

## Operation Swarna

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

### Why in News?

Recently, the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) has announced Operation SWARNA to rescue the River Swarnamukhi.

- **Name** - Operation SWARNA (Swarnamukhi Waterbody Action for River and Nala Awareness)
- **Initiative by** - Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA)
- **Task Force** - To be headed by the TUDA Vice-Chairman, inspired by the HYDRAA model in Hyderabad.
- **Objective** - Rescue River Swarnamukhi from encroachments.
  - Revive its flow and rejuvenate the river.
  - Ensure sustainable ecosystem and waterbody protection.
- **Concerns raised** - Erstwhile ruling party leaders occupied streams, canals and fake adjoining survey numbers were used for registrations.
- Floods of 2021 exposed the fraud, leaving victims without homes or documents.

### Swarnamukhi river Profile

- **Origin** - Pakala.
- **Course** - Flows eastwards for 130 km.
- **Touchpoints** - Passes south of Tirupati and touches Srikalahasti.
- **Mouth** - Joins the Bay of Bengal.

- **Project initiation** - To kickstart the project formal Bhumi Puja will be performed soon at Mukkoti Agastheswara temple, the confluence of three rivers near Thondavada.
- **Coordination** - TUDA,
  - Irrigation department,
  - Survey department and Revenue departments.
- **Plan of action - Drone Survey** Planned from Thondavada to Srikalahasti (50-70 km stretch).
  - **Purpose of the survey** - Fix river boundaries.
  - Mark 50 metres on either side of the flow area.
  - Identify encroachments clearly.
- **Public outreach** - Whistle-blowers and victims invited to file complaints.
  - Complaints can be lodged against officials and representatives (from Sarpanch to MLA) involved in land misuse.

- **Tourism & beautification plans -**

- **Riverfront beautification** - To develop a tourist hub at Tiruchanur, near Goddess Padmavathi Ammavari temple.
- A tunnel construction to slow down water flow, allowing devotees to wash hands and feet before visiting the temple.
- **Projects importance** - Greatly enhances both cultural and tourism value.
- The project is the first such massive operation taken up in the State to free water bodies from encroachers.

## Reference

[The Hindu| Operation Swarna](#)

