



Sadbhavna Sammelan in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, on the left bank of '**Har Ki Paudi**' in **Haridwar**, Uttarakhand tourism minister organised a two-day '**Sadbhavna Sammelan**'.

- Thousands of people assembled for the conclave in which the minister spoke on **spirituality and importance of the [Ganga](#)** for Hindus.

Key Points

- Flowing for over **2,600 km across northern and eastern India**, the Ganga is considered a goddess and a focus of religious devotion for Hindus.
 - The river is **source of drinking water** for more than 40% of India's 1.4 billion population living in the **[Gangetic river basin](#)** spread across six states and a union territory between Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- According to **[Jal Shakti ministry](#)** data, around three million litres of sewage is emptied into the Ganga everyday and only about half of that is treated.
 - In the holy city of Varanasi alone, it is estimated that 4,000 bodies are burnt on the banks of the river everyday.
 - Dams in Uttarakhand block the river flow, turning the river into a stream at several places during the summer months.
 - The **hydropower projects** in the state are mostly run of the river (ROR), except the **[Tehri Dam Project](#)**, which is a storage project for hydropower development and augments the non-monsoon river flows.
 - According to the **[Central Pollution Control Board's \(CPCB\)](#)**, testing of samples from 59 of the 97 water quality monitoring stations along the river the **faecal coliform** in the river was above the permissible level at 70% of the locations in January 2023.
 - Faecal coliform is a **group of bacteria** found in the **gut and faeces of warm-blooded animals** and its contamination indicates presence of human faecal matter.
- In 2024, the **[Namami Gange scheme](#)**, a diverse set of interventions to clean and rejuvenate the river, reduced the "pollution load" in the river.
- The polluted river stretches were being **rejuvenated through approved action plans** to achieve the target of outdoor bathing criteria as notified by the environment ministry.

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THE GANGA RIVER MAP



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.
- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The program is being **implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its state counterpart organizations** i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- In **phase 2 of Namami Gange Programme (2021-26)**, the states will focus on expeditious completion of projects and preparation of bankable Detailed Project Report (DPR) for projects in Ganga tributary towns, cutting down delays.
 - Focus is also being given to the **revival of small rivers and wetlands**. For the future, each Ganga district is to develop scientific plans and health cards for at least 10 wetlands and adopt policies for reuse of treated water and other by-products.