



Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan

Why in News?

Launched on 30th March 2025, the Madhya Pradesh government's [Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan](#) has led to the successful revival of the **Ghoda Pachhad River**, a tributary of [the Narmada](#), in Khandwa district.

Key Points

- **Major Achievements of the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan:**
 - **Water Harvesting Using 'Ridge to Valley' Approach:**
 - Authorities adopted the 'Ridge to Valley' model to build [water conservation](#) structures along a 33 km stretch.
 - This approach focuses on conserving every drop of water at the ridge level and slowing surface run-off volume and velocity.
 - As a result, the Ghoda Pachhad now flows again, raising hopes for year-round water flow in the region's rivers.
 - **Efforts to Control River Pollution:**
 - The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board surveyed major rivers including the **Narmada**, [Chambal](#), [Shipra](#), [Betwa](#), [Son](#), [Tons](#), [Tapti](#), [Mahi](#), [Sindh](#), and **Ben Ganga**.
 - It has identified significant environmental concerns, including the discharge of around 450 million litres of domestic wastewater into rivers daily.
 - To address this, the Urban Development Department is setting up **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)** with a total treatment capacity of 869 million litres per day.
 - This will substantially improve the water quality of the state's rivers and contribute to cleaner, more sustainable water resources.
 - **Wetland Conservation and Ramsar Recognition:**
 - Madhya Pradesh increased its number of [Ramsar Sites](#) from one in 2002 to five by 2025.
 - These include [Sankhya Sagar](#), [Sirpur Wetland](#), [Yashwant Sagar](#), [Tawa Reservoir](#) and [Bhoj Wetland](#).
 - **Indore became India's first Wetland City**, setting a benchmark in urban water management.
 - Additionally, over 330 traditional wells and stepwells have been preserved in Indore, contributing to the revival of the region's historic water culture.
- **Narmada River:**
 - **About:**
 - The Narmada River **flows westward** through the states of **Madhya Pradesh**, **Gujarat**, and **Maharashtra**, covering a basin area of about 98,796 sq km.
 - The river spans a course of approximately 1,300 km and is fed by 41 tributaries.
 - The river originates from the [Maikal Range](#) in eastern Madhya Pradesh, near the Chhattisgarh border.
 - **An ancient Greek geographer** referred to the Narmada as **Namade**, indicating its historical significance as a **major route linking the Arabian Sea and**

the **Ganga basin**.

- It features numerous waterfalls, including the prominent **Dhuandhar Falls**, southwest of Jabalpur.
- **Amarkantak** in Madhya Pradesh houses the **Narmada Kund**, regarded as the river's sacred origin.
- **Water Resource Development:**
 - The Narmada serves as a vital resource for hydroelectricity generation and irrigation.
 - Major dams on the river include the **Sardar Sarovar Dam** (Gujarat), **Indira Sagar Dam** (Punasa, MP), **Omkareshwar Dam**, Bargi Dam, **Maheshwar Dam**.
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan:**
 - Led by activists like **Medha Patkar and Baba Amte**, the **Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA)** protested the displacement caused by dam projects.
 - Their advocacy led to temporary halts by **the Supreme Court** and the **World Bank**, which withdrew from the project in 1993.
 - In 2000, the Supreme Court allowed phased dam construction, conditional upon the rehabilitation of affected communities.
 - Despite completion, the **NBA continues to raise concerns over rising reservoir levels** and risks to displaced populations.

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