



पत्रिका
अंक 33
जुलाई-सितंबर 2023



राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

सत्यमेव जयते

! नमामि गंगे !

सृष्टि के संताप सब वह सह रही है,
है अनन्ता आदि से वह बह रही है ।
चित्त चिंतन में चिता है चेतना के,
भाव से परिपूर्ण गंगा बह रही है ॥

वेदों को संवेदना से रच गये जो,
गा उन्हीं ऋषियों की गाथा बह रही है
सृष्टि है, शाश्वत है ,वह साक्षात् देवी,
हो निडर निश्चल वो निर्मल बह रही
है।।

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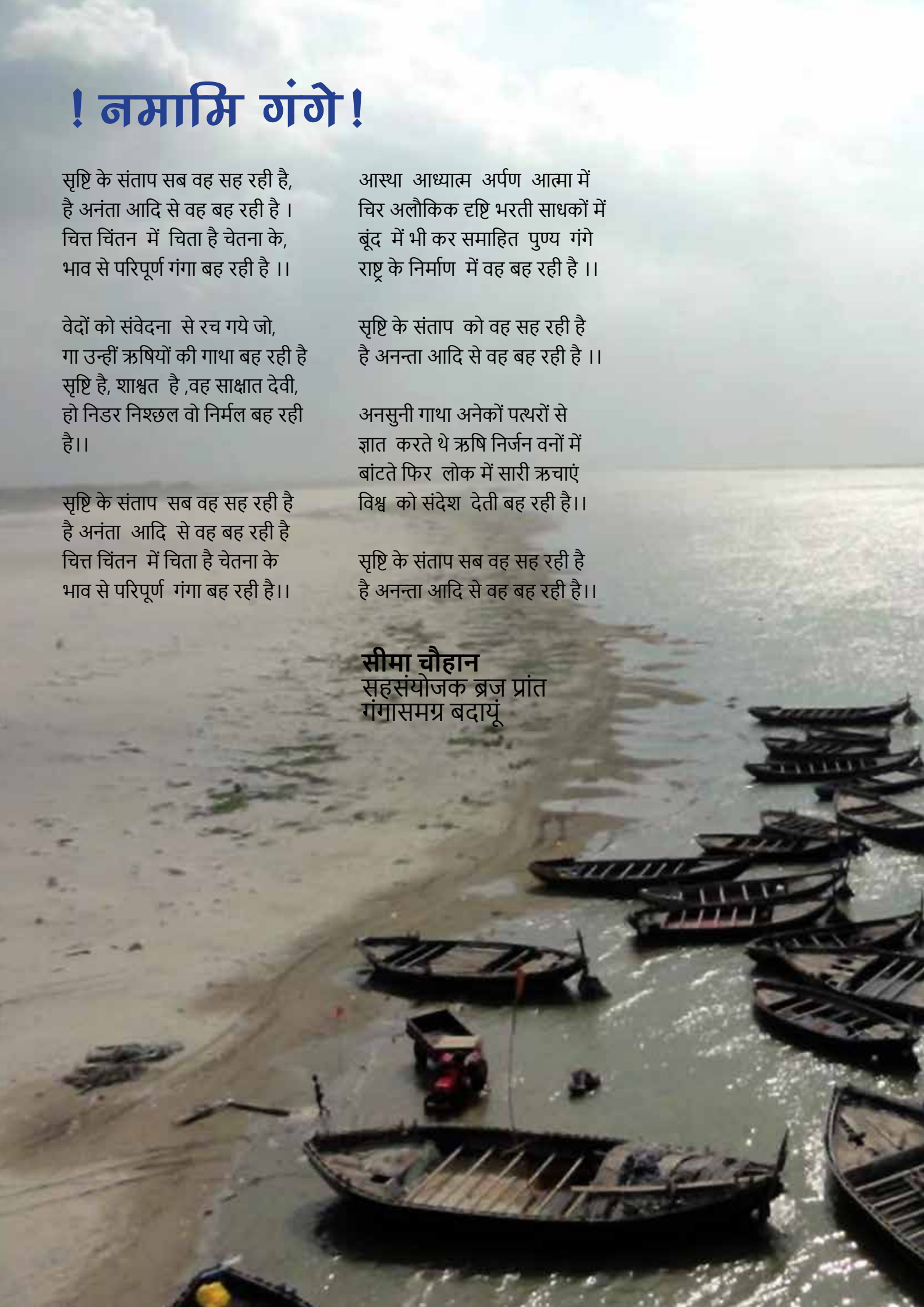
आस्था आध्यात्म अर्पण आत्मा में
चिर अलौकिक दृष्टि भरती साधकों में
बूंद में भी कर समाहित पुण्य गंगे
राष्ट्र के निर्माण में वह बह रही है ॥

सृष्टि के संताप को वह सह रही है
है अनन्ता आदि से वह बह रही है ॥

अनसुनी गाथा अनेकों पत्थरों से
ज्ञात करते थे ऋषि निर्जन वनों में
बांटते फिर लोक में सारी ऋचाएं
विश्व को संदेश देती बह रही है।।

सृष्टि के संताप सब वह सह रही है
है अनन्ता आदि से वह बह रही है।।

सीमा चौहान
सहसंयोजक ब्रज प्रांत
गंगासमग्र बदायूं





पत्रिका

अंक 33 | जुलाई-सितंबर 2023

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Published by National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India



Editorial

premises in the Ganga Basin by the executing agencies.

Under the Arth Ganga campaign, NMCG has opened Jalaj – Awareness and Marketing (JAM) Centre at INA, Dilli Haat in New Delhi with an aim to promote goods produced locally in the Ganga Basin. The products on sale are made by women self-groups, co-operatives and Ganga Praharis from the Ganga Basin. The locally sourced products include hand-painted sarees, batik-print sarees, mats made of water hyacinth, fibre nests etc. NMCG is also providing Ganga-Jal procured from Devprayag reminding people of the sanctity of Maa-Ganga and motivating them to contribute their bit for the Ganga Rejuvenation. The Namami Gange JAM Centre at Dilli Haat is attracting a lot of footfall and people are appreciating the products being sold. The most important aspect of the JAM Centre remains the enhancement in the livelihood of the women self-help groups and other local people whose products are getting the attention and the value it deserves.

A 3-day Ganga Awareness and Arti workshop was also organised by NMCG and Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh to impart expert training in local people to perform Ganga Artis in their respective regions along River Ganga. The workshop brought together 31 diverse participants representing 20 ghats and multiple cities in the Ganga Basin. This is proving to be a boost for training local people in skills that can help them generate a livelihood. The remarkable journey of a 48-year farmer to Natural Farming in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh also features in this edition of Namami Gange Magazine.

Nudging farmers in the Ganga Basin towards Natural Farming remains one of the top objectives under the Arth Ganga campaign.

Recognition from international stakeholders continues to pour-in on the success of Namami Gange Programme as a 'Global Replicable Model'. During a meeting held on 5th August 2023 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh as part of a visit of 12 Executive Directors (representing over 100 countries) of the World Bank to understand the transformational changes happening in India, the Namami Gange Programme was appreciated by representatives from Poland, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Nigeria, China, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina. The EDs appreciated the transformational reforms across water sector and participation of the private sector in the Namami Gange Mission, in India's pursuit of becoming water-secure nation. They appreciated that NMCG has started a new chapter of public participation with multiple stakeholders including people, educational institutes, social organizations and civil society becoming part of Namami Gange, a global name to reckon with in river rejuvenation. The EDs appreciated the clarity of vision of the leadership and were especially impressed by the HAM model, One City One Operator Mode and Arth Ganga initiatives.

NMCG also hosted an online session in Stockholm Water Week on 21st August 2023. The theme of the session was 'Peer Networking for Integrated River Basin Planning and Management' with an interactive discussion on the adoption of the river basin management approach. NMCG also participated in 3 other sessions including 'Water

Led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign became a mass movement this year with crores of people across the country offering Shram Daan for one hour on 1st October 2023. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised a cleanliness drive – Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta – at Chhat Ghat, ITO on the banks of River Yamuna, an important tributary of River Ganga. A Swachhta Pledge was administered to the people who gathered at the ghat for Shram Daan. The participants were sensitized about the importance of clean rivers through nukkad natak on the ghat. Around 1000 people joined the drive and more than 6000 kilogram of waste was collected. The drive was also part of the Clean Yamuna campaign being run by NMCG for the 22-km Delhi stretch from the past one-and-a-half year. Similar events were also organised on the ghats of River Ganga and its tributaries in the Ganga Basin. Ganga Praharis, Ganga Mitras, Ganga Doots, Ganga Task Force (GTF) students, officials from district administration, local people and other stakeholders took part in the cleanliness drives as part of Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign. Cleanliness drives were also undertaken at the Namami Gange Sewage Treatment Plants (Nirmal Jal Kendras)

Quality Management: Lessons Learnt from India', 'Sanitation Innovations in the Asia-Pacific' and 'Addressing Water Security Challenges in the Himalayan Region'. There were words of praise for Namami Gange Programme from multiple stakeholders during the Stockholm Water Week sessions.

The monthly webinar series organised by NMCG 'Igniting Young Minds: Rejuvenating Rivers' has also been taken global with its 13th edition, now titled, 'Igniting Young Minds: A Global Campaign' organised virtually on 8th July 2023 to invoke participation from 'Young Water Sustainers to Build Tomorrow's Global Sustainability Leaders'. I was also part of a meeting on 'Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Water Monitoring of the Ganges River IP' organised by GIZ India and a virtual conference on 'Global Citizenship Fostering Greening Education Partnership for a Sustainable Environment' organised by IVECA-GEP as part of the UN-High Level Political Forum 2023, New York.

Some of the other conferences in which I took part include 'International Conference on Advancing Circular Economy and Water Reuse by CoE', 'Circularity for Sustainable Recovery of Resources for a Circular Economy', 'Managing Urban River – From Planning to Practice', 'Jal Sujalam – A Global Summit on Wastewater as a Resource', 'Water-Tech 2023: Transforming Water Management with Cutting Edge Technology within & Beyond' and 'Economics of Sludge Management'.

In a bid to ensure compliance by industry bodies, NMCG directed the closure of CETP Unnao, which was found not complying to the prescribed norms during surprise inspections. Similar actions have also been taken for non-complying industrial units in Meerut. It is our constant endeavor to abate all types of pollution in River Ganga and NMCG teams, through surprise

visits, keeps a check on the industries polluting the river and takes appropriate action to ensure no untreated industrial waste flows into the River Ganga. It is a matter of satisfaction that a 20 MLD capacity Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) being built by NMCG at a cost of Rs. 617 crores will be commissioned soon marking a major development in treating industrial waste in Jajmau tannery area. Trial run of the plant was started in the second week of September.

NMCG organised a virtual safety training program on 'Occupational Health and Safety Audit' (OSHA) to ensure workplace safety and compliance. The initiative strives to prevent accidents and enhance overall safety standards in organizations. More than 400 participants attended the training programme and I urged the stakeholders to conduct safety audit of all STP sites in 3 months.

The State of Uttar Pradesh has always been a focus region under Namami Gange. Due to regular inspection and monitoring, the Kanpur STP has become operational and CETP is about to be completed. A concession agreement was also signed for the development of a 220 MLD STP worth 369.74 crore on the HAM model for Meerut.

As part of River-Cities Alliance, Urban Task Force (UTF) has been constituted under Namami Gange to co-ordinate and complement the initiatives taken by NMCG for pollution abatement of river stretches in urban areas. This would a long way in integrating river management in urban planning, which is the need-of-the-hour.

In the series section, there are inspiring accounts of people working selflessly for River Ganga which is making a positive impact in the health of the river, exemplified by the increased sightings of Gangetic Dolphins at several stretches. Excerpts from a

report by ICAR-CIFRI have been included in this edition to give our readers a peek into the improved quality of water in the river. National River Ranching Programme is also scaling newer heights and 2.1 lakhs advanced fingerlings of Indian Major Carps were released in River Ganga in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

I would like to draw the attention of our readers to our series on Small River Rejuvenation. The role of healthy small rivers in rejuvenation of River Ganga cannot be overemphasized. In this issue, we have included the case study of revival of Buddhi Ganga River in Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of the district magistrate. I also visited Bodhgaya in Bihar to strategize the rejuvenation of the long-dead River Niranjana (Falgu), which has immense historical and religious significance. It is believed that Lord Buddha attained enlightenment on the banks of this river. During this visit, a MoU was also signed between NMCG and IIM, Bodhgaya to collaborate on various fronts for academic excellence in water quality and sustainable development.

I am sure that you will be inspired from the content of this edition of the Namami Gange magazine and will step up to do your bit for the cause of Water Conservation in general and Ganga Rejuvenation in particular.



G. Asok Kumar
DG-NMCG

Stockholm Water Week 2023

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) hosted an online session in Stockholm Water Week on 21st August 2023. The theme of the session was 'Peer Networking for Integrated River Basin Planning and Management' with an interactive discussion on the adoption of the river basin management approach. Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Mr. G. Asok Kumar chaired the session. Other speakers were Prof. Dr. Dorte Ziegler (Faculty, Water Resources and Environmental Management, University of Applied Sciences, Koblenz), Mr. Christian Ebel (Senior Advisor, Department of Water Management, Hamburg City, Ministry for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture, Germany), Ms. Carmen Rosa Yee Batista (Lead Water Specialist, World Bank) and Ms. Sharmi Palit from National University of Singapore. Mr. D.P. Mathuria (ED-NMCG) moderated the session and Ms. Martina Burkard (Head of Programme, Support to Ganga Rejuvenation/India-EU Partnership GIZ India) gave the Vote of Thanks. More than 160 people participated in the session.

Delivering the keynote address, DG, NMCG said that Namami Gange is premised on the five important

pillars of – Nirmal Ganga (unpolluted river), Aviral Ganga (unrestricted flow), Jan Ganga (People's Participation), Gyan Ganga (knowledge and research based interventions) and Arth Ganga (people-river connect through the bridge of economy). He informed that Namami Gange is among the world's acclaimed river rejuvenation programs and was recognized as one of the top 10 "World Restoration Flagships" on December 13th, 2022, during UN Conference on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in Montreal.

DG, NMCG said that Namami Gange Mission involves a substantial financial commitment of USD 4.5 billion and the interventions have already made positive impact as evidenced from restoration of polluted stretches of the river and significant improvement in river water quality. He noted that there has been a noticeable surge in sightings of aquatic species such as Gangetic Dolphins, Gharials and Turtles. More than 9.3 million Indian Major Carps (Katla, Rohu, and Mrigal) and 90,000 Hilsa fish have been reared in the Ganga Basin. In addition, capacity development programs for forest officials have also been initiated to strengthen conservation efforts.

Mr. Kumar gave an overview of the five-tiered governance structure of NMCG with the National Ganga Council headed by the Prime Minister at the top and District Ganga Committees at the district-level.

He also spoke about Arth Ganga heralding economic growth, livelihood advancement, and community engagement in the river basin. Through Arth Ganga, he said, NMCG aims to establish resilient institutions to guide and harness sustainable development endeavors via institutional building, zero-budget natural farming, formation of FBOs, public participation, monetization of wastewater and sludge, cultural heritage, tourism, and livelihood generation. He emphasized the role of District Ganga Committees (DGCs) in effective execution of Arth Ganga interventions. "We have revitalized the DGCs and launched DGC 4M (Monthly, Mandated, Monitored and Minuted). This has resulted in routine meetings of DGCs discussing crucial issues at hand," he said, adding, "Between April 2022 to July 2023, a total of 1689 meetings have been conducted."

DG, NMCG informed the participants that to foster awareness and youth engagement through a network of universities, a MoU signing ceremony - Namami Gange: Universities Connect – was organised in April 2023. This was preceded by a year-long webinar series with universities - 'Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers'. "A dynamic shift from engineering to public participation is being made for comprehensive solutions," he added.





River-Cities Alliance, DG, NMCG said, is another novel initiative providing a dedicated platform for Indian river cities to ideate, deliberate, and share insights for sustainable urban river management. NMCG is harnessing expertise from entities such as GIZ. He noted that steps are being taken to strengthen institutions, with a strategic focus on setting up a River Basin Management Unit. “By engaging international experts, NMCG is poised to ensure well-grounded plans and effective guidance. The collaborative framework will facilitate development of a river rejuvenation model which can be emulated to rivers worldwide,” he added. Ms. Martina Burkard highlighted the need for more collaborative efforts in river basin management. She noted that the trajectory of Ganga basin governance has evolved through distinct phases, from development of comprehensive Ganga basin management plans to implementation-oriented sub-basin plans. “These sub-basin plans are aligned with district-level and overarching river basin management strategies,” she said, adding, “NMCG adopts a dynamic approach, drawing on international experience.” The engagement of

stakeholders forms the bedrock of this approach, facilitating a cyclical progression, she said, adding, central to this approach is bringing districts to the forefront. She added that an intricate framework has been developed, fostering collaboration between districts and NMCG to delineate the blueprint of District Ganga Plans. She concluded her address by highlighting how peer networking stands as a powerful tool, uniting stakeholders from diverse domains.

Prof. Dorte Ziegler talked about the importance of transboundary cooperation and how it has emerged as a pivotal theme in addressing water-related challenges. She emphasized the universality of water, unconfined by boundaries, as river basins transcend geopolitical demarcations. The interconnectedness of upstream and downstream nations underscores the shared responsibility in safeguarding water resources. Prof. Ziegler spotlighted the profound impact on fish migration, using the instance of the Ryan River, which sustains numerous cities with essential drinking water. As cities grapple with multifaceted issues like water treatment and infrastructure, collaborative problem-solving

approach becomes imperative, she said. adding, NMCG's ongoing endeavors in embracing an integrated strategy recognizing it as an effective path forward is laudable.

Mr. Christian Ebel highlighted the complexity of water laws within different provinces of the country and the unique challenge posed as water does not adhere to the jurisdictional boundaries. He elaborated on the concept of River Basin Management Committees, where states collectively participate to ensure the effective implementation, coordination, and assessment of river basin management measures. He added that a paramount aspect of river basin management is fostering synergy through active public participation and involving stakeholders from diverse domains. Collaboration with experts is essential to enrich the decision-making process and ensure a holistic understanding of the river ecosystem. Ms. Carmen Rosa Yee Batista emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to scale up river activities. She outlined three critical practices for successful river rejuvenation programs—strengthening knowledge-based approaches, effective data communication and monitoring, and strengthening governmental structures. She also highlighted the significance of involving local stakeholders, facilitating shared decision-making processes, and addressing the expectations of diverse groups.

Ms. Sharmi Palit shed light on the importance of self-motivated cadres like Ganga Praharis that exemplifies local communities continuing to uphold the goals of missions like Namami Gange even after the program's exit from the field.

Other sessions NMCG participated in

- Water Quality Management: Lessons Learnt from India
- Sanitation Innovations in the Asia-Pacific
- Addressing Water Security Challenges in the Himalayan Region



Presentation on Namami Gange to World Bank EDs in Agra.

A meeting was held on 5th August 2023 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh as part of a visit by the Executive Directors of the World Bank to understand the transformational impact of the Bank's projects in the country. Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Mr. G. Asok Kumar gave a detailed presentation on Namami Gange to the Executive Directors of the World Bank from around the world. Mr. Auguste Kouame, Country Director, World Bank, India was also present on the occasion.

Nine EDs of the World Bank Group were present during the meeting: Mr. Jack Kurski, Poland; Mr. Khalid Bawazier, Saudi Arabia; Ms. Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed, Nigeria; Mr. Junhong Chang, China; Mr. Erivaldo Gomes, Brazil; Mr. Ernesto Acevedo, Mexico; Ms. Cecilia Nohan, Argentina; and Mr. Robin Tasker, United Kingdom. Shri Bhaskar Dasgupta, ED, Finance, NMCG and Shri D.P. Mathuria,

ED, Technical, NMCG were also present. A tour to the iconic Taj Mahal was also organised.

In the meeting, discussions were held with the World Bank EDs on various aspects of river rejuvenation and the role of the World Bank. The EDs appreciated the development across water sector enabled by transformational reforms and private sector participation, especially under Namami Gange Mission, in India's pursuit of becoming water-secured nation. They appreciated that NMCG has started a new chapter of public participation with multiple stakeholders including people, educational institutes, social organizations and civil society become part of Namami Gange becoming a global name to reckon with in river rejuvenation. The EDs appreciated the clarity of vision of the leadership and were especially impressed by the HAM model, One City One Operator Model, Arth Ganga initiative and Public Participation efforts put under

Namami Gange mission.

Giving a detailed presentation to the dignitaries on the Namami Gange Programme, the Mr. G. Asok Kumar said that water has been recognized as one of the most important component for India's economic growth and a lot of initiatives have been taken up the water sector in the past 7-8 years. In 2019, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, Jal Shakti Ministry was created by bringing together various departments to enable quick decision-making without conflict. Some of the major initiatives in the water sector include Jal Jeevan Mission, that aims to provide household tap connections to all by 2024, Atal Bhujal Yojana for effective management of groundwater through participatory approach and Swachh Bharat Mission as part of which more than 100 million toilets were built, taking the burden off the world in the direction of sanitation for all.

DG, NMCG informed that



dignitaries about Catch the Rain: Where it Falls, When it Falls campaign that was launched for decentralized storage of rainwater (in-situ storage of water) as part of which lakhs of rainwater harvesting structures were constructed.

Giving an overview of the Namami Gange Programme, he said it is a holistic and integrated river rejuvenation programme not just to clean River Ganga but restore its entire riverine ecosystem through public participation. Namami Gange is premised on the five important pillars of – Nirmal Ganga (unpolluted river), Aviral Ganga (unrestricted flow), Jan Ganga (People’s Participation), Gyan Ganga (knowledge and research based interventions) and Arth Ganga (people-river connect through the bridge of economy). “442 projects worth around 4.5 billion US \$ have been sanctioned out of which 193 pertain to sewage management,” he informed, adding, “The funding is also sourced from organisations like the World Bank, JICA, Asian Development Bank etc.” Explaining the 5-tier structure of NMCG, he talked about the National Ganga Council meetings headed by the Prime Minister held in Kanpur (2019) and Kolkata (2022) and emphasized on the unwavering political commitment to the Namami Gange Programme.

He said that Namami Gange was chosen as one of the world’s top ten restoration flagships to revive the natural world. Namami Gange, selected from over 160 eco-restoration programmes around the world, was awarded at Montreal, Canada during the UN Conference on Biological Diversity (COP15) on 13th December 2022. NMCG was the only entity from India to participate in the United Nations World Water Conference held in New York in March 2023.

He said that the increased sightings and thriving of aquatic species like Gangetic Dolphins and local fishes is indicative of improved water quality in the Ganga River. “In 2014, there were two polluted stretches in Category V and one each in Category II and III. In comparison, in 2023, two stretches (Haridwar to Sultanpur and Buxar to Bhagalpur) are now ‘unpolluted’ and the remaining two in Category V (Kannauj to Varanasi and Triveni to Diamond Harbour) are exceeding the accepted range by minor points,” he said.

DG, NMCG explained in detail the Hybrid Annuity Model used for sewage management projects in the Ganga Basin under Namami Gange. Under this model, the development, operation and maintenance of the STP is undertaken by a Special

Purpose Vehicle (SPV) at the local level. As per this model, 40% of the Capital cost would be paid during construction while the remaining 60% of the cost will be paid over the life of the project as annuities along with operation and maintenance cost (O&M) expenses for the next 15 years. The Annuity and O&M payments are linked to the performance of the STP. This will ensure continued performance of the assets created due to better accountability, ownership and optimal performance. There are total 32 projects sanctioned HAM, out of which 7 are funded by the World Bank. “It ensures performance-based contracting and improved governance,” DG, NMCG added.

Shri Kumar also spoke on the River-Cities Alliance (RCA) initiative under Namami Gange which was launched in November 2021 with 30 members. Now, with 142 members, including the international city of Aarhus, RCA has become a desirable platform to ideate, discuss and exchange information for sustainable management of urban rivers. RCA Global witnessed participation of high ranking officials from Embassies. Cities of Manchester, Arhus, Copen Hagen and Hamberg made presentations on their efforts to use rivers flowing by them as growth engines.

The 50th meeting of the EC, NMCG

The 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held on 31st July 2023 under the chairmanship of Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Seven projects worth around Rs. 692 crore were approved in the meeting. Out of the seven projects, four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. NMCG has so far sanctioned a total of 452 projects worth around Rs. 38,126 crore out of which 254 have been completed.

Shri S.P. Vashishtha, Executive Director (Admin.), NMCG, Shri Bhaskar Dasgupta, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG, Shri D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director (Technical), NMCG, Ms. Richa Misra, Joint Secretary and Financial

Advisor, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, senior officials from the states concerned also attended the meeting.

For sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, 3 projects worth Rs. 661.74 crore were approved in the meeting. These include creation of a 100 Million Litres per Day (MLD) STP in Lucknow along with Interception and Diversion (I&D) works under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). Another project for I&D of balance discharge of Dariyabad Pipalghat and Dariyabad Kakahraghat drains and construction of a 50 MLD STP in Prayagraj was approved. This project costing around Rs. 186.47 crore will augment the existing treatment capacity of Naini STP in sewerage district-A in Prayagraj to 80 MLD. In a smaller project, a 6 MLD STP, I&D and other works

in Hapur was also approved to stop the flow of Hapur city drain into River Kali, which is a tributary of River Ganga.

Two STPs (5 and 7 MLDs) at an estimated cost of Rs. 74.64 crore for tapping of Pipra ghat drain and Chhatiya ghat drain respectively along with I&D works was also approved in the 50th EC meeting for Raxaul town in Bihar. This project will abate pollution in Sirsiya River that originates in Nepal and enters Bihar at Raxaul in East Champaran district.

In an important step for effective management of water in urban areas, a project envisaging preparation of 60-70 Urban River Management Plans (URMPs) in two phases has also been approved costing around Rs 20 crore. During the first year, 25 URMPs shall be prepared and 35 URMPs shall be prepared during the second year. The first phase would cover 25 cities from 5 main stem Ganga basin states: Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Haldwani & Nainital in Uttarakhand; Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, Saharanpur & Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh; Patna, Darbhanga, Gaya, Purnea and Katihar in Bihar; Ranchi, Adityapur, Medininagar, Giridih and Dhanbad in Jharkhand and Asansol, Durgapur, Siliguri, Nabadwip and Howrah in West Bengal. This project is part of the River-Cities Alliance (RCA) under Namami Gange, which provides cities opportunities to cooperate, work together, learn



The 49th EC Meeting

The 49th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held on 11th July 2023 under the chairmanship of Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Three projects worth around Rs. 39 crore were approved in the meeting. The projects pertained to Arth Ganga, biodiversity conservation and strengthening of DGCs in the Ganga Basin.

To strengthen the District Ganga Committees (DGCs), one project costing Rs. 25.5 crore was approved to provide dedicated manpower to 139 DGCs and 4 State Missions for Clean Ganga (SMCGs). The project aims to utilize the youth cadre developed under the NYKS project 'Involvement of Youth in Namami Gange Programme'. This would ensure effective coordination of district and village level activities, awareness, educational and mobilization programmes, promotion of Arth Ganga etc. Another project to set up an awareness and marketing centre/kiosk at Dilli Haat in the national capital has also been approved by the EC for annual cost of Rs. 87.49 lakh.

NMCG also approved development of biodiversity parks in Bijnor and Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 12.58 crore. The objectives of the proposed biodiversity parks are to take up the conservation activities for restoration & rejuvenation of riverscape ecosystem through measures taken up for floral and faunal importance. Another project for conservation and management of wetlands for enhanced river health in 4 districts of Uttarakhand has been approved worth Rs. 7.26 crore. This project intends to conserve and enhance management effectiveness of high, mid, and low altitude wetlands in four districts namely Haridwar, Chamoli, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi. The major components are to conserve, restore, and develop these important wetlands by preparation of District-level wetland inventories and brief documents for enabling notification of key wetlands, Hydrological connectivity assessments and development of Management Action Plans for key wetlands, Establishment of robust wetland monitoring systems, field tested and scaled up for decision making at various levels, Enhancing capacity of the State Wetland Authority, the Districts, and stakeholders to raise the profile of wetlands and to deliver wetland conservation.

from each other's best practices, share knowledge, thus paving the way for Gyan Bhagidari, which will lead to transformational solutions. This project will be World Bank funded. RCA which started from 30 members in 2021 now has more than 140 members, including international cities.

In a first-of-its-kind project, one project was approved for initiation of M.Sc. Course in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation at Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring

Centre, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.86 crore for 10 years. The proposal aims to develop a cadre of ecologists and field biologists, with expertise in freshwater ecology for effectively managing the freshwater resources and its biodiversity in India. The project addresses the need for scientific knowledge and skilled professionals in the field of freshwater ecology and conservation. It aims to train a new generation of field researchers and ecologists to effectively manage and

conserve freshwater ecosystems in India. The project will offer a two-year M.Sc. Course in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation spanning four semesters. The curriculum will cover various aspects of freshwater ecosystems, their biodiversity, and the impact of drivers on these ecosystems.

One project for the construction of an electric crematorium at Barkola, Kharagpur in West Bengal was also approved in the 50th EC.

Abatement of Industrial Pollution

Closure of CETP Unnao

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) directed the closure of CETP Unnao, which has been found not complying to the prescribed norms during surprise inspections. NMCG, in exercise of powers conferred to it under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has directed the closure of all industrial units without operational Primary Effluent Treatment Plant (PETP) connected with Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Unnao.

This is in line with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 21.09.2020 which directed the States/UTs to ensure that the CETP/ETPs must meet the laid down norms and remedial action be taken wherever norms are not met.

CETP Unnao with designed capacity of 2.15 MLD is based on Activated Sludge Technology for treatment of effluents of 14 tannery industrial units.

On 14.02.2022, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issued show cause notice to M/s Unnao

Tanneries Pollution Control Company for non-compliance of CETP effluent discharge norms based on their six inspections at CETP Unnao.

On 13.04.2023, a joint surveillance of NMCG and UPPCB was carried out for 2.15 MLD CETP Unnao and samples were taken in presence of authorized representative. The CETP was found non-complying against the UPPCB notified inlet norms, stipulated outlet discharge norms of CPCB and drain water quality.

Analysis of samples taken from CETP inlet, amongst others, showed exceedance against the UPPCB notified inlet norms of TSS as 696 mg/l (against 600 mg/l) and Chromium as 18 mg/l (against 10 mg/l). This indicated that PETP installed by the member units were not functioning adequately to achieve desired CETP treated effluent quality norms. Analysis of samples taken from CETP Unnao outlet being discharged into Loni drain, which meets River Ganga, showed exceedance of the notified

discharge norms and the CETP non-complying with respect to TDS: 8500 mg/l (against 2100 mg/l), Chloride: 2650 mg/l (against 1000mg/l), Phosphate: 12.59 mg/l (against 5.0 mg/l).

Based on the findings, NMCG issued the final closure direction for CETP Unnao under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act to Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar-Pradesh and Member Secretary UPPCB on 23.06.2023.

NMCG has directed the UPPCB to levy and recover the environmental compensation from Unnao Tanneries Pollution Control Company (UTPCC) and defaulting industrial units in Unnao in terms of compensation regime as fixed by the Hon'ble NGT for non-compliant CETPs/effluent discharge into drains/rivers.

This matter was discussed in the meeting with Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh and Director General, NMCG on 28.07.2023. DM, Unnao assured NMCG that the action is being taken on NMCG directions.

Interventions in Kanpur under Namami Gange to prevent industrial pollution in Ganga

CETP JAJMAU:

- Capacity: 20 MLD
- Sanctioned Cost: Rs. 617 crore (Rs. 455.02 crore as grant-in-aid from NMCG, Rs. 25 crore as contribution from Industries through SPV and Rs. 137 crore towards up-gradation of PETP at individual industries connected to CETP).
- Expected Completion Date: September 2023.

CETP BANTHAR:

- Capacity: 4.5 MLD
- Awarded Cost: Rs 111 crore
- Expected Completion Date: August 2024.

CETP UNNAO:

- Capacity: Up-gradation of 2.15 MLD to 2.6 MLD
- Sanctioned Cost: Rs. 107.28
- Under Tendering

Swachhta Hi Sewa – Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta



As part of the ongoing Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS), 2023 campaign, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized a cleanliness drive – Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta – at Chhat Ghat, ITO on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Mr. G. Asok Kumar, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Mr. Subodh Yadav, Joint Secretary (Admin), Do WR, RD & GR, Mr. D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director (Technical), NMCG, Mr. Bhaskar Dasgupta, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG, Mr. Nalin Srivastava, DDG, NMCG participated in the cleanliness drive that began at 10 AM. A Swachhta Pledge was administered to the people who gathered at the ghat for Shram Daan. The participants

were also sensitized about the importance of clean rivers through nukkad natak on the ghat. Around 1000 people joined the drive and more than 6000 kilogram of waste was collected.

Ms. Debashree Mukherjee said that the involvement of communities is crucial to Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign and several NGOs, youth groups, children participated in the event which is inspiring. She added that the organizations under Ministry of Jal Shakti are participating in this event being led by NMCG.

Mr. Asok Kumar, DG, NMCG said that the event is being organized as part of the Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign that will culminate 2nd October 2023 on Gandhi Jayanti which will be observed as Swachh Bharat Diwas across the country.

He informed that cleanliness drives, nukkad natak, cultural events etc. under Namami Gange and Arth Ganga were organized in the past few days along the ghats of River Ganga and its tributaries in the Ganga Basin states as part of this campaign to make cleanliness a mass movement. “It is the duty of each one of us to keep our rivers and water bodies clean,” he said. Mr. Kumar said that this is also part of the Clean Yamuna campaign being run by NMCG for the 22 km Delhi stretch from the past one-and-a-half year.

The organizations of the Ministry of Jal Shakti including National Water Mission, Central Water Commission, Central Groundwater Board, CSMRS, NWDA etc. also took part in the cleanliness drive. Officials from Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Municipal Corporation of

Delhi (MCD), volunteers from NGOs Tree Craze, YSS, SYA, YPF, FOY, Paryavaran Sanrakshan, Bharatiyam, Saksham Bhoomi Foundation, school and college students, volunteers from Ganga Vichar Manch also joined hands with NMCG to make the event successful. The focus during the drive remained on freeing the ghat from any kind of solid waste. A similar cleanliness drive was also

organised by NGOs at Kalindi Kunj ghat in South Delhi.

Similar events were also organised along the ghats of River Ganga and its tributaries along the Ganga Basin. Ganga Praharis, Ganga Mitras, Ganga Doots, students, officials from district administration, local people etc. took part in the cleanliness drives as part of Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign. The events are being

organised throughout the period of the Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign in states through District Ganga Committees, the district-level arm of NMCG. Ganga Task Force (GTF) also participated in the events Prayagraj, Varanasi and Kanpur. Swachhta Hi Sewa drives were also undertaken at the Namami Gange Sewage Treatment Plants (Nirmal Jal Kendras) premises in the Ganga Basin by the executing agencies.



SWACHTA HI SEWA IN STATES

BIHAR



JHARKHAND



UTTAR PRADESH



UTTARAKHAND



WEST BENGAL



Jalaj Awareness and Marketing Center (JAM)



National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has opened a Jalaj – an Information and Awareness Centre at Dilli Haat, New Delhi under Namami Gange Programme with an aim to promote the products (agriculture, natural, processed food items and handicrafts, etc.) of the Ganga Basin in the national capital. The products on sale are made by women self-help groups and Ganga Praharis from the banks of River Ganga and its tributaries. NMCG in its outlet space at Dilli Haat, which is also an information centre, displays and sells items made by the artisans/farmers etc. in the Ganga Basin, especially the women self-help groups. Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG opened the centre for public on 17th September 2023. The operations and revenue from Jalaj Centre will be managed by the JALAJ- NAULA, a women Self- Help Group identified in New Delhi. The women of these SHG will be trained and provided hand-

holding by NMCG for first three months enabling them to become self- sufficient (Atmanirbhar) and capable of running the centre sustainably.

The primary objective of the Awareness and Marketing Centre will be to market the brand name “Namami Gange” by spreading knowledge and information about the contribution of NMCG in river rejuvenation and livelihood generation. The centre will not only provide livelihood support to the people but also immensely contribute to generating mass awareness among the masses including foreign visitors about the river Ganga and GOI initiatives in rejuvenating the rivers. This initiative by Namami Gange aims to connect people closely with the importance of River- Ecosystem and biodiversity and the spiritual significance of Maa Ganga.

Products

Locally sourced products include hand-painted saree, batik-print saree, mats made of Water Hyacinth, Fibre Nests etc. from

the artisans, handicraftsmen, SHGs and the cooperatives from the Ganga Basin States. NMCG is also providing Ganga-Jal procured from Devprayag reminding people of the sanctity of Maa- Ganga and motivating them to contribute their bit for the same.

JALAJ

Jalaj centre at Dilli Haat is part of the “Jalaj: Connecting River and People to Realize Arth Ganga” project that is being executed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun under Namami Gange Programme. Under the project, WII has to develop 75 Jalaj at various locations. Out of 75 sites, 26 sites were launched by the Hon. Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 16th August 2022. Jalaj concept has been developed as biodiversity-sensitive-tourism-based boat safaris and other livelihood opportunities for local communities and fashioning awareness among visitors. It is a concept of establishing symbiotic linkages between rivers and people. The models have been



The primary objective of the Awareness and Marketing Centre

- Provide livelihood support to the people and SHGs in Ganga Basin
- Generating mass awareness about the river Ganga and GOI initiatives in rejuvenating the rivers.

developed in line with skill sets, traditional knowledge of the local communities, and natural resources available in the area. Jalaj models have already been demonstrated at Hapur, Bijnor, Prayagraj, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Bandel (West Bengal), Sahibganj (Jharkhand) among other locations. Jalaj at Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Muzaffarnagar and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) represent a model that

disseminates information on aquatic biodiversity conservation and provides livelihood training and sale centers for the products developed by the livelihood trainees. The Jalaj has been established as an awareness focal point in form of a boat that sensitizes the local communities as well as visitors e.g., which operated on special days such as Mela, local festivals to maximize the outreach of the efforts. WII is providing

livelihood training to people in the Ganga Basin and setting up sale centers/kiosks for the products developed by the livelihood trainees. Arth Ganga Model, espoused by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the National Ganga Council Meeting on 14th December 2019, aims at Sustainable Economic Development by integrating people in the basin with Ganga rejuvenation.



Igniting Young Minds: A Global Campaign

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has taken the webinar series 'Igniting Young Minds: Rejuvenating Rivers' global. The 13th edition of the webinar series, now titled, 'Igniting Young Minds: A Global Campaign' was virtually organised on 8th July 2023 in collaboration with APAC News Network, with the objective of invoking participation from 'Young Water Sustainers to Build Tomorrow's Global Sustainability Leaders'. The theme of the webinar was Water Conservation. In this special session, the urgent need for rainwater conservation, collaboration with universities, and community engagement to ensure sustainable water management and river rejuvenation were discussed.

Mr. G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG chaired the webinar. The panelists included Mr. B.S Yadav, Chancellor, IES University, Dr. Narayana Shenoy S, Vice Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dr. Neena Singh Zutshi, Professor and Dean Academics, World University of Design, and Mr. Arpan Stephen, Kingdom of Bahrain, E-learning Expert, Arabian Gulf University.

Delivering the keynote address, DG, NMCG highlighted the critical need for intensified efforts in water conservation and river rejuvenation. He spoke about the imperative role of public participation, calling for a collective movement and citizen responsibility to ensure sustainability and respect for water resources. He emphasized the effective management of water



resources to make use of the spatial and temporal variation in rainfall in the country. "The scope of Namami Gange extends to River Ganga and its tributaries and the impact of the work done in the Ganga Basin is manifesting in the form of significant improvement in water quality and biodiversity exemplified by the increased sightings of aquatic species like Gangetic Dolphins, Otters etc.," Shri Kumar said, adding, "The recognition of NMCG's efforts by the United Nations further reinforces its unique position and commitment to water conservation. The positive recognition received from international stakeholders' underscores Namami Gange's impact. The participation of more than 20 crore people in the Kumbh Mela 2019, much more than anticipated, signifies an increasing awareness and engagement in river rejuvenation efforts in the country."

He said that the significance of the 5 Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recharge and Respect – is pivotal to combat water scarcity, particularly the agriculture sector, where water use efficiency remains a primary

concern. He shed light on the excessive use of groundwater by farmers, which not only requires significant energy for pumping, but also demands more efficient irrigation methods. He said that saving water should be incorporated into all aspects of life, encouraging the reuse of water, such as utilizing rejected water from RO systems for washing vegetables, fruits, and plants. Additionally, treated water from sewage treatment plants (STPs) can be used for irrigation and other purposes, reducing the extraction of water from other sources. He noted that by adopting a circular economy of water, where water is no longer discarded but instead recovered and reused, the world can achieve sustainable water management.

He focused on the need to educate younger generations, raising awareness among students and instill a sense of responsibility to promote sustainable water usage practices. He also highlighted the importance of reusing sewage water, focusing on the technical aspects of safe sewage disposal. "Improper sewage disposal can

lead to the contamination of fresh water sources, posing risks to public health. NMCG actively engages in the process of treating sewage water through the establishment of Nirmal Jal Kendras, ensuring the safe disposal of sewage water and its utilization for non-potable purposes”, he said.

DG, NMCG underscored the need to preserve rainwater and discussed the "Catch the Rain" campaign, which encourages decentralized storage of rainwater. The campaign urges communities to harvest rainwater within their localities, contributing in elevating water table levels and a reduction in energy-intensive water pumping. “Preserving rainwater is instrumental in conserving water for the summer season”. Furthermore, he noted the significance of rainwater conservation for students, as it directly influences future of forthcoming generations. “It is imperative to instill this knowledge in students, fostering a sense of responsibility and promoting mindful water usage practices”, he said.

He acknowledged the significant role that universities can play in the conservation and rejuvenation of rivers and urged universities to actively support and collaborate in the revitalization of rivers.

Mr. B.S Yadav, Chancellor of IES University, spoke about the role of the Ganga River as the lifeline of the country and encouraged the need for awareness campaigns within university spaces to promote the optimal use and conservation of water resources. He also appreciated the Jal Jeevan Mission, recognizing it as a remarkable initiative in addressing the need for clean water. Additionally, he highlighted Unnat Bharat Abhiyan launched by the

Government of India, wherein 10 nearby villages are to be adopted for community development. Mr. Yadav expressed his enthusiasm and readiness to support these initiatives, acknowledging water as a basic necessity and emphasizing the significant expenditure required for obtaining clean water. He commended the efforts of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in raising awareness and implementing the world's largest campaign for rejuvenating rivers and eliminating pollution.

Dr. Narayana Shenoy S, highlighted the need for water conservation and the preservation of rivers. Citing statistics, he noted that India is blessed with a higher density of rivers and receives abundant rainfall. Dr. Shenoy said that the Ganga river flows through 11 states of the country, covering nearly 30 percent of the population and 40 percent of agricultural land. “Manipal Academy of Higher Education is actively engaged in river rejuvenation efforts, initiating programs like the Swarna Aradhana Project, wherein the river is seen as a living natural resource that gives a holistic perspective to the younger generation,” Dr. Shenoy noted, adding, “Even small steps can create a significant impact by contributing to the larger cause of protecting water resources and ensuring a sustainable future.”

Dr. Neena Singh Zutshi discussed the university's collaboration with the NMCG in the Universities Connect Program. Addressing the pressing global challenge of climate change and its immediate impact on society, Dr. Zutshi underscored the importance of water as a living entity and the urgent need for youth engagement in effectively addressing this challenge. She said that the collaboration aims to integrate

water conservation principles into the university's curriculum, with the School of Architecture and Planning focusing on on-campus conservation efforts. She said that the School of Communication is looking to raise awareness through impactful videos, while the School of Fashion is prioritizing sustainable practices. Furthermore, she noted that the School of Performing Arts aims to inspire students through performances promoting water conservation. She said that curriculum design across disciplines should address water-related issues and concluded her address by stressing on the importance of leveraging technology and AI to address the critical water problem.

Mr. Arpan Stephen, an esteemed e-learning Expert from the Arabian Gulf University, shared his insights on the water-related challenges faced in Bahrain, including the absence of natural rivers or lakes and heavy reliance on converting seawater into potable water. He emphasized the pressing issue of groundwater depletion, which is often overlooked within the education sector, stressing the need for its integration into the curriculum. Mr. Stephen underscored the urgency of addressing the scarcity of water resources, calling for widespread acceptance of the issue. He stressed that the most effective approach is to educate young people starting from the K12 level. By providing in-depth knowledge and fostering a focus on water conservation throughout their educational journey, students could be encouraged to prioritize rather than solely pursuing professional degrees. Mr. Stephen's advocated aligning of water conservation education with the growing recognition of the need to nurture environmentally conscious citizens and cultivate sustainable practices within India's education system.



Ganga Awareness & Aarti Workshop



Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh and Namami Gange organized a 3-Day Ganga Awareness and Aarti Workshop at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, aiming to deepen participants' connection with Mother Ganga and ignite behavioral transformation for environmental safeguarding. The workshop brought together 31 diverse participants representing 20 ghats and multiple cities across the five states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Delhi, including notable locations like Haridwar, Farrukhabad, Roorkee, Bijnor, Buksar, Bhojpur, and Bokaro etc.

DAY 1

The formal inauguration of third batch of the Ganga Awareness and Aarti Training (GAAT) took place on the morning of the first day,

as not all participants had arrived on the previous evening for the blessing ceremony.

Advisor, NMCG delivered the keynote address and welcomed all participants. He emphasized that Maa Ganga is the river of the people and urged collective efforts to keep it clean and free from pollution. He encouraged participants that through the Ganga Aarti they could raise awareness and pledge to protect and preserve the sacred National River. He also highlighted the role of Arth Ganga as a means of livelihood generation and the dedicated work of initiatives like Namami Gange, Arth Ganga, which have installed Jalaj at various locations, stressing the need for everyone's participation in this vital endeavor.

Representative from SPMG-

Uttarakhand extensively discussed the two previous workshops, shedding light on the remarkable achievements of some of the previous participants who had completed their training from Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh. These participants not only initiated Ganga Aarti at their respective ghats but also conducted activities such as tree planting, cleanliness drives, and devotional evenings, etc. He shared that these efforts yielded excellent results.

A platform was provided for participants to share their Aarti experiences and expectations from the workshop.

Participants shared about themselves, their ghats and their experience with conducting Aarti ceremonies, in the introduction section following the feedback forms. This was followed by an engaging presentation that unveiled the history, purpose, and vision of the Parmarth Ganga Aarti, weaving in teachings from the Bhagavad Gita and also sharing case studies of Varanasi Ganga Aarti and the numerous other places.

The workshop emphasized Ganga Aarti's potential to drive social change, inspiring participants to use its sacred space for environmental pledges. This resonated deeply, as attendees embraced Aarti's role in personal and collective transformation.





A session was held on Ganga Aarti's structure and rhythm. The session went over the different styles of the Ganga Aarti, it also detailed the Ganga Aarti ceremony and reviewed the key Vedic chants and mantras of the Ganga Aarti. After the session the participants enthusiastically gathered for the Ganga Aarti ceremony.

DAY 2

The second day of the workshop commenced with an invigorating morning Yoga practice, setting a positive and energizing tone for the day.

In collaboration with Parmarth sevaks and Rishikumars, participants engaged in cleaning the Ganga ghat area, which had been impacted by this year's heavy monsoon rainfall.

The first morning session began with an interactive session focused on Ganga Aarti as a platform for social awareness and a medium for instigating social impact and change. Through dynamic activities including drama and songs, participants effectively conveyed the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of Mother Ganga and underscored the urgency of collective action.

The highlight of the day was an exceptional live Ganga Aarti experience. The shared energy and devotion deeply felt as participants

contemplated their individual ties with Mother Ganga and shared their hopes of elevating their Aarti practices to a more divine mirroring the experience at Parmarth.

DAY 3

The third and final day also began with a rejuvenating morning Yoga session, illustrating how the banks of Mother Ganga offer a serene space for regular yoga, meditation, and wellness practices.

Building upon the positive energy from the previous days, participants enthusiastically participated in a cleaning initiative along a stretch of Maa Ganga's banks.

The third day's highlights included a reflective post-feedback session, allowing participants to share their insights, takeaways, and suggestions, enriching the workshop's

outcomes and fostering a sense of togetherness. This was followed by an engaging small group activity, where representatives from different ghats collaborated to exchange ideas and develop strategies for applying their newfound knowledge to drive positive change in their local areas.

In the second half the participants presented ghat-wise plans and pledges for the way forward. After an engaging session participants received sacred Rudraksha Malas and Rudraksh saplings.



Sewage Treatment Infrastructure for Meerut

The tripartite Concession Agreement between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and M/s. Meerut STP Pvt. Ltd. for development of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and other infrastructure for Meerut was signed on 5th September 2023 in New Delhi. The project which is under Hybrid Annuity PPP mode was awarded at the total cost of INR 369.74 crores. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2025.

NMCG has approved the project for construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of total capacity of 220 MLD, among

other works such as developing Interception & Diversion (I&D) structures, I&D network laying, Sewage Pumping Stations including Operation and Maintenance for 15 years etc. This project also aims to take care of the existing sewerage problems in the Meerut city and the resultant sewage pollution in River Kali. After the completion of this project, there will be no discharge of untreated sewage from Meerut city into River Kali (East) thereby reducing the pollution load. Kali (East) meets Ganga near Kannauj and the completion of this project will ultimately help reduce pollution in River Ganga.

The contract was signed between Shri S.K. Barman, Superintending Engineer, UP Jal Nigam (Rural), Shri Mayank Agarwal, Authorized Signatory, M/s. Meerut STP Pvt. Ltd. (SPV formed by M/s G.A. Infra Private Limited –in JV with M/s SSG Infratech Pvt. Ltd.) and Shri Binod Kumar, Director (Projects), NMCG in the presence of Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG, who expressed his happiness on completing the process of award. Shri Nalin Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director General, NMCG was also present along with other representatives of state agencies and concessionaire during the signing ceremony.



Natural Farming in the Ganga Basin

Sanjeev Kumar, Bulandshahar - Farmer



In the middle of a big farmers' gathering in Bulandshahar, a hand rose, enthusiastically, to say a few words on Natural Farming. His confident voice echoed: "Not just in this life, but if there are 7 more lives to come, I will not shy away from saying that Natural Farming is the best way of growing crops. It is a farmer's great relief." The 48-year-old Sanjeev Kumar, a farmer from Bulandshahar, who completely moved to "chemical-free" farming in 2012 is now profiting from his healthy yield of sugarcane, turmeric, millets etc. many more times than ever before. He delightfully informs the listening of his new home, giving a glimpse of a happy and prosperous life he is leading.

One could, joyously, add to this

list of farmers who have willfully moved to Natural Farming for good and are never short of praises for their ancestral and traditional agricultural wisdom.

Why has suddenly Natural Farming acquired such significance? About a year ago, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister pitched Natural Farming as "a path to Atma Nirbharta". UNGA has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets. Millets is produced naturally in several parts of the country and has been a part of India's traditional healthy eating practices. However, indiscriminate use of chemical inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides etc.) has deteriorated soil health and fertility and contaminated the natural resources, especially rivers,

warranting an urgent need to explore alternative agricultural methods that are sustainable, environment-friendly, low-cost and healthy for farmers, consumers and the natural resources.

Natural Farming is a chemical-free farming system based on livestock and locally available resources, rooted in Indian tradition. It is primarily based on four basic elements, Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Ghan-Jeevamrit (Acchadana) and Vapasa. As Sanjeev Kumar puts it, "Even Organic farming is labor-intensive, certification-based and low yielding. Natural Farming, on the other hand, runs on inputs prepared naturally from and in the farm such as cow dung, mulching etc."

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Sahakar Bharati organised a workshop/meeting ‘Vishaal Kisan Sammelan’ on 5th September 2022 for more than 400 farmers at Mubarikpur Bangar village in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh. The workshop was part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NMCG and Sahakar Bharti to set up at least 75 Ganga Sahakar Grams in the Ganga basin to promote natural farming and other interventions under Arth Ganga. The event also saw participation from district-level officials, State Mission for Clean Ganga, Uttar Pradesh, Wildlife Institute of India, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ganga Vichar Manch and other volunteers. Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Shri G. Asok Kumar also attended the event.



The journey of Sanjeev Kumar hasn't been easy: "I tried doing a lot of things. I started a factory but incurred losses. Finally, I attended one of the workshops by Mr. Subhash Palekar on Natural Farming and I haven't looked back since then," he said, adding, "I profit much more from Natural Farming than previously and I grow more than a dozen different crops in my 2-acre farm."

"I want to say that if you are ready to put in the hard work, even farmers can profit from their yield. But the

problem these days is that no one wants to work hard and all are looking for readymade solutions," Sanjeev Kumar added.

More than 8,000 farmers have been successfully nudged towards Natural Farming in the past one year with Arth Ganga initiatives. Farmers are growing healthier crops with much less external inputs enabling more "net-income per drop." In the absence of contaminated run-offs, Ganga also breathes better.

To aspire for a 'chemical farming-



mukt' Ganga Basin, Natural Farming is the need-of-the-hour. Whereas a technologically-aided modern outlook is necessary, a flashback every now and then into the traditional wisdom on preserving natural resources augurs well to strike the "sustainable" balance.



बाया नदी का जन संकल्प

डॉ अनिल प्रकाश जोशी
संस्थापक-हैस्को

भारत के पावन मिथिला क्षेत्र में गंगा नदी के उत्तरी किनारे पर स्थित बेगूसराय ज़िले की 7 पंचायतों ने पानी को लेकर एक अनोखा प्रयोग किया है। बाया नदी गंगा की एक सहायक नदी है जो बिहार में गंगा से मिलती है, उस नदी में इन पंचायतों ने अपनी ओर से पानी जुटाने के लिए भागीदारी हेतु एक मुहिम शुरू की। इन 7 पंचायतों की 1000 महिलाओं ने सामूहिक रूप से यह संकल्प लिया कि छठ पूजा में गंगा और इन नदियों का उपयोग पूजन किया जाता है इसलिए वो अपने दायित्व को समझते हुए सामूहिक रूप में इन नदियों का जलस्तर बढ़ाने के कार्य में जुट गईं। ये पंचायतें दादूपुर, रानी, गोविंदपुर, फतेहा आदि थीं। प्रत्येक पंचायत से 5-6 गाँवों ने इस मुहिम में भागीदारी की। इसके तहत उन्होंने तीन स्तर पर यह काम किया। पहला जहां बाया नदी की साफ सफाई की, वहीं दूसरी तरफ इस नदी के जलागम क्षेत्र प्रत्येक महिला ने करीब 5*2 फीट के जलछिद्र बनाये और करीब 1000 महिलाओं ने इस तरह से कार्य करते

हुए इस नदी के लिए पानी जुटाने का प्रयास किया। इस मुहिम में एक महिला एक जल कुंड का नारा लगा। इस प्रयोग में यह अनोखापन रहा। इसे इस रूप में भी समझा जा सकता है कि यह महिलाओं के द्वारा उठाया गया एक दायित्व है। आंचल संस्था की नेत्री श्रीमती कामिनी के नेतृत्व में इस कार्य को किया गया। इसके साथ ही नदी की साफ सफाई में जो भी खर पतवार जलकुंभी के रूप में निकली उसकी खाद बनाकर एक दूसरा प्रयोग भी साधा गया ताकि महिलाएं उसी खाद

का प्रयोग अपनी खेती बाड़ी में कर सकें। इन 7 पंचायतों की इस मुहिम ने पूरे क्षेत्र में एक और भी संदेश दिया कि जिस तरह हम छठ पूजा में नदियों का उपयोग करते हैं, वहीं दूसरी तरफ इनकी सुरक्षा और साफ सफाई करना भी हमारा दायित्व बन जाता है। आंचल संस्था उस क्षेत्र में इस रूप में भी महत्वपूर्ण मानी जाती है कि ये महिलाओं के साथ जुड़कर कई तरह के सामाजिक सरोकारों से जुड़े कार्यों में जुटी है। कामिनी जी के इस कार्य में नमामि गंगे परियोजना का सीधा





जुड़ाव और सहयोग है। नमामि गंगे और हैस्को की भागीदारी में स्वेच्छिक संगठनों, महिला संगठनों और युवाओं को गंगा के साथ जोड़ने की ये पहल कई रूप में रंग चुकी है और उसमें से एक बाया नदी है जो आज जल की मोहताज नहीं बल्कि लोगों के द्वारा जुटाए जल को नदी में प्रवाह करने का एक बहुत बड़ा उदाहरण बन गई है।

इस प्रयोग की प्रेरणा इन्हें हैस्को से मिली। हैस्को ने स्थानीय आसन गंगा नदी में जल की सफलतम वापसी की है। हैस्को ने आसन गंगा नदी के जलागम क्षेत्र में जल छिद्र और विभिन्न जल इकाइयों का निर्माण कर जलभिदों को रिचार्ज किया जिससे आसन गंगा नदी में पानी की वापसी हुई। इसके अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में जलागम क्षेत्र पर इस प्रयोग का सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा है और इसके आशाजनक परिणाम

सामने आए हैं। मिट्टी की नमी में वृद्धि के कारण जलागम क्षेत्र में पौधों की संख्या में वृद्धि होने से पारिस्थितिकी में भी सुधार हुआ है। इस प्रयोग के बाद इस क्षेत्र में वनाग्नि की भी घटनायें नहीं देखी गईं। इसका कारण मिट्टी में उच्च नमी के अलावा प्रचुर हरी भरी

वनस्पतियाँ भी थीं, इसके अलावा इस बेहतर पारिस्थितिक ने स्थानीय प्रजातियों के पुनर्जनन में भी मदद की जो पर्यावरण संवर्धन के लिए उपयुक्त हैं।

इस नदी के पुनरुद्धार के बाद इस पर निर्भर कृषि क्षेत्र 200 हेक्टेयर तक बढ़ गया है। इस नदी से 15 पनचक्कियाँ चल रही हैं जिससे इससे जुड़े लोगों को आजीविका मिली है। इस नदी से लगभग 32 गाँव जहाँ 10000 की आबादी है, जुड़े हुए हैं। इसके अलावा इस तकनीक से 65 जल निकायों का कायाकल्प किया गया है।

पानी की वापसी से स्थानीय लोगों को खेती के लिए पानी भी उपलब्ध हुआ और साथ ही भरपूर पानी होने से लोगों ने घराट पर भी कार्य करना शुरू किया जिससे उनकी आर्थिक भी मज़बूत हुई।

हैस्को के इसी प्रयोग से प्रेरणा लेकर झारखंड, बिहार उतर प्रदेश व अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी इसी तरह के प्रयोग को साधा जा रहा है और यह प्रयोग जन सहभागिता पर केन्द्रित है। खासतौर से इसमें महिलाओं की ही भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की गई है। इस प्रयोग से नदी में जलस्तर तो बढ़ा ही पर साथ में नदी और जन विश्वास भी साथ जुड़ गए है।

झमटिया गंगा घाट की कर वाटर रिचार्ज के लिए बनाये गये गड्डे

बछवाड़ा, मिथिलांचल इलाके के प्रसिद्ध झमटिया धाम गंगा घाट पर रविवार को गंगार्जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के बैनर तले आपक आंचल संस्था के द्वारा गंगा घाटों की सफाई व वाटर रिचार्ज के लिए एक सौ गड्डे बनाया गया, बताया चले कि झमटिया धाम गंगा घाट पर प्रति दिन हजारों की संख्या में श्रद्धालु गंगा स्नान व मुंडन संस्कार के लिए आते रहते हैं, लेकिन धीरे-धीरे झमटिया गंगा घाट में पानी कम हो जाने व जल कुंभी रहने के कारण दूर-दराज से आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को गंगा स्नान करने में काफी परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, इन्हीं सब समस्या को देखते हुए आपक आंचल संस्था के सचिव कर्माग्नी कुमारी ने संस्था के सैक्रेट्री महिला व पुरुष को लेकर झमटिया गंगा घाट पर्यटक श्रमदान के तहत गंगा जल को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए गंगा के



झमटिया घाट पर साफ-सफाई करते आगामी आंचल संस्था के सदस्य, किनारे एक सौ गड्डे कर वाटर रिचार्ज बनाया गया तथा गंगा के पानी से जलकुंभों को वाटर निकाला गया, कार्यक्रम को लेकर आपक आंचल संस्था के सचिव ने बताया कि गंगा का जलस्तर दिन प्रतिदिन निचे गिरता जा रहा है, आज गिरे जलस्तर को बचाने की जिम्मेदारी सिर्फ सरकार को ही नहीं, बल्कि हम सभी लोगों की है, जिस तरह से पानी का जलस्तर निचे गिरता जा रहा है, आने वाले समय में लोगों पर इसका बुरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा, ऐसी स्थिति में हम सबको मिलकर पानी को बचाने की जरूरत है, तभी हम

आने वाले समाज को स्वच्छ जल प्रदान कर सकते हैं, गंगार्जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के बैनर तले आपक आंचल सदस्यों के द्वारा झमटिया से झमटिया गंगा घाट के किनारे तीन से चार फीट के गड्डे बनाकर वाटर रिचार्ज बनाया गया है, साथ ही गंगा घाट पर लगे जलकुंभों को हटाकर गंगा की पानी को साफ किया गया है, उन्होंने बताया कि इस अभियान के तहत बछवाड़ा प्रखंड के विभिन्न गंगा घाटों व बलान नदी के किनारे साफ सफाई के साथ साथ वाटर रिचार्ज बनाया जायेगा, जिससे बरखात के समय में वाटर रिचार्ज के तहत जलस्तर को निचे जाने से रोका जा सके, मौके पर राजकुमार चौधरी, अशोक चौधरी, शैल कुमारी, बसंती देवी, देवमा देवी, छोट्ट चौधरी, सैरध चौधरी, हेमन पासवान समेत आपक आंचल संस्था के सैक्रेट्री महिला व पुरुष मौजूद थे,

बिहार के पटना जिले के रहने वाले शुभम कुमार बताते हैं कि जिस तरह से जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है उस प्रकार प्रदूषण का स्तर भी बढ़ता चला जा रहा है और और लोग गंगा घाट के आसपास गन्दगी भी लगातार फैलाते चले जा रहे हैं। शुभम कुमार एक सिविल इंजीनियर है और वह मूलतः बिहार के पटना जिले के निवासी हैं। शुभम ने सामाजिक कार्यों के लिए एक टीम की स्थापना की, जिसका नाम 'बीइंग हेल्पर फाउंडेशन' रखा। टीम में जुड़े हजारों की संख्या में युवा इसे अपना परिवार मानते हैं।

शुभम बताते हैं टीम में जितने भी युवा जुड़े हैं उसमें अधिकांश सरकारी नौकरी या प्राइवेट कंपनियों में कार्यरत है और जब भी वह गंगा घाट की सफाई करने जाते थे तो आसपास के पड़ोसी उनकी टीम के हर एक सदस्य को कचरा साफ करने वाले व्यक्ति कहकर उपेक्षित व अपमानित करने लगते थे। आसपास के लोग यह ताना मारते थे कि इतनी बड़ी कंपनी में काम करने के बावजूद कचरा साफ करते हैं। यह लोग और भी बहुत कुछ सुनने को मिलता था मगर हमारी टीम ने यह ठान लिया था कि हमें अपने पर्यावरण के साथ-साथ गंगा मां को भी बचाना है। टीम के सैकड़ों सदस्य हर रविवार को झाड़ू, कुदाल, रियूजेबल बैग इत्यादि लेकर गंगा घाट किनारे पहुंचकर वहां पर मौजूद प्लास्टिक की सामग्री को एकत्रित करके नजदीकी प्लास्टिक बनाने वाली फैक्ट्री या नगर निगम को सौंपने का कार्य करते आ रहे हैं पिछले 7 सालों से गंगा घाट के आस-पास मौजूद धार्मिक स्थलों पर भी जाकर लोगों के बीच में जागरूकता फैलाने का भी कार्य टीम के द्वारा लगातार जारी है, जिसमें वे आम लोगों को यह बात समझाते हैं कि गंगा घाट के किनारे जब भी आप जाएं तो गंगा में जो भी सामग्री विसर्जित करते हैं उसमें प्लास्टिक की सामग्री या कोई भी केमिकल जिससे गंगा मां प्रदूषित हो सकती है, उसे वहां पर ना फेंके। साथ-साथ हर रविवार के दिन पौधा रोपण का भी कार्य पिछले 7 सालों से बीइंग हेल्पर फाउंडेशन की टीम करते आ रही है।

गंगा घाट के पास कूड़े कचरे के ढेर को साफ करने के साथ-साथ घाट सुंदर दिख सके और

वहां पर अनेक प्रकार की कार्यक्रम हो सके इसके लिए उनकी टीम लगातार बहुत सारे अभियान राज्य स्तर पर कर चुके हैं। वर्तमान में सैकड़ों लोगों को इनकी टीम गंगा नदी के पास रोजगार देने का भी काम कर रही है जिससे लोग गंगा घाट को पर्यटक स्थल बना चुके हैं और अपनी जिम्मेदारी को समझकर गंगा घाट को साफ सुथरा रखने में आम नागरिक भी योगदान दे रहे हैं।

शुभम कुमार के ढाई साल के बेटे जिनका नाम चिराग है, वह भी इतनी कम उम्र में गंगा घाट के पास जाकर अपनी गंगा मां को बचाने के लिए सफाई अभियान में अपना योगदान देते हैं। शुभम कुमार का कहना है कि अपनी संस्कृति अपने बच्चों को भी सिखानी है जिससे हम लोग अपनी गंगा मां को बचा सकेंगे वर्तमान के समय में कई गंगा घाट पर सफाई के कारण हजारों की संख्या में लोग इकट्ठा हो रहे हैं और उस स्थान को पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में देखने को मिल रहा है। लोगों के बीच में जागरूकता आने से हम लोग अपनी गंगा मैया को बचा पा रहे हैं और साथ-साथ सैकड़ों लोगों को रोजगार भी प्राप्त हो पा रहा है शुभम और उसकी टीम ने यह प्रण लिया है कि किसी भी हालत में लगातार गंगा सफाई अभियान और सबसे



शुभम कुमार सिंह
बीइंग हेल्पर फाउंडेशन
पटना

पिछले 7 सालों से पटना के विभिन्न गंगा घाटों की सफाई प्रत्येक रविवार को शुभम की टीम करती आ रही है और साथ-साथ वृक्षारोपण भी जिसके कारण शुभम की टीम को अनेक सरकारी एवं गैर सरकारी संस्था के माध्यम से सम्मानित भी किया गया है।

ज्यादा जन जागरूकता अभियान भी करते रहना है। आम लोगों के बीच में जागरूकता आने से एक दिन ऐसा आएगा कि उनकी टीम को गंगा घाट साफ करने की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ेगी।



Water Quality Improved, Gangetic Dolphin Sightings Increase

ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore along with Regional Center at Prayagraj has been continuously monitoring and assessing the ecology and fisheries including fishermen livelihood and river habitat of river Ganga, and has created the repository of biology and ecological data on Ganga River system. Simultaneously, the institute has been assigned with the issues related to conservation of the Gangetic Dolphins. Gangetic Dolphins have been observed at main channel of the Ganga spanning Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal across upper, middle and lower stretches. The abundance of Dolphin was noticed very frequently at different places along Farakka stretch including locations such as Deer forest, Gumani and lower Farakka barrage and confluence zone of Ganga and Jalangi River at Nabadwip. In the lower stretch, Dolphins have been reported on regular basis during the operation of bag net specifically in February and March. Around 1-2 times sightings were made throughout the year at lower stretch of Ganga. The possible reason may be attributed to the improvement of ecological health of the Ganga as it is considered as ecosystem indicator species. In upper stretch, significant improvement of dissolved oxygen (DO) was observed in Prayagraj (33%), Kanpur (18%). In middle stretch, increasing trend of DO was recorded at Bhagalpur (28%) and Patna (22%). The average pH value ranged from 7.2 to 9.51 indicating neutral to alkaline condition

throughout the stretch of river Ganga which is suitable for survival of aquatic organism.

Dolphin sightings

In some selected sites, small groups (3-5 in number) of Dolphins were recorded; however, at confluence sites such as Katwa (confluences of the Ajoy-Bhagirathi River), Nabadwip (Bhagirathi-Jalangi River confluence), Sabuj Dweep (Hooghly-Behula River confluence), Balagarh (Confluence of the Bhagirathi-Churni River), Kulpi (Hooghly-Haldi River confluence), the groups are found to be thicker with 5–17 in number. As per the study

of ICAR-CIFRI under Namami Gange programme, as many as 289 Dolphin populations were estimated in the lower stretch of river Ganga (Farakka to Kakdwip). The study also confirmed that freshwater Dolphins mainly inhabited river confluences, or tributary junctions, and river meanderings with prey-fish abundance.

Dolphin survey in tributary of Ganga

A survey-cum-public awareness program was conducted to observe the presence and abundance of Gangetic Dolphins in the Bhagalpur-Supaul stretch of



Dolphin sighting at Dumri ghat, Sonbarsah, Dist-Khagaria, Bihar



Awareness program at Dumri ghat, Sonbarsah, Dist-Khagaria, Bihar



River Kosi (a tributary of river Ganga). The CIFRI-NMCG team observed Gangetic Dolphin at Nawada, Milaki, and Sahora sites of Naugachia, Sonbarshah, Khagaria; Nauhatta, Akardh, Gonghepur, and Basahi, Saharsa and Saheban, Piprahipatti Golari, Kaleanpur and Basbitti of Supaul district. Further, on interaction with local fishermen, it was learnt that they are aware of the conservation and legal issues connected to harming Dolphins. As per fishermen, sightings of Dolphins are more towards the confluence of River Bagmati and Kosi. It is also reported that at the time of summer season, Dolphins migrate into river Baghmata from Kosi due to lowered water levels.

A Dolphin availability survey was also conducted by CIFRI-NMCG team at Khandua, Lalgola, West Bengal during the period. It is reported that Dolphin sighting in the area is very much common round the year. Both adult and juveniles are available in the region with numbers more than 25. Regular sighting of 8-10 per hour is very common in this area. A mass awareness on conservation of



Gangetic Dolphin Sighting at Godakbali and Farakka, West Bengal

Gangetic Dolphins was conducted and the local fishermen were highlighted about the importance in the biodiversity aspects in river Ganga.

Awareness Programmes

Total 389 awareness programmes were conducted by ICAR-CIFRI under the Namami Gange programme during the year 2020-2023 respectively covering states like Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal towards conservation of Gangetic River Dolphins at

different ghats of Ganga River. More than 13,000 local people including fishermen were sensitized about the importance of Dolphin as a national aquatic animal and not to harm their habitat of Ganga and contribute in their conservation by their active participation and involvement. In the near future, Namami Gange Programme will be exploring the possibility of livelihood related activities such as Dolphin Tourism.

Saman Bird Sanctuary

The Saman Bird Sanctuary in the Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain. It is heavily reliant on the arrival of the south-westerly monsoon in July and August, which provides the vast majority of annual rainfall. The Sanctuary regularly provides refuge to over 50,000 waterbirds (187 bird species have been recorded) and is particularly

important as a wintering site for many migrants including the greylag goose (*Anser anser*), with over 1% of the South Asian population present during winter. Vulnerable species including sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) are also found. Saman Sanctuary was actually notified in 1990 in order to protect the large population of sarus cranes

in the area. The resident population of storks in the Sanctuary includes painted stork, black-necked stork, open-billed stork and woolly-necked stork. Ecosystem services provided include supply of fresh water for agriculture, as well as recreation and nature-based tourism based around the huge diversity of birds.





United Schools Organisation of India (USO), is a registered society, established in 1951 with a mandate to advance the social, cultural and moral standard of schools in India to global levels by providing schools access to extra-curricular tests, seminars, conferences, competitions and campaigns on a national platform.

This is a series to highlight various activities undertaken by USO and its associated network of schools on River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation.

WATER CONSERVATION

In our planet where rivers go winding along
the way,
And oceans stretch far far away.
I am here to convey a message to thee.
To all residing here along with me

A liquid gold, so pure, so grand
A source of devotion in this very land,
Now finds itself in a situation abysmal
Polluted was land but now water as well !

Gone are the days it used to be,
When lakes used to run, splashing water with glee.
Now all what they do is cry for help
Pleading for mercy, some appealing for relief.

Now remains no water in the deserts and sand,
What green could grow in a barren land ?
Aah, its gonna cost us, much more than it seems
Many lives will perish, and along with them their
dreams.

Water has become filthy, so will our body be
chass everywhere will arise eventually matter of factly
lakes will become craters and water stale speaking
statistically.

And only in books if history we'll read about adm's
ale

So let's not ignore and brush off the fact
it's high time now for us to act
come on, step up, and along with me you say,
that we promise to cherish, guard and conserve water
from today

Let's turn off the taps and seal off the leaks
For in our journey to conserve, each step speaks
let's not waste water and let's not do dirt,
For in its purity, life finds its birth.



Arunabh Mishra, Std. XII-A
Valley View School,
TRT Nagar, Telco Jamshedpur, Jharkhand



Under the India-EU Water Partnership (#IEWP) Action Phase 2, implemented by @giz_india, a team of officials from NMCG, Central Electricity Authority, SMCG UP, and SPMG-UK went on a 2-day visit to Chennai in July for an exchange with the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board.



Hon'ble MoS visited Mathura on July 24th and held a review meeting of all NMCG projects at Trans-Yamuna STP, Lakshmi Nagar, Mathura. Dr Shiv Pratap Raghuvanshi, NMCG, Sh. Pradeep Khandelwal (CE, UPJN), Sh R P Singh (PM, UPJN) and team joined the meeting.



DG-NMCG gave a keynote address at "1st Annual Meet and International Conference on Advancing Circular Economy and Water Reuse" organised by Namami Gange in collaboration with TERI at IHC, on July 27



DG-NMCG, addressed the "Conference on Flood Risk Mitigation and Management" Discussing the escalating urban flooding problem in the country on July 26th. He highlighted issues and talked about the solutions that need to be taken to deal with them.



Shri D.P. Mathuria, ED-T, NMCG chaired a meeting on July 24th with IEWP Mission team regarding Safe Reuse of Treated Water. The meeting was attended by Mr. Praveen Kumar, Dir-(I), Ms Laura Sustersic, Project Manager for Implementation Support to India-EU Water Partnership & other officials.



DG-NMCG, delivered the keynote address during the session of the Training program "Managing Urban River - From Planning to Practice" via video conferencing. The training was conducted by NMCG at Patna in collaboration with @ NIUA India under RCA initiative on 27th July.



प्रगति मैदान, दिल्ली में गवर्नमेंट अचीवमेंट्स एंड स्कीम्स एक्सपो में हॉल न० 7E में लगाई गई नमामि गंगे की प्रदर्शनी में स्कूल के बच्चों के बीच #चाचा_चौधरी की कॉमिक्स को लेकर खूब उत्साह है। गंगा राम का किरदार आजकल उनका फेवरेट है। आप भी आएं!



गंगा टास्क फ़ोर्स के अधिकारी एवं जवानों द्वारा प्रयागराज, कानपुर और वाराणसी में गंगा नदी के कटाव से भूमि को बचाने के लिए खस (वेटिवर) के पौधों का लगातार किया जा रहा है रोपण। भूमि क्षरण के बचाव के साथ-साथ हरियाली का भी है ये द्योतक।



Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary chaired on 13th July a meeting to discuss the institutional mechanism regarding setting up water quality monitoring stations in the country and other issues.



DG-NMCG, delivered a keynote address at the "Virtual Conference on Global Citizenship Fostering Greening Education Partnership for a Sustainable Environment" on 20th July 2023 and commended universities for taking the lead in initiatives & discussions aimed at addressing climate change.



On July 17th, students and educators from North Eastern University in Boston, USA, paid a visit to the National Mission for Clean Ganga. During the visit, DG-NMCG, ED-T and ED-A, NMCG interacted with the students.



DG, NMCG chaired a meeting with the State authorities of Jharkhand and Bihar for the project of rejuvenation of the Niranjana River. Representatives of IIM Bodhgaya and Niranjana River Recharge Mission also participated in the meeting.



DG-NMCG on 20th July chaired a session on "Training on Occupational Health & Safety Audit". ED-T NMCG and other senior NMCG and project officials were also present. The workshop was attended by more than 400 officials. The workshop not only deliberated upon various risk mitigation strategies but also discussed about bringing behaviour changes towards preparedness.



DG-NMCG, chaired a discussion meeting on 12th July with HESCO to promote Ganga Bhog at Mandirs on the banks of Ganga. It is another attempt under Arth Ganga to involve people in connecting faith and livelihood.



मछुआरा दिवस 2023 के उपलक्ष्य पर गंगा टास्क फ़ोर्स के अधिकारियों और जवानों ने राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के सदस्यों के साथ मिलकर प्रयागराज के मेकफर्सन लेक में मछली छोड़ने एवं पौधा वितरण के कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।



DG-NMCG, gave a keynote address at the "Conference on Circularity for Sustainable Recovery of Resources for a Circular Economy," organized by @vatechwabag in collaboration with Namami Gange on 7th July.



In an insightful discussion on 19th August, DG NMCG and notable experts explored the uniqueness of Namami Gange mission and its potential to transform India's river systems. The distinguished panel included Shri U P Singh, former Secretary of Ministries of Textile and Jal Shakti, Sh. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, former DG-NMCG, Prof. Vinod Tare from IIT Kanpur, and Sh. Suresh Babu from WWF India.



DG-NMCG, chaired a workshop on the "Economics of Sludge Management" on 3rd July organized by NMCG and cGanga.



वन महोत्सव 2023 के उपलक्ष्य में 137 सी ई टी एफ बटालियन (टी ए) 39 जी आर ने प्रयागराज, वाराणसी व कानपुर के गाँवों में जाकर नागरिकों को वन का महत्व समझाया तथा वन के अनेको फायदों के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक किया।



गंगा टास्क फ़ोर्स के अधिकारी एवं जवानों ने अपने अभियान में आगे बढ़ते हुए रानी लक्ष्मी बाई इंटर कॉलेज के छात्राओं एवं अध्यापकों के साथ मिलकर 22 अगस्त को पत्थर घाट, बिठूर, कानपुर में वृक्षारोपण एवं जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।



In continuation to the MoU signed between Amity & NMCG, Amity University Noida's Environment Department organized a workshop on 24th August 2023 'Navigating the Opportunities & Challenges in Water Management for a Sustainable World' under Mission Life.



A group of assistant secretaries visited NMCG office on 23rd August to learn about the mission and work being done around the Ganga basin, from the rejuvenation of polluted river stretches to the conservation of biodiversity and the initiatives being taken up towards the cause.



DG, NMCG applauds the afforestation drive initiated by Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences @MAHE_Manipal. These initiatives in fostering environmental & water conservation efforts are being done under the aegis of Namami Gange's Universities Connect initiative.



एनएमसीजी व एसपीएमजी, उत्तराखण्ड के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में यमुना नदी के हरि घाट, हरिपुर में जीएसआर फाउण्डेशन द्वारा ग्राम प्रधान तथा स्थानीय लोगों के सहयोग से जनजागरूकता हेतु स्वच्छता अभियान कार्यक्रम चलाया गया।



एनएमसीजी एवं एसपीएमजी #उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा हर घर तिरंगा, हर घाट तिरंगा कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम ऋषिकेश के त्रिवेणी घाट, अगस्त्यमुनि के अगस्त्यमुनि घाट, देवप्रयाग के संगम घाट, हरिद्वार के चण्डीघाट, डाकपत्थर देहरादून के यमुना बैराज घाट एवं उत्तरकाशी के केदार घाट पर किया गया।



साहिबगंज, नमामि गंगे घाट पर 15 अगस्त को माननीय विधायक श्री अनंत ओझा जी द्वारा हर घर, हर घाट तिरंगा 2023 अभियान के तहत लोगों को गंगा स्वच्छता की शपथ दिलाई गई।



On 10th August a 13-member delegation from Taiwan visited the 318 MLD WWTP Coronation Pillar in Delhi under the Green Productivity mission to India. The purpose was to showcase the initiatives taken by NMCG in combating pollution in the Ganga River & controlling waste in other rivers



On 10th August, DG, NMCG, gave a special address at the Inaugural Session of "Water-Tech 2023: Transforming Water Management with Cutting Edge Technology within & Beyond" at The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi.



As the water in holy Ganga recedes, plantation carried out by GTF all along the Ghats at Varanasi being checked and secured to ensure the greenery of the Ghats.



Sh. D.P. Mathuria, ED-T, NMCG chaired the discussion about first results of E-Flows Assessment carried out by GIZ India, a team of EU experts & key stakeholders.



On 8th August, ED (T), NMCG chaired a meeting with a delegation from the Fukuoka Prefecture International Affairs Bureau (FPIAB), Japan. The discussion revolved around exploring the opportunities of on boarding Fukuoka, Japan, into the River Cities Alliance.



On 3rd August, DG, NMCG, chaired a meeting on Operational Planning of NMCG-PTB, GIZ international Technical Cooperation Project "Strengthening quality infrastructure for water monitoring of the Ganges River II".

SNIPPETS



On 2nd August, DG, NMCG chaired a meeting for review of Okhla and Rithala STP projects with DJB and the concessionaire.



On 12th September, Sh Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, @ MoJSDoWRRDGR chaired the 17th Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) meeting in the presence of DG-NMCG



On 16th September, DG, NMCG visited the Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre at WII & discussed the projects with team regarding the progress of the NMCG biodiversity project and the JALAJ project.



LT. Gen. Sh Gajendra Joshi, DG-TA, called upon DG, NMCG on 6th September at the NMCG office to discuss collaborative efforts, future projects, and strategies that can be undertaken towards river rejuvenation and environmental conservation.



On 13th September, DG-NMCG, chaired a meeting with NIUA and CSE on the convergence of Urban Initiatives of NMCG. During the meeting, presentations and discussions on the vision, aims, and objectives took place.



Taking Ganga cleanliness efforts and knowledge to the youth. Ganga Task Force carried out awareness on in-situ Bio-remediation process in treatment of drains to the NCC cadets at Kanpur



On 8th September, in the presence of Sh. Nalin Kumar Srivastava, DDG-NMCG, the Second Ramganga River Basin Management Committee meeting discussed progress, presented risk assessments for key water management issues, and shared a Program of Measures concept.



On 15th September, the Hon. Minister of Uttar Pradesh visited the Namami Gange pavilion at the International Conference on Dam Safety, 2023, in Jaipur

Namami Gange

Set up in the late 1980s, the turtle rehab centre has so far released over 40,000 turtles into the river. **FILIP PHOTO**

आइसीएआर-सिफरी, वैरकपुर में राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन परियोजना के तहत "गंगा नदी में मछली संरक्षण और रैनिंग पर कार्यशाला" का आयोजन किया



वैरकपुर में आयोजित कार्यशाला में भाग ले रहे आइसीएआर के वैरकपुर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. ए.के. सिफरी (बाएं) और गंगा नदी में मछली संरक्षण और रैनिंग परियोजना के तहत "गंगा नदी में मछली संरक्षण और रैनिंग पर कार्यशाला" का आयोजन किया।

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Only 30 eggs are kept in a cations, officials found th

इको टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा, गांगेय डॉल्फिन आश्रयणी में करायी जायेगी बोटिंग



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In 2014, the Wildlife In- of India (WII) and Ministry of Forest hands with the Nam- Mission for Clean (NMCG), the agency penting the Namami Programme. Since

डॉल्फिन की संख्या तीन



राज्य सरकार द्वारा डॉल्फिन की संख्या तीन है।



जाजमक बाजिदपुर में निर्माणाधीन सीटंटीपी का निरीक्षण करते हैं शैनल मिशन कार वलीन गंगा के अधिकारी नलिन कुमार श्रीवास्तव (बाएं) और साथ में डा. प्रवीन कुमार रायचंद अन्य अधिकारी • जाजमक

ईटीपी का निर्माण 15 सितंबर तक पूरा कराने के आदेश

जाजमक : टेंदरी के दूषित पानी को ट्रीट करने के लिए बाजिदपुर जाजमक में टेंदरी इन्फ्लैट ट्रीटमेंट लापरवाही न बरती जाए। साथ ही सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) के संचालन को ठेका। उन्होंने जल

World Bank Lauds Namami Gange



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'Work on Ganga m focus now on tribu

WITH WORK on the 'main stem' of the Ganga already underway, the focus is now turning to the tributaries of the river, including the Yamuna, which should see a "substantial improvement in water quality" in Delhi by December this year, said G ASOK KUMAR, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in a conversation with ABHINAV HARBHANGI. Kumar explained



जाजमक में टेंदरी इन्फ्लैट ट्रीटमेंट लापरवाही न बरती जाए। साथ ही सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) के संचालन को ठेका। उन्होंने जल

नामामि गंगे के एसटीपी का आडिट कराएगा एनएमसीजी

चमोली हार्दर से लवक

जाजमक में टेंदरी इन्फ्लैट ट्रीटमेंट लापरवाही न बरती जाए। साथ ही सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) के संचालन को ठेका। उन्होंने जल

चारापसी जागरण

गंगा किनारे पांच किमी में प्राकृतिक खेती

कैदीय सहकारिता राज्य मंत्री कालर चमा ने गंगा साहकर गांव परियोजना का किवा गुमार

जाजमक में टेंदरी इन्फ्लैट ट्रीटमेंट लापरवाही न बरती जाए। साथ ही सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) के संचालन को ठेका। उन्होंने जल

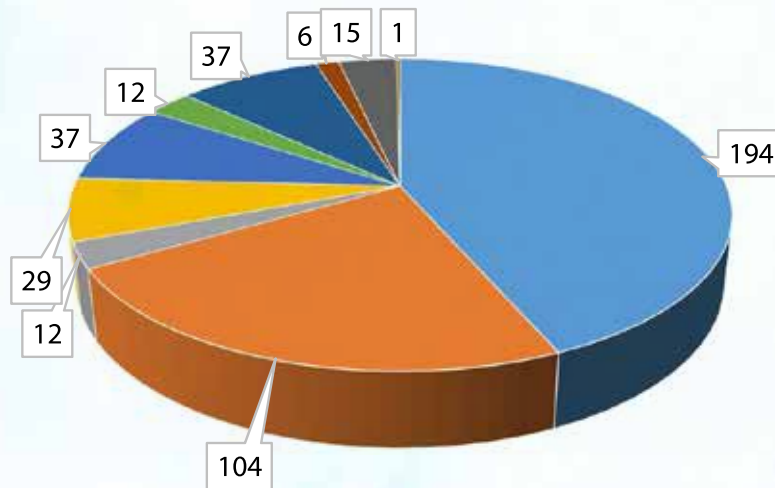
the centre has covered over 40,000 to the river. In centre got re- ment after the Namami Gange

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Project Updates (July & August 2023)

As of September 2023, Namami Gange mission has sanctioned 448 projects worth Rs 37985.62 Crores under various project components such as sewerage infrastructure, industrial pollution abatement, biodiversity, afforestation, wetland conservation, river front development, groundwater management, public outreach, research, and studies. Out of this, 260 projects are completed, and the remaining are under various stages of execution.



- Sewerage Infrastructure
- Solid Waste Management
- Project Implementation/ Research and Studies/ Public Outreach
- Afforestation
- Bioremediation --
- River Front Development
- Institutional Development (Non-Infrastructure)
- Biodiversity
- Composite Ecological Task Force & Ganga Mitra
- Sanitation (Construction of IHHL in Gram Panchayats along Ganga)

Sewerage Infrastructure:

Completion:

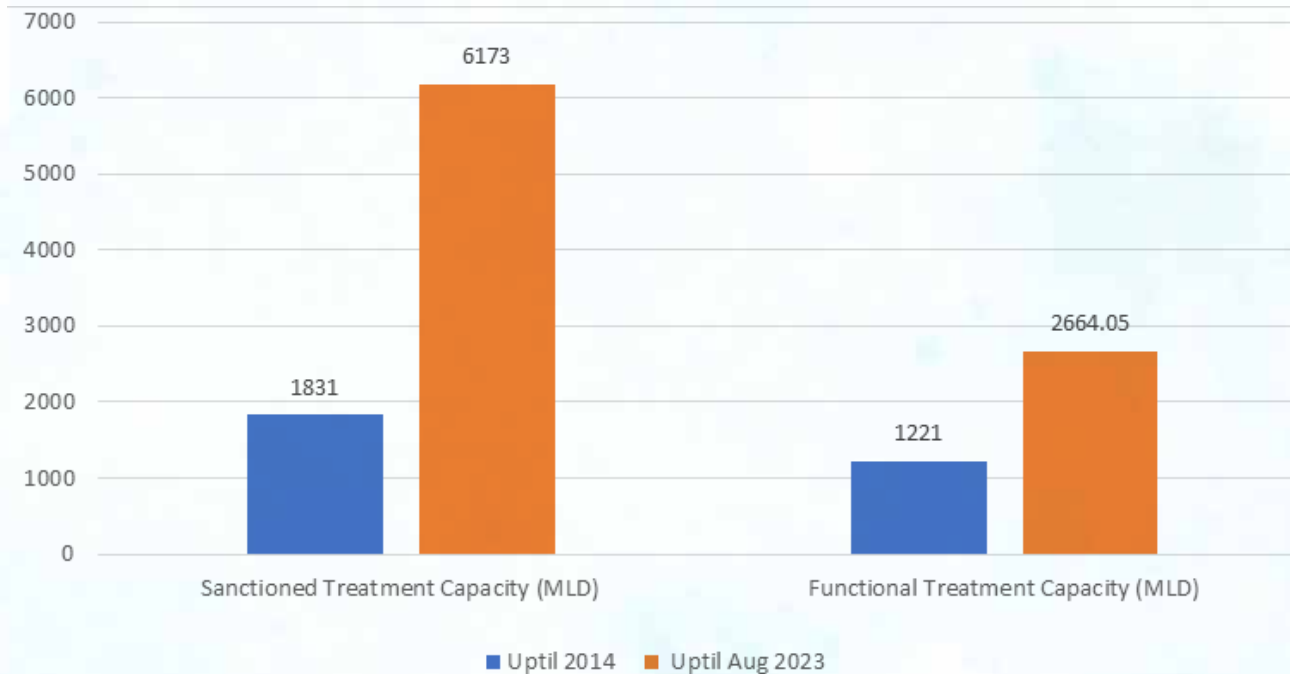
- 30 MLD treatment capacity completed in Jaunpur, Interception & Diversion (I&D) works and STP at Jaunpur. The project was completed in July 2023.
- Rehabilitation of existing sewage treatment infrastructure, development of sewage Treatment Plant at Pankha (30 MLD) along with appurtenant works, and 15 years O & M (Operation & Maintenance) at Kanpur in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Hybrid Annuity based PPP mode under Namami Gange Program. Rehabilitation, Operation & Maintenance of 130 MLD STP in Jajmau Zone. The project was completed in July 2023.
- Rehabilitation and upgradation of Kondli Phase-I STP (45 MLD), Phase-II STP (114 MLD) & Phase-III STP (45 MLD). The project was completed in July 2023.

Ghats and Crematoria details as of August 2023

- Total Ghats and Crematoria projects sanctioned – 97
- 78 projects are completed, 12 projects are ongoing and 4 are under tendering and 3 AA&ES issued.

Treatment Capacity in the Basin:

Time Period	No. of Years	Capacity Created (MLD)	No. of Towns Covered
Apr' 1985 – Mar' 2014	29	1,221	25
Under Namami Gange (April' 2014 to August 2023)	8	6073	97



The spectacular first look of Bhakhtiyarpur STP! This state-of-the-art facility will be a game-changer in wastewater management, providing clean water and promoting a healthier environment.



Interception & Diversion works and 30 MLD STP at Jaunpur completed. The project taps sewage through 14 nos. of I&D structures to abate the pollution of the river.



Rehabilitation of existing Sewage Treatment Infrastructure, 30 MLD at Pankha, Kanpur along with appurtenant works and Rehabilitation of 130 MLD STP completed in Jajmau Zone

माँ गंगा का पुण्यफल किसे ?...

गंगा स्नान का पर्व था भारी भीड़ गंगा स्नान का पूर्ण लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए जा रही थी। सभी गंगा माता की जय बोल रहे थे। शंकर-पार्वती सूक्ष्म शरीर से आकाश मार्ग से जा रहे थे। मां पार्वती ने इतनी भीड़ को एक ही दिन गंगा स्नान के लिए जाने पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया और शंकर जी से इसका कारण पूछा। शंकर जी ने कहा आज सोमवती अमावस्या पर्व है। शास्त्रों में इस पर्व का बहुत महात्माय बताया गया है, और स्नान करने वाले स्वर्ग जाते हैं, ऐसा लिखा गया है। इसी कारण हर पर्व पर इतने लोग गंगा स्नान को आते हैं। पार्वती जी का असमंजस और भी अधिक बढ़ गया। उन्होंने कहा-स्वर्ग से तो हम लोगों का संपर्क निरंतर रहता है। वहां तो थोड़ी जगह है। इतने लोग हर पर पर आते हैं, हर साल कई सोमवती अमावस्याएं पड़ती हैं, एक वर्ष में ही करोड़ों लोग डुबकी लगाते हैं। तो 100 वर्ष में तो इनकी संख्या इतनी हो जाएगी, जितनी के लिए वहां खड़े होने की जगह भी नहीं है, इसीलिए यह महात्म्य गलत मालूम पड़ता है। साथ ही शास्त्र लिखने वाले ऋषि झूठ क्यों बोलेंगे? यह बात भी समझ में नहीं आती देव! इस संदेह का निवारण कीजिए। शिवजी बोले- हे देवी! स्नान के साथ मन को स्वच्छ बनाने की भी शर्त है। उसका पालन यह स्नान करने वाले करते नहीं और केवल मेला -मनोरंजन भर करते हैं। उसे पुण्य के भागीदार नहीं बनते, जो शास्त्र कारों ने स्वर्ग जाने के रूप में कहा है। पार्वती जी की शंका का निराकरण न होते देख शिव जी ने उन्हें उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए वस्तु स्थिति समझने का प्रयत्न करने की बात सोची। उन्होंने एक नाटक रचा। जिस रास्ते दर्शनार्थी जा रहे थे उसी से सटकर दोनों वेश बदलकर बैठ गए। शिव जी ने व्योवृद्धकोढ़ी का रूप बनाया और पार्वती को असाधारण सुंदरी बनाकर पास में बिठा लिया। इस विचित्र जोड़े को देखकर दर्शनार्थ पूछते कि आप लोग आपस में कौन हैं? यहां किसी प्रयोजन से बैठे हैं? पूर्व योजना के अनुसार पार्वती कहती हैं यह! वृद्ध मेरे पति हैं उनकी इच्छा गंगा स्नान की हुई अंग उनके काम नहीं देते, तो इन्हें मैं अपनी पीठ पर लादकर यात्रा पूरी कर रही हूं। बहुत थक जाने के कारण हम लोग यहां बैठे सुस्ता रहे हैं। जल्द ही हम शेष यात्रा पूरी करेंगे। कल ही तो सोमवती अमावस्या है। पूछने वालों में से अधिकांश लोगों की कुटिल दृष्टि थी। इशारों-शब्दों से उनमें से प्रत्येक ने अपने-अपने ढंग से एक ही परामर्श दिया कि इस बुढ़े को गंगा में छोड़ देना चाहिए और रूपसी को उनके साथ चलना चाहिए। उनके लिए हर प्रकार की सुख- सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी, चैन की जिंदगी कटेगी इन परामर्शों को सुनते-सुनते पार्वती हैरान हो गई कि यह कैसे धर्मात्मा लोग हैं? वह गंगा स्नान करने जा रहे हैं। पर उनके मन में इतने कलुषित विचार हैं तो धर्म आडंबर रचने से क्या लाभ? पार्वती जी पूछ बैठी- हे नाथ क्या सभी ऐसे ही होते हैं? इस पर शिव जी बोले- हाथों की पांचो उंगलियां एक समान नहीं होती। इस भीड़ में कुछ सच्चे लोग भी होते हैं। वे भी तुम्हें देखने को मिलेंगे। काफ़ी प्रतीक्षा के बाद एक भावुक भक्त उधर आया। ध्यान पूर्वक इन पति पत्नी की स्थिति और मनोदशा बार- बार परखता रहा और गदगद हो गया। सुंदरी के पग वंदन करता हुआ बोला -'देवी, तुम धन्य हो तुम्हारे जैसी नारियों की धर्म भावना से ही यह धरती-आकाश अपनी जगह पर स्थित है। मैं कुछ आप लोगों की सेवा करना चाहता हूं। मेरे पास कुछ सत्तू है इसे आप लोग भी ग्रहण करें। भूखे होंगे न? इसके बाद इन वृद्ध सज्जन को मैं अपनी पीठ पर बिठाकर गंगा स्नान कराऊंगा। आप कहेंगी तो आपके घर तक भी इन्हें पहुंचा आऊंगा। शिव जी ने पार्वती से कहा -देखा इतनी भीड़ में केवल यह आदमी तीर्थ सेवन की गंगा स्नान की शर्तों को पूरी तरह कर रहा है। यही है वह, जिसको स्वर्ग जाने का प्रतिफल मिलेगा जिसका वर्णन गंगा स्नान के संबंध में ऋषि मनीषियों ने किया है।

चन्द्रप्रकाश चौहान

प्रान्त संयोजक प, उत्तर प्रदेश
नमामि गंगे गंगा विचार मंच.

नमामि
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Arth
Ganga
Banking on River Ganga

स्वच्छता ही सेवा

15 सितंबर-2 अक्टूबर 2023

कचरा मुक्त घाट
कचरा मुक्त भारत

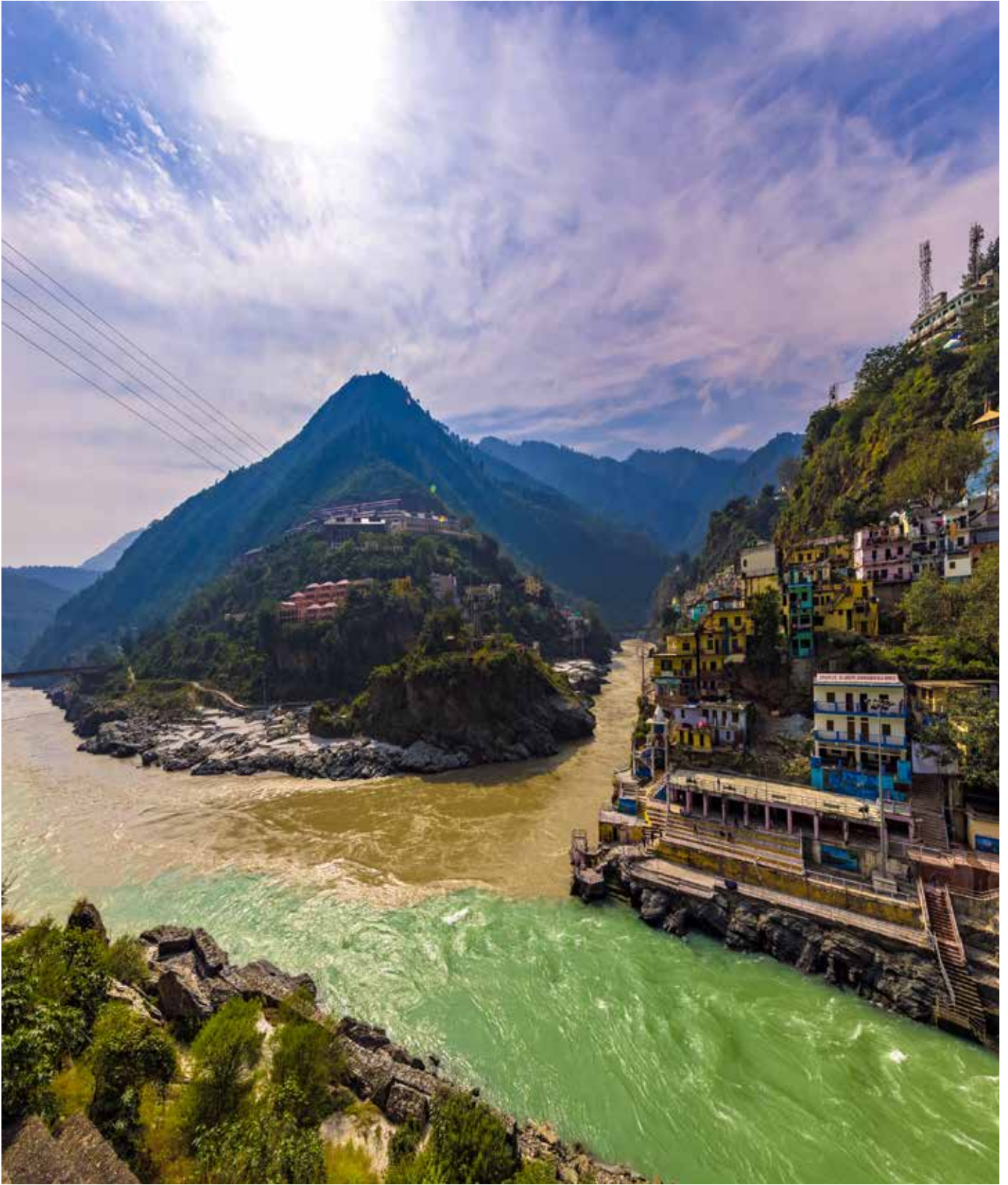
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