

Most of Ganga clean, claims Jal Shakti Ministry.

The water quality of the Ganga was clean enough for bathing and capable of supporting the river ecosystem for almost the entire stretch of the river. Bishweswar Tudu, Minister of State for Water Resources said in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) which is an indicator of river health was within “acceptable limits” of “bathing water quality criteria”.

A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2018 pointed out four polluted stretches on the main stem of river Ganga. There are five categories ranked 1 to 5 with 1 the most polluted and 5 the least.

An updated 2021 report noted that none of the stretches of the Ganga were now in



Priority Category I to IV and only two stretches are in Priority Category V with bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), a parameter different from DO, ranging between 3-6 microgram/litre as per CPCB categorisation of polluted stretch.

A comparison of median data of water quality parameters such as DO, bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) and faecal coliform (FC) from 2014 and 2021; DO (Median) has improved at 31 locations; BOD at 46 and FC at 23 locations, respectively, the Ministry data noted.

The 2018 report of the CPCB had identified 351 polluted stretches on 323 rivers based on monitoring results of 521 rivers in terms of BOD. Based on the assessment of water quality various measures are being taken both by the Centre and the States to prevent pollution of rivers and drains out-falling into them. River cleaning is a continuous process and the Central government assists the State governments and urban local bodies through schemes like ‘Namami Gange’ and National River Conservation Plan (NRCP),” the Ministry said.

The NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches on 34 rivers in 77 towns spread over 16 States with a sanctioned cost of ₹ 5,961.75 crore. The Namami Gange programme has funded 364 projects, including 160 for sewage treatment, it said.

Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Bio-Chemical oxygen demand.

1. It signifies the amount of oxygen required by biological organisms in a water body for breakdown of organic matter by the process of oxidation.
2. It symbolizes the amount of organic pollutant present in an aquatic ecosystem.

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Expected Question (Mains Exams)

Q. Examine the various challenges/issues associated with the cleaning process of River Ganga. Discuss the significance of Namami Ganga project in this direction. (250 Words)

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Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.