



**पवनः पवतामस्मि रामः शस्त्रमृतामहम् ।
झषाणां मकश्चास्मि स्रोतसामस्मि जाह्वी ॥**

River Ganga, along with her many tributaries, has been the source of physical and spiritual sustenance of Indian civilization for millennia. And all through the ages, Indians held the munificent River Ganga as a Divine Body. To the Indian mind, River Ganga is not only the holiest of rivers and purifier of mortal beings, but also a living Goddess – MOTHER GANGA!

River Ganga is a lifeline for millions. It drains a basin of extraordinary variation in altitude, climate, land use and cropping pattern. Ganga has been a cradle of human civilization since time immemorial. It is one of the most sacred rivers in the world and is deeply revered by the people of this country. Despite being highly revered and being the primary water resource for the heartland of India, the Ganga river is today seriously polluted and under extreme environmental stress. Hence its rejuvenation and management requires participation of all through the concept of a mass movement or Jan Andolan.



Ganga basin is the largest river basin in India in terms of catchment area, constituting 26% of the country's land mass (8,61,404 Sq. km) and supporting about 43% of its population (448.3 million as per 2001 census). River Ganga, emanating from Gangotri Glacier at Gaumukh, transverses a distance of 2525 kms before flowing into Bay of Bengal. A large number of tributaries like Alaknanda, Ramganga, Kali, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghagra, Gandak, Kosi and Sone, draining 11 states of the country join River Ganga at different confluence points during its journey.

THE EVENT

“Manthan” signifies a deep contemplation and churning of facts and ideas that leads to enlightenment. It is in this spirit and with this objective that the event “Ganga Manthan” was organised as a national level consultation to facilitate interaction with various stakeholders including policy makers and implementers, academicians, environmentalists, saints and spiritual leaders from all faiths and NGOs.

The event commenced with an opening session where all the stakeholders came together in the presence of eminent personalities followed by separate parallel sessions for Academicians & Technical, Sadhu and Saints, NGOs & Environmentalists, and Policy makers & Implementers. The event concluded with a combined valedictory session where views and ideas discussed in the parallel sessions were shared. The views expressed by all the stakeholders will be taken in to consideration while formulating a comprehensive strategy to rejuvenate the River Ganga.

PARTICIPANTS

The event was attended by a congregation of spiritual leaders, environmentalists, scientists, academicians and technocrats, water conservationists, NGOs, public representatives and administrators, including the Hon’ble Ministries Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Rural Development, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Tourism & Culture and Secretaries of various Ministries of Govt. Of India