

प्रदीप कुमार अग्रवाल, भा.प्र.से.
Pradeep Kumar Agrawal, IAS
संयुक्त सचिव
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

D.O.No.J-24037/3/2020-NRCD-II

Dated: 26th July, 2024

Dear Mr. Rao,

National River Conservation Directorate under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IIT Kanpur and NIT Raipur & NIT Rourkela (Consortium Institutes) to take up the project **Condition Assessment & Management Plan for Mahanadi river basin**, to enable preparation of action plans for conservation and rejuvenation of rivers/tributaries in the basin.

In terms of the MoAs, Consortium Institutes are tasked with notifying the required actions, achieving and monitoring the progress to ensure deliverables within the prescribed time frame.

During first meeting of the Joint Review Committee for Mahanadi river basin held at Raipur in May, 2024, it was noted that CIs have deployed their teams with proper division of works and identified space for the proposed centres. Engagement of human resource and procurement of items (Equipment/Software) was reported to be in progress. Secondary data collection relating to basin demography, geography, environmental conditions, mapping of administrative boundaries, census data, urban and rural characteristics were under compilation. The first deliverable '**Rivers at a Glance**' was reportedly in final stage. .

While we appreciate the progress achieved so far, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the suggestions and the way forward, as below:-

- Overview of previous action plans, identification of gaps - Referring to GRBMP framework for better management policies,
- Dedicated websites to upload/disseminate all relevant information/data - Data sharing protocols and template prepared by IISc Bangalore may be the universal template,
- Consultation with stakeholders - Public involvement at various levels,
- Identification of critical issues/hotspots,
- Digitalization of acquired data in various formats,
- Cross checking/ground truthing institutional findings with nodal office/center data,
- Creation of thematic subgroups,

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- Preference to Mission 'Nirmal Dhara' to enable the States to prepare action plans,
- Estimation of environmental flows for species and tributary connectivity,
- Consortium Institutes free to take decisions within the framework of the MoAs.

We expect all coordination with IIT Kanpur/cGanga and the Fellow Institute to ensure timely submission of deliverables.

With regards,


(Pradeep Kumar Agrawal)

To,

Dr. N V Ramana Rao
Director, NIT Raipur
G.E. Road, Raipur – 492010
Chhattisgarh

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