

**Minutes of 6th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) during 9 – 10th
January, 2019 at New Delhi**

The 6th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) was held during 9th – 10th January, 2019 at New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Government of India and Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Sushil Chandra Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal. The list of the participants in the meeting is at **Annexure - I**.

At the outset, the Indian Team Leader welcomed the Nepali Team Leader and his delegation to New Delhi and wished them a pleasant stay in New Delhi. He stated that it was good opportunity to have both JSTC and JCWR meetings in succession at New Delhi wherein all important decisions would be taken at appropriate platforms. The Team Leader also stated that he had the opportunity to visit interior areas of Nepal as Indian team leader in JCIFM meeting and had seen the flood management works in Nepal. He also stated that there were important items for deliberation in this meeting like implementation of Mahakali Treaty, critical issues about Sapta Koshi High Dam, Koshi and Gandak projects, efforts required to remove the bottlenecks in the implementation plan for flood forecasting on rivers flowing from Nepal to India etc.

The Nepali Team Leader expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to Nepali delegation. He highlighted on the unique relationships between the two countries and also the importance of proper management and utilization of the water resources for the benefit of both countries in the spirit of mutual understandings and agreements. He emphasised the major issues specially those related to irrigation services, inundation and river training works, and urged to be more conscious to resolve as these are directly related to the livelihood of people of both countries. He also thanked for the coordination and efforts made by the respective authorities of both countries in implementing the decisions of past meetings and expected that this meeting would resolve the outstanding issues or at least move ahead towards resolving them soon.

Both the Team Leaders then introduced the delegation members and the Agenda items were deliberated in detail. The Agenda adopted in the meeting is given at **Annexure II**

1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty

1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

A Detailed Project Report of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project was prepared by Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) through M/s WAPCOS Ltd. The draft DPR was



furnished by PDA to the Government of Nepal and Government of India in December, 2016 for their observations/ comments, before putting up to the Governing Body of PDA for approval. The Governing Body of PDA in December 2016, decided that a Team of Experts/ Officials (ToE) may be constituted by Government of India and Government of Nepal which may deliberate on the various observations/ comments furnished by both the sides and resolve the issues towards finalisation of the DPR. Two meetings of the ToE have been held. Both sides agreed to recommend the extension of tenure of ToE beyond 30th September, 2018 for finalization of the DPR to JCWR.

Nepali side urged the Indian side for posting of regular Indian members in the Executive Committee (EC) of PDA as presently the officers are in additional charge, working from India. Indian side conveyed that the matter of posting of regular officers is under process.

1.2 Construction of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to India- Nepal Border

The Indian side intimated that as decided during the previous meetings, the design of the Head Regulator with sill level at EL 244.25 meters was finalised. In this regard, a technical note and layout drawings of the head regulator and link canal was shared with Government of Nepal.

During the meeting, the Nepali side intimated that the technical note and layout drawing of the head regulator and link canal are in order. However, the Nepali side requested that the detailed design of the Head Regulator be provided for reference and the construction work be taken up at the earliest. Indian side intimated that the forest clearance is underway and construction shall commence subsequently. The Indian side further informed that termination point of the link canal on the Indian side has already been communicated to Nepal which needs to be confirmed at the earliest by Nepali side. It was decided that the details of the canal joining works shall be finalised through discussions between NHPC Officers and Project Officer, Mahakali Irrigation Project, Mahendranagar within a month and the minutes would be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

Further Nepali side informed that the construction of main canal and command area development works in Nepal are in the advanced stage and requested the Indian side to share the implementation plan of head regulator and link canal.

1.3 Construction of Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road upto India-Nepal border

The Nepali side informed that the construction of link road in its side has been completed and the coordinates along with the alignment of the same were already shared with Indian side. Nepali side requested to expedite the construction of 1.3 km link road in Indian side accordingly.

The Indian side informed that the Tanakpur–Mahendranagar link road on the Indian side, up to India-Nepal Border is under construction. It further stated that the alignment of the link road under construction is the most practical alignment and was shared with the Government of Nepal before start of execution of the link road. The link road is nearing completion.

1.4 DPR for Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhara Area

The Nepali side informed that they are awaiting Indian response on the DPR on the jointly selected canal alignment, as discussed during previous JSTC meetings. As construction of irrigation infrastructure in Chandani Dodhara Area is very high on Nepal's agenda, Nepal side further requested the Indian side to expeditiously convey the comments on the DPR.

The Indian side informed that the DPR is under examination and agreed to expedite the same.

2. Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme

JPO-SKSKI informed about the status of various activities of Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme. It was noted that the progress on several activities was not achieved as expected.

Indian side expressed concerns over non-resumption of the field activities of drilling, drifting due to resistance from the local people. Indian side requested the Nepali side to create a conducive environment including providing adequate security arrangement to enable the JPO-SKSKI to complete the field investigations.

The Nepali side assured that adequate security arrangement will be made. Nepali side further stated that apprehensions of people likely to be affected by project needs to be addressed adequately.

JSTC reiterated the decision of 15th Joint Team of Experts (JTE) meeting, in which JPO-SKSKI was directed to formulate an appropriate Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan and trust building measures to change the perception of the people in project affected areas.

The review of the project activities indicated that these activities cannot be completed by August, 2019. JSTC noted that the tenure of current term of JPO-SKSKI needs to be extended. Both sides agreed that the JTE should meet at regular intervals to review the activities of JPO-SKSKI and recommend further course of action.

3. Issues related to Koshi and Gandak Projects

3.1 Koshi Project

The Nepali side informed that there is a long pending issue of compensation of private lands which had been lost on account of the Koshi project. This issue has been raised and discussed in several meetings and higher level committees. The Nepali Side suggested that due to non-payment of compensation towards eroded land, there is resentment in people around the project area. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to consider the issue of compensation seriously.

In response, the Indian side stated that the issue of compensation of private lands has already been settled. The Indian side further informed that there was no provision of compensation for the eroded land in general in India as well as in Koshi and Gandak Agreement. Further, this matter was discussed at length in 9th meeting of JCKGP held recently in November, 2018 at Kathmandu.

The issues pertaining to security and protection of Koshi project area, erosion of flood embankment on upstream & downstream of Koshi Barrage, operation of gates were discussed. JSTC endorsed the decisions taken in this regard in the recently held 9th JCKGP meeting.

3.2 Gandak Project

The Nepali side informed that DPR for the extension of the irrigation services to the remaining 15000 Acres is under preparation and it will be forwarded to Indian side once finalized.

The Nepal side requested the Indian side to reduce the closure period for maintenance of Western Gandak Main Canal so that the power generation from Surajpura power house is least disturbed. The Indian side agreed to consider the request.

The issues regarding unauthorized occupation of lands by local villagers, inundation of agricultural lands due to drainage congestion by the main western canal and embankment of Gandak project in Nepal portion, interlinking of different drains in the Nepali territory, cleaning of Semari Regulator and regular maintenance of the spillway and gates, main canal gates and bypass were discussed. JSTC endorsed the decisions taken in this regard in the recently held 9th JCKGP meeting.

Regarding inclusion of member from Nepal in the Gandak High Level Standing Committee (GHLSC), the Indian side agreed to include two Nepali representatives in GHLSC.



4. Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees

The progress of various bilateral committees was reviewed by JSTC. Both sides appreciated the extent of bilateral engagements. It was agreed that the decisions taken during these bilateral mechanisms be properly implemented and regularly monitored.

5. Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India

The India-Nepal Task Force had submitted its report on Flood Forecasting in 2011 and the comments on the report were provided to Indian side during the 11th JCIFM meeting. Both sides agreed that there is a need to revisit and update this report in the changed context. JSTC decided to constitute a Joint Team with three members from each side, which will undertake the task of updating the above said report on Flood Forecasting including expansion and modernisation and propose a mechanism for mutual sharing of hydro-meteorological data between India and Nepal. The composition of the Joint Team is enclosed at **Annexure-III**. The Joint Team will submit its report to JCIFM within three months.

6. Power Supply

It was informed that all issues related to power supply are being discussed in the Secretary-level India Nepal Joint Steering Committee for cooperation in power sector. Both sides agreed that all issues pertaining to power supply henceforth may be dropped from JSTC's agenda.

7. Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues

7.1 Review of on-going works on Lalbakaiya, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers

The Nepali side sincerely thanked the Government of India for continued financial support towards implementation of river training works of Lalbakaiya, Bagmati and Kamala rivers. The Nepali side informed that the works on these three rivers have been completed except the tying up of embankments in the no man's land.

The Indian side stated that backlog payment of NRs 4.464 crores towards work packages in Bagmati River endorsed in the 9th JCIFM meeting had already been released to Nepal. The Nepali side agreed to verify its records and confirm the same. The Nepali side requested for the reimbursement of NRs. 21.944 crores incurred for carrying out emergent works before the floods of 2016.

JSTC recommended the reimbursement of NRs. 21.944 crores for emergent works carried out by the Nepali side before 2016 floods and release of second instalment of NRs 4.06 crores towards seven work packages on Kamala river endorsed by 9th JCIFM, subject to the submission of requisite documents by Nepali side as decided during the 12th JCIFM meeting.

7.2 Taking up of additional works in Nepal for other cross border rivers

JSTC decided to take up new river training works on Khando, West Rapti and Banganga rivers. It was further agreed that JCIFM will examine and recommend new works in these three rivers as per the existing mechanism of JCIFM.

7.3 Inundation problem due to Mahali Sagar

JSTC directed the concerned official from both sides to carry out the joint survey of the submergence areas of Mahali Sagar dam in India and Nepal within two months and submit the survey for consideration of JCIFM.

7.4 Bed material extraction from Mechi River

Indian side assured that no quarrying activity is being carried out that would cause erosion of the river banks on the Nepal side. After discussions both sides agreed to drop this item from JSTC's agenda.

7.5 Bank erosion in Mahakali River in Bhujela village

The Nepali side stated that the opening of two rows of 30 cm dia in Indian side bund is not sufficient and requested for additional 6 sq. meter as agreed in 12th JCIFM meeting. Indian side informed that two rows of 30 cm dia outlets exist in Indian side bund whereas one outlet of 90 cm dia exists in Nepali side bund. It was agreed to provide opening of 7 sq. meter just u/s of junction of India-Nepal bund as proposed by Indian side.

7.6 Inundation issues along India-Nepal border areas

The Nepali side thanked Government of India for the timely action in setting up of JCIFM Sub-Group to look into inundation issues, including those due to construction of roads and other infrastructures, on both sides of India Nepal Border. The Sub-Group carried out two visits in 2018 and suggested possible solutions to address inundation at various locations in the Indian as well as in Nepal territory. Both sides agreed to take appropriate measures to prevent inundation occurring along the border.

Surya

AK Sinha

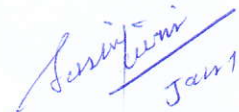
8. Pollution in Rohini River due to Sugar Mill in Nawalparasi District in Nepal

The Indian side informed that polluted water of the Rohini River flowing from Nawalparasi District in Nepal into India is causing huge pollution in Rohini River in Maharjganj District. The problem is aggravating discharge of pollutants by sugar mills along Rohini River in Nepal. The Nepali side requested to provide details and ensured to examine the matter on priority.

9. Any other item(s)

The Nepali side requested the Indian side to address the problem of landslide that occurred in 2016 in Mahakali River in Khotila village through appropriate measures. The Indian side stated that a multi-disciplinary team has visited the area and has submitted a detailed report to address the issue. There were short-term and long-term measures suggested in the report and the Indian side is carrying out the short-term measures recommended in the report. On the request of the Nepali side, the Indian side agreed to share the report.

The meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere and ended with vote of thanks.


Jan 10, 2019
Sushil Chandra Tiwari
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and
Irrigation, GoN
&
Team Leader (Nepal)


10/1/2019
Arun Kumar Sinha
Chairman,
GFCC, Gol
&
Team Leader (India)

AGENDA ADOPTED FOR THE 6th JSTC MEETING

1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty
 - 1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
 - 1.2 Construction of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to India- Nepal Border
 - 1.3 Construction of Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road upto India-Nepal border
 - 1.4 DPR for Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhara Area
2. Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.
3. Issues related to Koshi and Gandak Projects
 - 3.1 Koshi Project
 - 3.1 Gandak Project
4. Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees
5. Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India
6. Power Supply
7. Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues
 - 7.1 Review of on-going works on Lalbakaiya, Bagmati and Kamala Rivers
 - 7.2 Taking up of additional works in Nepal for other cross border rivers
 - 7.3 Inundation problem due to Mahali Sagar
 - 7.4 Bed material extraction from Mechi River
 - 7.5 Bank erosion in Mahakali River in Bhujela village
 - 7.6 Inundation issues along India-Nepal border areas
8. Pollution in Rohini River due to Sugar Mill in Nawalparasi District in Nepal
9. Any other item(s)

Sunil

Dr. Sanku

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING 6TH JSTC MEETING

Indian Side

1. Arun Kumar Sinha, Chairman, GFCC & Team Leader (India), JSTC
2. J. Chandrashekhar Iyer, Commissioner (FM), MoWR, RD & GR
3. Bhopal Singh, Chief Engineer, CWC
4. Rakesh Kumar, Director, HPP&I, CEA
5. A. Amarnath, Director (North), MEA
6. Padma Kant Jha, Supdt. Engineer, WRD, Bihar
7. Bipin Kumar, Supdt. Engineer, WRD, Bihar
8. P. P. Pandey, Engineer- in- Chief, UP Irrigation Deptt.
9. A. K. Singh, Chief Engineer, UP Irrigation Deptt.
10. A. K. Dinkar, Engineer- in- Chief, Uttarakhand Irrigation Deptt.
11. P. C. Gaur, Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Irrigation Deptt.
12. Vineet Diddi, General Manager, NHPC
13. Ajay Mittal, General Manger, NHPC
14. Shrish Dubey, Dy.General Manger, NHPC
15. Rakesh Toteja, Sr. Jt Commissioner, MoWR, RD & GR & Member Secretary
16. Ashok S. Goel, Chief Engineer, CWC
17. Atul Kumar Nayak, Chief Engineer, CWC
18. Joginder Singh, Member, GFCC
19. Ajay Kumar, Director, GFCC

Nepali Side

1. Sushil Chandra Tiwari, Joint Secretary, MoEWRI & Team Leader (Nepal), JSTC
2. Ram Gopal Kharbuja, Joint Secretary, MoEWRI
3. Ms. Sarita Dawadi, Director General, DoWRI
4. Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal, Director General, DoED
5. Krishna Belbase, Deputy Director General, DoWRI
6. Sagar Raj Goutam, SDE, MoEWRI
7. Pradip Kumar Sah, Project Manager, JPO-SKSKI
8. Maheswor Shrestha, SDE, WECS
9. Raj Kumar Tandukar, SDE, MoEWRI
10. Prabal Adhikari, Chief, Power Trade Department, NEA
11. Hari Odari, Counsellor, Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi
12. Sanjeev Ray, Engineer, MoEWRI

Singh

Dinkar

**JOINT TEAM FOR FLOOD FORECASTING ACTIVITIES ON RIVERS FLOWING FROM
NEPAL TO INDIA**

S.No.	Indian side	Nepali side
1.	Chief Engineer, LGBD, Central Water Commission, Patna	Deputy Director General, Flood Forecasting Division, Department of Hydrology & Meteorology
2.	Chief Engineer, UGBD, Central Water Commission, Lucknow	Senior Divisional Engineer, Water & Energy Commission Secretariat
3.	Director, FCA-II, Central Water Commission, New Delhi	Senior Divisional Meteorologist, Department of Hydrology & Meteorology

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