



Initiative on Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin

Why in News

Recently, a new capacity building initiative on **'Making water sensitive cities in Ganga basin'** was launched by the [National Mission for Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#) in association with [Centre for Science and Environment \(CSE\)](#).

Key Points

▪ About the Initiative:

- **Aim:** The aim of the program is **capacity building and action research for promoting sustainable urban water management for improved river health** in Ganga basin cities.
- **Key Focus Areas:**
 - Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning.
 - Urban Water Efficiency and Conservation.
 - Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and Local Reuse.
 - Urban Groundwater Management.
 - Urban Water Bodies/Lake Management.
- **Convergence Efforts:**
 - This initiative is aimed to ensure convergence of the [Namami Gange Mission](#) with **national flagship urban missions**.
 - [AMRUT](#), [Smart Cities](#), [Swachh Bharat Mission](#), [HRIDAY](#), [NULM](#).
 - [Atal Bhujal Yojana](#), [Jal Jeevan Mission](#), [Jal Shakti Abhiyan](#) at state/city level across **Ganga basin states**.
- **Stakeholders:** The program will engage all the stakeholders which includes:
 - SPMGs (State Program Management Group, Namami Gange), Municipal corporations, Technical & research constants, international organizations and local grassroots communities.
- **Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning:** It is an emerging urban development paradigm aimed to minimise hydrological impacts of urban development on the environment. This includes:
 - The method of planning and designing urban areas for optimum utilisation of water.
 - Reducing the harm caused to our rivers and creeks.
 - Focuses on the management of entire water systems (drinking water, storm water run-off, waterway health, sewerage treatment and recycling).

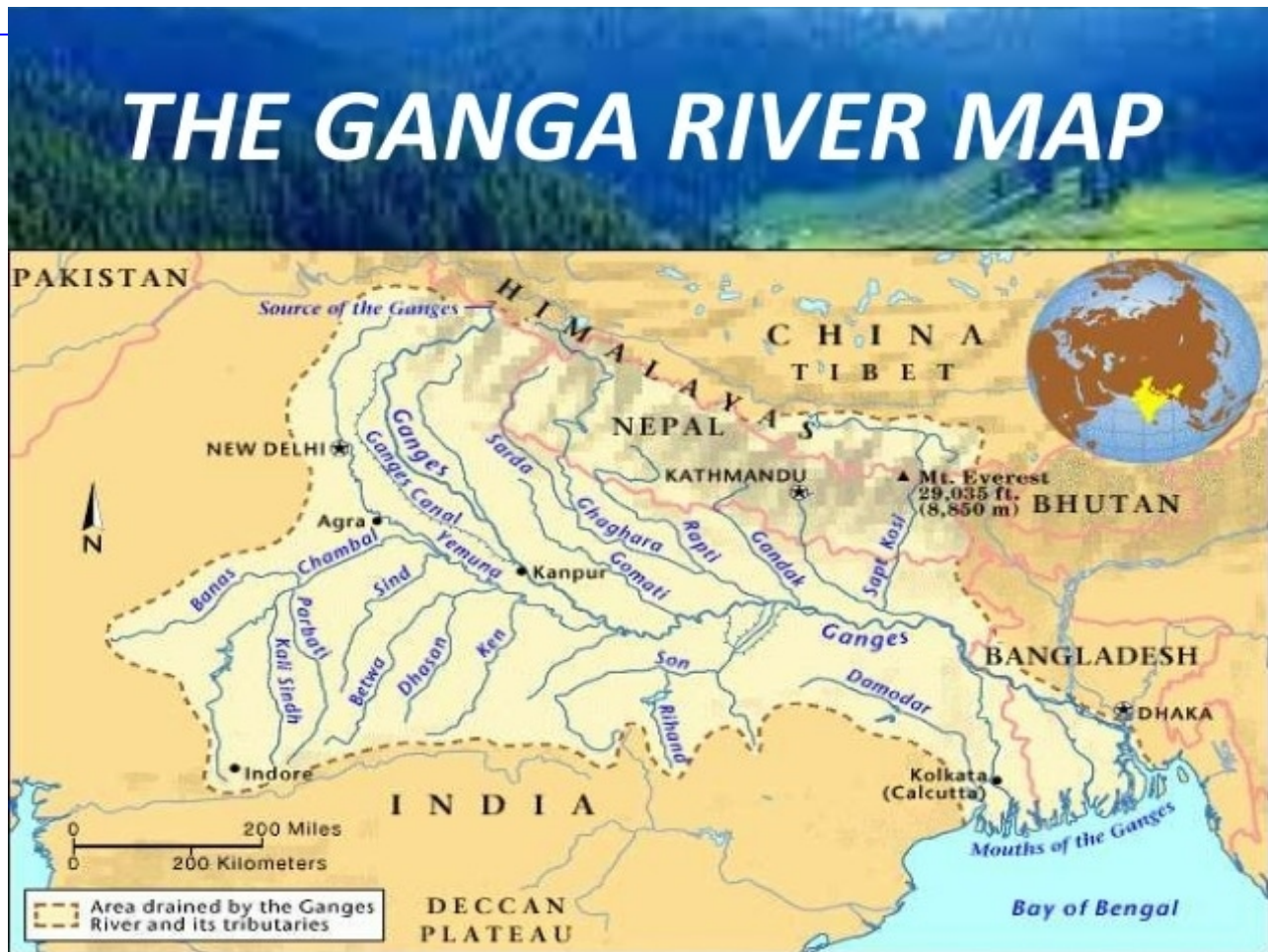
▪ Other Related Initiatives:

- There is a paradigm shift in planning for River Cities.
 - The **"River Cities Alliance"** will provide a unique platform for river cities to

collaborate for collectively achieving river rejuvenation through sustainable development and capacity building.

- The **Jal Shakti Ministry's 'Catch the Rain' initiative** launched for rainwater harvesting has nudged all stake-holders to **create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS)** suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to store rainwater.

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Way Forward

- The intensity of rain has increased over the years but the number of rainy days has reduced, making water management a crucial subject.
 - There is a need to use the [traditional knowledge of rain water harvesting](#).
 - For examples of **Alhar - Pyne system** of Bihar, **wells in forts** of Rajasthan and **Cascade tanks** of South India etc.
- There is a need for a framework for integration between **Urban Built Form** including **landscape** and **urban water cycle**.
- Cities have largely been held responsible for the deteriorated state of rivers, and therefore, will need to play a **vital role in the rejuvenation efforts** as well.
- There is a need to mainstream [river sensitive approaches](#) while planning for the cities.

[Source: PIB](#)

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