# Meeting Summary

# First Meeting of the Joint Review Committee (JRC), Conditional Assessement and Management Plan, Godavari Basin

Centre for Godavari studies (cGodavari)

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

23 May 2024


Centre for Godavari River Basin Management Studies
(cGodavari)
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
Supported by
National River Conservation Directorate
Ministry of Jal Shakti

**Meeting Participants**

*National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD)*

Shri Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, Joint Secretary

Shri N. Ashok Babu, Director

Dr. S.K. Srivastava, Scientist-F

*National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)*

Shri Anup K Srivastava, Executive Director

*cGanga*

Prof. Vinod Tare

Shri Rahul Ramachandran

Ms. Maithily Mohanty

*IIT Hyderabad*

Dr. Asif Qureshi, Associate Professor

Dr. Anindita Majumdar, Associate Professor

Dr. Debraj Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor

Dr. Prabheesh K.P., Associate Professor

Dr. Pritha Chatterjee, Assistant Professor

Dr. Satish Regonda, Associate Professor

*NEERI, Nagpur*

Dr. Rajesh Biniwale, Principal Scientist

Dr. Amit Bansiwal, Senior Scientist

*Irrigation Department, Government of Telangana*

Shri B Nagendra Rao, Chief Engineer

Shri S. Subramanyam Prasad, DEE

Shri. P. Kasi Viswanedham, SE

**Proceedings**

The proceedings started with a meeting between the JRC, and the teams from IIT Hyderabad, and NEERI Nagpur, with the Director, IIT Hyderabad.
Then, the meeting group moved to the conference room at the newly built IIT Hyderabad Convention Centre.

**Prof. Vinod Tare, Director, CGanga Consortium/ IIT Kanpur**

Prof. Tare started the meeting with an overview of the salient features of the CAMP, drawing from his work and experiences with the execution of the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management Studies. He laid out the objectives of the CAMP of the six river basins, including River Godavari, and stressed the importance of this study as a being of potentially great service to the nation.
He introduced the "healthy river program" of the Government of India, and the regulatory frameworks of the Water Act 1974, Environment Protection Act 1986, and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
He stressed it was extremely important to conduct geospatial mapping of the whole Godavari basin area. This will help us in determining the different pollution levels, river flows and ultimately ecological flows at different locations of the river.
A holistic study of river systems is to be undertaken, and a healthy river criterion may include the following:

- Consideration of regional aspects
- Consideration of flora and fauna
- Consideration of the concept of Samarth Ganga and its five pillars identified as part of cGanga
- Efficacy in treating pollution
- Pollution control by different stakeholders
- Ability to access the biodiversity of the Godavari Basin

**Shri Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, Joint Secretary, NRCD**

Mr. Agrawal noted that the idea of the "healthy river" is constantly evolving and must draw from new approaches as and when the emerge. The Consortium should take into consideration emerging concerns with protecting and nurturing river water systems by including the following focus areas:

- Baseline study of the Godavari River is absolutely essential.
- Roles of stakeholders may be assessed, and their concerns may be brought together on one unified platform.
- There is an urgent need to expand the urban/city centric approach towards water and rivers to include a systems approach that engages with cities, villages, towns, people, ecosystems, environment, and other aspects of a river.
- To set up an institutional mechanism and framework
- Our immediate target should be to collect, collate and organize the data as deliverables in the next 2-3 years
- NRCD will be providing further support/award based on completed deliverables
- An important part of the project framework remains public awareness and outreach
- Framework and deliverables should help draft and build future policy imperatives and should be geared towards the same, including:
    a. A framework for pollution adherence and abatement, and
    b. An improvement on the cGanga Plan with more robust imperatives

**Mr. Tanveer Ahmed, Wildlife Institute of India**

Mr. Ahmed presented about the Godavari basin from a biodiversity perspective

The Godavari Basin has provided sustenance to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Its delicate and varied ecosystem houses multiple plants, animals, aquatic life, which are increasingly under threat. He mentioned that according to literature, there were 127 aquatic fish species in the Godavari basin, but due to an increase in anthropogenic activities a recent survey found only 70 species surviving in different parts of the basin. Many of the aquatic species carry large amount of toxins from the dumping of pharma waste into the Godavari, leading to hormonal health issues including PCOD, etc

However, during questions and answers, it was noted that points made above are based on few scattered studies and may not reflect on the present, or a comprehensive, status of the river.

**Dr. Rajesh Biniwale, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI**

Dr. Biniwale provided some of the findings for the report on Godavari at a Glance in Maharashtra.

He mentioned that there were 30 Sewage Treatment Plants available in the Godavari basin in the Maharashtra region, over 60 major industries in the basin, and over 40 rain gauging stations.

He mentioned that there are a significant number of villages are part of the basin side of river Godavari from Nasik to Paithan—putting the already fragile ecosystem at risk

It was reported that 77 industries in the RED categories have been asked to install Effluent Treatment Plants in their premises. Anthropogenic activities like sand mining for brick making at Saikheda was noted as a major concern. Also, foam formation has been observed in the river by discharge of treated water from Tapovan STP.

Further work was ongoing, and that they would like to have further discussions with IIT Hyderabad for preparation of the River at a Glance report.

**Dr. Asif Qureshi, Associate Professor, IIT Hyderabad**

Dr. Qureshi presented the work done by the IIT Hyderabad team so far. This included field visits and photographs and footage, preparation and presentation of maps that have been identified as deliverables, and the socioeconomic and ecological reports and threats of the basin. Further, IIT Hyderabad is in the process of launching a website for their centre.

**Prof. Vinod Tare, IIT Kanpur**

Prof. Tare presented a plan *Formulating the Water Vision @ 2047*

It was mentioned to begin with the formation of the following monitoring and bodies to facilitate functioning of the consortium through a cooperative approach:

SAC – Stake holder advisory committee

STSC - Scientific technical screening committee

JRC – Joint review committee

Additionally, there were recommendations to,

- Appoint a Nodal officer for each state, and associated departments linked to water and riverine concerns—to facilitate easier exchange of data amongst consortium institutes
- Draw a more robust and effective definition of a “healthy river” from the Samarth Ganga template
- Develop Gyan Ganga for river science and knowledge
- Encourage the 3Ps approach at all stages of the consortium functioning: people, public, participation.
- Formulate an action plan regarding Godavari on RRMP and URMP (rural river management plan and urban river management plan, respectively)
- Develop a protocol for STP waste and sludge, and how to recycle it

- Collection of data and information for monitoring of river health

**Vote of Thanks**

- Finally, Sri Pradeep Kumar Agrawal provided a vote of thanks. He mentioned that consortium institutes are have complete freedom in their actions, and reiterated the importance of the CAMP.

- The JRC meeting ended with a visit to the Centre for Godavari office space at IIT Hyderabad.

**Some pictures from the meeting**