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First Meeting of National Ganga Council

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Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister chaired the **first meeting of the National Ganga Council at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

- The **first meeting** of the Council was aimed at reinforcing the importance of a '**Ganga-centric**' approach in all departments of the concerned states as well as relevant Central Ministries.
- The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga was set up in **2016**. It **replaced the National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA)**.

Key Points

- The '**Namami Gange**' should holistically evolve to '**Arth Ganga**' i.e. a sustainable development model with a focus on economic **activities related to Ganga**.
- **Setting up of a digital dashboard** where data from villages and urban bodies to be **monitored** on a daily basis by **NITI Ayog and Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The need to increase the efficiency of **district Ganga committees** for effective implementation of the **Namami Gange Programme**.
- The **potential of religious and adventure tourism** in the Ganga river basin area to be explored in future. As the income generated from tourism activities would help to generate sustainable income for cleaning the Ganga.

National Ganga Council

- The National Ganga Council is **chaired** by **Prime Minister**.
- The National Ganga Council is formed under the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986**.
- It has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

- National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) acts as an implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.
 - NMCG was established in the year 2011 as a registered society.
 - It has a two-tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.
 - The aims and objectives of NMCG are:
 - To ensure effective control of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination for comprehensive planning and management.
 - To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development.

Source: TH