



# Illegal construction on the banks of Ganga

## Why in discussion?

The Supreme Court has recently directed the Central and Bihar governments to submit a status report on the steps taken to remove illegal constructions on the banks of **river Ganga** .

## Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - The order was passed while hearing a petition filed by a petitioner against the June 30, 2020 order of **the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#)**.
  - The petitioner submitted that there is large-scale illegal encroachment on the banks of the river Ganga.
  - **This is adversely affecting** the natural flow and ecosystem of the river .
  - The Ganga riverbank are rich in freshwater dolphins. These **[dolphins](#)** are extremely important for the climate and environment and the impact of illegal constructions on their habitats can harm **the biodiversity of the river**.

## National Green Tribunal

- **The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) was established on 18 October 2010 under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**.**
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third (and the first developing) country in the world to establish a **[Specialised Environmental Tribunal](#)** . Prior to this, only Australia and New Zealand had established such a body.
- The main purpose of establishing NGT is to resolve environmental issues quickly, so that the burden of cases in the courts of the country can be reduced.
- The headquarter of NGT is in Delhi, while the other four regional offices are located in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.
- As per the **[National Green Tribunal Act](#)**, it is mandatory for the NGT to resolve environmental issues coming to it within 6 months.

## The River Ganges

- It originates from the Gangotri **[Glacier](#)** near Gaumukh (3,900 m) in Uttarakhand where it is known as the Bhagirathi.
- The Bhagirathi meets the Alaknanda at Devprayag; thereafter it is known as the Ganga.
- The Ganga enters the northern plains at Haridwar.
- The Ganga flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- The Yamuna and the Son are the major right bank tributaries and the important left bank tributaries are the Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda.
- The **[Yamuna](#)** is the westernmost and longest tributary of the Ganges and has its source in the Yamunotri glacier.
- The Ganga falls into the Bay of Bengal near Sagar Island.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/illegal-construction-on-the-banks-of-ganga>

