

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS**  
**NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION**  
**DIRECTORATE**

New Delhi-110 003, the 5th September 1995

**RESOLUTION**

No. A-33011/1/94-GPD-I.—The growing population and increasing urbanisation coupled with industrial activities have resulted in over exploitation of our water resources ultimately reducing the assimilative and self purifying capacity of most of the water courses.

2. The two major point sources of pollution of rivers are municipal waste water and industrial effluents. According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, the urban municipal bodies generate about 12,000 million litres per day (mld) of waste water whereas the major industrial units put together produce about 2,100 mld of industrial effluents. While industry is required under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 to ensure that the composition of their effluent discharge satisfies the prescribed standards; the responsibility of treating domestic sewage of cities and towns lies with the concerned municipal corporations and municipalities and State Governments. Further, unhygienic uses of rivers by the populations living on river banks and run-off from agricultural fields carrying pesticide loads constitute significant non-point sources of pollution of our rivers.

3. A major initiative to clean up the polluted stretches of important rivers of the country has been taken by the Government in the shape of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). This needs involvement of many organisations like local bodies, industrial units, State/Central Agencies and the NGO's/VAs. An appropriate mechanism is, therefore, necessary for coordinated action at various levels. The concerned State Governments will have to assume a major role in jointly devising the policies and programmes to depollute the rivers.

4. The objective of the NRCP is to improve the water quality of the rivers through implementation of pollution abatement schemes and by enlisting people's cooperation in abating the pollution of river waters caused by both point and non-point sources.

5. To finalise the policy framework and oversee the implementation of NRCP, the Government of India do hereby set up a National River Conservation Authority (NRCA). The Authority will have the following composition :

**Chairman**

(i) Prime Minister

**Vice Chairman**

(ii) Union Minister, Environment & Forests

**Members**

- (iii) Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission  
 (iv) Union Minister, Water Resources  
 (v) Union Minister, Urban Development & Employment  
 (vi) Chief Ministers of the concerned States  
 (vii) One Member of Parliament from each involved State  
 (viii) Three eminent experts in the field of Environment

**Member Secretary**

(ix) Secretary, Environment and Forests

The NRCA will meet at least once every six months.

6. The functions of the NRCA shall be the following :

- (i) To lay-down, promote and approve appropriate policies and programmes (long and short term) to achieve the objectives.  
 (ii) To examine and approve the priorities of the National River Conservation Plan.  
 (iii) To mobilise necessary financial resources.  
 (iv) To review the progress of implementation of approved programmes and give necessary directions to the Steering Committee; and  
 (v) To take all such measures as may be necessary to achieve the objectives.

7. The Steering Committee of the National River Conservation Plan is also hereby constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Its membership will consist of the following :

**Chairman**

1. Secretary (E & F)

**Members**

2. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, GOI  
 3. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development & Employment  
 4. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, M/O Finance  
 5. Secretary, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Govt. of India  
 6. Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, GOI  
 7. Chief Secretaries of the concerned States  
 8. Advisor, Planning Commission  
 9. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport  
 10. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Fertiliser Division)  
 11. Joint Secretary, Industrial Development, Ministry of Industries, Govt of India  
 12. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India  
 13. Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, (MOEF)  
 14. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board  
 15. Chairman, Central Water Commission  
 16. Advisor, CPHEEO, M/o Urban Development & Employment  
 17. Director General, Health Services, Govt. of India

18. Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research
19. Director, NEERI, Nagpur.
20. Directors of 5 IITs
21. 5 Experts (at least 3 of whom shall be non-governmental) in Pisciculture, Industrial Waste Treatment, Sewage Disposal, Public Health Engineering & Water Quality Management).
22. Addl. Secretary and Project Director, NRCD—Member Secy.

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once in three months.

9. The functions of the Steering Committee of the NRCA are proposed to be similar to those of the Steering Committee for the Ganga Action Plan (GAP). These are as below :—

- (i) To evolve and promote appropriate policies, prepare Plan Programmes and projects for improving water quality of the identified rivers
- (ii) Approve specific projects according to the approved Annual Plan.
- (iii) Allocate available funds to various agencies for implementing the approved programmes and projects.
- (iv) Sponsor water quality monitoring through concerned agencies.

(v) Sponsor studies relevant to the objectives of the NRCP.

(vi) Oversee and monitor the implementation of various programmes/projects and give necessary directions to the implementing agencies; and

(vii) Report to the NRCA the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan and seek its directions.

10. Cooperation of each of the involved state would be enlisted to ensure creation of all necessary structure for formulation, expeditious implementation and management of projects within their States for furtherance of the objectives of the NRCP at the State level.

11. The NRCA and the Steering Committee will be serviced by the National River Conservation Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

12. The non-official members of the NRCA and the Steering Committee shall be entitled to travelling and daily allowance as per the Government of India rules.

VISHWANATH ANAND,  
Addl. Secretary

#### ORDER

ORDERED that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all concerned—*As per list attached.*

ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

J. C. KALA,  
Joint Secretary