



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



UN Water Conference 2023

Side Event Panel Discussion

Theme: ID 2 -Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12)

Title: "Namami Gange- An integrated and holistic approach towards conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga and its ecosystem"

Date: 23rd March 2023

Time & Duration: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (EST) & 75 Minutes

Location: Trusteeship Hall, UN Headquarters, New York, United States of America

Short Event Description:

The Ganga River is India's national river, with its basin spread across 26 per cent of the country's land mass, constituting 28 per cent of its water resources and supporting about 43 percent of its population. The main stem of the river traverses five major states namely, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and travels a total length of 2,525 kms. In fact, the Ganga River basin, including all its tributaries, covers about a million square kilometers area in eleven states in the country.

In 2014, the Government of India launched the Namami Gange mission with a budgetary outlay of Rs 20,000 crores. Under the Mission, a total of 406 projects have been sanctioned worth Rs 32,898 crores. The National Mission for Clean Ganga, established as an Authority under the Authorities Order 2016, is its implementing agency. In 2022, Namami Gange II was approved for Rs 22,500 Cr for the period 2021- 2026.

The Mission comprises of five strategic areas of intervention which include - 'Nirmal Ganga' with a focus on pollution abatement, 'Aviral Ganga' with a focus on ecology and flow of river Ganga, 'Jan Ganga' with an aim of people river connect and 'Gyan Ganga' with a focus on research, policy and knowledge management. The fifth area of intervention is Arth Ganga, which is a self-sustainable economic model based on the symbiotic relationship between nature and society, by strengthening people-river connect, adopting an ecologically conscious sustainable development



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framework and acting as an economic bridge between the basin and livelihood opportunities of the people. The six verticals of intervention are zero budget natural farming, monetization of reuse of sludge and treated wastewater, promotion of livelihood generation opportunities, increased public participation, revival of cultural heritage and tourism and institutional building.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is its implementing agency. Guided by a holistic approach, the focus is on the restoration of the riverine ecosystem, including components such as pollution abatement, solid and liquid waste management, biodiversity, afforestation, wetland conservation, agribusiness, groundwater management, etc. Recently, the decade of 2021 – 2030 has been declared as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by United Nation General Assembly, which positions restoration of ecosystems as a major nature-based solution for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and other national priorities. The United Nations (UN) has recognized Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world. They were selected under the banner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces across the planet. The Namami Gange initiative represent important, inspiring restoration areas, which have wider learning and restoration potential and scalability, while bringing more attention to the area and the obstacles faced by the restoration area.

With this background, Namami Gange Mission's efforts towards restoring the riverine ecosystem will be discussed under the theme of ID 2: Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12). The panel discussion will focus on showcasing the learnings from Namami Ganga Mission and developing a roadmap for the river rejuvenation programmes with focus on holistic and sustainable of ecosystem comprising water, land, food, energy, economic and urban development.



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Agenda

Time (EST)	Event Details	
05:00 – 05:03 PM	Context Setting	Moderator
05:03 – 05:15 PM	Keynote Address	Chair: <i>Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti- Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</i>
05:15 – 06:05 PM	Introduction of Panelists	Key Panelists:
		<i>1) Minister for Environment, Denmark, Magnus Heunicke</i>
		<i>2) Director General, NMCG, G. Asok Kumar</i>
	Panel Discussion	<i>3) German Representative (TBC)</i>
		<i>4) Special Water Envoy, Netherland, Henk Ovink</i>
		<i>5) Lead Water Specialist, World Bank, Carmen Yee Batista</i>
06:05 - 06:15 PM	Q&A and Closing Ceremony	

(TBC- To be confirmed)