

Formation of 'River Ganga'

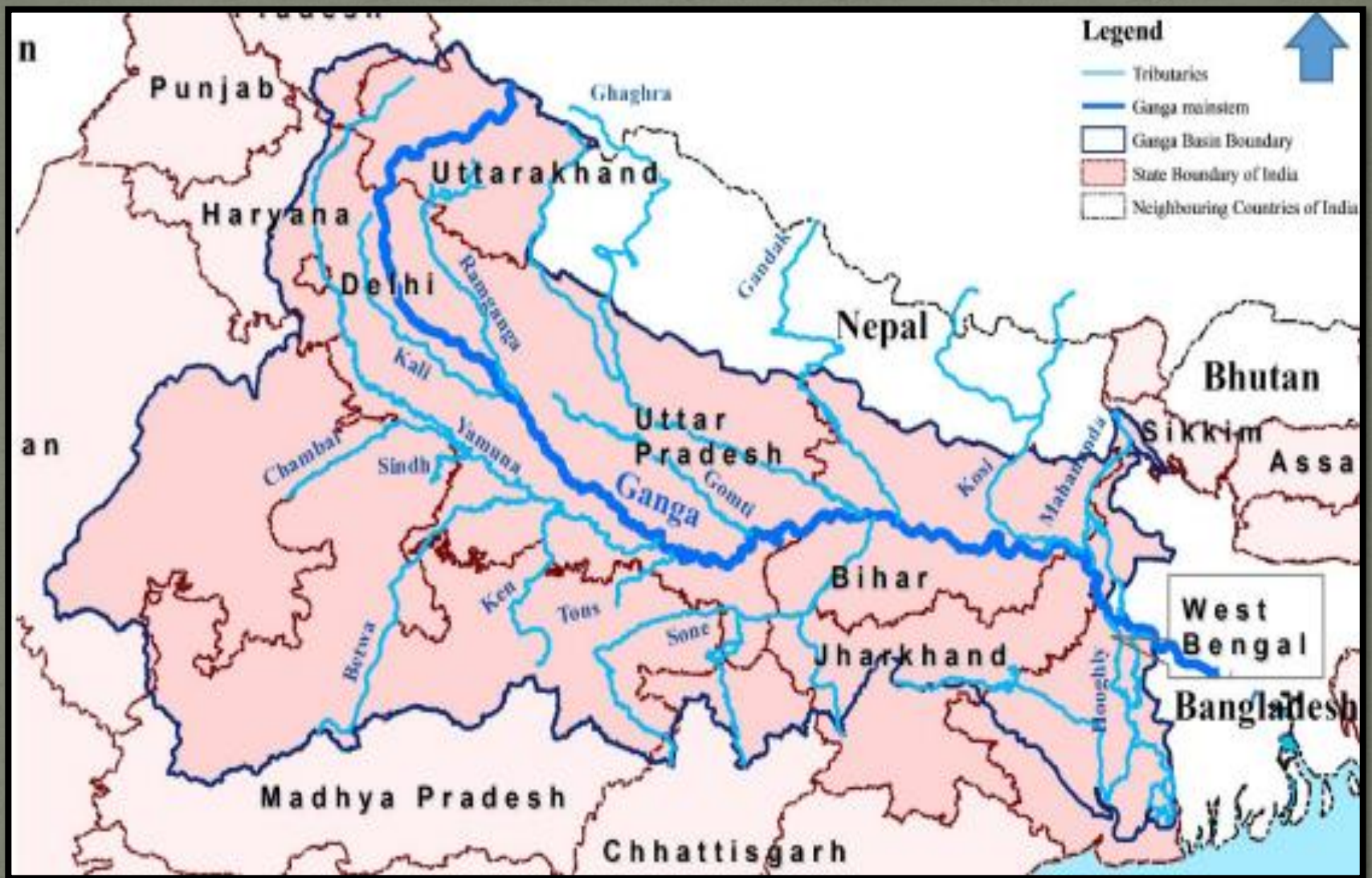


पवनः पवतामास्म रामः शस्त्रमृतामहम् ।
अषाणां मकरश्चास्मि स्रोतसामस्मि जाह्नवी ।

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.



The Ganges (Ganga) River runs through northern India and is sacred to those who follow Hinduism. More than four hundred million people in India live in the area that feeds the river, known as the Ganges River Basin. A river basin is a region that is drained by a river, such as the Ganges, and any of its tributaries. This means that surface water and rainwater in the basin area flow into the nearby rivers.

- The Ganges River originates in the Himalaya Mountains at Gomukh, the terminus of the Gangotri Glacier. When the ice of this glacier melts, it forms the clear waters of the Bhagirathi River. As the Bhagirathi River flows down the Himalayas, it joins the Alaknanda River, officially forming the Ganges River. The Ganges River Basin is sometimes considered part of a larger river basin consisting of the nearby Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. Known as the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) River Basin, it is one of the largest river systems in the world.
- The melting water from the Himalayas, as well as water from tributaries and rainfall, all feed the sacred river. The Ganges flows south and east from the Himalayas, forming a canyon as it leaves the mountain. It winds its way through northern India, eventually emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The Ganges' many tributaries originate from the nearby countries of Nepal, Bangladesh, and China (in an autonomous region called Tibet).
- The Ganges River carries nutrient rich sediment as it flows, depositing fertile soil along its shores. This has allowed civilizations to develop and thrive along the waterway for centuries. Today, the river flows through well-populated regions of India, providing freshwater to the millions of people living in these regions. The river is also used for fishing, irrigation, and bathing, and it is worshiped in the Hindu religion as the Mother Ganga. As the river empties into the Bay of Bengal, the mouth forms the Ganges River Delta, the largest river delta in the world.
- The Ganges River is a vital resource to Asia, but it faces many threats. Human and industrial pollutants fill the river in some areas, making it unsafe even for swimming. As the population in regions surrounding the river swells, water demands for agriculture increases, straining water levels. Adding further stress to the situation, scientists have concluded that climate change has led to a decrease in glacial ice in the Himalayas, the source of the Ganges, and theorize this will result in further decreased water levels in the river over time.



Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGuI9ylsPAM>