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GANGA ACTION PARIVAR



“The Ganga especially, is the river of India, beloved of her people, round which are intertwined her memories, her hopes and fears, her songs of triumph, her victories and her defeats. She has been a symbol of India’s age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, and yet ever the same Ganga.” said Pt. Nehru. How true his observation is! Ganga is truly a spiritual and cultural center for the people in India. The plains of Ganga are the hub of agricultural activities in the country. Apart from agriculture the banks of the river are the center for spirituality and culture, the treasure house of flora and fauna of great medicine value. The river Ganga supports tourism and biodiversity along its banks.

However, the Mismanagement of river water resources has led to Large stretches running dry, aggravating the problem of pollution which has led to the increased depletion and toxicity of ground water. The practice of Wasteful irrigation, diversion of water for hydroelectric power and non-availability of water to maintain the flow of river has actually aggravated the problem.

Keeping these facts in mind earnest efforts are required for restoration of the sacred river on which over 500 million citizens depend for life itself. Yet our National River remains one of the most polluted in the world, denying vast populations of their rights to water, and robbing the world of the beauty and sanctity of a river that is worshipped by one billion people as divinity itself. While the problems are numerous, they are not unsurmountable.

With this thought Ganga Action Parivar was established in April, 2010. Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) is a family of professionals, engineers, scientists, activists, spiritual leaders, environmental specialists and dedicated sevaks from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga. GAP intends to restore, protect and maintain the river Ganga and her tributaries in their aviral (free-flowing) and nirmal (unpolluted) state and to find workable solutions to the problems of pollution and obstruction.

The mission of Ganga Action Parivar is:-



1. To restore a free-flowing and pristine Ganga, and thereby protect India's diverse cultural heritage, traditions, spirituality, physical lives and livelihoods,
2. To safeguard the river's natural, uninterrupted flow and restore acceptable flows where obstructing structures are already present,
3. To make the river clean enough to safely drink, by completely separating river water from all liquid waste, solid waste and eventually all treated wastewater,
4. To work from "Grand Plan" to "Ground Plan," addressing all the broad issues that face Ganga at national and international levels, all the way down to finding local, grassroots solutions and actions,
5. To provide responsible and sustainable solutions and action-based plans that ensure our future generations inherit the best planet we can give them,
6. To include all people in the common cause of restoring Ganga regardless of their race, gender, caste, creed, economic status or nationality,
7. To work together and unite in our diversity in order to accomplish any goal set forth.

With this mission The Ganga Action Parivar identified the issues being faced by the river. The problem of waste water, solid waste disposal, the distressing agricultural practices, obstruction of water flow due to Hydropower projects and other ecological issues are the major concerns.

To address these issues Ganga Action Parivar is working from the "Grand Plan" – programs on the national and the international level – to "Ground Plan" – local awareness, outreach and action which include:

1. Declaration of Upper Ganga Region as a UNESCO World Heritage Site



- a. Working to officially declare the Upper Ganga region (from the source of Gange at Gangotri downstream to Haridwar, and inclusive of the Mandakini and Alakananda river valleys) as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing this area as not just an area of local or national concern, but truly of global importance
2. **National River Ganga Act**
 - a. **Comprehensive action being taken to establish a National Ganga River Basin Act which will include provisions to control, abate, prevent and monitor the pollution, exploitation and obstruction occurring to the Ganga River Basin System**
3. **GPPP (Government-Private-Public Partnership) Model**
 - a. Creating a partnership between all three important parts of society – the government, the public, and the private – to utilize the roles and address the concerns in each section, and seek to bring them together for the implementation of public works projects (such as STPs and Solid Waste Management Plants)
4. **Solar India Plan**
 - a. Popularizing and energizing a new plan which taps into India's enormous capacity to harvest and provide solar power, meeting 100% of the nation's future energy needs by 2050.
5. **Beautification of Char Dham and Other Holy Areas**
 - a. Renovation and beautification plans for Gangotri, Char Dham and other sacred pilgrimage areas along Ganga and Her tributaries
 - b. Includes plans to create solid waste and wastewater management systems, relocation of haphazard constructions that encroach on the rivers and the temples, and ways to reduce vehicular congestion and pollution
6. **“Temples to Toilets” Programme/3 T's Programme –Toilets, Taps & Trees**
 - a. Working to provide every school and community along the 2500 kilometer stretch of the Ganga Basin with a proper toilet

- b. Working to provide access to clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing for everyone in the Ganga Basin
- c. Planting trees to rejuvenate the environment, mitigate erosion and provide for all

7. 3 G's Programme –Gau (Cows), Ganga & Gaon (Rural Development)

- a. Removing wandering cows from the roads and providing them with care and shelter
- b. Restoring the pristine nature of Ganga and Her tributaries by removing currently existing pollution and curtailing future pollution through Solid Waste Management & other programmes
- c. Restoring the free-flowing nature of Ganga through projects to remove unnecessary obstructions and provision of alternative sources of power
- d. Developing rural areas and villages with alternative visions of development that protect both the environment and the health of all

8. Conferences & Workshops

- a. Organizing and hosting conferences and workshops throughout the year that gather together leading scientists, environmentalists, activists, government officials and spiritual leaders to find sustainable solutions for the various problems facing Ganga and Her tributaries

9. Awareness & Outreach

- a. Raising awareness and inspiring millions by organizing sacred aarti ceremonies, Ganga festivals, dramas and school & community activities, as well as local clean-ups

The GAP is ever growing community. Let us work together as one family to serve Mother Ganga!

Remember, each one can reach ten, so be sure to reach out to your family, friends and community members so that we can protect and restore Ganga together!

Together we can!