November, 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic. A curtain raiser function of 7th India Water Week – 2022 (IWW-2022) is proposed to be organized shortly and India International Water Awards are proposed to be instituted from IWW-2022 event onwards.

Governing Body took note of the status.

Item No.68.13: BRICS Water Ministers' Meeting

DG, NWDA informed that the BRICS Water Ministers' Meet was planned to be held as a side event to 7th India Water Week in November, 2021. Even though the 7th India Water Week was postponed to November, 2022, the BRICS Water Forum and BRICS Water Ministers' Meet were organised on 16-17 November, 2021 and 18th November, 2021 respectively in hybrid mode at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi as India was chairing the BRICS during the year 2021. A joint declaration "New Delhi Statement on Water, First Meeting of BRICS Water Ministers" was adopted during the first Water Ministers' Meet.

Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS and DG expressed gratitude to Ministry of Environment, Forest &CC, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Power, DoDW&S, CWC, CGWB, NIH, NMCG, NWA for their valuable contribution towards the preparation of country's theme papers in the BRICS Water Forum. The contribution and efforts made by the Negotiating Committee headed by Member (WP&P), CWC for bringing all countries together for finalizing New Delhi Statement on Water was also appreciated.

Governing Body took note of the above.

Item No. 68.14: Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.

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

List of Members and Participants attended the 69th Meeting of Governing Body of NWDA held on 19th January 2022 through Video Conferencing

1.	Shri Pankaj Kumar Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	In Chair
2.	Shri R. K. Sinha Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
3.	Smt Debashree Mukherjee Additional Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR Ministry of Jal Shakti	Member
4.	Dr. Nandakumaran P Chairman, Central Ground Water Board	Member
5.	Shri Kushvinder Vohra Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission	Member
6.	Shri R. K. Gupta Member (D & R), Central Water Commission	Member
7.	Shri Avinash Mishra Advisor (WR & LR), NITI Aayog	Member
8.	Shri Subodh Yadav Joint Secretary (Admn, IC& GW), DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS	Member
9.	Shri B. K. Arya Member (Hydro), Central Electricity Authority	Representing CEA
10.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Das Scientist 'E', IMD	Representing IMD
11.	Dr. Neelima Alam Scientist F, Ministry of Science & Technology	Representing MoS&T
12.	Shri Jawahar Reddy, Special Chief Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	Member
13.	Shri Rabindra Kumar Shankar Engineer-in-Chief (Hq.), WRD, Govt. of Bihar	Representing Govt. of Bihar
14.	Shri M. R. Patel CE South & Gujarat, WRD, Govt. of Gujarat	Representing Govt. of Gujarat
15.	Shri Prashant Kumar Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand	Member
16.	Shri Krishnamurthy B. Kulkarni Secretary, WRD Govt. of Karnataka	Member
17.	Shri T. K. Jose Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Kerala	Member
18.	Shri S. N. Mishra Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Member

19.	Shri A. K. Mohapatra Engineer-in-Chief, Planning & Design Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha	Representing Govt. of Odisha
20.	Shri I. D. Goyal Chief Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Punjab	Representing Govt. of Punjab
21.	Shri K.D. Sandu Chief Engineer, SWRPD, Govt. of Rajasthan	Representing Govt. of Rajasthan
22.	Shri Sandeep Saxena Addl. Chief Secretary, WRD, Government of Tamil Nadu	Member
23.	Shri Muralidhar Engineering in Chief, I&CAD, Govt. of Telangana	Representing Govt. of Telangana
24.	Shri H.C. Semwal, Secretary, Minor Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Member
25.	Shri D. K. Mishra Chief Engineer (Planning), I&WRD, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	Representing Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
26.	Shri Kaustubh J Pal Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Water ways Govt. of West Bengal	Representing Govt. of West Bengal
27.	Shri Manoj Sethi JS&FA, DoWR, RD and GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Special Invitee
28.	Shri Sanjay Awasthi Joint Secretary (RD&PP), DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	Special Invitee
29.	Shri Bhopal Singh Director General, NWDA, New Delhi	Member-Secretary
Officers from Central and State Governments		
30.	Shri Narayana Reddy Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation), WRD Government of Andhra Pradesh	
31.	Shri Nagesh Mishra Engineer-in-Chief -I, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand	
32.	Shri Manoj Tripathi Chief Engineer (HPM), Central Electricity Authority	
33.	Shri K. Thachanamoorthy Chief Engineer, IWS, Govt. of Kerala	
34.	Shri C. S. Ghatole Chief Engineer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	

35.	Shri Sagar Mohanty, Chief Engineer, DoWR, Govt. of Odisha	
36.	Shri Mohan Kumar Chief Engineer, ISWR, I&CAD, Govt. of Telangana	
37.	Shri R. K. Nagaria Superintending Engineer, Govt. of Chhattisgarh	
38.	Shri H. S. Mehndirata Superintending Engineer, Ground Water Management Circle, Govt. of Punjab	
39.	Shri Rakesh Kumar SJC (BM), DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti	
40.	Dy. Director, WPPC, Central Water Commission	
41.	Deputy Director, ISWR, Govt. of AP	
42.	Shri Nandish, Executive Engineer, WRDO, Govt. of Karnataka	
Officers from NWDA		
43.	Shri R. K. Jain Chief Engineer (HQ)	NWDA, New Delhi
44.	Dr. R. N. Sankhua Chief Engineer (S)	NWDA, Hyderabad
45.	Shri Shiv Prakash Chief Engineer (N)	NWDA, Lucknow
46.	Shri D. K. Sharma Director (Tech)	NWDA, New Delhi
47.	Shri Subrata Halder Director (Finance)	NWDA, New Delhi
48.	Shri Chirabrata Sarkar Director (Admn.)	NWDA, New Delhi
49.	Shri S. C. Awasthi Superintending Engineer- N	NWDA, New Delhi
50.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Superintending Engineer	NWDA, Bhubaneswar
51.	Shri S. R. Mohar Superintending Engineer- S	NWDA, New Delhi
52.	Shri N.S.R.K. Reddy Superintending Engineer	NWDA, Hyderabad
53.	Shri R. Balakrishnan Executive Engineer	NWDA, Chennai
54.	Shri R Chandrahekar Ex. Eng. (HQ)	NWDA, New Delhi

55.	Smt Deepika Sharma Dy. Director	NWDA, New Delhi
56.	Shri K. K. Rao Assistant Director	NWDA, New Delhi