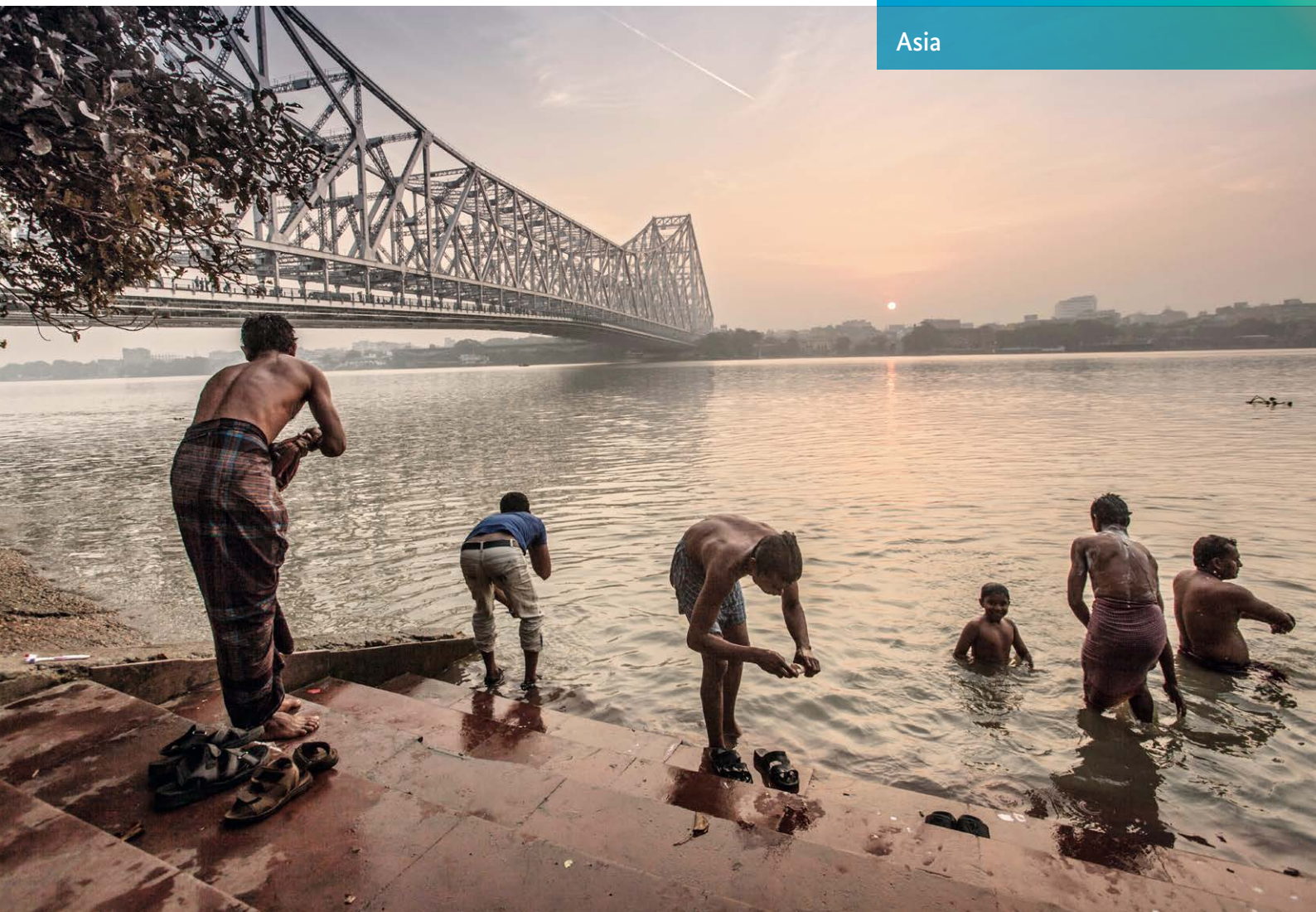




India: Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal

Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Water Monitoring of the Ganga River III

Objective	Water quality monitoring in the Ganga basin is increasingly implemented in accordance with international standards and international best practices by the laboratories and authorities in charge of monitoring.	
Approach	The project is providing quality infrastructure services tailored to the specific requirements of surface water monitoring laboratories in the Ganga Basin. Interventions target central and regional level laboratories in the main stem Ganga states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal. The project is structured around three interconnected outputs: (1) Strategic Water Quality Monitoring; (2) Strengthening Laboratories in the Ganga Basin; and (3) Expansion of Quality Infrastructure Services. Output 1 aims to provide consultancy on the design and implementation of water quality monitoring strategies in line with international standards and global best practices. This includes reviewing and benchmarking the existing strategies, guidelines and protocols, developing recommendations for their alignment with global practices and providing technical support for their implementation. Output 2 promotes sustainable strengthening of individual, organizational and institutional capacities of water quality monitoring laboratories through demand-based, customised technical training. To ensure the sustainability of the capacity building measures, the training material of the offline training components is integrated into a permanently available, online learning platform. In addition, the project applies the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach to ensure that dedicated resource persons provide continuous training to new staff and offer refresher courses. Finally, thematic working groups enable regular knowledge exchanges to take into account state-of-the-art scientific developments. Output 3 seeks to expand the use of quality infrastructure services for water quality monitoring in line with international best practices. This is accomplished by providing technical support for conducting proficiency tests, facilitating inter-laboratory comparisons in accordance with ISO 17025 requirements and advising on the implementation of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to enhance the transparency, consistency and reliability of monitoring data. The project builds on the results of the previous module to further strengthen the quality infrastructure for water monitoring in the Ganga basin, and ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness.	
Impact	High-quality water monitoring data is essential to guide effective political, regulatory and economic actions to protect and restore the Ganga River. The data from monitoring activities forms an essential basis to draft and enforce environmental laws and regulations. The improved ecological conditions being envisaged under the project are critical to better the quality of life and health protection of more than 650 million people living along the Ganga. To these people, the Ganga does not just have an immense spiritual meaning, but its pollution also particularly affects vulnerable groups such as informal settlers and women. The project supports the achievement of SDG 3 (<i>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</i>), SDG 15 (<i>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems</i>) and especially SDG 6 (<i>Access to clean water and good management of freshwater ecosystems</i>) of the Agenda 2030.	
Cooperation	The project is part of the <i>German-Indian Engagement in the Ganga Basin</i> . It is being carried out in close collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the Indian government's central agency coordinating efforts to rejuvenate the Ganga River under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Indian Water Ministry).	
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