



## Challenges before Cleaning Ganga

### Why in news?

\n\n

National Green Tribunal has summoned union government's NMCG for its delayed actions in Ganga-cleaning projects.

\n\n

### What is the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)?

\n\n

\n

- It is a registered trust that runs the 'Namami Gange' mission, India's most ambitious endeavour to clean the Ganga River.

\n

- The NMCG has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.

\n

- The NMCG's thrust is on roping in the private sector to set up sewage treatment plants and also maintain them.

\n

- In return, the government offers to contribute 40% of the capital costs upfront and disburse the rest with a profit margin over 15 years subject to performance indicators being met.

\n

- The mission also has projects to clean the Ghats, rid the river of biological contaminants and improve rural sanitation and afforestation.

\n

\n\n

### What is NGT's decision on clean Ganga mission?

\n\n

\n

- Recently the National Green Tribunal was hearing petitions around Ganga-cleaning projects, it pulled up the government for its tardy job.  
\n
- The NGT showed its concerns that the stretches between Haridwar and Unnao were “unfit for drinking and bathing” and that authorities should display “health warnings”.  
\n

\n\n

### **What are the implementation challenges with this project?**

\n\n

- \n
- Most of the Ganga is polluted and it is due to five States on the river’s main stem Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.  
\n
- Approximately 12,000 million litres a day (MLD) of sewage is generated in the Ganga basin, for which there is currently a treatment capacity of just 4,000 MLD.  
\n
- Industrial pollution from tanneries in Kanpur, distilleries, paper and sugar mills in the Kosi, Ramganga and Kali river catchments is a major contributor.  
\n
- So far, the State governments only have concentrated on superficially cleaning the river by using trash skimmers and improving crematoria-infrastructure.  
\n
- A financial audit also suggested that while Rs. 20,601 crore had been sanctioned for 193 projects, only Rs. 4,254 crore had actually been spent on their implementation.  
\n

\n\n

### **What is government’s further plan on clean Ganga?**

\n\n

- \n
- Union Water Resources Ministry has promised that 80% of the river will be cleaned by May 2019.  
\n
- The Union Water Resources Ministry has been focussed on ensuring a transparent tendering and bidding process.  
\n

- Only this year have treatment plants at Haridwar and Varanasi begun to be constructed.
- In May 2014, there were 31 treatment plants with a capacity of 485 MLD. As of May 2018, 94 projects, with a treatment capacity of 1,928 MLD, were under way.

**Source: The Hindu**



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative