

**Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources  
(JCWR) held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022 at Kathmandu**

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Sagar Kumar Rai Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. The list of participants from Nepal side is at **Annex-I** and that from India side is at **Annex-II**.

The Nepali Team Leader, Mr. Rai expressed his warm and heartfelt welcome to the Indian delegation in Kathmandu, Nepal. In his opening remarks, Mr. Rai mentioned that Nepal and India being neighbouring countries there are excellent bilateral ties and have very deep relations and friendship since the beginning of the history of human civilization. He emphasized on maximizing the benefits and minimizing the losses by forging the closer cooperation in order to arrive at win-win outcome in the water sector.

Mentioning that the several bilateral mechanisms have fostered closer cooperation, coordination and understanding in the water resource sector, Mr. Rai expressed that extensive deliberations have taken place in the 7<sup>th</sup> JSTC and productive discussion, analysis and negotiation have been done. Mr. Rai also appreciated Government of India for their financial support and coordination for the development in the sector of hydropower, transmission line, irrigation and river training works in Nepal.

The Indian Team Leader expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to Indian delegation. He highlighted 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 understanding and agreements.

The Indian Team leader stated that during the recent visit of Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Hon'ble Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba to India, both the Prime Ministers underlined the need for expeditious implementation of bilateral projects in Nepal, and to reinvigorate the existing bilateral mechanism to promote cooperative agenda across diverse spheres. The Prime Ministers welcomed the growing partnership between the two Governments, private sector and at people's level and resolved to work together to take bilateral relationships to newer heights on the basis of equality, mutual trust, respect and benefit.



Indian Team Leader reiterated India's commitment to extend its full cooperation on major multipurpose water resources projects, viz. Pancheshwar and Saptakosi Sun Kosi Projects which could provide benefits of hydro-power, irrigation, flood control, navigation, etc. for mutual benefits of people of India and Nepal. He stated that India's dynamic growth offers Nepal an excellent opportunity to tap into its ever growing demand for energy. Team leader expressed his hope that this JCWR meeting would be able to address and resolve the various issues related to water resources for mutual benefits of people of both countries.

Team leader concluded that there are important items lined up for discussion during this meeting and expressed his hope that discussions will take place in a pleasant manner.

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 **Annex-III**.

## **1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty**

### **1.1 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project**

Recalling the India-Nepal Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation issued during the visit of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal to India in April 2022, wherein concerned officials were directed to expedite the bilateral discussions towards early finalization of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP), JCWR directed Team of Experts (ToE) to resolve the key outstanding issues and move forward towards early completion of DPR.

JCWR endorsed JSTC decision for the extension of tenure of ToE upto March, 2023 for the finalization of the DPR and further instructed that the fourth ToE meeting be held at the earliest, not later than three months.

It was also discussed and noted that currently, the Executive Committee (EC) members posted at Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) are on additional charge from India and Nepal. It was agreed to post regular full-time members in the EC of PDA from respective governments within three months.

### **1.2 Operational modality of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to Nepal-India Border.**

JCWR noted the deliberations of JSTC and endorsed the decision that the operational modalities presently being followed at Sarada Barrage for releasing water to Nepal will





be followed at Tanakpur Barrage wherein, based on the demand raised by Nepali side, water is released as per the provisions of the Treaty.

Further, the Nepali side requested for requisite infrastructure for its entitlement of 28.35 cumecs (1000 cusecs) from Tanakpur Barrage in case Sarada Barrage would become non-functional due to any cause.

The Indian side informed that Sarada Barrage is being maintained in good condition and serving the command area of both the countries. The concerns raised by Nepali side shall be addressed as per the provisions of the Treaty.

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

JCWR endorsed JSTC's decision to conduct a joint field visit. It was further agreed to conduct the said visit within three months engaging all the relevant stakeholders.

### **1.4 DPR and Release of irrigation water for Chandani Dodhara Area**

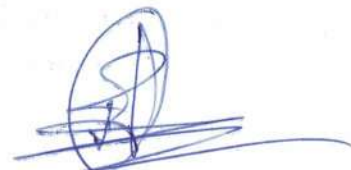

The Nepali side requested the Indian side for their observations on the submitted DPR for the development of irrigation facilities in Chandani-Dodhara so that the construction work on the link canal and other necessary works to supply 10 cumecs of water from Sarada Canal can begin at the earliest.

The Nepali side further requested the Indian side to expedite the layout and detail design of head regulator and link canal between Sarada canal and Indo-Nepal border.

It was agreed that the Indian side would provide their observations on the DPR within three months.

## **2.0 Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme**

It was brought to the notice of JCWR that the progress on several activities was not achieved as expected due to continued local resistance citing lack of assurance of proper compensation for their livelihood and also due to the decision taken in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of JTE not to undertake awarding of new contracts pending the directives of JCWR.



JCWR endorsed the decision made by JSTC to review project parameters considering resettlement in the submergence area, planned upstream projects, social, environmental, technical aspects etc. by JPO-SKSKI. In this regard, in order to assess the benefits occurring to both countries in a holistic manner, Nepal side will share the relevant information within three months and further assessment will be made by JPO-SKSKI in additional six months. JCWR recommended that the review of the assessment by JPO-SKSKI would be submitted to the JTE. JTE meeting should be held within a year to review the activities of JPO-SKSKI.

JCWR endorsed the decision made by JSTC to direct the JPO-SKSKI to formulate an appropriate Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan and trust building measures to change the perception of the people in project affected areas as agreed in 6<sup>th</sup> JSTC meeting.

JCWR decided to extend the tenure of JPO-SKSKI further by two years commencing from this JCWR meeting.

JCWR agreed that JPO-SKSKI could undertake awarding of new contracts as necessary to complete balance activities.

JCWR took note regarding the proposal from Nepali side to detach Sunkoshi-Kamala Diversion Scheme from JPO-SKSKI. Indian side reiterated that considerable progress has already been achieved by JPO-SKSKI and at this stage it would be advisable to focus on early completion of the DPR of SKSKI Projects.

### **3. Issues related to Kosi and Gandak Projects**

#### **3.1 Kosi Project**

The Nepali side reiterated their stand on a long pending issue of compensation of private lands which had been lost on account of the Kosi 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 of such private lands and additional eroded lands, 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 Kosi and Gandak





Agreement. Further, this matter was already discussed at length in 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of JCKGP as well as in the 10<sup>th</sup> JCKGP meeting.

The Indian side stated that Kosi High Level Committee (KHLC) may conduct site visits to assess the causes of erosion and suggest remedial measures to minimise erosion. Further, concept of implementing Flood Plain Zoning in the Kosi River may be explored to minimise the losses due to erosion and flooding.

JCWR directed KHLC to visit the project area and submit the report within six months.

The JCWR also noted the discussion of JSTC on erosion and inundation issue at different locations of Belka Municipality on right bank of Kosi River. JCWR decided that KHLC shall conduct a field visit in this regard.

The Indian side stressed that there is an urgent need to take steps for providing adequate security measures at Kosi Project site.

The Nepali side stated that the security agencies have been providing the required security in the project area. The Nepali side assured that regular surveillance is being carried out and will be intensified as required.

### **3.2 Gandak Project:**

The Nepali side raised the issue of the inundation of agricultural land every year in the vicinity of the Gandak Project due to insufficient cross drainage structures, operation and maintenance of such structures in Main Western Canal. In the context of changed watershed conditions and climate change, the adequacy of the syphons and cross drainage works needs to be revisited. The Nepali side further stated that annual agricultural loss due to the inundation caused by the project should be compensated by India.

Indian side stated that the issue was discussed in the 10<sup>th</sup> JCKGP meeting and as per the Gandak Agreement there is no provision of compensation of agricultural loss due to inundation.

It was agreed that observations on DPR for development of irrigation infrastructure in remaining 15,000 acres within three months and 1200 ha of land at the tail reach of Bishugunj branch by Indian side will be provided within six months.



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, the JCWR took note of the decision of the 7<sup>th</sup> JSTC.

It was agreed that Gandak High Level Standing Committee (GHLSC) would conduct joint site visit to assess erosion, inundation and flood plain zoning of the Gandak project area and submit the report to JSTC within six months.

The Nepali side requested to reduce the closure period for maintenance of Main Western Canal so that the power generation from Surajpura power house is least disturbed and to maintain the tailrace water level to achieve the desired head for power generation. JCWR agreed that this matter may be addressed in the JCKGP meeting.

#### **4. Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees**

JCWR took note of the meetings of various bilateral committees and appreciated the extent of bilateral engagements. It was agreed that the decisions taken during these bilateral mechanisms be properly implemented and monitored in regular and time bound manner.

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

JCWR endorsed the decision taken by JSTC to hold the second meeting of the Joint Team within three months in Kathmandu, Nepal and to restructure Joint Team including one IT/Tele-Communication expert from each side.

#### **6. Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues**

##### **6.1 Status of newly taken up works of the Khando, Banganga and West Rapti Rivers flowing from Nepal to India.**

JCWR endorsed JSTC's decision to hold JCIFM meeting at the earliest in order to expedite the implementation. It was further directed the JCIFM Sub-Group to meet within three months.



## **6.2 Inundation problem due to Mahali Sagar**

Endorsing JSTC's decision to conduct comprehensive joint survey prior to further undertaking of works, the JCWR directed to conduct the survey within three months.

## **6.3 Bank erosion in Mahakali River in Bhujela village**

The Nepali side requested to expedite the construction works to provide openings of 7 sq. meter just upstream of junction of India-Nepal bund as agreed in the 6<sup>th</sup> JSTC meeting and the Indian side agreed in this regard.

The Indian side stated that the openings have been planned and process for its implementation has been initiated.

It was agreed to expedite the work.

## **6.4 Inundation issues along India-Nepal border areas**

Both sides agreed to coordinate and take appropriate measures during any infrastructure development at the border area to prevent inundation occurring along the border.

JCWR endorsed JSTC's decision to direct JCIFM and its Sub-Group to meet regularly and solve the flood and inundation issues with priority.

## **7. Pollution in Rohini River due to Sugar Mill in Nawalparasi District in Nepal**

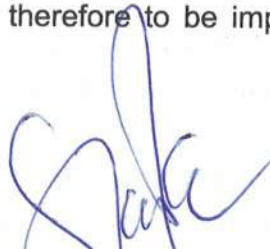
JCWR endorsed JSTC's decision to conduct the joint site visit to verify the issue and recommended necessary actions will then be taken based on the assessment of joint site visit. It was further agreed that such site visits would be conducted in lean season.

## **8. Any other item**

Indian side raised the following two issues:

- (i) Garba Tawaghat HE Project on River Mahakali

Indian side recalled the earlier Notes Verbale issued by Indian Embassy in Kathmandu in March 2017 and Jan 2018 regarding the Garba Tawaghat HE Project proposed on River Mahakali (Sarda) which forms international border between Nepal and India. The project is therefore to be implemented as per the terms of the Mahakali Treaty. The





salient features of the project were presented to the JSTC. In this regard, Indian side proposed to send a team to hold further discussions with Nepali side in next three months.

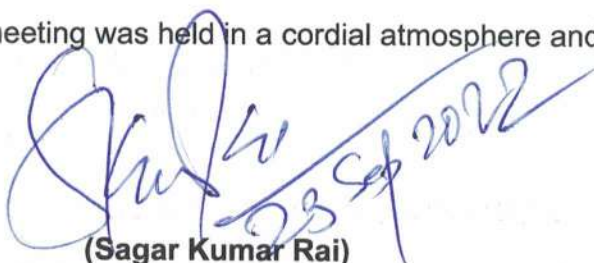
(ii) Water diversion/transfer projects in Nepal

Indian side conveyed that it has come to its notice that Nepal is planning some water diversion/transfer projects in Nepal for improving irrigation and water supply in water deficit areas of Nepal. Indian side highlighted that all such developments of water transfer/diversion projects in Nepal will have implications in India as a lower riparian and requested Nepali side to share information about all such projects which are being developed on rivers flowing from Nepal to India.

Regarding the issues 8(i) and 8(ii), the Nepali side requested the Indian side to communicate the requests through diplomatic channel.

Indian side responded that the request for 8(i) has already been sent through diplomatic channels and for 8(ii) it will be sent shortly.

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



(Sagar Kumar Rai)

Secretary,

Ministry of Energy, Water Resources &  
Irrigation, GoN

&

Team Leader (Nepal)



(Pankaj Kumar)

Secretary (DoWR, RD &GR),

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gol

&

Team Leader (India)



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING 9<sup>TH</sup> JCWR MEETING (NEPALI SIDE)**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Position</b>
1.	Mr. Sagar Kumar Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Team Leader
2.	Mrs. Sarita Dawadi, Executive Director, Water Resources Research and Development Centre	Invitee
3.	Mr. Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
4.	Mr. Chiranjeewee Chataut, Director General, Department of Electricity Development	Member
5.	Mr. Shishir Koirala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
6.	Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
7.	Mr. Susheel Chandra Acharya, Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
8.	Jeebachh Mandal, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat	Member
9.	Mr. Krishna Prasad Nepal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
10.	Mr. Sudhir Bhattarai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
11.	Mr. Churna Bahadur Wali, Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
12.	Mr. Sanjeeb Baral, Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
13.	Mr. Indra Dev Bhatta, Deputy Director General, Department of Electricity Development	Invitee
14.	Mr. Kamal Ram Joshi, Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	Member
15.	Dr. Maheswor Shrestha, Superintending Engineer, Department	Invitee

	of Water Resources and Irrigation	
16.	Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Deputy Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	Invitee
17.	Mr. Pradip Kumar Sah, Project Chief, Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project	Member
18.	Mr. Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority	Member
19.	Mr. Suvanga Parajuli, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Invitee
20.	Mr. Babu Raj Adhikari, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
21.	Mr. Kapil Gnawali, Senior Divisional Hydrologist, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat	Invitee
22.	Mr. Shekhar Nath Neupane, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
23.	Ms. Alka Subedi, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee
24.	Ms. Jyoti Prajapati, Hydrologist Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Invitee






**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING 9<sup>TH</sup> JCWR MEETING (INDIAN SIDE)**

S.N.	Name & Designation	Position
1.	Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS	Team Leader
2.	Dr. R. K. Gupta, Chairman, Central Water Commission	Member
3.	Shri P. M. Scott, Member (RM), Central Water Commission	Invitee
4.	Shri M. K. Srinivas, Chairman, GFCC	Member
5.	Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Secretary, WRD, Government of Bihar	Member
6.	Shri Atul Jain, Commissioner, DoWR, RD&GR	Member
7.	Shri Anurag Srivastava, Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs	Member
8.	Shri Sharvan Kumar, Chief Engineer, HPA Division, CEA	Member
9.	Shri Chandra Kumar Lal Das, Member, GFCC	Invitee
10.	Shri G. K. Agarwal, Chief Engineer, YBO, CWC	Invitee
11	Shri Naresh Chandra Upadhyay, Engineer-in- Chief, Irrigation & Water Resource Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	Invitee
12.	Shri Shailendra, Engineer -in- Chief, WRD Bihar	Invitee
13.	Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Chief Engineer, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Member
14.	Shri Amit Shukla, Director (North), Ministry of External Affairs	Invitee
15.	Shri Y. K. Chaubey, Director (Technical), NHPC	Member
16.	Shri Rakesh Toteja, Sr. Joint Commissioner, DoWR, RD&GR	Invitee
17.	Shri Ram Jeet Verma, Project Manager, (India), JPO-SKSKI	Invitee
18.	Shri V.R. Shrivastava, Eexecutive Director, NHPC	Invitee
19.	Shri Anjani Kumar Mishra, Senior Engineer, JPO-SKSKI	Invitee




AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 9<sup>th</sup> JCWR MEETING

1. Implementation of Mahakali Treaty
  - 1.1. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
  - 1.2. Operation modality of Head Regulator and Link Canal from Tanakpur Barrage up to India Nepal Border.
  - 1.3. Construction of Tanakpur-Mahendranagar link road up to India-Nepal border
  - 1.4. DPR and Release of irrigation water to Chandani-Dodhara Area.
2. Sapta Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Koshi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.
3. Issues related to Kosi and Gandak Projects
  - 3.1. Kosi Project
  - 3.2. Gandak Project
4. Review of activities of various Bilateral Committees.
5. Flood forecasting activities on rivers flowing from Nepal to India.
6. Cooperation on flooding, inundation and erosion issues.
  - 6.1. Status of Newly taken up works of the Khando, Banganga and West Rapti Rivers flowing from Nepal to India.
  - 6.2. Inundation problem due to Mahali Sagar.
  - 6.3. Bank erosion in Mahakali River in Bhujela Village.
  - 6.4. Inundation issues along India-Nepal border areas.
7. Pollution in Rohini River due to Sugar Mills in Nawalparasi District in Nepal
8. Any other items

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*20/10/2022*

