

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2894

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

ROLE OF GANGA UTSAV

†2894. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

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

- (a) the role of the Ganga Utsav to promote conservation and reverence for Ganga river;
- (b) the number of districts situated in the Ganga Basin and participated in the Ganga Utsav 2024; and
- (c) the importance of public participation in the conservation of water?

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 behavioural changes in the people living along the Ganga basin. The Utsav highlights the significance of Jan Bhagidari in the revival of Ganga, with focus on encouraging stakeholder engagement and public participation towards the rejuvenation of river Ganga.

Ganga Utsav 2024 was a blend of technical, cultural, spiritual and educational activities aimed at river rejuvenation. For the first time, central level event was celebrated on the banks of river Ganga to act as model festival for celebrating rivers in India. The event included a broad-based participation from school children, college students, river professionals, officers of Urban Local Bodies, partners of NMCG, companies, spiritual leaders, officers of 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 preservation of river. Ganga related films were shown along with storytelling sessions to engage youth and children with the rivers. Exhibition by various stakeholders showcased technologies, biodiversity, initiatives and 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 which has been notified as a District Ganga Committee along Ganga main stem. Out of these, more than 110 districts celebrated Ganga Utsav in 2024.

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