



River Rejuvenation

For Prelims: River Rejuvenation, Kuttamperoor River, Cleaning up riverbeds, Ganga Action Plan.

For Mains: River Rejuvenation.

Why in News?

The 7.2 Km Kuttamperoor River in Alappuzha, Kerala has been rejuvenated after over a 6-year effort through public participation and government intervention.

- It was dead for more than a decade due to waste dumping, encroachments, and other human activities.
- It has been rejuvenated through deepening the channel, removing encroachments, constructing bunds on both sides. The revival of the Kuttamperoor river is expected to help **control floods in the region**.

What is River Rejuvenation and its Impact?

- **About:**
 - River rejuvenation is the process of reviving or restoring the **natural flow and health of a river that has been damaged due to human activities** such as waste dumping, encroachment, and pollution. The process involves removing pollutants, cleaning up riverbeds, and restoring the natural environment around the river.
- **Impacts:**
 - It can help to **restore the natural habitats of plants and animals**, promote biodiversity, and provide cleaner water for drinking and irrigation.
 - Reviving rivers can also **boost tourism in the region and improve the livelihoods** of people who depend on the river for their livelihoods.
 - Furthermore, river rejuvenation can help to **control floods and reduce the damage caused by them**. A healthy river can absorb excess water during heavy rains and prevent **flooding** in downstream areas. This can save lives and property and reduce the economic impact of floods.
- **Initiatives:**
 - In 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released Rs. 19,000-crore Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on rejuvenation of **13 major rivers through forestry interventions**.
 - These 13 rivers are Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, **Sutlej**, **Yamuna**, **Brahmaputra**, **Narmada**, **Godavari**, **Mahanadi**, **Krishna**, **Cauvery**, and **Luni**.

What are the Other Examples of River Rejuvenation Project?

- **Rhine River:** The Rhine River in Europe was once highly polluted but has since undergone a **massive clean-up effort that has transformed it** into a vibrant and thriving ecosystem.
- **Singapore River Clean-up:** The Singapore River Clean-up is another successful example of a

river rejuvenation project. The project involved cleaning up the highly polluted river and transforming it into a major tourist attraction and a hub of cultural and social activities.

- **Thames River Restoration:** The Thames River Restoration project in London, UK, has led to the revival of the river's ecology and the creation of new habitats for wildlife.
- **Ganga Action Plan:** In India, the Ganga Action Plan is an ongoing project aimed at cleaning up and **rejuvenating the highly polluted Ganga River**. The project involves a range of interventions, including the construction of sewage treatment plants, the creation of green belts along the riverbanks, and the promotion of eco-friendly activities.

[Source: TH](#)

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