



Namami Gange Programme

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Why in News?

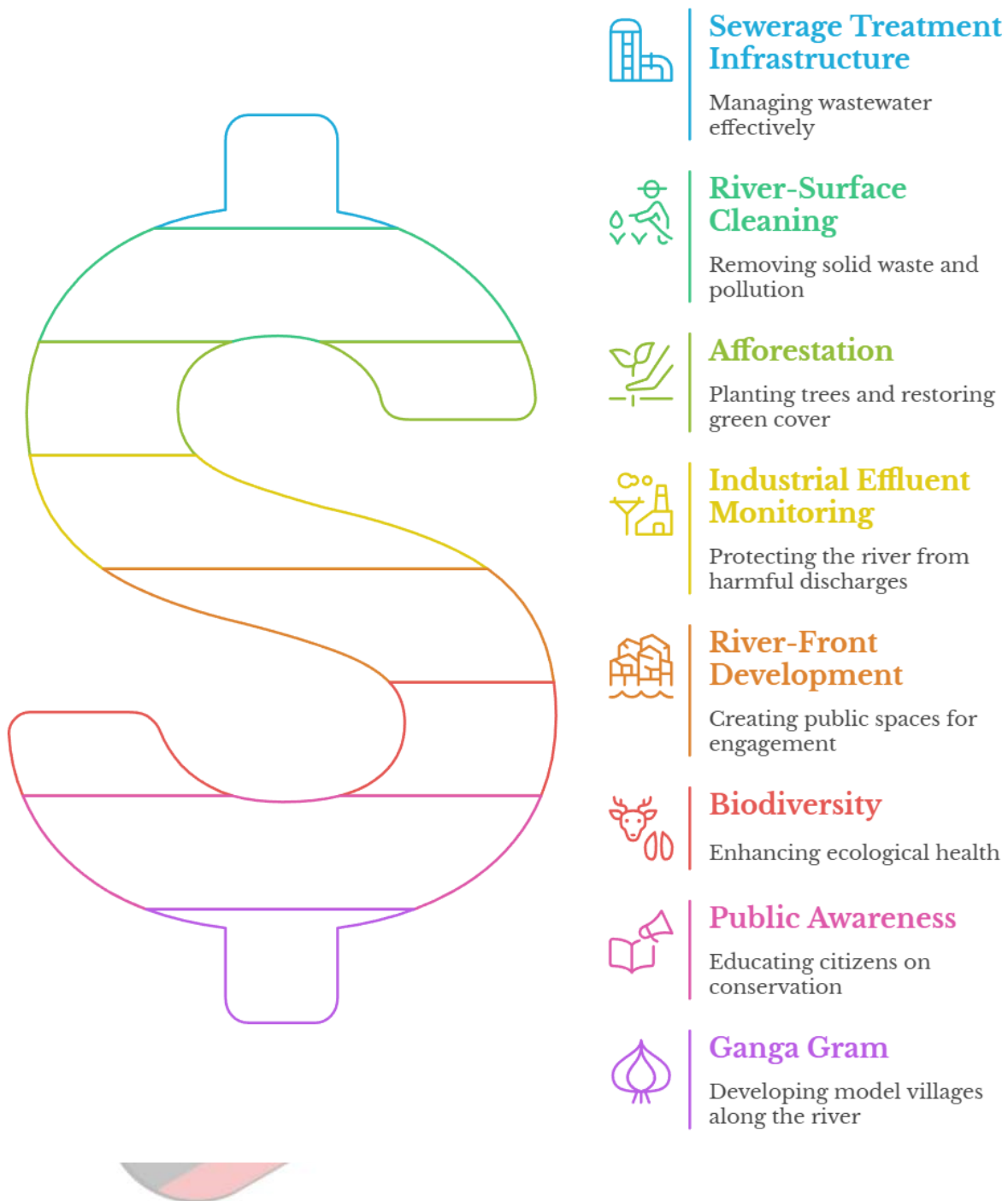
The [Namami Gange Programme \(NGP\)](#) has marked significant progress in its mission to rejuvenate the **sacred River Ganga**.

- It was launched in **2014** with a **Rs 20,000 crore** budget until **2021**, and now extended to **March 2026** with **Rs 22,500 crore** (total: Rs 42,500 crore).

What is the Namami Gange Programme?

- **About:** It is a **flagship programme** for the **rejuvenation of the Ganga River** and its tributaries by **reducing pollution, improving water quality, and restoring the river's ecosystem**.
- **Implementation:** [Five-Tier Structure for Ganga Rejuvenation](#).
- **8 Pillars of NGP:**

Key Pillars of NGP



▪ Key Interventions:

- **Pollution Abatement (Nirmal Ganga):** Setting up **sewage treatment plants (STPs)**, reducing **industrial and domestic waste discharge**.
- **Improving Ecology and Flow (Aviral Ganga):** Restoring **natural flow and biodiversity**, implementing **water conservation measures**.
- **Strengthening People-River Connect (Jan Ganga):** Promoting **community participation and awareness**, involving **local stakeholders in conservation efforts**.
- **Facilitating Research and Policy (Gyan Ganga):** Supporting **scientific research and studies**, formulating **evidence-based policies**.

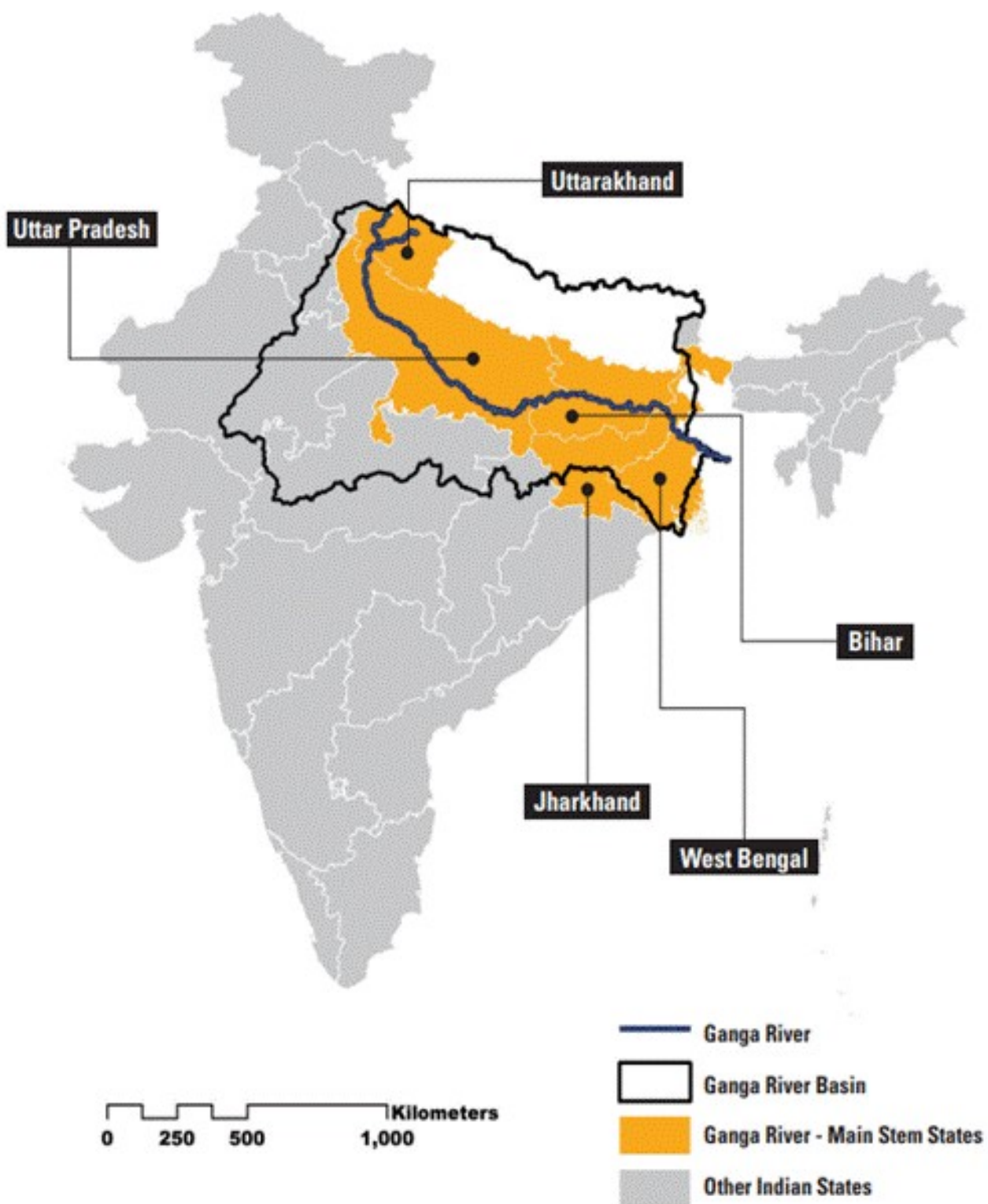
- **Implementation:** Under the [Hybrid Annuity Model \(HAM\)](#), an [Special Purpose Vehicle \(SPV\)](#) by the winning bidder handles **STP development, operation, and maintenance**.

- **40%** of costs are paid **post-construction**, **60%** over the project's **lifespan**.
- **Key Achievements:**
 - **Pollution Abatement:** Sewage treatment capacity **surpassed the pre-2014 capacity by over 30 times**.
 - **Improvement in Water Quality:** Water quality improved in **Uttar Pradesh** from BOD 10-20 mg/l (2015) to **3-6 mg/l (2022)**, in **Bihar** from 20-30 mg/l (2015) to **6-10 mg/l (2022)**, and in **West Bengal** from 10-20 mg/l (2018) to **6-10 mg/l (2022)**.
 - **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** measures **oxygen needed** by microorganisms to **break down organic matter** in water. **Higher BOD** indicates **more pollution**; lower BOD means cleaner water.
 - **Impact on Biodiversity:** The **Gangetic river dolphin** population increased from 3,330 in 2018 to **3,936 in 2024**, with sightings in new stretches like **Bithura to Rasula Ghat (Prayagraj)**, **Babai**, and **Bagmati Rivers**.
- **Global Recognition:** In December 2022, the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** acknowledged **NGP** as one of the **Top 10 World Restoration Flagship Initiatives**.
 - The International Water Association awarded **NGP** the title of **Climate Smart Utility**.

Click Here to Read: [What are the Challenges in the Namami Gange Programme?](#)

Importance of River Ganga

- **Lifeline of India:** Supports **47% of India's population** across **11 states**.
- **Agriculture & Economy:** **65.57% of the basin** is used for agriculture.
- **Cultural & Religious Significance:** Sacred to million people across different religions.
- **Water Scarcity:** The **Ganga River Basin** is the **second most water-stressed** in India, receiving only **39% of the average per capita annual rainwater input**.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following are the key features of 'National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)'? (2016)

1. River basin is the unit of planning and management.
2. It spearheads the river conservation efforts at the national level.
3. One of the Chief Ministers of the States through which the Ganga flows becomes the Chairman of NGRBA on rotation basis.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q. Consider the following statements: (2014)

1. Animal Welfare Board of India was established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body.
3. The National Ganga River Basin Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)