

Discuss the salient features of water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) (C) 2024. To what extent the new legislation will help in protecting rivers & water bodies from industrial pollution.

The government recently enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) amendment ~~bill~~ act 2024 under the Article 252 of the constitution. The act aims to improve the water quality governance architecture.

### Salient features

Empowers central government to regulate grant, cancel the approval given by the state pollution control boards. It also mentions the methodology to appoint the chairmen of state boards.

Fines provisions are included such as fines on the cease upto ₹10,000 over to ₹15 lakh whereas the fine will be

Credited Environment Protection Fund

The law has decriminalised minor offences that had hampered ease of doing business.

Mandatory for the industrial units to get permission from the state boards, where the central government can exempt certain industries.

The amendment has come to protect the water bodies and sewers.

Outcomes expected As per the Central

Pollution Control Board

311 water stretches in

India have been polluted

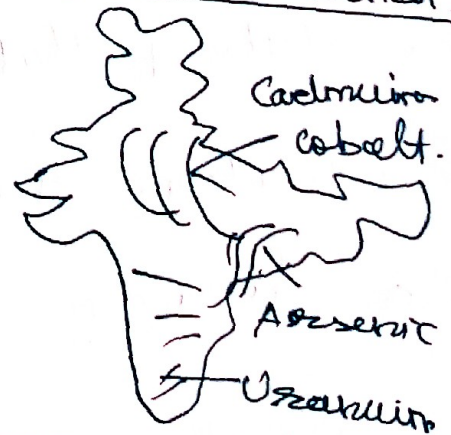
maximum stretches are

present in the Ganga Basin. With

this amendment, the mandatory permission

for the industries can reduce the

River contamination





pollution of rivers.

more than 50% of pollution comes from non-point sources, the act is silent on the pollution abatement from non point sources. The Integrated River Basin Approach ~~needed~~ is missing in the act.

Eutrophication, oil spills are some of anthropogenic reasons for surface water contamination. ~~A~~ specific pollutants and pollution lists can give greater clarity to the executing authorities.

Future As water being a state subject, the act seems to encroach upon state subjects. Greater emphasis is needed to conserve ~~water~~ rivers and water bodies. Enhanced funds are welcome but it is not the panacea.