Ganga Rejuvenation via Ecosystem Restoration

Prelims: *Environment | Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, in 62nd Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), key projects for Ganga rejuvenation were approved.

- **Ecosystem restoration for Ganga**– ***Conservation of critical wetlands*** and promoting the ***reuse of treated wastewater*** through city specific reuse plans.
- **Focus** – *Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem service values* into river basin conservation and developmental planning.
- **Dual approach** - Interventions at the sub-basin (Ghaghara, Gomti & Sone confluence) and site levels (NathmalpurBhagad Wetland).
- **Activities to be undertaken**
    - Wetland delineation
    - Hydrological regime enhancement
    - Species and habitat conservation
    - Ecological assessment, risk evaluation & monitoring mechanisms
    - Capacity building, communication and outreach
- **Coverage** - So, far 5 wetlands have been sanctioned Namami Gange conservation of wetlands.

Wetland	Location
KalewadaJheel	Uttar Pradesh

Namiya Dah Jheel	
Reoti Dah Wetland	
Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand
NathmalpurBhagad	Bihar

- **Significance** – It is a significant push towards *holistic river and environmental rejuvenation* to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the wetland ecosystem.

- It aligns with the NMCG's objectives of ecosystem restoration across the Ganga basin.

Quick Facts

- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** - It was registered as a society to act as *implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)*, which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.

- NGRBA has since been dissolved in 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

- **Namami Ganga Programme** – It is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' in 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective *abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga*.

- It is recognized as *one of the Top 10, World Restoration Flagship initiatives* by UN Decade (UNEP&FAO).

- **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** - It is a rallying call by UNEP and FAO to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to achieve global goals.

- The UN Decade runs from 2021 through 2030.

Reference

PIB| Ecosystem Restoration for Ganga Rejuvenation

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