

Minutes of 3rd meeting of the Executing Committee held on 21.09.2018 at 'Conference Room of HSPCB, C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula' under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Pritam Pal, Chairman of Executing Committee regarding Action Plan for River Ghaggar

A meeting was held on 21.09.2018 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Pritam Pal, Chairman, Executing Committee regarding Action Plan for River Ghaggar at 'Conference Room of HSPCB, C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula'. The list of officials attended the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure -I**.

Right at the outset, Chairman welcomed all the participants and MS, HSPCB briefed about the decisions taken in the First and 2nd meeting of the Executing Committee. It was also discussed that the Hon'ble NGT has directed the State Government of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh UT Administration to constitute Special Task Forces at District and State level apart from preparation of action plans to make river Ghaggar pollution free and punish the violators.

After brief discussions, the Chairman enquired about the number of convictions in the cases filed for Environment violations. The Legal Officers of the State Boards informed that it is less than 3%. Then Chairman desired to know about the reasons of such low rate of convictions in Environment Courts from the Legal Officers of Haryana, UT, Punjab and Himachal.

The District Attorney HSPCB informed that in many cases the procedure for collection of samples as mentioned in the Water/ Air Act is not complied by the officers of HSPCB. Similarly, the ownership of the industries/ units is not established in the prosecutions. The Legal Officer of UT Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee informed that many times the summons could not be effected by the process servers of the courts. There is lack of awareness among the officers of the State Board regarding the evidence/ documents to be collected for filing prosecutions.

The Chairman desired that as far as Ghaggar matter is concerned, all State Board should work collectively and the officers who file prosecution cases should be trained on filing of prosecutions for environmental violations. He directed that 'Legal Cell of HSPCB should make guidelines/ proforma regarding the requirements of the case before filing of prosecutions and a seminar should also be organized for field level officers of CPCC, HPSPCB, HPPCB and PPCB to make them aware about the Legal process in the coming week.

MS, HSPCB welcomed the decision and requested other states that such a seminar can be fixed soon after receiving inputs from other two SPCBs and CPCC. MS, HSPCB also informed that there are two Special Environment Courts in Haryana and all the prosecutions regarding environmental violations are filed by the HSPCB and Forest Department in the Environment Courts at Kurukshetra and Faridabad. District Attorney, HSPCB informed that there are approximately 500 cases pending at Kurukshetra and approximately 700 cases pending at Faridabad Court. The legal Officers of HPPCB, PSPCB and CPCC informed that there are no such Environment Courts in their States and the cases are filed in lower courts of the respective districts. The Chairman desired that the respective State Boards/ Environment Departments should write a letter to the respective High Courts through the State Govt. for establishment of Environments Courts similar to that of Haryana.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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List of Participants

Sr. No.	Name/Designation/Department
1.	Sh. S. Narayanan, IFS, Member Secretary, HSPCB, Panchkula.
2.	Dr. Vimal Halwal, JD, MOEFCC, RO, Chandigarh and Member Executing Committee,
3.	Sh. Parveen Gupta, SEE, HPPCB, Shimla
4.	Dr. Sharawan Thakur SEE, HPPCB, Shimla
5.	Sh. Satbir Singh, DA, HSPCB, Panchkula
6.	Sh. JP Singh, EE, HSPCB, Panchkula
7.	Sh. Amrik singh, Senior Law Officer, PPCB, Punjab.
8.	Sh. Ricky Jain, Law Officer, CPCC, Chandigarh
9.	Sh. Paramjeet Singh, ADA, HSPCB, Panchkula
10.	Sh. Atul Parmar, AEE, HPPCB, RO, Parwanoo.
11.	Sh. Bhupender Kumar, ADA, Environment Department,
12.	Sh. Sandeep Kumar, Astt. Law Officer, HPPCB, Shimla.