Meetings of Joint Review Committee for Godavari and Cauvery River Basins on 17.01.2025 at NEERI Campus, Mumbai.

Participants List

Sl.	Name	Designation	Department/Institute
1	Rajeev Kumar Mital	Project Director	NRCD, MoJS
2	N Ashok Babu	Director	NRCD, MoJS
3	Pradeep Kumar Agarwal	JS	NRCD, MoJS
4	Dr Sabita M Singh	Scientist-E	NRCD, MoJS
5	SK Srivastava	Scientist-F	NRCD, d/o WR, RD
6	Nitin Goel	Principal Scientist	CSIR-NEERI
7	Dr Rakesh Kadaverugu	Principal Scientist	CSIR-NEERI
8	Dr Yogesh Pakade	Principal Scientist	CSIR-NEERI
9	Mrs Prajkta S Patil	Executive Engineer	WRD, Maharashtra
10	Ms Y P Halpatrao	Junior Engineer	WRD, Maharashtra
11	Praveen C Ramamurthy	Professor & Chair	IISc Bengaluru
12	Dr P Somasekahar Rao	Director (T)	ACIWRM, WRD, Karnataka
13	Dr Nisha Radhakrishnajn	Associate Professor	NIT Trichy
14	Dr R Manjula	Associate Professor	NIT Trichy
15	Dr. V. Sankaranarayanan	Professor/Dean (RC)	NIT Trichy
16	K Rajesh	CE	WRD, Karnataka
17	B N Phaniraju	CE	WRD, Karnataka
18	S Sivakumar	Superintendent Engineer	TN WRD
19	R Thayala Kumar	Chief Engineer	TN WRD
	Online Participants		
20	Dr Vinod Tare	Founding Head	cGanga, IIT Kanpur
21	Prof Prabheesh KP	Professor	IIT Hyderabad
22	Debraj Bhattacharya	Professor	IIT Hyderabad
23	Anindita Mujumdar	Professor	IIT Hyderabad
24	Dr. Retinder Kaur	Research Associate	IISc Bengaluru
25	Suyog Gupta	Research Associate	IISc Bengaluru
26	Dr Rajarshi Das Bhoumik	Professor	IISc Bengaluru
27	Krishna Kumar Pandey	Technical Assistant	IISc Bengaluru
28	Rahul Ramachandran	Project Engineer	cGanga, IIT Kanpur
29	Rajith K	Project Associate	cGanga, IIT Kanpur

Minutes of Meeting on Review progress and discuss challenges for the Godavari basin management projects (17 Jan 2025 11:00-13:00)

Welcome speech by Nitin Goel, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI

Dr. SK Srivastava presented financial and technical status of cGodavari.

The progress of cGodavari was presented by Dr. Rakesh Kadaverugu, CSIR-NEERI

Key Takeaway Points:

- The quarterly deliverables should be submitted by cGanga to the NRCD in both digital and hard copy formats (one hard copy) for finalization.
- Need for improved coordination on report finalization and data sharing between cGanga, member institutes, and NRCD.
- Focus should shift to identifying critical hotspots and developing actionable interventions, rather than broad data collection.
- Importance of creating user-friendly digital tools and visualizations to make river data accessible to stakeholders.

Project Status and Deliverables

- Q1 and Q2 reports submitted to cGanga; Q3 reports are still pending.
- In the first three quarters significant work is done on baseline data collection.

Financial and Administrative Challenges

- Procurement issues severely slow down spending and project progress.
- Institutes struggling with strict rules requiring GeM portal use for purchases over ₹25,000
- NRCD is unable to provide exemptions but has urged faster spending to avoid budget lapse.

Data Collection and Sharing

- Difficulties obtaining municipal infrastructure data; suggested using data from schemes such as AMRUT, and other programmes under MoHUA.
- Need for standardized data formats and centralized database.
- Importance of ground verification for satellite/map-derived data.
- Suggestion to focus on hotspots rather than comprehensive basin-wide data.

Stakeholder Engagement

- A stakeholder consultation workshop was conducted in Hyderabad in November 2024, with additional workshops planned across different zones.
- Recommendation to involve district-level officials more closely.

Next Steps

- cGanga to clarify process for finalizing and accepting submitted reports.
- Plan additional stakeholder consultation workshops, especially in upper basin
- Develop strategy to overcome procurement hurdles and accelerate spending
- Create more user-friendly data visualization tools and web interfaces
- Shift focus to identifying and addressing critical hotspots in the river basins

Action Items

- Send updated UC & expenditure statement
- Create dedicated website for project, incl. all deliverables & progress updates
- Submit projected expenditure for Sep to process proposals this FY
- Plan & schedule next stakeholder consultation meeting in upper basin (North situation)
- Update hotspot identification info yearly; document issues in 700km river stretch

Minutes of Meeting on Review progress and discuss challenges for the Cauvery basin management projects (17 Jan 2025 13:15-14:30)

Dr. SK Srivastava presented financial and technical status of cCauvery.

The progress of cCauvery was presented by Dr. Praveen Ramamurthy, IISc Bengaluru

Key Takeaways

- Several key deliverables (river at a glance, basin demography, aerial drone survey) have been submitted but need final confirmation and communication to NRCD
- Significant data acquisition challenges exist, especially for high-resolution geospatial and hydrological data.
- Need to streamline processes for data sharing, report finalization, and communication with NRCD
- More frequent meetings (including state-level) and site visits recommended to address ongoing issues

Project Deliverables Status

- River at a glance report submitted in July 2024 after iterations
- Basin demography report submitted in October 2024
- Aerial drone survey report submitted in October 2024
- Uncertainty about finalization status of reports - need clear mechanism to indicate final versions to NRCD

Data Acquisition Challenges

- Limited availability of high-resolution (2.5m) geospatial data.
- Restrictions on downloading hydrological data (e.g. 1 decade limit from India-WRIS)
- Need for higher resolution satellite imagery, but cost implications
- CARTOSAT-3 data available for free to government agencies, but process for access is still being worked out
- CARTOSAT-1 DEM data not freely available - evaluating cost-benefit

Next Steps

- Consolidate exact data requirements and justification for high-resolution data.
- Finalize process for accessing Cartosat-3 data through NRCD.
- Evaluate need and budget for Cartosat-1 DEM data.
- Explore options for aerial/LiDAR surveys of priority areas.

- Create a mechanism to clearly indicate finalized reports and to indicate final vs ongoing reports on website.
- Submit one hard copy + PDF of final reports to NRCD.
- Conduct coordination meetings more frequently (every 2 months suggested).
- Organize state-level meetings with broader stakeholder participation.