



India

## Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Water Monitoring of the Ganges River

<b>Objective</b>	The aim of the project is to improve the quality of data used to monitor the Ganges River through improved sampling and analysis of the water samples based on recognized quality-assurance measures as well as an improved coordination between all competent bodies.	
<b>Approach</b>	<p>The project supports the provision of quality-assuring services for monitoring the water quality of the Ganges River. Therefore, the technical competence of the bodies tasked with the planning, implementation and utilization of monitoring programs for the Ganges River shall be strengthened.</p> <p>Furthermore, the laboratories which monitor the water quality of the Ganges River will be supported in the areas of quality management, sampling and analytical testing. The methodical approach is based on a combination of technical advisory and training measures. Furthermore, the project aims to foster the coordination of all competent bodies to increase the cooperation among the bodies and with other involved parties. The project will operate at the national level and federal state level, with Uttarakhand serving as a pilot region. Depending on the topic, stakeholders of all five federal states along the main stream of the Ganges River – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal – shall be involved.</p> <p>The political partner is the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD &amp; GR). The main implementation partner is the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as well as the State Missions for Clean Ganga (SMCG). Other key partners are the regulatory bodies Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) as well as research institutes and environmental laboratories.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>The Ganges River is one of the most polluted rivers in the world and at the same time more than 400 million people live in its basin. Besides providing drinking water and irrigating fields, the Ganges River is extremely important to India's Hindu population for religious reasons as well. The Ganges River is considered their most sacred river, and it is worshiped as the goddess Ganga Ma or "Mother Ganges".</p> <p>Rejuvenating the Ganges River is a complex and long-term process which poses great challenges. The Indian Government initiated the flagship program "Namami Gange" which has the objective of reducing pollution and sustaining the rejuvenation of the Ganges River in May 2014. The program includes, among other things, measures to reduce the discharge of communal municipal and industrial wastewater.</p> <p>Monitoring of the surface water quality and wastewater discharge is carried out based on technical regulations. An improved data quality of the water quality of the Ganges River makes it possible to tap substantial potential for improvement of the framework conditions for protection and rejuvenation measures. Examples of this are the planning and construction of wastewater treatment plants and the reduction of the discharge of wastewater, both of which require reliable and representative data.</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	The project is carried out in close collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the central agency of the Indian government that coordinates the efforts to rejuvenate the Ganges River.	
<b>Financing</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
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