

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2301**

ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**GANGA UTSAV 2024**

2301.       SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA     DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI  
              SHRI BABURAM NISHAD        SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of Ganga Utsav in promoting conservation and reverence for Maa Ganga;
- (b) the number of district in Ganga basin which participated in Ganga Utsav 2024; and
- (c) the importance of Jan Bhagidari in water conservation?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The objective of Ganga Utsav is to invoke public awareness, participation, engagement, and behavioral changes in the people living along the Ganga basin. The Utsav highlights the significance of Jan Bhagidari in the revival of the Ganga, with a focus on encouraging stakeholder engagement and public participation towards the rejuvenation of the river Ganga.

Ganga Utsav 2024 was a blend of technical, cultural, spiritual, and educational activities aimed at river rejuvenation. For the first time, a central-level event was celebrated on the banks of the river Ganga to act as a model festival for celebrating rivers in India. The event included broad-based participation from school children, college students, river professionals, officers of Urban Local Bodies, partners of NMCG, companies, spiritual leaders, officers of the Union and State Government of Uttarakhand, and NMCG officers and staff. The event was organized on Chandi Ghat in Haridwar, Uttarakhand State.

The event included technical sessions on “Citizen-led Urban River Management”, Treated Water Reuse: Policy to Practice, and International Collaboration for river rejuvenation. A spiritual session was organized to discuss deep rooted connection between spirituality and the preservation of the river. Ganga-related films were shown along with storytelling sessions to engage youth and children with the rivers. Exhibitions by various stakeholders showcased technologies, biodiversity, initiatives, and the impact of Namami Gange and other relevant themes. Ganga Aarti strengthened the river connect with the citizens aiming at promoting sustainable development in and around the Ganga basin.

**(b)** There are 139 districts that have been notified as a District Ganga Committee along Ganga main stem States. More than 110 districts celebrated Ganga Utsav in 2024.

**(c)** People's participation is key to the conservation and efficient management of water resources. A collective effort from all spheres of society including the public at large is key to the sustainability of the various initiatives and activities toward water conservation. Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse principle for promotion of reducing water usage at the Household level, Conservation of water by Rain water harvesting, treated water reuse at the community level, etc. are some of the activities promoted for raising awareness about water conservation and sustainable water practices.

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