



Gomti River

Why in News?

Environmental experts and citizens have raised concerns about **the Gomti River**, as it struggles with plummeting oxygen levels, **high fecal coliform** counts, and a heavy load of **untreated sewage**.



Key Points

▪ River Profile:

- Gomti is a 960-km long tributary of **the Ganga River**.
- It **originates from Madho Tanda in Pilibhit district** and **merges with the Ganga at Kaithi in Ghazipur**.
- In Lucknow, the river faces increasing threats from urbanisation, including low oxygen levels and rising faecal contamination.

▪ Urbanisation Pressure and Sewage Burden:

- Rapid population growth and city expansion are straining Gomti's ecological balance.
- The city currently treats 450 MLD out of 730 MLD needed; around 280 MLD of untreated sewage flows directly into the river.

▪ Mega Township Projects:

- The **Lucknow Development Authority (LDA)** is planning four major projects: Wellness City, IT City, Educational City, and Prabandhnagar.
- Other key developments include Anant Nagar (Mohaana Road) and Aero City (Amausi Airport).
- These townships lie along major corridors and will further increase population density and sewage load on Gomti.

▪ Need for Sustainable Urban Planning:

- Environmentalists stress the urgency of scientific urban planning, including **integrated drainage, green spaces, Sewage Treatment Plants, and water reuse systems**.

▪ Public Health Concerns:

- Sharp rise in faecal coliform levels and falling oxygen in the river present serious health and ecological risks.
- Untreated discharge from nullahs and inadequate infrastructure pose a threat to both aquatic life and human health.

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