



Ganga Utsav 2020

Why in News

Recently, the **Ganga Utsav 2020** has begun which celebrates the glory of the **National river Ganga**.

- Ganga was declared as the National River of India on **4th November 2008**.

Key Points

▪ Ganga Utsav:

- The [National Mission for Clean Ganga](#) (NMCG) celebrates the festival every year.
 - NMCG is the **implementation wing of [National Ganga Council](#)**, set up in 2016, which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- The **three-day festival** aims to **promote stakeholder engagement and ensure public participation**.
- It celebrates mystical and cultural river Ganga through storytelling, folklores, dialogues with eminent personalities, quizzes, displaying traditional art forms, dance and music performance by renowned artists, photo galleries and exhibitions and much more.

▪ Programmes Held During the Festival:

- **Ganga Task Force** (GTF) conducted an [afforestation drive](#) with [National Cadet Corps](#) (NCC) cadets and educational tour for youth.
 - GTF is a **unit of battalion of ex-servicemen deployed in the services of the Ganga** with the approval of the Ministry of Defence for the period of four years till December 2020.
 - It was approved by the Cabinet under the **Public Participation component of the Namami Gange Programme** and the **first battalion was raised in March 2016**.
- **Mini [Ganga Quest](#)**, designed to make youth and students aware of environmental issues and explain their role in conservation.
 - Ganga Quest is a **pan India bilingual quiz** to increase public participation in Namami Gange program and encourage the youth.
- **Suggestion on the innovative ways in which [Namami Gange](#)** can engage in activities throughout the year.
 - In **2014**, Namami Gange Programme was launched to accomplish the **twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation, and rejuvenation** of Ganga.

▪ Government Initiatives on River Ganga:

- **Ganga Action Plan:** It was the **first river action plan** which 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.

Source: PIB

