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Minutes of 10th meeting of River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) held on 06/10/2025 under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Environment Forest & Climate Change Department, Government of Bihar to review the implementation of action plans in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. no. 673/2018.

A meeting of the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) was convened on 06/10/2025 under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoB to review the implementation of action plans in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. no. 673/2018 (**Attendance Sheet enclosed**).

2 The chairperson welcomed the officials/members present in the meeting. With the permission the chair, Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna presented the background of O.A. no. 673/2018 and the current status of compliances in the light of the orders of the Hon'ble NGT through a Power point presentation. He stated that:-

2.1 The Hon'ble NGT is closely monitoring the issues related to pollution abatement efforts for the river Ganga and its tributaries in the matter of O.A. No. 673/2018. He informed that CPCB has identified a total of 06 Polluted River Stretches in the State of Bihar before 2018, which includes Sirsiya river at Raxaul (Priority-III) and Parmar at Jogbani (Priority-V), Punpun river at Fatuha, Ramrekha river at Harinagar (Priority-V), Harbaura river at Narkatiaganj (Priority-V) and Ganga river (Priority-V).

2.2 In compliance with the Hon'ble NGT directives, River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) was constituted by DoEF&CC, Govt. of Bihar vide Notification No. 1412(E), dated-31.12.2018. Action Plans were formulated by the RRC for restoration and conservation of Polluted River Stretches in terms of reference of the order of Hon'ble NGT for making it fit at least for bathing purposes (BOD <3 mg/L and FC <500 MPN/100 ml).

2.3 The polluted river stretches increased to 18 nos. based on the water quality data of 2019 & 2021. Bihar State Pollution Control Board observed that out of 18 polluted river stretches, 06 rivers had value of BOD >3 mg/L only one time during 2019 & 2021 and accordingly, Board requested to CPCB to exclude the 06 rivers namely Bagmati (Priority-V), Daush (Priority-V), Gandak (Priority-V), Ghaghara (Priority-V), Parmar (Priority-V) and Sone (Priority-V) from the list of Polluted River Stretches of the State of Bihar vide ref. no. 100, dated-18.01.2023. The aforesaid issue was also flagged during 16th meeting of Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) dated-12.05.2023.

2.4 The polluted river stretches further reduced to 12 nos. based on the water quality data of 2022 & 2023 which further reduced to 07 nos. based on the water quality data of 2024.

3 The Member Secretary, BSPCB also informed that as per water quality data of 2024, Sirsiya & Gandak rivers have shifted to Priority-IV, whereas other previously identified Polluted River Stretches namely Harbaura, Ramrekha, Sikrahna (Burhi Gandak), Kohra and Sone river have been still observed in priority-V. It to be noted that Parmar, Punpun and Ganga have been observed non-polluted rivers based on BOD value observed during 2024.

The status of polluted river stretches in Bihar is depicted in the table given below:-

Priority	BOD (mg/L) Standard <03 mg/L	Polluted River Stretches			
		Before 2018	2019 & 2021	2022 & 2023	2024
I	>30 mg/L	0	0	0	0
II	20-30 mg/L	0	01	0	0
III	10-20 mg/L	01	02	04	0
IV	06-10 mg/L	0	07	03	02
V	03-06 mg/L	05	08	05	05
Total		06	18	12	07

4 He also informed that the Sirsiya river originates from Nepal and observed polluted at the entry point of Indian Territory at Raxaul. The issue of pollution of Sirsiya river was flagged during the 2nd meeting of Central Monitoring Committee through video conferencing under chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India on 19th February, 2020. The matter was also earlier raised with NMCG vide State Board's letter no. B-4025, dated-24.07.2019. The Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of Bihar has also raised the issue to MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter no. 173, dated-28.04.2020 and Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India vide letter, 174, dated-28.04.2020 with request to address this issue at the Govt. of India level through Ministry of External Affairs so that Sirsiya river and ultimately the Ganga river could be protected from the industrial and domestic waste water discharge from Nepal. The issue has been further flagged vide Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of Bihar vide letter no. 271, dated-03.06.2024.

5 The issues related to polluted river stretches in Bihar has been flagged to NMCG by the Chairman, BSPCB vide letter no. 1074, dated-25.08.2025 with a request to exclude the rivers from the current list (2024) of polluted river stretches which BOD values were recorded more than the prescribed limit only once or twice throughout the entire year's sampling.

6 He also informed that issues related to sewage management through the sewerage network and sewage treatment plant are being addressed by UD&HD through BUIDCO. A total of 42 Sewage Management projects are being executed under Namami Gange Programme. Out of the above, the establishment of 13 STPs (333 MLD capacity) have been completed & operational; 06 STPs (192 MLD capacity) are under trial run; 10 STPs are under construction; 04 projects are in tendering stage and remaining 09 projects are under DPRs stage. The representative of UD&HD has informed that one more project started under trial run.

7 Representative of Water Resources Department, GoB informed that department has notified the flood plain zoning for the embanked rivers in the State vide notification no. 143, dated-06.03.2025 and has also awarded work order for study to notify flood plain zoning for rivers without embankments. He also informed that the Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 15.11.2022 under O.A. No. 392/2022 has directed the State to issue Standard Operating Procedure for Regulation & Conservation of Ground Water through Water Resources Department and State PCBs. A draft SOP was prepared by the Minor Water Resources Department (MWRD), GoB jointly with the BSPCB. The notification in this regard is still awaited from Minor Water Resources Department, GoB.

Which is a matter of concern.

8 It was also informed that Bihar State Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the quality of treated sewage and status of compliance/non compliance is communicated to the BUIDCo for needful action. Board has also imposed environmental compensation to the non-complying units.

9 After detailed discussion, following decisions were taken:-

- a. Urban Development & Housing Department shall expedite for early completion of all the concerned sewage management projects to reduce the pollution load in the identified river stretches to avoid any adverse remarks by the Hon'ble NGT and Apex Court. The timeline of completion of STPs must be adhered.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB. & BUIDCo)

- b. Water Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar shall define the flood plain zone for other rivers without embankment and status report be submitted.

(Action: WRD, GoB.)

- c. UD&HD & BUIDCo shall ensure the utilization of treated sewage in the different sectors in the urban areas and status on initiatives taken in this regard be submitted.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB. & BUIDCo)

- d. UDHD shall ensure the setting of proper waste processing facility in the ULBs located on the banks of identified polluted river stretches.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB)

- e. UDHD shall pursue early sanction and disposal of proposed sewage projects with NMCG, sharing copies with DoEF&CC and BSPCB for follow-up.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB. & BUIDCo, DoEF&CC, GoB & BSPCB)

- f. Minor Water Resources Department, GoB. shall expedite notification of SOP on Groundwater Regulation and conservation in compliance with Hon'ble NGT in the matter of O.A. No. 392/2022.

(Action: MWRD, GoB.)

- g. Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, GoB. shall again request MoEF&CC, GoI for intervention at the Government of India level regarding pollution of Sirsiya River from Nepal.

(Action: DoEF&CC, GoB & BSPCB)

- h. UD&HD & DoEF&CC shall identify land for establishment of biodiversity parks along Polluted River Stretches in both urban and rural areas and submit a detailed report.

(Action: UD&HD & DoEF&CC, GoB)

- i. BIADA shall submit status of Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) construction in the State of Bihar, including Hajipur Industrial Area (monitored by Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 200/2014) to BSPCB.

(Action: Industry Dept., GoB. & BIADA)

- j. DoEF&CC, Govt. of Bihar shall ensure the development of green vegetation along with Polluted River Stretches in Bihar and submit the status report to BSPCB.

(Action: DoEF&CC, GoB.)

- k. Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar shall ensure completion of sanctioned works related to groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting and submit progress report to BSPCB.

(Action: RRD, GoB.)

- l. Panchayati Raj Department & Rural Development Department, GoB shall ensure the setting up Sewage Management Facility and Solid Waste Management Facility in the rural areas and status in this regard shall be communicated to BSPCB.

(Action: Panchayati Raj Dept., GoB.)

- m. UD&HD, GoB & BUIDCo shall ensure the quality of treated sewage from all operating STPs conforming to the prescribed standards.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB & BUIDCo)

- n. UD&HD, GoB & BUIDCo shall ensure installation of the Online Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at all existing operational STPs at its outlet as well as plan in advance for installation of the same at all ongoing and proposed STPs projects.

(Action: UD&HD, GoB.)

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Principal Secretary,
DoEF&CC, GoB.

बिहार सरकार

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग

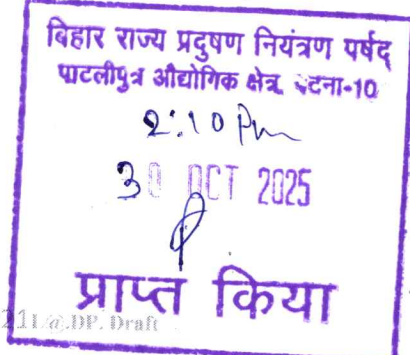
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प्रतिलिपि-अपर मुख्य सचिव/प्रधान सचिव/सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग,
बिहार, पटना/जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना/उद्योग विभाग, बिहार, पटना/ग्रामीण विकास
विभाग, बिहार, पटना/पंचायती राज विभाग, बिहार, पटना/प्रबंध निदेशक, BUIDCo, बिहार,
पटना को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

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(श्याम चन्द्र मंडल)

सरकार के अवर सचिव

ज्ञापांक :-04/पर्या०/वन-11/2025.....5644/प०व०ज०प०, पटना-15, दिनांक 22/10/25
प्रतिलिपि- प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (HoFF) बिहार, पटना/सदस्य सचिव, बिहार राज्य
प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्वद, पटना को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।



(श्याम चन्द्र मंडल)
सरकार के अवर सचिव