

**Summary Record of the Discussions of 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 08.06.2016 at New Delhi**

The 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC. The list of participants is at **Annex-I**.

At the outset, after a brief round of introduction of all the participants, the Member (Planning), GFCC welcomed all the participants present during the meeting. He briefly described the purpose of the meeting. After that he requested Chairman, GFCC, to address the participants of the Member states.

Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC, in his opening remarks extended a welcome to all the representatives of States and Members of GFCC. The following were the main points of the Chairman's address-

- (i) The purpose of convening the meeting prior to monsoon is to prepare ourselves for the coming monsoon. After the monsoon season is over, the meeting is convened again to share the experiences of the member States in managing the floods.
- (ii) One of the main purposes of the meeting is to review progress of issues on different agenda items but the issues are not getting the due seriousness they deserve.
- (iii) A comprehensive approach must be used to manage floods, as against the piecemeal approach. It should be ensured that the various issues must be dealt in a holistic manner.
- (iv) Keeping up with the changing technologies, advanced materials and processes need to be used for flood management works. For example, fetching boulders from 200 km distance is costly and uneconomical. Moreover, the availability of boulders is limited and it may not be available for flood management works. In its place, geosynthetics may be used efficiently.

- (v) Now GFCC is equipped with various software and in near future it will be in a position to provide comprehensive package of solutions for flood management to the States.

After the address by the Chairman, GFCC, Shri C. Lal, Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR, addressed the meeting. The following issues were highlighted by him.

- (i) Flood damages are increasing year after year. Performance of FMP for reducing the damages is not satisfactory.
- (ii) A combination of measures needs to be adopted for flood management works.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the States to implement the recommendations of comprehensive plans for flood management of different river systems prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission.
- (iv) Concurrent evaluations of schemes by independent agencies like recognized Institutions etc. are not being carried out by States in number of cases during execution, which is mandatory requirement for release of subsequent instalment of Central Assistance under FMP. Member States are requested to carry out concurrent evaluations of flood management schemes during execution.
- (v) Dredging of rivers should also be given due consideration. Wherever dredging is needed, complete details along with financial implications need to be provided in DPR of the projects.

Subsequent to the opening remarks by the Chairman, GFCC, Shri Manoj Kumar, Director (MP-I), GFCC. made a presentation for deliberation of agenda items. The items discussed and decisions taken are as under.

**Item No.49.1            Confirmation of Summary Record of discussions of the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 09.11.2015 at New Delhi**

The Summary Record of Discussions of the 48th Meeting of the GFCC held on 9th November, 2015 at New Delhi was circulated to all members vide GFCC's

letter no. GFCC/C/2/2010/7407-33 dated 04.12.2015. No comments were received thereon from any of the members.

Members confirmed the Summary Record of Discussions of the 48th Meeting of GFCC unanimously.

**Item No.49.2 Follow up Action undertaken on the minutes of 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of GFCC**

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

**Item No.49.3 Presentation from Member States on Flood Management Issues and their Preparedness for monsoon 2016 and status of follow up actions on the discussion of earlier meetings**

Presentations were made by Member States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and NCT of Delhi. The preparations made by the States for coming monsoon were presented.

The position as explained during presentations was noted by the members.

**Item No. 49.4 Establishment of GIS lab and Satellite Data Repository as part of modernization of GFCC**

As per EFC provision for GFCC component under the plan scheme "River management activities and work related to border areas", GIS lab and Satellite Data Repository have been established in GFCC.

The Members were informed that Software like ArcGIS, ERDAS had been purchased and hardware was being procured in GFCC. Training programs have been organized for the officers concerned. The chairman expressed hope that in future GFCC would provide comprehensive package of solutions for flood management to the States.

The position was noted by the members.

**Item No. 49.5      Review of Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management prepared by the GFCC and their Implementation**

The Member States were requested in the previous meetings to send their action plans for implementing the recommendations of the various comprehensive plans prepared by GFCC, but so far only the action plans have been received from Bihar and Himachal Pradesh only.

Member (P), GFCC, requested the Member States to adopt more seriousness on this issue. The Chairman desired that in the next meeting of GFCC all remaining States would come with their action Plans. Commissioner (FM) stated that comprehensive plan of Kosi river needs to be updated as it was formulated back in 1986. Member (P) informed the members that the process of updation of 2 comprehensive plans namely Rupnarayan-Haldi-Rasulpur and Kosi river systems is in progress and the summary of recommendations of all comprehensive plans is available on the website of GFCC. The Comprehensive plans for flood management of five river systems have been uploaded on the website of GFCC. The preparation of soft copies of remaining comprehensive plans in phased manner is under process in GFCC, which will be uploaded on the website of GFCC.

Shri M.K. Sinha, Director, CWPRS, suggested that India-WRIS may be used for uploading the comprehensive plans, which was agreed by all members. The Chairman directed the officers of GFCC to take initiative for this in consultation with Central Water Commission.

**Item No.49.6      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:

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

The action plan is still awaited from the concerned States. Member States were requested to submit the same in the next meeting of GFCC.

**Item No. 49.7 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 updation 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 updation of Comprehensive Plans, inventory of Flood Management Schemes, etc. The composition of Standing Committee as approved by Board is as under:

- |    |  |   |                  |
|----|--|---|------------------|
| 1. | Member, GFCC, Patna  | - | Chairperson      |
| 2. | Engineer-in-Chief / Chief Engineer (In charge of Flood Management) of the Irrigation/WR Department of the State.       | - | Member           |
| 3. | Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer responsible for the coordination of Flood Management at the State Head Quarter. | - | Member           |
| 4. | Representative of Disaster Management Department of the State Govt.  | - | Member           |
| 5. | Representative of the Remote Sensing Department of the State Govt.   | - | Member           |
| 6. | Director, GFCC, Patna  | - | Member-Secretary |

Bihar, UP and West Bengal have already furnished nominations for the committee and have sent the details to GFCC. It was decided that GFCC would constitute the Standing Committee for each Ganga Basin States under the

Chairmanship of Member (Planning), GFCC wherein there will be representation from Irrigation/WR department, Disaster Management Department and Remote Sensing Department instead of waiting for the response from State Government on this issue.

**Item No. 49.8      Review of technical appraisal status of flood management schemes in GFCC**

A state wise abstract of status of Technical Appraisal of Schemes was presented. The position was noted by the Members. It was also suggested to create a whatsapp group for resolving appraisal issues.

**Item No. 49.9      Review of Flood Management Schemes being implemented under Flood Management Programme of Govt. of India**

A state wise abstract of status of flood management Schemes included under FMP was presented. The position was noted by the Members.

**Item No.49.10      Performance Evaluation of Completed Schemes under FMP**

As per the FMP guidelines, the performance evaluation of completed schemes is required to be conducted by State Governments through independent specialized/ professional agency having expertise in related field in consultation with GFCC.

To facilitate these studies, GFCC had prepared a model Terms of Reference (ToR) for these studies and sent to all Member States in April, 2014. However, except from Bihar comments from Member States are still awaited.

Proposals for performance evaluation of one completed scheme of Bihar and one completed scheme of U.P. from NIT, Patna and NIT, Allahabad respectively have been submitted to the Ministry for approval from the competent authority. The Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR was requested to look into the matter.

The States were requested to undertake the performance evaluations of completed flood management schemes under FMP following model Terms of reference prepared by GFCC in a time bound manner. The representatives from State Governments requested to send Model Terms of Reference for Performance Evaluation of completed schemes. The Chairman stated that the ToR of the performance evaluation would be put on the website of GFCC.

**Item No.49.11 Discussion on design, planning, formulation and implementation of flood management scheme**

It was earlier 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 Governments. of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are still awaited. Member States are requested to send the desired information at the earliest.

The Chairman stated that a draft technical memorandum on General Flood Management Structures would be circulated to all Member States to address all technical aspects. The Members will be required to furnish their comments at the earliest.

**Item No.49.12 Expert Committee for formulation of guidelines for use of geo-textile/ geo-bags/ geo-tubes in construction of flood management works**

Five meetings of the expert committee have been held and a draft guideline for use of geo-textile/ geo-bags/ geo-tubes in construction of flood management works has been prepared. One of the terms of reference of the Committee is “to prepare inventory of flood management works constructed in the country using geotextiles/ geobags/ geotubes”. The importance of preparation of inventory has been emphasized as valuable inputs in finalization of the guidelines and Member States have been requested to provide whatever information they have in this regard at the earliest.

The inventory of flood management works have been received only from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh whereas the other States have not sent the requisite information so far.

Representative from West Bengal informed the Chairman that the same would be sent to GFCC at the earliest.

**Item No. 49.13      Formulation of National River Silt Management Policy**

During the 17th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB), it was pointed out by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, that in some surveys it has come to light that due to the construction of Farakka Barrage considerable changes have taken place in the morphology of river Ganga. Silt accumulation has increased manifold in the upstream of the Farakka Barrage. As a consequence, flood occurrence has increased in Bihar. He expressed the need for the formulation of a National River Silt Management Policy. In the 48th meeting of GFCC the issue was discussed at length. Many valuable suggestions were provided by the Members.

It was pointed out by Commissioner (FM) that a committee to study the siltation problem of rivers has been constituted under the chairmanship of Director, CWPRS. It was noted by the Members.

**Item No. 49.14      Enactment of legislation for Flood Plain Zoning**

Referring to the discussions of 17th meeting of GFCB on the Model Flood plain Zoning Bill, 1975, Member (Planning) requested member states to expedite their views and suggestions to improve the bill.

Dr. M K Sinha, Director CWPRS informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had already set up a committee to prepare River Regulation Zone notification to be issued under the Ambit of Environment Protection Act, 1986. The said committee has already prepared a draft notification which has been sent to all States and concerned Central Ministries including Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. It has been realised that River Regulation Zoning is essential for environment protection and therefore, it

would be appropriate to issue notification under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 rather than waiting for the states to adopt Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill. Since the subject matter has been taken up as a regulatory measure on all India basis which would fulfill flood management requirements also, the said agenda need not be pursued in GFCC. Agreeing with the suggestion the Chairman requested member States and GFCC to study the draft river regulation zone notification and provide comments

It was also pointed out by Director, CWPRS, that the draft flood plain zoning bill should incorporate the provisions regarding River Regulation Zone notification and provide comments.

**Item No.49.15      Date and Venue of the next meeting**

It was decided that the next meeting of GFCC will be held at Lucknow in November, 2016.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Members.

**List of participants of the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of GFCC held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at New Delhi**

**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 Gorakh Thakur, Member (Coordination), GFCC, Patna.
4. Shri C.Lal, Commissioner (FM), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, New Delhi
5. Dr. M.K.Sinha, Director, CWPRS, Pune
6. Shri Amrendra Kumar Singh, General Manager (In-Charge), Farakka Barrage Project, Farakka, Distt. Murshidabad, West Bengal
7. Shri Nand Kishor Sharma, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, Government of Uttarakhand
8. Shri Nagesh Kumar Sharma, Chief Engineer (I&P) Flood, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
9. Shri S.K. Pathak, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Chhatisgarh
10. Shri Pradeep Yadav, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Government of Haryana
11. Shri Phool Singh, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Bharatpur, Govt. of Rajasthan
12. Shri Atish Bhattacharyya, Superintending Engineer, IPC-II, Irrigation & Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal
13. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, CD XIV, I & FC Department, Government of Delhi
14. Shri Rajesh Gupta, Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar
15. Shri Awadhesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand
16. Shri S.P. Patel, Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

**Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR**

17. Shri Ajay Kumar, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR

## **Central Water Commission**

18. Shri Sharad Chandra, Director (UT & SS), CWC, New Delhi
19. Shri Anil Jain, Director, NDHW Dte., CWC, New Delhi

## **Delhi**

20. Shri Jitendra Kumar, Executive Engineer, I & FC Department, Government of Delhi
21. Shri Raveendra Kumar, Executive Engineer, I & FC Department, Government of Delhi
22. Shri Subhash Malik, SDO, I & FC Department, Government of Delhi
23. Shri Shrichand, ASDO, I & FC Department, Government of Delhi

## **Uttarakhand**

24. Shri Deep Chandra Pande, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation works circle, Govt. of Uttarakhand

## **Ganga Flood Control Control Commission**

25. Shri Akhilesh Kumar Jha, Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna
26. Shri Manoj Kumar, Director (MP-I), GFCC, Patna.
27. Shri Vivek Pal, Director, GFCC, Lucknow
28. Shri S.P.Singh, Dy. Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna.
29. Shri D.P.Singh, Dy. Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna.
30. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Dy. Director (MP-II), GFCC, Patna.
31. Shri Kumar Kushal, Assistant Director, GFCC, Patna