



F. No. : TE-16015/2/2024-O/o ED(TECH) NMCG

Dated: 14.08.2026

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986 READ WITH RIVER GANGA (REJUVENATION, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT) AUTHORITIES ORDER, 2016

Subject: Implementation of Flood Plain Zoning (FPZ) along River Ganga and its tributaries- reg.

- 1) **Whereas**, the protection and restoration of the River Ganga and its floodplains are integral to maintaining the ecological integrity, carrying capacity and natural hydrological functions of the river system;
- 2) And whereas, the Para 3(l) of the River Ganga Notification provides that-
(l) 'flood plain' means such area of River Ganga or its tributaries which comes under water on either side of it due to floods corresponding to its greatest flow or with a flood of frequency once in hundred years and includes active flood plain, regulatory zone (area of flood plain covered by floods between one in five-year return period and one in twenty five-year return period) and warning zone (area covered by floods between the one in twenty five-year return period and one in one hundred-year return period);
- 3) And whereas, the Technical Guidelines on Flood Plain Zoning, July 2025, issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC), provide a technical framework for delineation, demarcation and regulation of floodplain areas. The Guidelines envisage zoning of floodplains based on flood frequency and provide for Active Flood Zone, Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone, with appropriate regulation of activities in each zone.
- 4) And whereas, Para 4 (ix) of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 provides that-
“(ix) the bank of River Ganga or its tributaries and their flood plains shall be maintained to reduce pollution sources, pressures and to preserve their natural ground water recharge functions through necessary measures;”
- 5) **Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Para 8 and 41 (3) of the Authorities Order, 2016 and in pursuance of the provisions of the amended River Ganga Notification S.O. 4427(E) dated 07.08.2026, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), hereby, issues directions for Implementation of Flood Plain Zoning along River Ganga and its tributaries as under:**

a) Delineation and demarcation of floodplains

The concerned State Governments shall undertake, on priority, the scientific delineation and ground demarcation of the floodplain zones of River Ganga and its tributaries, in accordance with para 2 above and Chapter 7 of the Technical Guidelines on Flood Plain Zoning issued by CWC in July 2025 which elaborate delineation process using appropriate hydrological, topographical, remote sensing, GIS/DEM and other scientifically accepted methodologies, duly supported by field verification. The zoning shall, as applicable, identify Active Flood Plain, Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone.

State Govt may, depending upon the local conditions, expand the boundary of the active flood plain to further strengthen river protection. However, in no case, dilution from prescribed definition under amended Para 3 (l) is permitted.

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b) Notification of floodplain zones

The concerned State Governments shall, at the earliest, take necessary steps for formal notification of the delineated floodplain zones.

(i) Protection of Active Flood Plain

Provisions of Para 6 (3) of the River Ganga Authorities Order, 2016 shall apply to manage this zone.

(ii) Regulation of activities in Regulatory and Warning Zones

The concerned State Governments shall also include in the notification appropriate regulations governing activities in the Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone, based on the guidance prescribed in the Chapter 8 of the CWC Technical Guidelines on FPZ.

c) Institutional responsibility

Each State Government shall designate an appropriate Nodal Department/Agency for implementation of Flood Plain Zoning and shall establish an effective coordination mechanism involving the Water Resources/Irrigation Department, State Disaster Management Authority, Urban Development/Local Bodies, Revenue Department, State Pollution Control Board and other concerned agencies.

d) Monitoring and compliance

State Ganga Committee shall undertake or cause to be undertaken periodic review, field verification, remote-sensing/GIS-based monitoring and other appropriate measures to assess compliance.

e) Reporting by State Ganga Committee

State Ganga Committee shall furnish report to NMCG at every six-month interval showing compliance with this Direction with details of floodplain delineation, notification, regulatory measures and enforcement actions, etc.

- 6)** This Direction shall be complied with by all concerned State Government Departments, authorities, local bodies and agencies. Any failure to comply with this Direction shall attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other applicable laws, such as Jan Viswas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023.



(Rajeev Kumar Mital)
Director General, NMCG

To,

- 1) Chief Secretary & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee, Government of Uttarakhand
- 2) Chief Secretary & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Chief Secretary & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee, Government of Bihar.
- 4) Chief Secretary & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee, Government of Jharkhand
- 5) Chief Secretary & Chairperson, State Ganga Committee, Government of West Bengal