

Summary Record of the Discussions of 47th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 21.05.2015 at Dehradun

The 47th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was held on 21st May, 2015 at Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC. The list of participants is at **Annex-1**.

At the outset, after a brief round of introduction of all the participants, Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC in his opening remarks extended a warm welcome to all the representatives of States and Members of GFCC. He stated that the meetings of GFCC are necessary to discuss flood problems of Ganga river basin. He also mentioned the present meeting as a pre-cursor to the 17th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) scheduled to be held on 28th may 2015 at Patna. He expressed his gratitude to the state of Uttarakhand for being host of the 47th meeting of GFCC and emphasized that such meetings provide the opportunity for improving interaction between GFCC and the Ganga basin States. He also stressed that this meeting would serve as a platform to discuss various problems faced by the States in formulating Flood Management Project reports and problems encountered by GFCC in appraising of those schemes, which requires serious and concentrated efforts to find solutions.

In his opening remarks, Chairman, GFCC also highlighted the following major issues to be addressed by the Member States on priority:

- (i) Comprehensive solutions are required for tackling the problems of flooding, erosion and sedimentation duly considering the factors such as meandering of rivers, sediment carried by rivers, hydrological studies etc. Detailed Comprehensive Plans for all the 23 individual river systems of Ganga basin were prepared by GFCC with cooperation and interaction from the Ganga basin States. These plans were made available to the State Governments for follow up action. All Comprehensive plans except Kosi river system have been updated once. The second updation of 5 Comprehensive plans has also been done. The second updating of remaining plans could not be carried out as the data inputs from the States are not being received in the desired format. It has been found that the recommendations of comprehensive plans are not being implemented with due seriousness and spirit. Implementation Committees need to be constituted by all the Ganga basin States. In this endeavour GFCC can interact with the States to carry forward the plans.
- (ii) Appraisal of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on flood management submitted by the States is an important function of GFCC. However, the DPRs submitted at the first instance are found to be deficient on many counts, such as not adhering to the guidelines of GFCC. This would cause delays in appraising the schemes, thereby causing delay in implementation. He also emphasised the need of timely submission of compliances on observations made by GFCC with all the requisite details and due care. The delay in the process spoils effectiveness of proposals.

- (iii) Performance evaluation of completed schemes is an important aspect to which States need to respond.
- (iv) Use of the latest technologies like GIS platform, satellite imagery processing, etc. are very important for facilitating better appraisal and monitoring of schemes.
- (v) Standardising use of geo-textiles/ geo-bags/ geo-tubes as a construction material in flood management works has been emphasised.
- (vi) The forum of meeting of GFCC may be taken as a platform for sharing our experiences and enlightening ourselves that would be beneficial to all the States and GFCC.
- (vii) He also emphasised the need to avoid delay in furnishing data/information demanded by GFCC from time to time and responses on techno-economic appraisal of projects. Delay in submission of proposals for release of central assistance has an adverse effect on fund release to States. Non-utilisation of funds in first three quarters of a financial year causes transfer of funds from this head. Due to less availability of fund and rush of proposals in fourth quarter, the States usually get less or no fund and attracts many other legal hurdles.

Chairman, GFCC invited Shri A.K. Sinha, Member (P), GFCC to give formal welcome address to the participant.

Shri A.K. Sinha, Member (P), GFCC welcomed all the participants of Ganga Basin States who attended 47th meeting of GFCC. He congratulated state of Uttarakhand for organizing 47th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in a very short time at Dehradun. He informed that as per the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on "Review of Ganga Flood Control Commission", there should be two meetings of GFCC in a year, namely, one meeting before the onset of Monsoon season to chalk out detailed coordinated strategies, measures and plan of action for coping with ensuing Monsoon rains for each State of the Ganga Basin followed by another meeting at the end of monsoon season to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and measures taken during the monsoon season. The present meeting is pre-monsoon meeting of GFCC in 2015. The basic purpose of the meeting is to improve interaction between GFCC and the Ganga basin States. He mentioned about the importance given by Chairman, GFCC to this meeting prior to the 17th meeting of GFCB to be held shortly at Patna on 28th May 2015. It also provides platform to discuss about the data needs for updating the comprehensive plans of flood management and the problems faced by the States in implementing recommendations given in the Comprehensive Plans.

Subsequent to the opening remarks by the Chairman, GFCC and formal welcome address by Member (P), GFCC Shri Sharad Chandra, Director (MP-I), GFCC made a Power Point presentation for deliberation of agenda items. The items discussed and decisions taken are as under:

Item No. 47.1 Confirmation of Summary Record of discussions of the 46th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 19.11.2014 at New Delhi

The Summary Record of Discussions of the 46th Meeting of the GFCC held on 19th November 2014 at New Delhi was circulated to all the Members vide GFCC's letter no. GFCC/C/2/2010/6374-97 dated 28.11.2014. No comments were received thereon from any of the members. The Summary Record of Discussions of the 46th Meeting of GFCC was confirmed unanimously.

Item No. 47.2 Follow up Action undertaken on the minutes of 46th meeting of GFCC

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the members.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.3 Presentation from Member States on Flood Management Issues and their Preparedness for monsoon 2015 and status of follow up actions on the discussion of earlier meetings

Member States namely, Bihar and Uttarakhand made brief Power Point presentations highlighting their experiences in flood management.

The representatives from Uttarakhand and Rajasthan pointed out that although Flood plain zoning bills have been passed in their States but they are facing problems in implementation of the bills due to limited availability of urban as well as rural lands. The representative from Uttarakhand State had indicated that in the States, where enactment was done long back, they have not been able to identify flood plain zones and regulate development in such zones. The State Government is exploring different possibilities including constitution of an Authority under District Magistrates.

The Govt. of Bihar as well as West Bengal had already expressed their inabilities in accepting the Flood Plain zoning bill, 2005. Other members were requested to send their comments/observations on the modified flood plain zoning bill, 2005 as early as possible.

NIH, Roorkee gave presentation highlighting the use of Remote Sensing technology in flood management and monitoring.

Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee gave presentation highlighting the use and importance of physical modeling while preparing DPR of flood management schemes. The representative from IRI, Roorkee explained in brief the existing models and available infrastructure and land for development of physical models of flood management schemes. The Chairman, GFCC inquired about the time required for physical modeling. The representative from IRI, Roorkee confirmed if the requisite data and fund would be made available in time, the time required to develop physical model would be about 3 to 4 months. Member States have also reportedly been shown the facilities.

Item No. 47.4 Setting up one Regional Directorate of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) at Lucknow during the year 2015

Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have been requested to provide basic infrastructure like telephone, fax, internet, vehicles, etc. and accommodation for office and residence at the earliest for the present office which has been started at available building of CWC, Lucknow. Members and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh noted the position.
(Action: Uttar Pradesh)

Item No. 47.5 Establishment of GIS lab and Satellite Data Repository as part of modernization of GFCC

Members have been informed that GFCC is in the process of establishing GIS lab and mathematical model centre. The position was noted by the Members.

Item No. 47.6 Review of Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management prepared by the GFCC and their Implementation

Members have been informed about comprehensive plans and summary of recommendations therein. States were requested to send the action plans in respect of the schemes recommended in the Comprehensive plans as well as new schemes taken up/ proposed and their sequence of implementation so that a coordinated programme of implementation of various schemes could be prepared.

A time frame of one month has been fixed for sending the above information to GFCC. Members have been earnestly requested to stick to this time schedule.
(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.7 Implementation of Sub-Basin wise Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management prepared by the GFCC

During the previous Meetings of GFCC, it was decided that the Action Plan for implementation of recommendations as given in Comprehensive Plans of following river basins would be prepared by the concerned State Governments:

Sl. No.	Name of Comprehensive Plans	States Associated
1.	Ghaghra River System	Uttar Pradesh & Bihar
2.	Mahananda	Bihar & West Bengal
3.	Mayurakshi & Ajoy	West Bengal & Jharkhand
4.	Sone	Jharkhand, U.P & Bihar

After deliberations, a time frame of one month has been fixed for sending the above information to GFCC. Members have been earnestly requested to stick to this time schedule.

(Action: Bihar, U.P., Jharkhand and W.B.)

Item No. 47.8 Submission of State wise/Basin wise data/information for updation of Comprehensive Plan for Flood Management etc.

The importance of furnishing the data/information required by the Ganga Basin States for updating of Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management of Ganga Basin and its Sub-Basins was highlighted in various GFCC meetings and Member States were requested to furnish data/information regularly to GFCC. Member States had agreed to furnish the desired data/information on priority basis.

This issue was earlier discussed during the 16th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board held at New Delhi on 16.01.2013 and it was decided to constitute a Standing Committee for each Ganga basin State regarding the collection/coordination of data/information required for various purposes like updating of Comprehensive Plans, inventory of Flood Management Schemes, etc.

There is a need to have a system in place for providing such data in future to GFCC periodically. It was decided that Member States would furnish nomination of their representatives for the aforementioned Committee (as was decided in the 45th meeting of GFCC) with complete Postal Address, Telephone/ Fax nos./e-mail I.D etc. to GFCC within a time frame of one month. Members have been earnestly requested to stick to this time schedule.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.9 Review of technical appraisal status of flood management schemes in GFCC

Members were informed about the status of Technical Appraisal of Schemes received in XII plan including spillover projects from XI Plan in GFCC from respective states. It was observed that many a time States were not submitting the DPRs as per the guidelines of GFCC which caused delays in clearing / appraising the schemes by GFCC. Common deficiencies found in the DPRs have been brought to the notice of Member States on a number of occasions by GFCC. Member States have been requested to formulate the schemes as per the guidelines and in case of any difficulty in specific cases, they are free to approach GFCC for guidance.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.10 Review of Flood Management Schemes being implemented under Flood Management Programme of Govt. of India

Members have been informed about the status of flood management Schemes included under Flood Management Programme (FMP) for respective states. After deliberations, member states agreed to ensure completion of these schemes as per schedule. The Member States also agreed to ensure submission of utilization certificate of final installment in respect of completed schemes and proposals for release of central assistance well in time to avoid last minute rush and suffering from paucity of funds at the end.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.11 Performance Evaluation of Completed Schemes under FMP

As per the FMP guidelines, the performance evaluation of completed schemes is required to be got conducted by State Governments through independent specialized/ professional agency having expertise in related field in consultation with GFCC. To facilitate these studies, GFCC has prepared a model Terms of Reference (ToR) for these studies and sent to all Member States in April, 2014. Member states have been requested to indicate the progress in this regard. Member states agreed to send information within a time frame of one month.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.12 Issues raised by Railways

No issue was received from Railways so far for consideration in the GFCC Meeting.

Members noted the status..

Item No. 47.13 Discussion on design, planning, formulation and implementation of flood management schemes

During the 46th meeting, it was decided that Member States should furnish their observations on the draft note of GFCC on the issues like return Period of flood to be considered for design of flood embankments in rural areas, level up to which Revetment on river bank should be done; & top width of embankment. However, information from Member states except Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is still awaited. On the basis of comments received from Uttar Pradesh, BIS codes and material available in GFCC, a final position on the issues prepared by GFCC was circulated with agenda.

It was decided that Member states should furnish their final comments/ observations within one month from the date of circulation of minutes failing which the note circulated by GFCC would be considered as final and appropriately taken up with BIS for suitable incorporation into the code.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.14 Expert Committee for formulation of guidelines for use of geo-textile/ geo-bags/ geo-tubes in construction of flood management works

Members were informed about the status of 'Expert Committee for formulation of guidelines for use of geo-textile/ geo-bags/ geo-tubes in construction of flood management works'. It was informed that three meetings of the expert committee had been held so far. One of the terms of reference of the Committee was "to prepare inventory of flood management works constructed in the country using geotextiles/ geobags/ geotubes". Chairman impressed upon the members the importance of preparation of inventory as valuable inputs in finalization of the guidelines and requested to provide available information in this regard at the earliest. Govt. of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had already supplied the information.

The members ensured to supply available information at the earliest within one month time frame.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.15 Action to be taken on observations/ recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources

During the 46th meeting, Member States had agreed to send the information related to flood affected areas and damages suffered, the Action Taken Report on Studies of Assessment of Adequacy of Waterways in the Ganga Basin, the status of formation of implementation committees for comprehensive plans, etc. However, information from Member states is still awaited. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources desired following information in respect of the Ganga Basin States:

- (i) Average annual rainfall, total cropped area, flood protected area in Ganga basin in 1972 and as on 18.10.2013.
- (ii) Proportion of total flood prone area falling under cropped area.
- (iii) Details of relief and rehabilitation package given to the flood affected areas during last 5 years, year-wise.

After deliberations, a time frame of one month was fixed for sending the above information to GFCC. Members were earnestly requested to stick to this time schedule.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 47.16 Encadrement of the post of Junior Engineer in GFCC with Junior Engineer Cadre of Central Water Commission

Members noted that a proposal for encadrement of the post of Junior Engineer in GFCC with Junior Engineer Cadre of Central Water Commission has been sent to the MoWR, RD & GR for consideration and approval of competent authority.

Item No. 47.17 Date and Venue of the next meeting

It was decided that the next (i.e. 48th) Meeting of GFCC would be held in the State of Himachal Pradesh in the first half of November, 2015 i.e. after Durga Puja and before Deepawali. Exact date and venue would be decided in due course in consultation with the State.

(Action: GFCC and Himachal Pradesh)

In his concluding remarks, Chairman, GFCC sought the co-operation of States and requested them to take follow up action on various issues as decided in the Meeting and ensure the compliance to time schedule agreed for various activities.

Member (coordination), GFCC presented the vote of thanks.

List of participants of the 47th meeting of GFCC held on 21st May, 2015 at Dehradun

Chairman/Members/Permanent Invitees

1. Shri G. S. Jha, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna – In Chair
2. Shri A. K. Sinha, Member (Planning), GFCC, Patna.
3. Shri A. Paramesham, Member (Coordination), GFCC, Patna.
4. Shri V. K. Tamta, Chief Engineer & HOD, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun
5. Shri J. P. Bansal, Chief Engineer (I&P), Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
6. Shri K. C. Dhiman, Chief Engineer, I&PH Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
7. Shri R. N. Divya, Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Ganga Basin, Water Resources Department, Ambikapur, Chhatisgarh
8. Shri S. R. Agrawal, Joint Director, FMISC, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna
9. Shri Santosh Kumar Tiwary, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Sahebganj, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand
10. Shri Jagdish Prasad, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Bharatpur, Govt. of Rajasthan
11. Shri P. K. Chopra, Superintending Engineer, HKB Circle, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Jagadhari, Haryana

Other Invitees/Participants

Uttarakhand

12. Shri D. P. Jugran, Chief Engineer (Garhwal), Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun
13. Shri R. Chalisgaonkar, Chief Engineer (Projects/ Garhwal), Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun
14. Shri Jai Pal Singh, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun
15. Shri Subhash Chander, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
16. R. K. Tiwari, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
17. Shri S. K. Pathak, Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
18. Shri Hari Ram Bhatt, A.E.-I, Irrigation Division, Kalsi, Dehradun
19. Shri Sachin Singhal, AE, Irrigation Department, Uttarakhand
20. Shri V. K. Dangwal, AE, Infrastructure Division, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
21. Shri Lokesh Kumar, AAE, Irrigation Department, Uttarakhand

Rajasthan

22. Shri V. S. Sagar, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Baran, Govt. of Rajasthan

Himachal Pradesh

23. Shri Anil Manuja, Executive Engineer, I&PH Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Paanta Sahib

IRI, Roorkee

24. Shri Ajay Verma, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, District-Haridwar
25. Shri S. K. Saha, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, District-Haridwar
26. Shri Ajay Kumar, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, District-Haridwar

National Institute of Hydrology

27. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Scientist 'G' & Head, NIH, Roorkee, District - Haridwar

WPCOS

28. Shri Rakesh Dhapola, Dy. Chief Engineer, WAPCOS Ltd., Sector - 18, Gurgaon, Haryana

Media

29. Shri Mayank Rai, Sr. Reporter, E TV, E TV Office, Near Vidhan Sabha, Dehradun

Ganga Flood Control Control Commission

30. Shri Anil Jain, Director (Coordination), GFCC, Patna.
31. Shri Sharad Chandra, Director (MP-I), GFCC, Patna.
32. Shri U. K. Sharma, Dy. Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna.