

Namami Gange Programme and National Mission for Clean Ganga

July 23, 2019

Source: Press Information Bureau

Namami Gange Programme(NGP)

'Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

Main pillars of the NGP

- Sewage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Surface Cleaning
- Afforestation
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- River-Front Development
- Biodiversity
- Public Awareness
- Ganga Gram

The key achievements under Namami Gange programme are:-

1. **Creating Sewage Treatment Capacity:** 63 sewerage management projects under implementation in the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 12 new sewerage management Projects Launched in these states. Hybrid Annuity PPP Model based two projects has been initiated for Jagjeetpur, Haridwar and Ramanna, Varanasi.

- **Creating River-Front Development:** 28 River-Front Development projects and 33 Entry level Projects for construction, modernization and renovation of 182 Ghats and 118 crematoria has been initiated.

- **River Surface Cleaning:** River Surface cleaning for collection of floating solid waste from the surface of the Ghats and River and its disposal are afoot and pushed into service at 11 locations.

- **Biodiversity Conservation:-** Several Biodiversity conservation projects are namely: Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation, Fish and Fishery Conservation in Ganga River, Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Education Programme has been initiated. **five Biodiversity centers at Dehradun, Narora, Allahabad, Varanasi and Barrackpore** has been developed for restoration of identified priority species.

- **Afforestation:-** Forestry interventions for Ganga through Wildlife Institute of India; Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and the Centre for Environment Education has been initiated. Forestry interventions for Ganga has been executed as per the Detailed Project Report prepared by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun for a period of 5 years (2016-2021).

- **Public Awareness:-** A series of activities such as events, workshops, seminars and conferences and numerous IEC activities were organized to make a strong pitch for public outreach and community participation in the programme. Gange Theme song was released widely and played on digital media to enhance the visibility of the programme.

- **Industrial Effluent Monitoring:-** Regulation and enforcement through regular and surprise inspections of **Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs)** are carried out for compliance verification against stipulated environmental norms. The GPIs are also inspected on annual basis for compliance verification of the pollution norms and process modification, wherever required through third party technical institutes.

- **Ganga Gram:-** Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) identified 1674 Gram Panchayats **situated on the bank of River Ganga in 5 States** (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal). Fund has been released to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) for construction of toilets in some Gram Panchayats of 5 Ganga Basin States. Consortium of 7 IITs has been engaged in the preparation of Ganga River basin Plan and 65 villages has been adopted by 13 IITs to develop as model villages. **UNDP** has been engaged as the executing agency for rural sanitation programme and to develop Jharkhand as a model State.

National Mission for Clean Ganga

National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986. NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

National Mission for Clean Ganga, endeavors to deploy the best available knowledge and resources across the world for Ganga rejuvenation. Clean Ganga has been a perennial attraction for many international countries that have expertise in river rejuvenation. **Countries such as Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Israel etc. have shown interest in collaborating with India for Ganga rejuvenation.** Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with various Central Ministries viz.- Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Ayush, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and Ministry of Agriculture for synergizing the Government schemes.

The Environment protection Act envisages **five tier structure** at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga as below;

1. National Ganga Council under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
2. Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

- **National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).**

1. State Ganga Committees and
2. District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

Structure and components of NMCG

- **NMCG has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.** Both of them are headed by Director General, NMCG. Executive Committee has been authorized to accord approval for all projects up to Rs.1000 crore.
- Similar to structure at national level, State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) acts as implementing arm of State Ganga Committees.
- Thus the newly created structure attempts to bring all stakeholders on one platform to take a holistic approach towards the task of Ganga cleaning and rejuvenation.
- The Director General(DG) of NMCG is an Additional Secretary in Government of India. For effective implementation of the projects under the overall supervision of NMCG, the State Level Program Management Groups (SPMGs) are, also headed by senior officers of the concerned States.

Vision and Key Functions

The vision for Ganga Rejuvenation constitutes restoring the wholesomeness of the river defined in terms of ensuring “Aviral Dhara”(Continuous Flow), “Nirmal Dhara”(Unpolluted Flow), Geologic and ecological integrity.

Key functions of NMCG

To achieve the objectives, NMCG shall carry out the following key functions namely;

- Implementat the work programme of National Ganga River basin Authority(NGRBA)

- Implement the World Bank supported National Ganga River basin Project.
- Coordinate and oversee the implementation of projects sanctioned by the government of India under NGRBA
- under take any additional work or functions as may be assigned by MoWR, RD & GJ in the area of conservation of river Ganga
- Make rules and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the NMCG and add or amend, vary or rescind them from time to time
- Accept or to provide any grant of money, loan securities or property of any kind and to undertake and accept the management of any endowment trust, fund or donation not inconsistent with the objectives of NMCG
- Take all such action and to enter all such actions as may appear necessary or incidental for the achievement of the objectives of the NGRBA