

National Ganga Council - UPSC Notes

The National Ganga Council was formed in 2016. It is an important body, which is responsible for various government schemes regarding the cleaning up of River Ganga. In this article, you can read all about the National Ganga Council, its formation, mandate, composition and functions for the [IAS exam](#).

National Ganga Council

The full name of the Council is ‘**National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga**’.

- It was formed under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016.
- This Order dissolved the National Ganga River Basin Authority and replaced it with the National Ganga Council.
- **This Council has the overall responsibility of preventing pollution and rejuvenating the Ganga River Basin, including the River Ganga and its tributaries.**
- Its jurisdiction extends to the states which comprise of the Ganga River Basin namely, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jharkhand and Delhi-NCR, and any other states having the major tributaries of the Ganga.
- It is chiefly responsible for the implementation of the [National Mission for Clean Ganga](#).

National Ganga Council Composition

The following are the members of the National Ganga Council:

1. Prime Minister - Chairperson
2. Union Minister for Jal Shakti - Vice-Chairperson
3. Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change
4. Union Minister for Finance
5. Union Minister for Power
6. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs
7. Union Minister for Science and Technology
8. Union Minister for Rural Development
9. Union Minister of State for Tourism
10. Union Minister for Shipping
11. Vice-Chairman, [NITI Aayog](#)
12. Chief Minister, Jharkhand
13. Chief Minister, Bihar
14. Chief Minister, Uttarakhand
15. Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
16. Chief Minister, West Bengal
17. Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
18. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
19. Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
20. Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
21. Director-General, National Mission for Clean Ganga

National Ganga Council Functions

The chief function of the Council is the implementation of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Namami Gange programme of the government. This includes preventing pollution in the Ganga River Basin, and rejuvenating the Basin by various activities such as improving the vegetation, ensuring continuity of water flow, restoring and maintaining the surface flow and also groundwater, conserving the aquatic and riparian biodiversity of the region, and cleaning up the area.

The NMCG will comply with the directions and decisions of the Council and execute the Ganga Basin Management Plan approved by it.

UPSC Questions related to National Ganga Council

Is National Ganga Council a statutory body?

No, it is an authority created under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016.

Who is the chairperson of National Ganga Council?

The Prime Minister of India is the ex officio Chairperson of the Council.

What is National Mission for Clean Ganga?

The National Mission for Clean Ganga is implemented by the National Ganga Council to clear up the Ganga River Basin and rejuvenate it.

What is the Ganga Action Plan?

The Ganga Action Plan was launched in 1986 with the chief objective of abating pollution in the River Ganga and improve the quality of its waters. It also envisaged intercepting, diverting and treating domestic sewage, and also preventing industrial toxic and chemical wastes from entering the river. The Plan was seen as a failure as it was marred by rampant corruption.

