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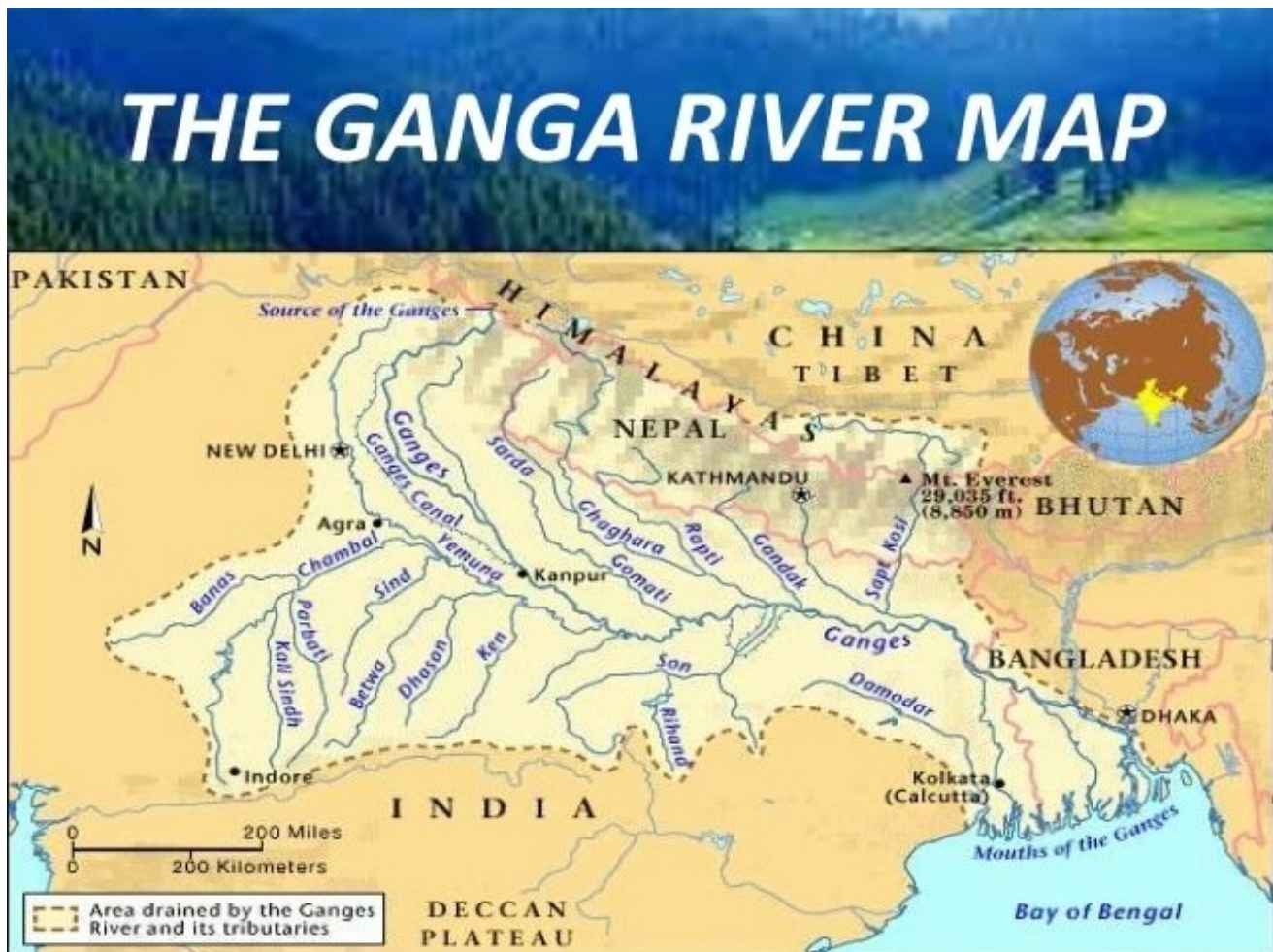
Ganga Rejuvenation Monitoring

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Why in News

Recently, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has observed that the pollutants are still being discharged into the river Ganga, despite several directions of various courts.

The states of **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal** have failed in preventing discharge of untreated effluents in violation of provisions of the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.



Key Points

- **Constitutional Right:** Pollution-free environment is the **constitutional right** of every citizen and **constitutional obligation** of States. However, the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal are certainly failing in providing pollution free Ganga.
- **Monitoring:** The NGT has directed the above states to **periodically monitor** the rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- **Joint Meetings:** It has also called for periodic joint meetings of the above states to consider vital issues like **pooling of human resources** and **sharing best practices** for rejuvenation of Ganga.

The meetings shall be focussed on **preventing discharge of sewage** and other pollutants in Ganga directly or through its tributaries or drains connected thereto.

Initiatives Taken to Clean Ganga

- **Ganga Action Plan:** It was the **first River Action Plan** that was taken up by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 1985**, to improve the water quality by the interception, diversion, and treatment of domestic sewage.

The **National River Conservation Plan** is an extension to the Ganga Action Plan. It aims at cleaning the Ganga river under Ganga Action Plan phase-2.
- **National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA):** It was formed by the Government of India in the year 2009 under Section-3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

It declared the Ganga as the '**National River**' of India.
- **Namami Gange Programme:** It is an **Integrated Conservation Mission**, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of **effective abatement of pollution** and **conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.

It is being operated under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Clean Ganga Fund:** In 2014, it was formed for cleaning up of the Ganga, setting up of waste treatment plants, and conservation of biotic diversity of the river.
- **Bhuvan-Ganga Web App:** It ensures involvement of the public in monitoring of pollution entering into the river Ganga.
- **Ban on Waste Disposal:** In 2017, the NGT banned the disposal of any waste in the Ganga.

Way Forward

- In order to successfully rejuvenate Ganga, there is a **need for a strategic blueprint** that includes the strict monitoring of pollution and strict implementation of present laws and courts guidelines related to pollution.

- There is also a need for **rigorous planning action at the highest level monitoring** for meaning enforcement of the **rule of law** for protection of environment and public health and also rejuvenation of Ganga river.

Source: TH