

Initiative on Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin

Why in News

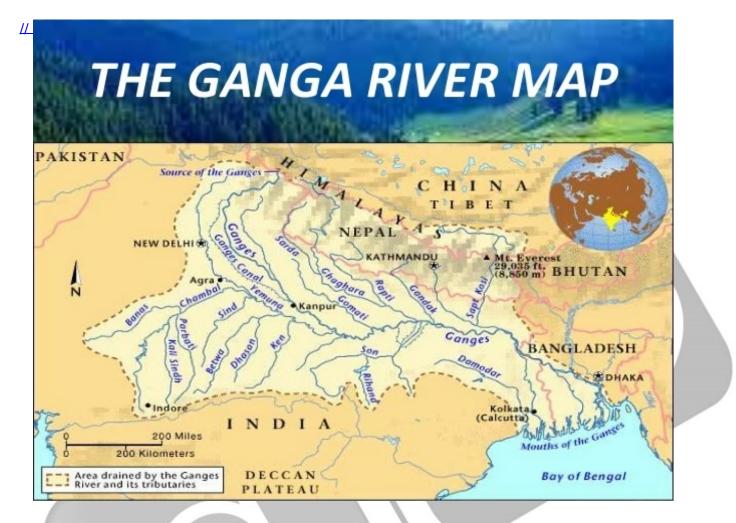
Recently, a new capacity building initiative on 'Making water sensitive cities in Ganga basin' was launched by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with **Centre for Science** and Environment (CSE).

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 he Vision 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 grassroot 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 <u>'Catch the Rain'</u> 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.



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 <u>river sensitive approaches</u> while planning for the cities.

Source: PIB

