

## Demarcation of Ganga Flood Plain

*Prelims - Current events of national and international importance | Geography*

### Why in News?

*Uttar Pradesh informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that physical demarcation of the Ganga floodplain zone has been completed along nearly 700 km in the State.*

- **Stretch covered** - Unnao to Ballia covering 13 districts.
- **Length** - Approximately 700 km with installed 7,350 pillars.
- **Purpose** - To identify and physically mark the floodplain to prevent encroachment, unauthorised construction and other activities.
- The work supports the objectives of the River Ganga Authorities Order, 2016 and earlier NGT directions.

### Ganga floodplain

- It is the low-lying land flanking the Ganga river that naturally absorbs excess water during high-flow periods.
- It performs important ecological functions such as -
  - Floodwater storage
  - Groundwater recharge
  - Sediment deposition
  - Aquatic and terrestrial habitat
  - Maintaining the river's natural flow dynamics.
  - Tributary Status in Uttar Pradesh
- Demarcation is the physical and legal process of mapping, marking, and dividing the low-lying land next to the Ganga River that collects overflow during high water.
- Under the National Mission for Clean Ganga via the August 2026 amendment, the government redefined it into three distinct zones based on flood frequency.
  - **Active Flood Plain** - Submerged at least once every 5 years; strictly protected.
  - **Regulatory Zone** - Flooded once every 5 to 25 years; construction allowed with specific approvals.
  - **Warning Zone** - Flooded once every 25 to 100 years; development permitted with official clearances.

### Ganga River System

- It is the largest drainage network in India, spanning 2,525 km from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal.

- **Source** - Ganga river starts as the Bhagirathi from the Gangotri Glacier at Gaumukh in Uttarakhand.
- **Formation** - It becomes the Ganga at Devprayag after joining the Alaknanda river.
- It leaves the mountains and enters the plains at Haridwar.
- **Flows through** - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- **Termination** - It empties into the Bay of Bengal after forming the world's largest delta (the Sundarbans) with the Brahmaputra river

## Reference

[Hindustan Times| Demarcation of Ganga Flood Plain](#)

