



Panchaganga River

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has appointed a panel, led by the executive engineer of the Kolhapur irrigation department, to investigate the causes of [pollution](#) in the Panchaganga River.

Key Points

- **State's Response to River Pollution Concerns:**
 - The State Environment Minister provided a written response on the causes of pollution and the death of fishes in the Panchaganga and Warna rivers.
- **Pollution and Fish Deaths in Warna River:**
 - Recently, **dead fish were found at Bhadole and Chikurde along [the Warna River](#).**
 - The inspection revealed that **untreated effluent from sugar mills caused the pollution.**
 - The **Warna Cooperative Sugar Mill** was identified as the source of untreated sewage discharge during that period.
- **Action Taken Against Polluters:**
 - Officials conducted an **inspection in December 2024** to assess the pollution levels.
 - Based on the findings, **the government imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh** on the sugar factory responsible for the pollution.
- **Investigation Panel:**
 - To further investigate pollution in the Panchaganga River, the government appointed a panel which will **examine the sources of pollution and recommend corrective measures.**

Panchaganga River

- **About:**
 - It is a **major tributary of [the Krishna River](#)**, flowing through Maharashtra.
 - The river **originates from Prayag Sangam** in the **[Sahyadri mountain ranges](#)**.
 - Its **birthplace is Chikhlee Taluka**, a small village in Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.
 - It is formed by the confluence of five rivers—**Kasari, Kumbhi, Tulsi, Bhogawati, and Saraswati.**
 - The river flows for approximately 80 km before merging with the Krishna River in Maharashtra.
- **Spiritual and Agricultural Importance:**
 - The river holds immense spiritual significance, with **its banks lined with numerous temples and shrines.**
 - The Panchaganga valley is **highly fertile, producing rich winter crops.**
 - The river's water is extensively used for **[sugarcane cultivation](#).**

