

Q. Does attributing legal rights to rivers facilitate regeneration of water bodies in India? Critically analyse.

Ans:- In 2017, Uttarakhand High Court has declared the two holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna to be given status of a legal entity which is more to counter pollution and conserve the river ecosystem.

Benefits of attributing legal rights to rivers:-

→ The loco parentis i.e. Director, Namami Gange, Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, Advocate General of Uttarakhand are now bound to uphold the status and promote health and well-being of these two rivers.

→ It creates a new environmental jurisprudence to protect, conserve and preserve the rivers as a legal person or living entity.

→ Ganga river is declared as cancer-causing river and Yamuna is declared as a dead river. It is necessary to bring down the BOD level, it is an effective step through which the rivers can regenerate.

→ It will further facilitate the conservation of rich diversity of this river ecosystem.

→ Better management of cultural activities such as Kumb mela, Chhot Puga etc can be ensured.

### Concerns :

→ ~~The deep~~ as the status hurts the deep ashta of the large numbers of Hindu pilgrims as they are emotionally connected with these two rivers.

→ Some criticise the decision of making River Ganga and River as legal entity, because they considers these two rivers as goddesses.

→ This strict status will further create obstacles in river-interlinking projects of India.

→ As Ganga, Yamuna & most of the other rivers are transboundary in nature, it is difficult to ensure the protection of their legal rights.

→ ~~Rivers~~ Rivers are not just a body of water, it is a living entity as it contains a huge biodiversity of living organisms. It is necessary to legally protect the river ecosystem but it is also necessary to conserve our culture & tradition, emotional bond with this rivers through proper regulation.