



Pollutants found in Varuna river

Why in News?

Recently, zoologists from [Banaras Hindu University \(BHU\)](#) in a research confirmed the presence of about 1000 types of **pollutants in the water of Varuna river**.

Key Points

- **Pollutants:** Research has found that **580 pollutants** have been found in Varuna river and 349 in [Assi river](#). These include toxic chemicals like **Tert alkylphenols, Octylphenols, Butylphenols, Hexadecylphenols**.
- **Effects:** These pollutants are not only endangering **the ecosystem of the river** but also human life in the following ways:
 - **Effect on aquatic life** : Pollution is adversely affecting the lives of fish and other aquatic creatures. Due to which their **mortality rate** is increasing and **reproductive capacity** is decreasing.
 - Its water is also polluting the water of [River Ganga](#) .
 - **Deterioration of water quality** : Pollutants degrade the quality of water, thereby reducing the availability of potable water.
 - **Effects on human life:** Drinking polluted water can cause **health problems in humans** . Not only can it lead to reduced fertility, but these pollutants can also cause serious diseases like [cancer](#).
- **Previous report:** Earlier also, the [Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board](#) had reported that the pollution of Varuna river was at dangerous levels. Before joining the Ganga in Varanasi, the **Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)** of Varuna was 12.40 milligrams per liter.
- **Revival of Varuna River:** Although the Uttar Pradesh government is continuously making efforts to revive the Varuna River in **Varanasi** , **such as** desilting from Bhadohi to **Ganga-Varuna Sangam** , **increasing green cover by planting trees along the river. Along with this, wetland** areas will be created in various development blocks, which will improve **the groundwater level** and the water level of the river will be normal.
 - Recently, [the Green Strategic Partnership](#) between [India and Denmark](#) has resulted in the establishment of [Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers \(SLCR\)](#) in Varanasi . It **aims to revive the Varuna River** using a sustainable approach .

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Varuna River:

- It is a small tributary of the Ganga.
- It originates from Phulpur in **Prayagraj** district and meets the river Ganga near Sarai Mohana in Varanasi district.
- The district 'Varanasi' is named after two rivers, **Varuna and Assi**.
- **Sarnath** is situated at the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Varuna.

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