

Minutes of the Review Meeting of Periyar River Basin under CAMP Study held on 7th November, 2025 under Chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, Ministry of JalShakti

Pursuant to the decisions taken during 2nd meeting of Stakeholder Advisory Committee held on 26th September, 2025 at IISc Bengaluru, review meeting for Periyar River Basin was held on 7th November, 2025 at Shram Shakti Bhawan, N Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary, D/o WR, RD&GR. That was followed by discussions on the revised proposals submitted by Government of Kerala for pollution abatement of rivers Periyar and Chitrapuzha under the National River Conservation Plan. The list of participants is at Annexure.

A. Review for Periyar River Basin under the project Condition Assessment and Management Plan for six River Basins

1. At the outset, Secretary, D/o WR, RD&GR desired to know change in status after the Stakeholder Committee meeting held at Bengaluru on 26/9/2025, especially in respect of consultation with the basin States. He expressed concerns over no interaction with the highest authority in the State (Additional Chief Secretary) dealing with the water resources management.

2. Replying to the observations, JS, NRCD informed that WhatsApp Groups for each of the river basins have been formed to facilitate online interaction and proper coordination amongst all stakeholders, as and when required. Also, all the deliverables/reports have been delivered physically to the nodal officers in the State, and available on the Group as well. Meanwhile, more reports have been submitted by the CIs including ***River Atlas***.

3. Shri Bishwanath Sinha, ACS, Water Resources, Govt of Kerala acknowledged receipt of some of the reports which could be termed as studies only with the methodology adopted as in case of Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP). He opined that given the Periyar river basin characteristics, demography, hydrology, etc different from river Ganga, same model might not work to arrive at the interventions in letter and spirit. Further, ownership of water bodies in the State vests with the local Panchayats, action plans emerging out of the studies need to be customized accordingly.

Shri Sinha was of the view that tools/methodology for the study in Periyar river basin need to be relooked with greater flexibility in chapterization and the content therein after stakeholders' consultations also involving engineering students. Also, draft action plans, even in draft stage to be shared in advance for detailed examination including efficacy and adequacy perspective. He desired for integration of the study, findings and recommendations with the mandate of River Basin Management Authorities at District level in the State headed by District Commissioners.

4. Dr. Athira from IIT Palakkad made a presentation on the progress achieved

so far, highlighting the key findings/recommendations contained in the reports finalized and/or under draft stage (total 18 nos). The reports finalized so far - River at a Glance, Basin Demography, Aerial/Drone Surveys & Hydrologic data. She also mentioned about the works taken up towards the Missions Aviral and Nirmal Dhara, which mainly included the targeted deliverables - e-flows assessment, management plans for domestic & industrial wastewater and solid wastes, plan for rejuvenation of water bodies, etc. In case of Nirmal Dhara, they have proposed to conduct town-scale field surveys to quantify wastewater generation and develop decentralized water treatment systems in Ernakulam and Idukki Districts.

5. PD, NRCD explained that the basic framework of the studies is aligned with the pillars identified in case of GRBMP to achieve **Samarth Ganga**. However, it was clarified that findings and recommendations for each of the river basins would vary depending upon the basin characteristics, local conditions and feedback from the stakeholders. He also insisted for early submission of deliverables towards Mission **Nirmal Dhara** and to provide KML file of the study on River Atlas for properly locating rivers/tributaries in the basin.

6. Secretary, D/o WR, RD&GR mentioned about the River Act under conceptualization which would possibly be the outcome of integration of river conservation efforts both at the Centre and State levels.

7. While summarizing/concluding the deliberations, action points were emerged as under:-

(i) Coordination amongst all stakeholders, especially the CIs, different agencies of the State Government of Kerala, District River Basin Management Authorities and the locals, to be strengthened for wider acceptability of the deliverables and to arrive at the action plans implementable on ground.

(Action: CIs/Govt of Kerala)

(ii) Remaining deliverables due from Quarter-7 to 12 (October, 2025 onwards) to be fast tracked along with prioritizing the deliverables towards Mission Nirmal Dhara, to meet the revised timelines of March, 2026.

(Action: CIs/cGanga)

(iii) Consortium Institutes along with the basin States to organize stakeholder consultations at regular intervals starting from now. In that series, one workshop may be held at a larger scale in the State capital wherein representative of the Central Government would also be present.

(Action: CIs/cGanga/Govt of Kerala)

(iv) The model of River Basin Management Authorities in the State to be studied for its replicability in other river basins.

(Action: CIs/CGanga/NRCD)

B. Proposals for pollution abatement of rivers Periyar and Chitrapuzha

under NRCP

Subsequent to the end of review of Periyar river basin under CAMP, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR enquired about the status of pollution abatement of two projects of Periyar and Chitrapuzha rivers. During the discussion, Shri Bishwanath Sinha, ACS,WRD to Kerala Govt told that the reply of State Govt would be sent to NRCD within one week so that further processing of proposal can be done accordingly.

(Action: Kerala State)

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of Participants

NRCD, D/o Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

1. Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary - In Chair
2. Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, DG, NMCG & PD, NRCD
3. Shri Karan Singh, Joint Secretary
4. Shri S. K. Srivastava, Scientist F
5. Shri J. P. Singh, Director
6. Shri Mahesh Kumar Kashyap, Under Secretary

Representatives of the Basin State (Kerala)

1. Shri Bishwanath Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, D/o Water Resources
2. Shri Priyesh R, Chief Engineer, IRDB & Inter State Waters,
3. Shri Baburajan P K, Chief Environmental Engineer, KSPCB

cGanga Team

1. Prof. Vinod Tare, Coordinator

Consortium Institutes

IIT Palakkad

1. Dr. P. Athira, Professor, D/o Civil Engineering
2. Dr. Praveena Gangadharan, Associate Professor

NIT Calicut

1. Dr. Santosh Thampi, Professor, D/o Civil Engineering

