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Initiative on Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin

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Why in News

Recently, a new capacity building initiative on '**Making water sensitive cities in Ganga basin**' was launched by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Key Points

- **About the Initiative:**

- Aim: The aim of the program is **capacity building and action research for promoting sustainable urban water management for improved river health** in Ganga basin cities.

- **Key Focus Areas:**

- Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning.
- Urban Water Efficiency and Conservation.
- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and Local Reuse.
- Urban Groundwater Management.
- Urban Water Bodies/Lake Management.

- **Convergence Efforts:**

This initiative is aimed to ensure convergence of the **Namami Gange Mission** with **national flagship urban missions**.

- **AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat Mission, HRIDAY, NULM.**
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jal Shakti Abhiyan** at state/city level across **Ganga basin states**.

- **Stakeholders:** The program will engage all the stakeholders which includes:

SPMGs (State Program Management Group, Namami Gange), Municipal corporations, Technical & research constants, international organizations and local grassroot communities.

- **Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning:** It is an emerging urban development paradigm aimed to minimise hydrological impacts of urban development on the environment. This includes:

- The method of planning and designing urban areas for optimum utilisation of water.
- Reducing the harm caused to our rivers and creeks.
- Focuses on the management of entire water systems (drinking water, storm water run-off, waterway health, sewerage treatment and recycling).

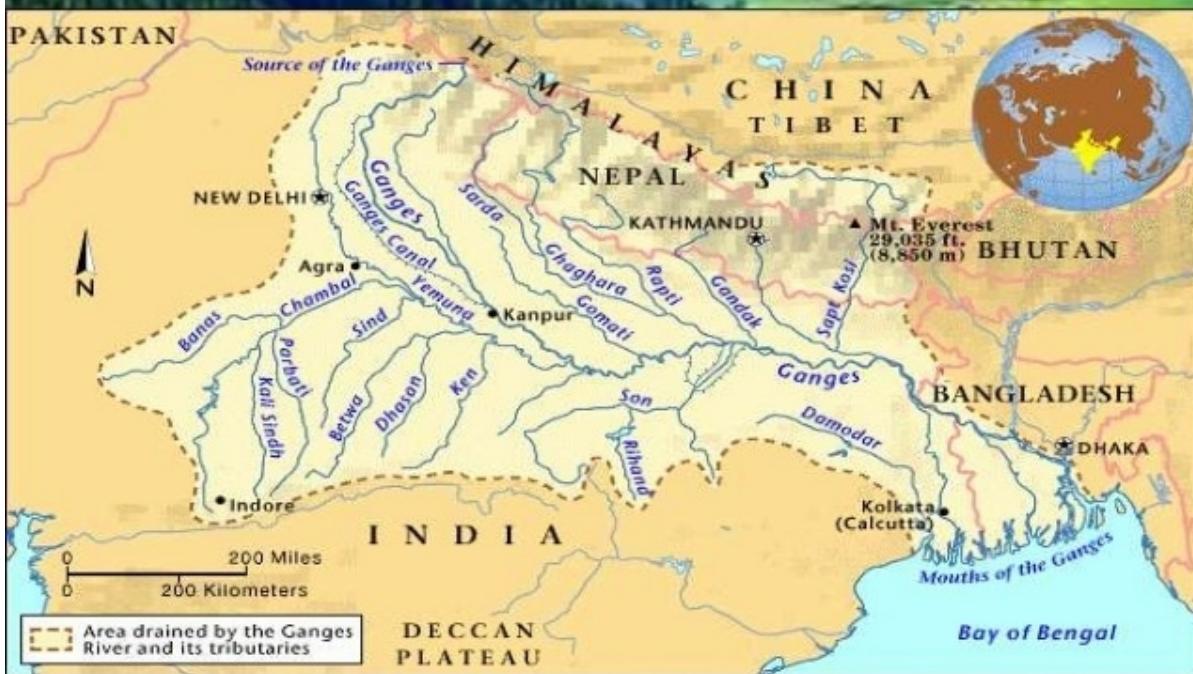
- **Other Related Initiatives:**

- There is a paradigm shift in planning for River Cities.

The “**River Cities Alliance**” will provide a unique platform for river cities to collaborate for collectively achieving river rejuvenation through sustainable development and capacity building.

- The **Jal Shakti Ministry’s ‘Catch the Rain’ initiative** launched for rainwater harvesting has nudged all stake-holders to **create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS)** suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to store rainwater.

THE GANGA RIVER MAP



Way Forward

- The intensity of rain has increased over the years but the number of rainy days has reduced, making water management a crucial subject.
 - There is a need to use the **traditional knowledge of rain water harvesting**.
 - For examples of **Alhar - Pyne system** of Bihar, **wells in forts** of Rajasthan and **Cascade tanks** of South India etc.
- There is a need for a framework for integration between **Urban Built Form** including **landscape** and **urban water cycle**.
- Cities have largely been held responsible for the deteriorated state of rivers, and therefore, will need to play a **vital role in the rejuvenation efforts** as well.
- There is a need to mainstream **river sensitive approaches** while planning for the cities.

Source: PIB