

National River Conservation on Directorate (NRCD)

Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga

Rejuvenation (Do WR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti

CAMP: Condition Assessment and Management Plan

The first Joint Review Committee MoM of cCauvery Meeting was held at IISc Bengaluru on the 16th May 2024

Attendees: Shri Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, Shri Nelapatla Ashok Babu, Shri Sushil Kumar Srivastava, Shri Anup Kumar Srivastava, Prof. Vinod Tare, Prof. V. Sankaranarayanan, Prof. Nisha Radhakrishnan, Prof. R. Manjula, Prof. S. Saravanan, Prof. Aneesh Mathew, Prof. Navakanta Bhat, Prof. Praveen C Ramamurthy, Prof. M. Sekhar, Prof. V. V. Srinivas, Prof. D. Nagesh Kumar, Prof. Lakshminarayana Rao, Prof. Bramha Dutt Vishwakarma, Prof. Rajarshi Das Bhowmik, Mr. Krishnamurthy B Kulkarni, Manohar V. Rotte, Shri. Bhavan Prashad R. B., Shri. N B Channakeshava, Dr. Soumita Boral, Dr. Simranjeet Singh, Dr. Retinder Kour, Dr. Suyog Gupta, Ms. Vishakha Chauhan, Ms. Jaya Bhatt and through online Mr. Tanveer Ahmed and Mr. Rahul Ramachandran.

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Prof. Praveen Ramamurthy opened the meeting, extending a warm welcome to all attendees. Prof. Tare emphasised the importance of the project and provided a detailed overview of the current status of cGanga. He highlighted the significance of cCauvery and stressed the need to complete the action items on time.
- **Dean (Interdisciplinary Sciences Division, IISc)** Prof. Navakantha Bhat reaffirmed the full support of the IISc administration for the successful and timely completion of the project.
- **Introductions**
 - **All the Participants** introduced themselves.
- **Speeches and Presentations**
- **Joint Secretary, NRCD** delivered a speech on the expectations from NRCD.
- **The Director of NRCD** gave a talk on the Healthy Rivers programme.
- **WII Dehradun** presented a talk on assessing the ecological status of some peninsular rivers for conservation planning.
- **Mr. Tanveer Ahmed** delivered a presentation on assessing the ecological status of selected Indian rivers for conservation planning.

- **Prof. Vinod Tare** discussed the data/information gathering on CAMP at the district level. He also discussed the initiation of studies & understanding of deliverables on the river basin management plan. Moreover, he has given the following suggestions:
 - Overview of previous action plans, identification of gaps, and preparation of new action plans.
 - Digitalisation of acquired data in various formats.
 - Mapping stakeholders at state, district, and town levels.
 - Cross-checking institutional findings with nodal office/centre data.
 - Acquiring groundwater and surface water details at village and gram-panchayat levels.
 - Maintenance of river and soil health.
 - Identifying rainy and non-rainy days for rainfall forecasting.
 - Performing hydraulic and hydrological modelling.
 - Identifying accurate models.
 - Using and procuring satellite data.
 - Collaborating with NRSC for high-resolution river atlas.
 - Publishing newsletters in local languages.
 - Translating the Pragyambu book into Kannada and Tamil.

- **The IISc Bengaluru Team** presented the river's progress at a glance and discussed the river atlas. Progress made on various action items in each verticle was presented. The mode of data collection and source was discussed. Challenges in obtaining data were also discussed. File sharing protocol and architecture were demonstrated. The committee suggested that the data-sharing protocols and report template generated by IISc be made as a universal template for all other zones.

- **NIT, Trichy Team** presented the progress of the river documentation in the Tamilnadu region. The existing study carried out on upper and middle Cauvery was discussed. The team discussed the progress of their work in terms of recruitment, office support, and data collection. The progress plan was also discussed, starting with collating existing data, listing the type of data to collect, etc. The challenges in obtaining data were also discussed. The meeting also highlighted the discussion on having a supporting letter from NRCD, which would help collect data from different stakeholders.

- **Joint Secretary NRCD** elaborated on their expectations and suggestions:
 - Preparation of detailed basin studies, including:
 - Characterisation of the basin.
 - Identifying the critical issues (e.g., quantity, quality, biodiversity, sand mining, etc.)
 - Hotspots should be identified.
 - Proposing action plans for river conservation through:

- Advisories, regulations, recommendations.
 - Public involvement in river conservation.
 - Consultation with stakeholders at various levels.
 - Referring to the cGanga framework for better management policies.
 - Creation of thematic subgroups.
 - Providing water pollution control and flood management strategies.
 - Proposing sewage sludge handling techniques.
 - Including policies, laws, and governance in reports.
 - Estimating environmental flow for species and tributary connectivity.
 - Approaching Jal Shakti Kendra for district-level data.
 - Appointment of nodal officers for data acquisition.
- **Closing Remarks**
 - **NRCD & CI Directors** ended the meeting with their closing remarks.