



## Plastic Free Ganga | Uttarakhand | 18 May 2024

### Why in News?

The [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) and **Social Development for Communities (SDC)** Foundation have launched a collaborative initiative titled “**Flowing Towards a Plastic-Free Future**” to free the [Ganga river](#) and its 15 tributaries from plastic pollution and conserve the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem.

### Key Points

- The drive will take place over five days in **seven states**, namely **Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand**.
- The initiative focuses on **raising awareness about detrimental effects of plastic on freshwater biodiversity**.

### Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.

### Ganga River



- It is the longest river of India flowing over 2,510 km of mountains, valleys and plains and is revered by Hindus as the most sacred river on earth.
- The Ganga basin outspreads in **India, Tibet (China), Nepal and Bangladesh** over an area of 10,86,000 Sq.km.
- In India, it covers states of **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi** draining nearly 26% of the total geographical area of the country.
- It originates in the snowfields of the **Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas**.
- At its source, the river is called the Bhagirathi. It descends down the valley upto **Devprayag** where after joining another hill stream Alaknanda, it is called **Ganga**.
- The **principal tributaries** joining the river from **right** are the **Yamuna and the Son**.
- The **Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahananda** join the **river from left**. The Chambal and the Betwa are the two other important sub-tributaries.
- The **Ganges River Dolphin is an endangered animal that specifically inhabits this river**.
- The Ganga joins the Brahmaputra (Jamuna) in Bangladesh and continues its run under the name Padma.
- **The Ganga widens out into the Ganges Delta in the Sundarbans** swamp of Bangladesh, before it ends its journey by emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

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## Additional Virtual Classrooms in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 18 May 2024

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government plans to introduce **840 additional virtual classrooms** with the assistance of **Telecommunications Consultants India (TCIL)**.

- These virtual classrooms will **enable teachers in Dehradun to conduct live online classes** for students.

### Key Points

- In the first phase, the scheme is already **extended to 1.9 lakh students between classes 6 to 12**.
  - Authorities are currently working to ensure that underprivileged students receive education without any technical issues.
  - Coaching will also be provided to students preparing for **medical and engineering entrance exams** to bring socio-economic change.
- The program is **currently being implemented in 500 government schools** spread across the **13 districts of the state**.
  - It utilizes **Remote Operated Terminals (ROTs)** and **Satellite Interactive Technology** to enable interactive communication in virtual classrooms, enabling students to engage in both online and offline learning.
  - Additionally, **parents and teachers have the ability to monitor their progress** through dedicated applications.