



SLCR Project in Varanasi | Uttar Pradesh | 23 Aug 2024

Why in News?

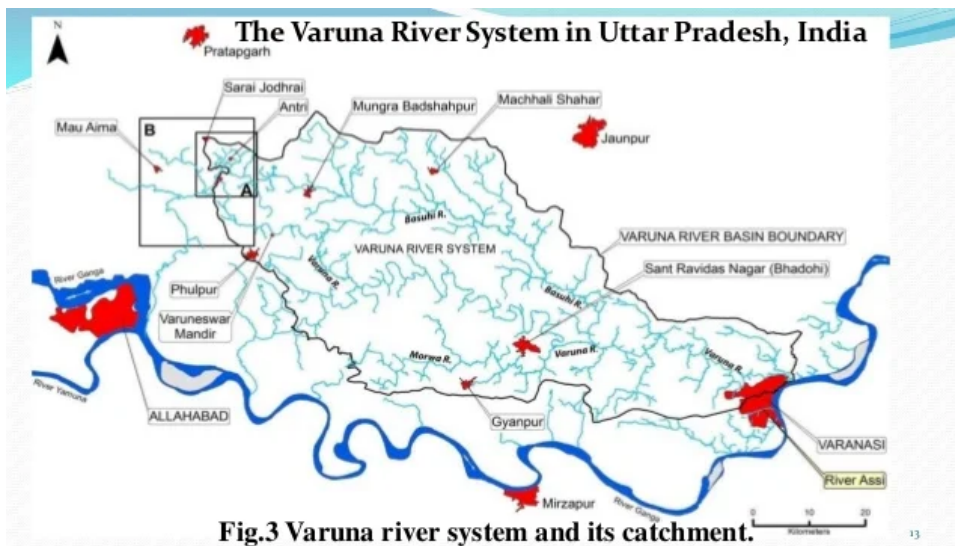
Recently, The [Green Strategic Partnership between the Governments of India and Denmark](#) has facilitated major cooperation, resulting in the establishment of the **Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) in Varanasi**.

Key Points

- It is a unique tripartite initiative between the **Government of India (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**, the [Indian Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University \(IIT-BHU\)](#), and Government of Denmark, to bring excellence in small river rejuvenation and management.
- The SLCR seeks to restore the [Varuna River](#) using sustainable methods.
 - Its goals include establishing a collaborative platform for government agencies, academic institutions, and local communities to exchange knowledge and devise solutions for maintaining clean river water.
 - The initiative includes a hybrid lab model at IIT-BHU and a living lab on the Varuna River to test and scale solutions in real-world environments.
- The **Indo-Danish Joint Steering Committee (JSC)** is the highest forum for SLCR which provides strategic guidance and reviews progress.
- The **Project Review Committee (PRC)**, with members from [National Mission on Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#), [Central Water Commission \(CWC\)](#), [Central Ground Water Board \(CGWB\)](#), [IIT-BHU](#) and **Denmark's Urban Sector Counsellor** will oversee quality control at project level.
- **Four projects** to be taken up under the collaboration. These are:
 - The First project involves creating a **Decision Support System (DSS) for water management**, designed to analyze basin water dynamics using hydrological models, scenario generation, forecasting, and data analytics.
 - The second project focuses on the **characterization of emerging pollutants and fingerprint analysis**. It will use advanced analytical techniques, such as chromatography and mass spectrometry, to identify and quantify contaminants.
 - The [Hydrogeological Model of the Varuna Basin for Recharge Sites](#) will be the fourth project. It aims to **enhance base flow through Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)**.

Varuna River

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- It is a **Minor Tributary of the Ganga River**. It **rises from** Phulpur town in the **Prayagraj district**.
 - It **flows into the Ganges river near Sarai Mohana village in the Varanasi district**.
- The **name 'Varanasi' district is derived from** the names of Two rivers, **Varuna and Assi rivers**.

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