

# **Plastic Free Ganga**

#### Why in News?

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

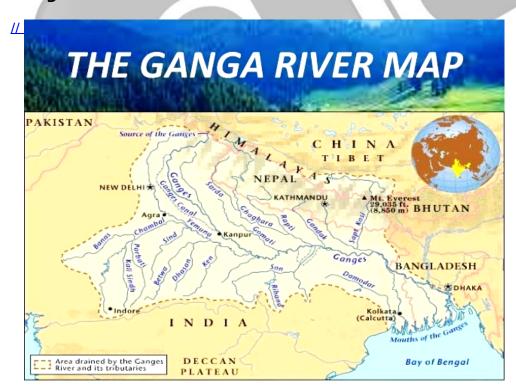
## **Key Points**

- 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 Sg.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 habitats 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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