



India

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

<b>Objective</b>	Application of recognized quality assurance methods for data acquisition, analysis and reporting by the laboratories and authorities in Delhi, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in charge of monitoring Ganges River water quality.	
<b>Approach</b>	The project is aimed at the provision of quality-assuring services geared to the specific requirements of surface water monitoring and wastewater discharge. In this context, the project addresses two levels of intervention. First, the project advises the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and, where necessary, further authorities and institutions such as the Central Pollution Control Board, on measures for strengthening the evidence base provided by water quality monitoring data for the Ganges River. At this level, the project further seeks to improve the interaction between the institutions responsible for water monitoring and quality infrastructure. Second, the project supports capacity building at the respective central laboratories and selected regional laboratories in the states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the goal being to improve the monitoring and quality assurance of the data acquisition methods, from water sampling and the analysis of basic water quality parameters to the reporting of results. This project structure is reflected in the three outputs: (1) quality assurance for the monitoring programmes; (2) strengthening of the water monitoring laboratories; and (3) exchange between water monitoring authorities and quality infrastructure stakeholders. The methodical approach is based on a combination of system-related and professional and technical advisory and training measures.	
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Reliable and robust data on the monitoring of the water quality are the prerequisite for political, regulatory, and economic decisions that are legally relevant with respect to the rejuvenation of the Ganges River and its affluents. Such data is further required for developing specific measures intended to protect and revive the Ganges River (e.g., for the planning, construction and proper functioning of water treatment plants). Data from monitoring activities represent an essential basis on which to draft and implement environmental laws and regulations. An example is seen in efforts to trace pollution to the dischargers. In order to be able to identify the discharger, the monitoring data must be valid in court.</p> <p>The improved ecological conditions being sought by the Namami Gange Programme form a basis for improving the quality of life and health protection of the population. By regularly publishing quality data, the state contributes to its obligation to safeguard the implementation of human rights and good governance. The Ganges has an immense spiritual meaning for the Hindu majority of the population. Informal settlements in the vicinity of the riverside are more directly affected by pollution than other groups.</p> <p>The project especially supports the achievement of SDG 6.3 (improve water quality) and SDG 11.6 (reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities).</p>	
<b>Cooperation</b>	The project is a module of the German programme called Sustainable Urban Development – Smart Cities (SUD-SC). It is being carried out in close collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the central agency of the Indian government that is coordinating efforts to rejuvenate the Ganges River.	
<b>Financing</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
<b>Term</b>	2023–2026	
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