



Adi Ganga Revival Plan

For Prelims: Adi Ganga, National Mission for Clean Ganga, National Green Tribunal, National Council for Rejuvenation Protection and Management of River Ganga, Bhuvan-Ganga Web App, Namami Gange Programme.

For Mains: Major Issues Associated with Adi Ganga, Initiatives Related to Ganga.

Why in News?

Recently, plans to **revive Adi Ganga (the original channel of River Ganga passing through the city of Kolkata)** have been announced.

- The [National Mission for Clean Ganga](#) has allocated around **Rs 650 crore** to revive the ancient river and it has been included in a **multi-country South Asian River project on combating pollution**.

What are the Major Issues and Developments Associated with Adi Ganga?

- **Encroachment History:**
 - The river, which was once the main channel of the **Ganga till the 17th century, has been neglected for decades** and is now **polluted and encroached upon**. The choking of **Adi Ganga** severely impacted the natural drainage of the area.
 - However, Adi Ganga continued to thrive till the 1970s. Since then, **its water quality gradually deteriorated** until it turned into a sewer and got rapidly encroached.
 - In 1998, the **Calcutta High Court directed the removal of all encroachments on the river within a month**.
 - However, another report, close to two decades after the first order, **showed that the encroachments were still existing**.
- **Current Status:**
 - The **river is now practically dead and has turned into a sewer** with a load of faecal bacteria crossing **17 million in 100 millilitres of river water**, according to the state pollution control board data and **dissolved oxygen is zero**.
- **Rejuvenation:**
 - The **West Bengal government has been directed by the National Green Tribunal** to complete its rejuvenation **“positively by September 30, 2025”**.
 - The river was selected for the **pollution study** during an international water conference organised by the non-profit **Action Aid in Sylhet, Bangladesh**.
 - Apart from Adi Ganga, **Buriganga in Bangladesh, Puyang in China, Bagmati in Nepal and Klang in Malaysia** were also chosen for pollution study during the conference.

Note

- The **Adi Ganga**, also known as the Gobindapur creek, Surman’s Canal and (presently) Tolly’s Canal, was the **main flow of the Hooghly River between the 15th and 17th century** that

virtually dried up due to natural reasons.

- Around 1750, a canal was dug to connect the main course of the river with the lower part of River Saraswati adjacent to Howrah.
 - The **resultant Hooghly became the main river stretch** and Adi Ganga turned into a secondary tributary.

What is the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)?

▪ About:

- On August 12, 2011, the **NMCG** was listed as a society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- The NMCG is implemented by the **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga** also known as the **National Ganga Council**.

▪ Objective:

- The objective of the NMCG is to reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river.
- This can be achieved by **promoting intersectoral coordination for comprehensive planning & management** and maintaining minimum ecological flow in the river, with the aim of **ensuring water quality and environmentally [sustainable development](#)**.

▪ Organization Structure:

- The Act envisages five tier structure at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga as below:
 - **National Ganga Council** under chairmanship of **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**.
 - **Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga** under chairmanship of **Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti** (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation).
 - **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
 - **State Ganga Committees**
 - **District Ganga Committees** in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

What are the Other Initiatives Related to Ganga?

- **Namami Gange Programme:** It is an **Integrated Conservation Mission**, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of **pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.
 - **Ganga was declared as the 'National River' of India in 2008.**
- **Ganga Action Plan:** It was the first **River Action Plan that was taken up by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 1985**, to improve the water quality by the **interception, diversion, and treatment of domestic sewage**.
 - The National River Conservation Plan is an extension to the Ganga Action Plan. It aims at cleaning the Ganga River under Ganga Action Plan phase-2.
- **Bhuvan-Ganga Web App:** It ensures involvement of the public in monitoring of pollution entering into the river Ganga.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q1. Consider the following pairs: (2013)

	National Park	River flowing through the Park
1.	Corbett National Park	Ganga
2.	Kaziranga National Park	Manas

3.	Silent Valley National Park	Kaveri
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Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None

Ans: (d)

Q2. On which one of the following rivers is the Tehri Hydropower Complex located? (2008)

- (a) Alaknanda
- (b) Bhagirathi
- (c) Dhauliganga
- (d) Mandakini

Ans: (b)

Source: DTE

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/adi-ganga-revival-plan>

