



Central Pollution Control Board

(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,

Delhi – 110032

Minutes of 12th Task Team meeting held on June 11, 2020 through Video Conferencing for ensuring compliance to Hon'ble NGT Order dated 6.12.2019 passed in OA. No.673/2018 in the matter of News Item Published in 'THE HINDU' Titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB".

Twelfth meeting of the Task Team was held on June 11, 2020 through Video Conferencing (VC) with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to review RRC approved & revised action plans (submitted subsequent to 10th Task Team meeting held during 25th & 26th February 2020) for rejuvenation of identified polluted river stretches (PRS) under Priority III & IV categories. The list of participants in the VC is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Sh. A Sudhakar welcomed the members of Task Team and the officials from States for participating in VC Meeting. He stated that Hon'ble NGT in its order passed in September 2018 directed initially RRC constituted by the concerned State Government or UT Administration to review and approve the action plans falling under Priority-III to V. On 06.12.2019, Hon'ble NGT directed CPCB to review the action plans pertaining to P-III and P-IV categories of polluted river stretches (PRS). It was expected from the States that most of the required actions were taken and report progress made on implementation of action plans in compliance to Hon'ble NGT directions.

Sh. J. C. Babu, Sc. 'E' and Member Convener, Task Team informed to the Committee members that the Chairman of Task Team (i.e., Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB) was engaged in series of meetings (VC) today and was unable to participate in the task team meeting due to other important engagements and he requested the members of the Task Team to review the action plans submitted by the States. He also apprised to the Task Team members that till June 10, 2020, nine States viz., viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana and West Bengal have submitted the revised action plans and these action plans are placed before the Task Team for its review and approval. He also informed that Nagaland State could not join for VC in view of the Internet connectivity issue. Thereafter, he requested the States to make brief presentations on the proposed action plans as per agenda circulated to the States on 10.06.2020.

Upon detailed deliberations by the Task Team members, the recommendations of the task team on the action plans proposed by the States are provided below:

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
1	Bihar	Sirsia (P-III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was suggested that timeline given by Hon'ble NGT i.e. 31st March, 2021 be adhered and if additional time is required, affidavit be filed before Hon'ble NGT.	Approved with Conditions.

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
2	Chhattisgarh	Hasdeo (P-IV)	<p>Action plans does not cover following aspects:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly water quality details of river Hasdeo for the general parameters, biological and heavy metals including flow details during the last two years • Water quality details of all 10 drains contributing to pollution in river Hasdeo general parameters, biological and heavy metals including flow details during the last two years • River-wise gap analysis w.r.t present generation, projected generation existing infrastructure, existing capacity utilization, gap observed in the catchment for management of sewage (based on the projected population of at least for a period of next 15 years), industrial effluent and waste management (solid waste, hazardous waste, C & D waste, bio-medical waste) need to be detailed in a separate table clearly. • In situ Bioremediation of drains to be included as a part of action plan • Ground water quality in the catchment of each polluted river stretch with respect to heavy metals also be assessed and provided • Exact specific timelines as prescribed by Hon'ble NGT, expected budget estimate need to be included • Other action points such as maintaining E-flow, Watershed Management, Greenery development, Rain water harvesting, Adoption of good irrigation practices, 	State need to submit revised Action Plan.

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
			<p>development of bio-diversity parks and removal of encroachments also be included as a part of the action plans with definite time lines and the implementing agency with budget estimates.</p>	
3	Kerala	Bharathapuzha (P-IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the suggestions made in 10th Task Team meeting were incorporated and also clarified that there is no sand mining activity in the catchment of river Bharathapuzha. • It was suggested that source identification w.r.t septage, sewage need to be made; • Management of municipal sewage at source and micro level is required by adopting in-situ remediation measures /non-conventional methods rather than adopting conventional STPs for sewage treatment passing through small drains. • Septage management measures also be adopted by having community level bio-digesters. 	Approved conditions with
4	Mizoram	Tiau (P-III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plans require following information: • Latest Water quality of polluted river stretches (P-III and P-IV categories) for all the desired parameters be included. • Water quality of Ground water in the catchment area of polluted river stretches (P-III and P-IV categories) including heavy metals be included. • Water quality of drains including heavy metals along with flow details be included. 	Approved Conditions. with

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures such as (i) In-situ remediation techniques for drains; (ii) low cost water stabilization pond for sewage treatment options and (iii) Watershed management in the catchment of identified polluted river stretches to be included as a part of the action plans 	
5	Punjab	Beas (P-IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab State has modified the action plans in light of the recommendations made in 10th Task Team meeting. Approval of RRC is still awaited. 	Not recommended as the RRC yet to approve the revised action plan in respect of river Beas
5	Odisha	Kathajodi (P-III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that status of all action points including construction of STPs be updated and following information be incorporated in action plan: Short term measures like Bioremediation of drains, Bio-mining of dump- sites be proposed. Timeline for completion of (i) drainage network and (ii) upgradation of existing Oxidation Ponds should be included as per timelines prescribed by Hon'ble NGT or additional time be sought from Hon'ble NGT. Action plan for aspects such as Adoption of good irrigation practices, Biodiversity park development and E-Flow maintenance along with time lines and agency responsible for implementation need to be included in action plan. 	Approved with Conditions.
6	Telangana	Maner (P-III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified regarding utilization of treated sewage from STP (38 MLD) at Karimnagar by the Kakatiya Thermal Power Plant as the industry is located more than 50 KM distance. 	Approved with conditions

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks made in 10th Task Team meeting with regard to the water quality of river Maner verified and latest water quality details included in the revised action plan. • STP of capacity 38 MLD has been commissioned and operational and remaining STPs as proposed in the action plan will be commissioned. • For In-Situ remediation, flow of 5 MLD and presence of flat terrain is required. The two conditions cannot be fulfilled. Due to above reasons and funding constraints, in-situ remediation may not be conducive. • Telangana State informed that implementation is likely to be delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic and present stringent financial position. Hence additional time is required for ensuring compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders. • Action point-wise implementing agency indicated but specific timelines and the budget estimates not been included. • Action plan wise timelines wherever exceeding the stipulated timelines given by Hon'ble NGT either be revised or matter be apprised to Hon'ble NGT seeking additional time for ensuring compliance. 	
7	West Bengal	Churni (P-III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest water quality of polluted river stretch including sources of pollution in river Churni covering all parameters be included. 	State need to submit revised Action Plans.

S No	Name of State	River Stretch reviewed	Observations/ suggestions of Task Team	Recommendations of the Task Team
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures taken on the pollution caused from international borders also be ascertained • Detailed gap analysis w.r.t present generation, projected generation existing infrastructure, existing capacity utilization, gap observed in the catchment for management of industrial effluent and waste management (solid waste, hazardous waste, C & D waste, bio-medical waste) need to be detailed in a separate table clearly. • Aspects such as utilization of treated waste water, removal of encroachments, etc., to be covered as per NGT order not included in action plan. • Timelines suggested for construction of STPs is not as per Hon'ble NGT hence timelines be revised or additional time from NGT be sought for ensuring compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders. 	

Sh. Rohit Kakkar, Sr. Advisor, MoUHA is of the view that as far as mitigation of river pollution due to municipal wastewater discharge is concerned, the most crucial factor is the overflow of effluent from septic tanks into surface water bodies. Absence of soak pits or drainage fields is a serious flaw and this stream of wastewater needs to be managed. The pollution load from this stream would be about 50% of untreated discharges and would be 40 to 100 times of pollution load contained in untreated septage originating from the same population. Therefore, most action plans which cater for faecal sludge and septage management as an alternative for these areas will have a minuscule effect as far as mitigation of river pollution is concerned. Therefore, RRCs while preparing action plans, must cater for management of all major drains of municipal sewage discharge.

Sh. Brijesh Sikka, Senior Consultant, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) requested all the States to submit monthly progress reports as per the circulated formats to NMCG & CPCB at the earliest. He also suggested States to ensure that all the approved action plans to be completed by 31st March 2021 and if additional time is required for compliance, Hon'ble NGT to be apprised with justification seeking additional time. He also stated on the need for decentralised treatment of sewage, wherever feasible and faecal sludge and septic management at appropriate places for optimisation of capital as well as O & M costs.

CPCB Task Team also suggested that

- (i) All the concerned States to revise the action plans pertaining to Priority -III & IV Polluted River Stretches in light of the recommendations of the CPCB Task Team and also covering aspects as per Hon'ble NGT Orders passed in O. A. No 673/2018 and RRC approved revised action plans be submitted to CPCB and NMCG, *within a month*.
- (ii) All the concerned States have to ensure uploading of the RRC approved revised action plans in the State Government (Environment Department) and SPCB Websites and details also be submitted to CPCB and NMCG, *within a month*.
- (iii) The States/UTs which intends to (a) delist river stretches from the identified polluted river stretches and (b) seek additional time for ensuring compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Directions passed in OA No. 673 of 2018, may file reply affidavit before Hon'ble NGT with justification.
- (iv) To know any improvement in water quality of polluted river stretches, all the States are also required to carry out bio-monitoring and indexing of the rivers (i.e., monitoring of parameters preferably FC, TC, Faecal Streptococci, Saprobity index, Diversity index and P/R ratio apart from all other relevant parameters) to assess efficacy of the river cleaning programme. Such assessment reports also be shared with CPCB and NMCG periodically.
- (v) All the concerned States/UTs are also requested for timely submission of the monthly action taken reports (ATRs) in light of the format circulated by NMCG to enable to file the action taken reports henceforth before Hon'ble NGT for consideration.
- (vi) Action plans in respect of the States (viz., Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) will be considered in 13th Task Team meeting tentatively scheduled in I week of July 2020 subject to receipt of RRC approved revised action plans from the respective State by CPCB on or before June 30, 2020.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

1. Sh. A. Sudhakar, Scientist 'E', CPCB (Member, Task Team)
2. Sh. B. Vinod Babu, Scientist 'E', CPCB (Member, Task Team)
3. Sh. Rohit Kakkar, Senior Advisor (CPHEEO), MoHUA (Member, Task Team)
4. Sh. Brijesh Sikka, Senior Consultant, NMCG (Member, Task Team)
5. Sh. Y. P. Singh, Scientist 'E', CP Division, MoEF&CC (Member, Task Team)
6. Sh. J. Chandra Babu, Scientist 'E', CPCB (Member Convener)
7. Ms. Deepty Goyal, SRF, CPCB
8. Ms. Deepa Kumari, JRF, CPCB, Delhi

Officials of States –

1. Bihar
2. Chhattisgarh
3. Kerala
4. Mizoram
5. Odisha
6. Punjab
7. Telangana
8. West Bengal