

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND GANGA REJUVENATION

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP
WITH NPCIL SINCE 2016





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भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



नमामि
गंगा

Biodiversity Conservation and **GANGA REJUVENATION**

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WITH NPCIL SINCE 2016



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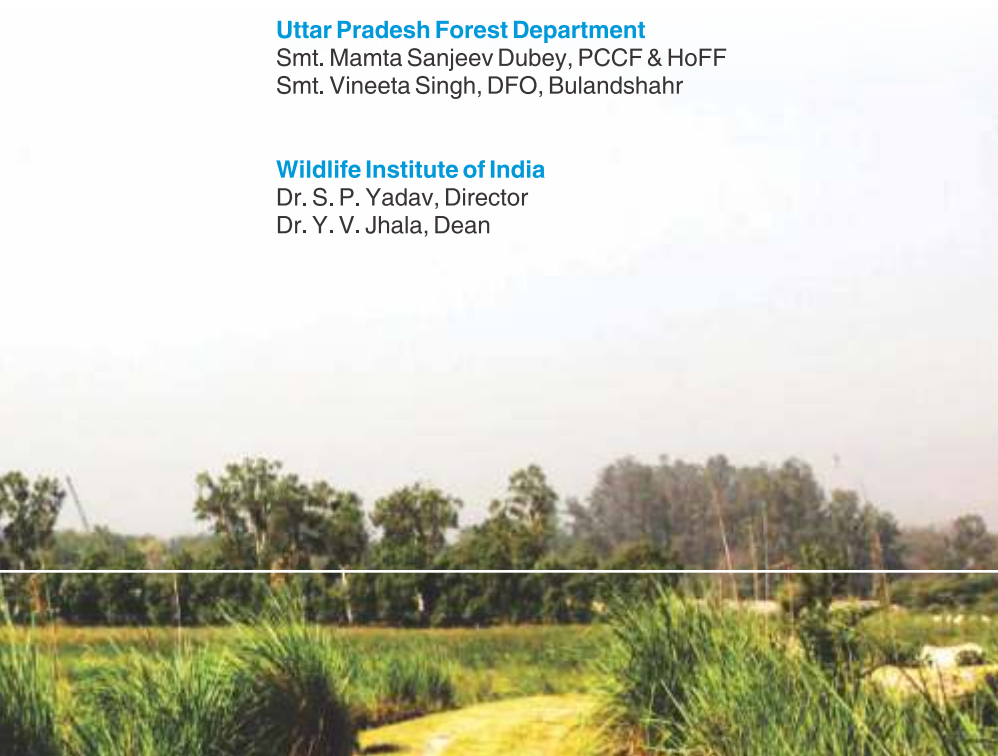
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Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



Message

The Ganga River is revered by millions of Indians for its cultural, religious, ecological and economic significance. The Namami Gange programme launched by the Government of India seeks to restore the *Aviral* and *Nirmal* dhara of Ganga River through various interventions, including the involvement of stakeholders. It is heartening to note that the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun through the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) sponsored project 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' has reached out to multiple stakeholders aiming for Ganga conservation. It is commendable that Nuclear Power Cooperation of India Limited (NPCIL) is also supporting Ganga Conservation through its Environment Stewardship Programme (ESP), and the MoU signed between WII and NPCIL is a step towards their long-term partnership in this regard.

This book is a testimony of the successful partnership between two premier institutes of Government of India working together for biodiversity conservation, that includes the aquatic biodiversity of Ganga River. I am hopeful that this document will inspire partnership and activities across other power stations of NPCIL and other public enterprises.

I congratulate the WII and NPCIL for working synergistically for Ganga conservation, and I hope that this partnership is a major step toward a practical approach for involving local communities as well as other stakeholders for conservation and rejuvenation of Ganga.

(G. Asok Kumar)



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सह निदेशक (सीपी एंड सीसी) एवं अपीलीय प्राधिकारी

B.V.S. Sekhar

AD (CP&CC) & Appellate Authority



Message

Nuclear power is a clean base load source of electricity available 24X7. It has a vital role to play in ensuring long term energy security of the country in a sustainable manner and in achieving 'net zero' target by the year 2070. In addition to abating millions of tons of Greenhouse gas emissions through generation of electricity from nuclear power, Nuclear Power Cooperation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been implementing an Environment Stewardship Programme (ESP) around its nuclear power plant sites. The programme involves habitat conservation, creation of conducive habitats like mud flat, nurturing of flora and fauna, surveys and scientific studies, documentation and publication of coffee table books.

In this endeavor, NPCIL has partnered with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). WII has provided us valuable expert advice in carrying out various environmental conservation activities and provided impetus to our programme. The technical expertise of the WII is being utilized for carrying out various conservation activities for the Namami Gange programme at Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS). I congratulate the WII and NPCIL team for working together and involving local communities in the vicinity of the NAPS for biodiversity conservation. This report depicts the excellent work carried out at Narora.

Our partnership has been successfully leveraged to enable biodiversity conservation around our other sites also, especially at Kaiga and Kudankulam. I am sure this partnership of NPCIL and WII will inspire us take up more environmental conservation activities, in line with our motto of Safety First - Environment Foremost.

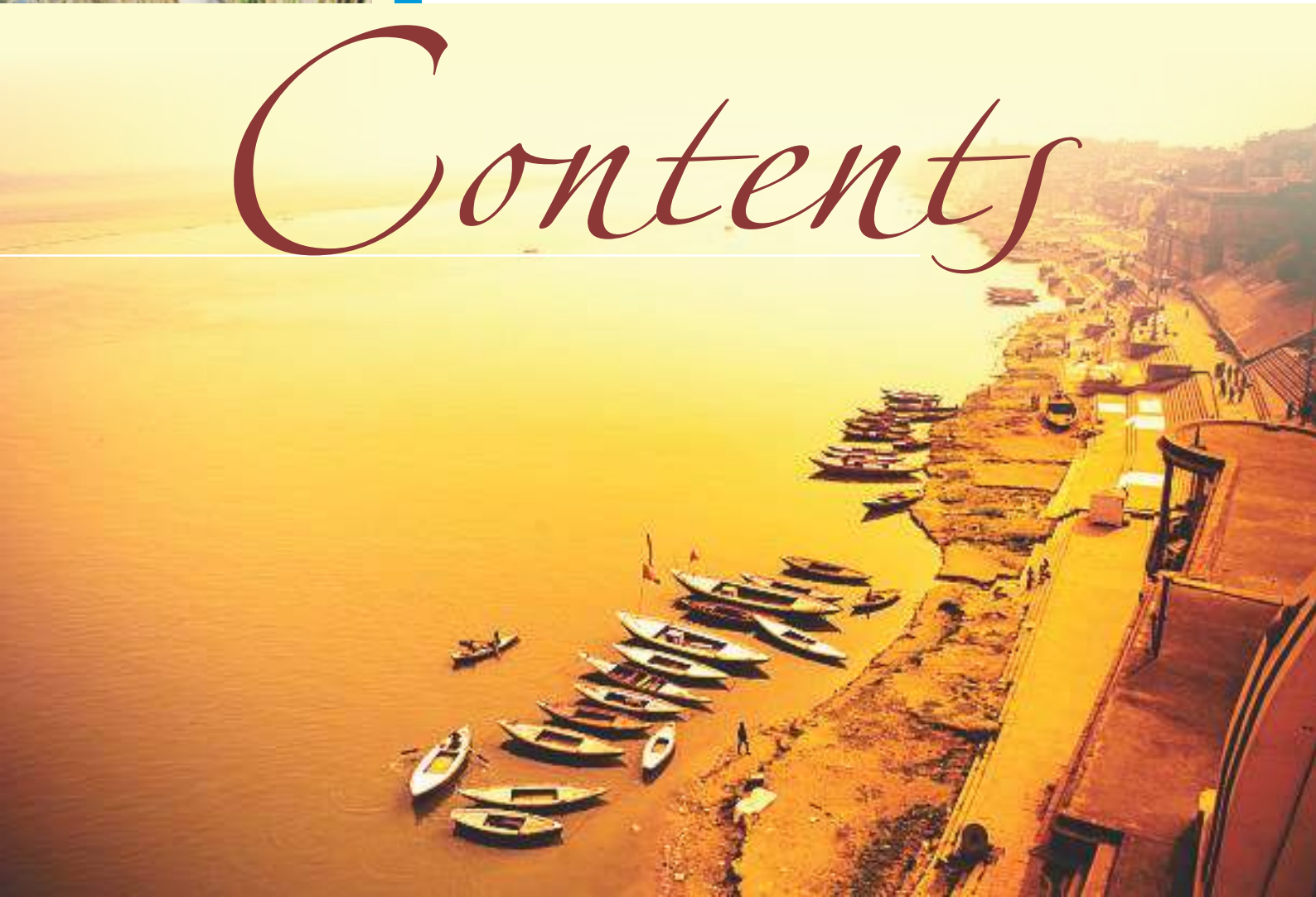
I compliment the efforts of the Wildlife Institute of India and NPCIL's ESP team for working together and bringing out this excellent publication.

(B. V. S. Sekhar)



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NMCG-WII Initiative: Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation



The Ganga Basin is home to about 25,000 floral and faunal species. The aquatic faunal diversity of Ganga River is represented by the Gangetic river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), three species of otters, three crocodilian species, including the critically endangered Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), and at least 12 species of freshwater turtles, including critically endangered *Batagur kachuga* and several rare, endangered and threatened fish species such as Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*), Ganges stingray (*Himantura fluviatilis*), mahseers (*Tor* spp.), hilsa (*Tenualosa ilisha*) and several species of endemic freshwater crabs. In addition to these species, obligate aquatic species like waterbirds and island nesting birds are essential components of the Ganga River's ecosystem. The Ganga basin's aquatic wildlife are under stress due to reduction in water levels, pollution, and over-exploitation of riverine resources leading to habitat degradation.

The Government of India (GOI) established the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to maintain its water quality, ecological flows, biodiversity value, and sustained ecosystem services, at the basin level. Through the Ministry of

Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, the NGRBA constituted the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) with a comprehensive approach to restore the aquatic environment of the Ganga River through four different sectors, viz. wastewater management, solid waste management, industrial pollution, and riverfront development. NMCG developed a comprehensive strategy to restore the biodiversity of the Ganga River and identified the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GOI, as the lead partner institution for aquatic species restoration. NMCG entrusted WII with the "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" project to prepare a science-based aquatic species conservation plan for Ganga River by involving multiple stakeholders for three years from 2016 to 2019.

Phase I of the project concluded in December 2019, subsequently, phase II was initiated in January 2020 with the aim to intensify the conservation efforts in identified sites along the mainstem Ganga River and upscale the conservation efforts to basin-level for aquatic biodiversity conservation.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: A systematic approach

Phase I

The NMCG-WII project "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" has six components.

1

Establish Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre at WII Dehra Dun for science based conservation planning and dissemination of information.

2

Prepare biodiversity profile of Ganga River and develop pilot species restoration plans for select stretches and species.

3

Develop capacity of Forest Department and other stakeholders of the Ganga River States in monitoring of identified species of conservation significance.

4

Assist NMCG in establishing the rescue and rehabilitation centres for endangered fauna of the Ganga at select sites by developing human resources and infrastructure with support from the Forest and Veterinary departments.

5

Elicit participation of local communities in NMCG initiatives by providing platforms through Panchayati Raj System, capacity development and payment for ecosystem services.

6

Develop and implement conservation education programmes for the river side communities of the Ganga River.

1

Science-based aquatic species conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services in the Ganga River basin.

2

Capacity building of Forest Department and other stakeholders for effective Ganga biodiversity conservation.

3

Community based aquatic species conservation and outreach in Ganga River basin.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: A systematic approach

Phase II

The NMCG-WII project "Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in the Ganga River Basin for a Clean Ganga" has three components.





Identification of Key Stakeholders

Throughout the Ganga mainstem, key stakeholders were identified. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, the key stakeholders are the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Panchayat members, District officers, District Magistrate, Chief Development Officer, field veterinarians, media personnel, school students, teachers and local communities residing along the Ganga mainstem. NPCIL, a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India was identified as one of the key stakeholders for conserving high biodiversity zones.

Unique Partnership Model

NPCIL voluntarily took up the Environment Stewardship Programme (ESP) in 2006 to preserve the environment by focusing on the scientific study of biodiversity within and around Exclusion Zones (EZs) of Indian nuclear power plants for the conservation and improvement of habitat in association with nature conservation institutions. Under the NPCIL Environment Steward Programme, WII selected Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) in Narora along the Ganga River, in Uttar Pradesh, to implement the conservation activities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 6th July 2016 between NPCIL and WII for environmental conservation activities for three years, which ended on 6th July 2019. At the end of the MoU, a review was undertaken for the MoU period. Post review, the MoU was extended up to 6th July 2022. This MoU is an example of a trans-disciplinary biodiversity initiative never attempted earlier in the country.

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into BETWEEN Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 having its registered office at 16th Floor, Centre 1, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400005 and the Corporate Office at Nabhikya Urja Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai - 400094, hereinafter referred to as NPCIL which expression shall means and includes its successors and permitted assigns of the FIRST PART.

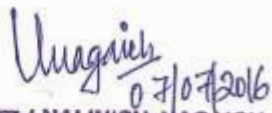
AND

The Wildlife Institute of India was set up by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India under the act of Parliament in 1982 (hereafter referred to as WII or the SECOND PARTY) which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context, be deemed to include its successor, administrators, legal heirs, permitted assigns of SECOND PARTY.

WHEREAS:

NPCIL is a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. NPCIL was incorporated on 17th September 1987 as a Public Limited Company under the Indian Companies Act, 2013, with the objectives of operating Atomic Power Plants and implementing atomic Power Projects for the generation of electricity, in pursuance of the schemes and programmes of Government of India under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

NPCIL is responsible for design, construction, operation and maintenance of NPPs in India. With its excellent record of operation of Nuclear Power Plants safety in operation is given utmost priority. "Safety first and production next" is the motto of NPCIL. Dissemination of accurate and authentic information on nuclear power is one of the main objectives of NPCIL. On this aspect, NPCIL conducts various public awareness programmes throughout the country for enhancing and improving the public perceptions on Nuclear Power in the country and to disseminate scientific and authentic information.


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निदेशक (मानव संसाधन) / Director (Human Resources)
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निदेशक/Director
भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA
देहरादून/Dehradun

Memorandum of Understanding signed between NPCIL and WII



न्यूक्लियर पॉवर कॉर्पोरेशन
ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
**NUCLEAR POWER
CORPORATION
OF INDIA LIMITED**
(A Government of India Enterprise)

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ए के नेमा

सह निदेशक (सीपी एंड सीसी)

अपीलीय प्राधिकारी

A. K. Nema

AD (CP&CC) &

Appellate Authority

NPCIL/AD (CP&CC) /2019/25

June 13, 2019

Dear Sir,

Sub: Extension of MoU between NPCIL and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

This is with reference to the MoU signed between NPCIL and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) on July 07, 2016 for environment conservation activities under NPCIL's Environment Stewardship Programme (ESP). The MoU is due to expire on July 06, 2019.

Our association has been very fruitful. During the last three years, a lot of conservation activities like training, data analysis, field surveys, rescue, rehabilitation, improvement of existing facilities, awareness activities etc., have been carried out in and around NPCIL sites by WII in association with NPCIL.

We were keen on extending the period of the MoU and WII have also expressed their willingness to extend the MoU (vide email dated 27.05.2019)

Accordingly, we hereby extend the period of the MoU on the same terms for a further period of three years (upto July 03, 2022) in line with the Validity & Termination clause of the current MoU. You may please convey formal acceptance of the same.

Thanking you,

Dr. V. B. Mathur
Director, Wildlife Institute of India
Post Box # 18, Chandrabani
Dehradun 248 001 Uttarakhand
Email: dwii@wii.gov.in

cc: All Sds / Pds / ESP conveners

Extension of Memorandum of Understanding signed between NPCIL and WII

Thematic Areas for Biodiversity Conservation

Under the NPCIL's ESP, thematic areas are suggested for India's seven existing Atomic Power Plant sites (Figure 1) for biodiversity conservation. These were based on the type of power plant, state, location, biogeographic zone, and biodiversity in the surrounding landscape (Table 1).

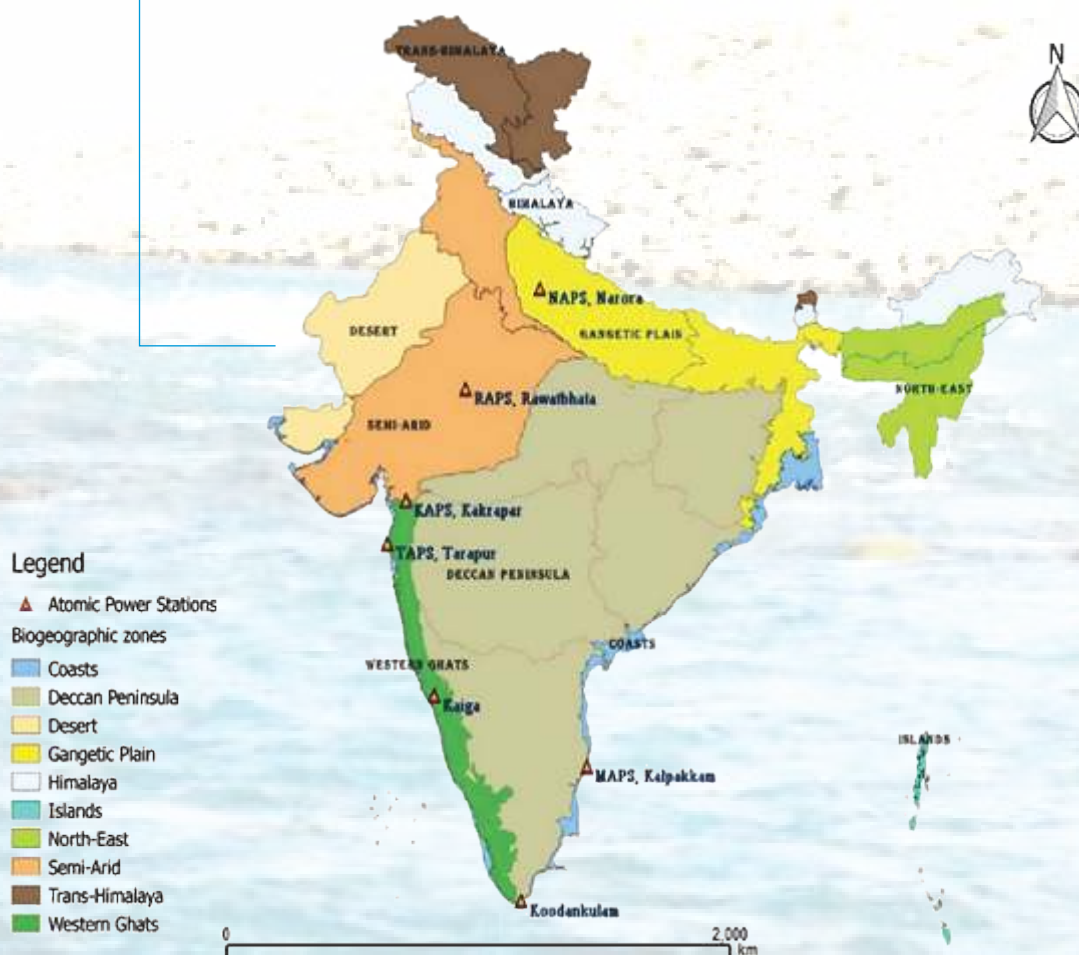


Figure 1: Spatial distribution of the existing Atomic Power Plants of the NPCIL and the biogeographic zones of India

Table 1: Suggested thematic areas for biodiversity conservation around the existing Atomic Power Station sites in India

S.No.	Plants	State	Location	Biogeographic zone	Thematic areas for biodiversity conservation in surrounding landscape	Target species for conservation
1.	Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)	Uttar Pradesh	65 km from Bulandshahr	Gangetic Plain	Aquatic – Fresh water (Ganga River) Terrestrial – Wet grasslands	• Gangetic river dolphin • Swamp deer • Gharial • Ganges soft-shell turtle • Narrow headed soft-shell turtle • Indian skimmer • Sarus crane • Common crane
2.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Rawatbhata (RAPS)	Rajasthan	50 km from Kota	Semi-Arid	Aquatic – Fresh water (Chambal River) Terrestrial – Savanna grasslands	• Smooth-coated otter • Vultures • Great Indian bustard • Lesser florican • Gharial • Mugger • Leopard
3.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)	Gujarat	80 km from Surat	Western Ghats	Aquatic - Fresh water (Tapi River) Mangroves, Wetlands Terrestrial - Savanna grasslands, Scrub Forests	• Leopard • Sloth bear • Flamingos • Great Indian bustard • Waterbirds (Ducks, Geese) • Turtles
4.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS)	Maharashtra	160 km from Mumbai	Western Ghats, West Coast	Aquatic - Marine and Fresh water Terrestrial – Broad leaved Forests Scrub forests	• Indian flying squirrel • Blackbuck • Tiger • Wetland birds
5.	Kaiga Generating Station, Karwar	Karnataka	Uttar Kannada, 100 km from Goa	Western Ghats	Aquatic - Fresh water Terrestrial – Evergreen, semi-evergreen, dry and moist deciduous forests, scrub and thorny forests, grasslands	• Tiger • Otter • Lion-tailed macaque • Malabar giant squirrel • Grizzled giant squirrel • Smooth-coated otter • Hornbills • Butterflies • Leopard • Elephant • King cobra
6.	Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station (KKNPS)	Tamil Nadu	30 km from Kanyakumari	West Coast	Aquatic - Marine Terrestrial - tropical dry forests, thorn forest, mangroves	• Whales and dolphins • Dugong • Sea turtles • Four-horned antelope • Colonial nesting birds (heronry) • Waders • Indian Peafowl
7.	Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam	Tamil Nadu	70 km from Chennai	Western Ghat and Deccan Peninsula	Aquatic - Marine and Fresh water Terrestrial - tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, dry and moist deciduous forests, thorn, littoral, swamp, and grasslands.	• Whales and dolphins • Dugong • Four-horned antelope • Colonial nesting birds (heronry) • Sea turtles • Pelican

Combined Effort: WII and NPCIL

One of the objectives of NMCG - WII's project is to strengthen/establish rescue and rehabilitation centres at strategic locations for aquatic species in distress. WII has partnered with NPCIL since 2016 and established the Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GARRC) at NAPS for species restoration. Under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) tenets and as a part of its ESP, NAPS launched a head-start programme to rehabilitate endangered freshwater turtles. WII adopted this existing facility inside the NAPS campus for up-gradation. The Centre is spearheading rescue and rehabilitation operations for the aquatic wildlife of Ganga River.

The rescue centre operates on a three-point control and collaboration in the operation & maintenance

Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
Situated inside the Sewage Treatment Plant facility with a lush green campus.	First of its kind: Electricity supply by atomic energy.	Hydroponics based biofiltration of the water for husbandry practices.



Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Narora



Dr Anita Rajput, Former MLA Debai visited the GARRC facility



Officials from NAPS and NPCIL visited the GARRC facility

Creating Conservation Awareness with NPCIL

Within the NPCIL's mandate for ESP, training activities focusing on biodiversity conservation were organized in partnership with the WII at the Atomic Power Stations located in Narora (Uttar Pradesh), Kaiga (Karnataka), and Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu). Bird festival, bird marathons, training programmes, field training, guest and online training were conducted to impart information on bird monitoring techniques, data collection, processing and analysis techniques.



Bird festival at Kudankulam

Bird Festival

Bird festival was celebrated to promote bird watching as an economic activity for rural livelihood enhancement and raise awareness on the conservation of birds and their habitat. For the bird festival, birdwatching, sensitization, and awareness programmes were organized at Narwar ghat, Narora, on 2nd December 2016. In 2018, a two-day training workshop from 9th to 10th February, and a birdwatching cum festival was organized in Narora, Bulandshahr, for the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department officials and school students on Vashi Ganga Ghat.



Bird Festival at Vashi Ghat, Narora

Bird Marathon

Bird marathons were organized to raise awareness on the importance of conserving birds and their associated habitats in Narora, Uttar Pradesh on 8th January 2017 and 23rd February 2020, in Kaiga, Karnataka, on 21st January 2018 and 11th January 2020, and in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, on 28th February 2020.



Bird Marathon conducted at Narora, Uttar Pradesh



Bird Marathon conducted at Kaiga, Karnataka



Shri A. K. Nema chairing session during Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation Seminar

Training Programmes

Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation Seminar

During the second "Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation Seminar" on 22nd August 2019, Shri A.K. Nema, Associate Director (CP&CC), NPCIL, chaired the technical session on community participation, nature interpretation, and awareness. During this session, researchers of the NMCG-WII project presented the talk on community engagement, the effectiveness of capacity building of stakeholders, and nature interpretation and conservation education in biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation.



Shri A.K. Nema interacted with NMCG-WII researchers during the Ganga seminar



Field training at Kaiga, Karnataka

Field Training

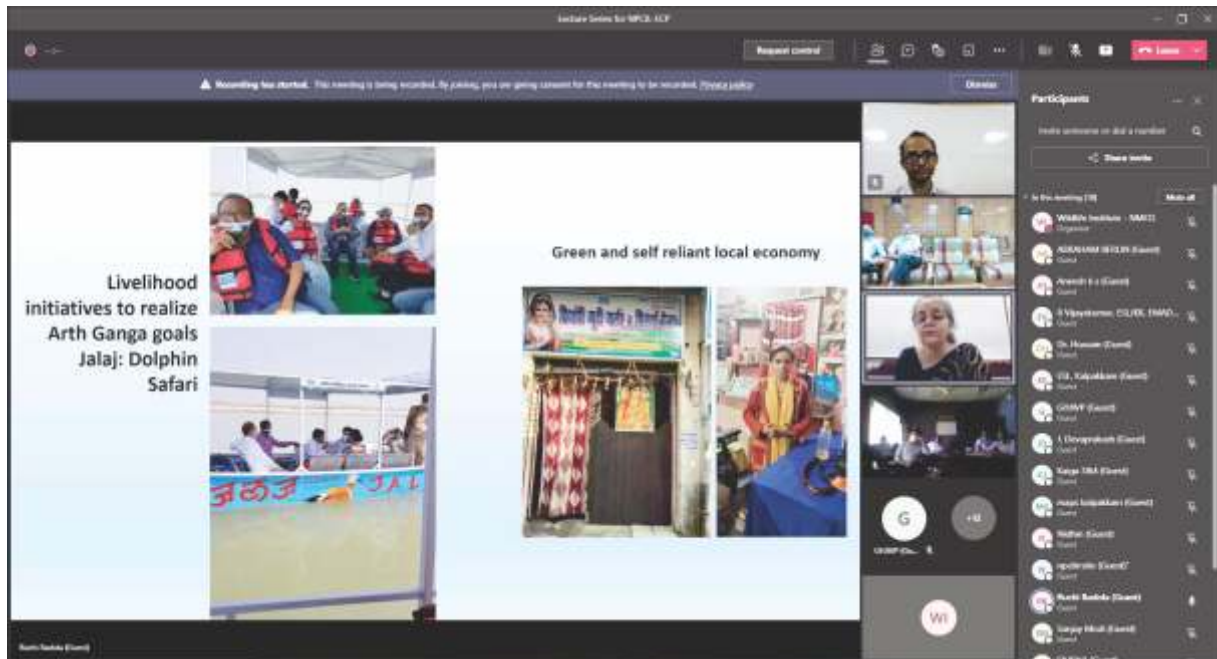
Under NPCIL ESP, field training and lectures were organized in Kaiga, Karnataka, from 11th to 13th January 2020 to educate people on bird monitoring and the importance of biodiversity conservation. The 'Bird Survey & Census techniques' and 'Data collection, processing and analysis techniques' were discussed during the lectures.



NMCG-WII project personnel presenting a lecture at Kaiga, Karnataka

Online Training

During the COVID-19 pandemic, an online workshop was conducted as part of the “Lecture series for NPCIL-ESP” on 3rd September 2021, which was attended by 21 participants. Another online workshop on “Bird population monitoring” was organized for NPCIL on 24th September 2021 to provide knowledge of the scientific techniques used for bird population monitoring.



Lecture series for NPCIL- ESP online workshop



Bird population monitoring online workshop

Scientific Upgradation of the Turtle Rearing Centre



WII base camp at Narora

WII Base Camp at NAPS

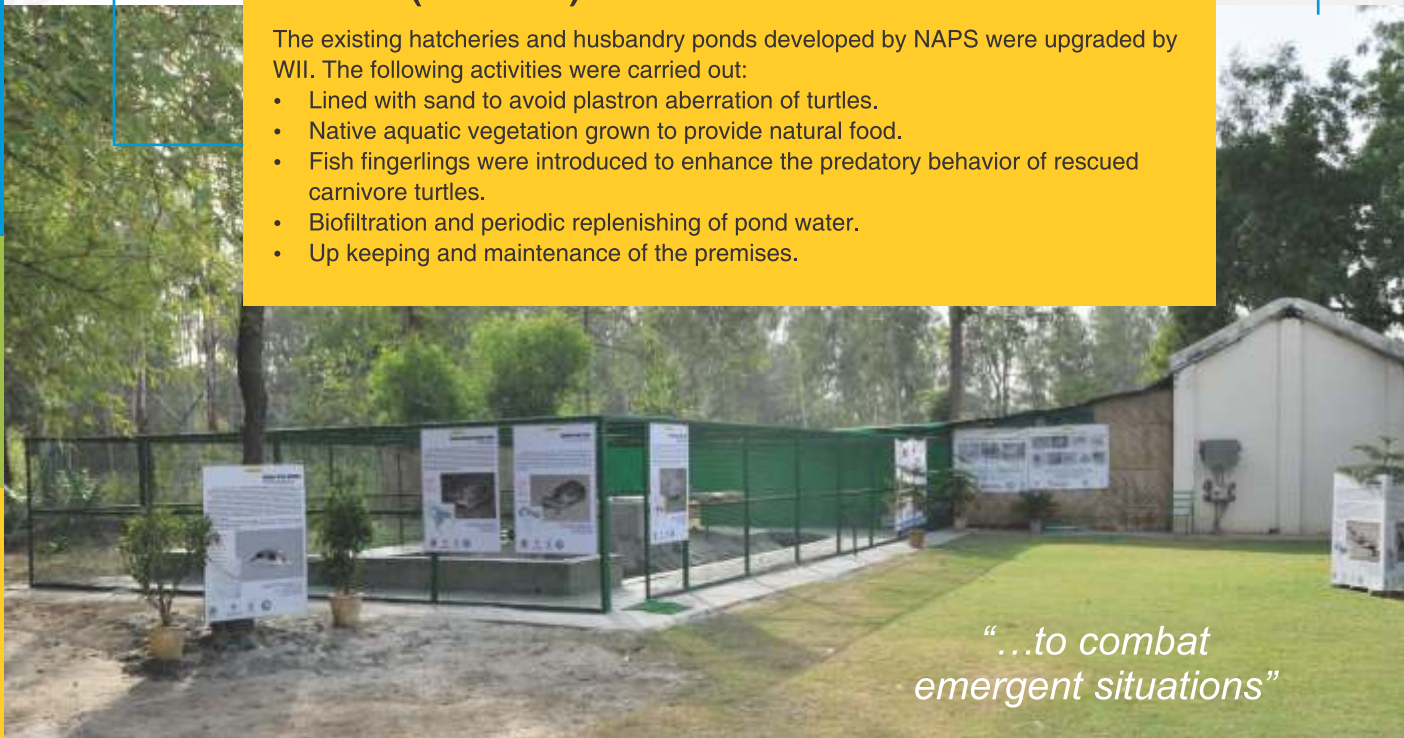
NAPS extended its facilities to WII. A base camp was established inside the NAPS residential campus for field researchers for prompt action on rescue, rehabilitation, and carrying out community-based conservation activities.

“We are there for a reason: collaboration, cooperation, coordination and conservation”

Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GARRC)

The existing hatcheries and husbandry ponds developed by NAPS were upgraded by WII. The following activities were carried out:

- Lined with sand to avoid plastron aberration of turtles.
- Native aquatic vegetation grown to provide natural food.
- Fish fingerlings were introduced to enhance the predatory behavior of rescued carnivore turtles.
- Biofiltration and periodic replenishing of pond water.
- Up keeping and maintenance of the premises.



“...to combat emergent situations”

Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, managed by NAPS Narora, with technical support from WII-NMCG

Before Restoration



After Restoration



Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Narora

Summer care facility

In summer, small plants in the basking area of turtles provide shade and prevent desiccation from direct sunlight.



Shady plants planted inside housing



Heat proof hide for basking turtles

Winter care facility

In winter, heat-retaining agro-net fencing, heating system for pond water, basking area with adequate sunlight, and covering of enclosures with tarpaulin prevent turtles from cold temperature



Covering of enclosures with tarpaulin to prevent temperature drop during night

Assuring protection from natural predators

Double fencing with fine mesh: averts monitor lizards and snakes and prevents escaping of hatchlings from the pools.

Care and cure

Trained veterinary doctors and researchers from WII monitor health and assure the survival of the rescued animals round the year via proper housing and husbandry practices, periodic health checkups for species under quarantine, diet schedule for every rescued species, and medicines and dietary supplements.

Contributing towards species restoration

A total of 162 turtles belonging to 11 species, five muggers, and one gharial were rescued between December 2016 and June 2021, from various locations in the vicinity of the Narora Atomic Power Station, including the Parallel Lower Ganga Canal during the concretization drive. After veterinary management, these rescued individuals were released into the Ganga River (Table 2).



Shri Jain, SD, NAPS, and other senior staff members visited the GARRC facility



Staff members of NAPS visited the GARRC facility



Families around Narora visited the GARRC facility



School students from Narora visited the GARRC facility





Monitoring of turtle health

Table 2: Individuals rescued by Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre from Narora and adjoining areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of Individuals	IUCN Status	WPA Schedule
Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>	1	CR	I
Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	5	VU	I
Three-striped roofed turtle	<i>Batagur dhongoka</i>	5	CR	NL
Black pond turtle	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>	21	EN	I
Crowned river turtle	<i>Hardella thurjii</i>	3	EN	NL
Indian black turtle	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>	4	LC	NL
Indian softshell turtle	<i>Nilssonia gangetica</i>	9	EN	I
Indian peacock softshell turtle	<i>Nilssonia hurum</i>	3	EN	I
Indian roofed turtle	<i>Pangshura tecta</i>	89	VU	I
Indian tent turtle	<i>Pangshura tentoria</i>	7	LC	I
Brown roofed turtle	<i>Pangshura smithii</i>	4	NT	NL
Indian flapshell turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	16	VU	I
Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle	<i>Chitra indica</i>	1	EN	IV



Shri Jain, SD, NAPS releasing a rescued turtle at Narwar Ghat Narora



Rescue operations at Narora



Ashok and Raja: our inspiration

Two male spotted-pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) that were housed at GARRC after the rescue, caught the attention of Sushri Uma Bharti Ji, the then Minister of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation when she visited the Centre. She named them Ashok and Raja. Since then, she has visited the GARRC three times to see her beloved turtles. During her recent visit for the third time on 29th October 2021, she expressed her satisfaction in the way the Centre is being managed.



Ashok and Raja

NMCG-WII Community Based Conservation Programme



Participation of villages around Narora

Local communities are among the most crucial stakeholders in river restoration projects due to their diverse role in the landscape. To reach out to these stakeholders, meetings, and workshops were conducted. Awareness programmes and initiatives such as Pad Yatra, rallies, chaupals, hoardings, slogans, and wall paintings were undertaken to create mass awareness. Inter and intra-school competitions, dance, poems, and story sessions were also conducted to create awareness.

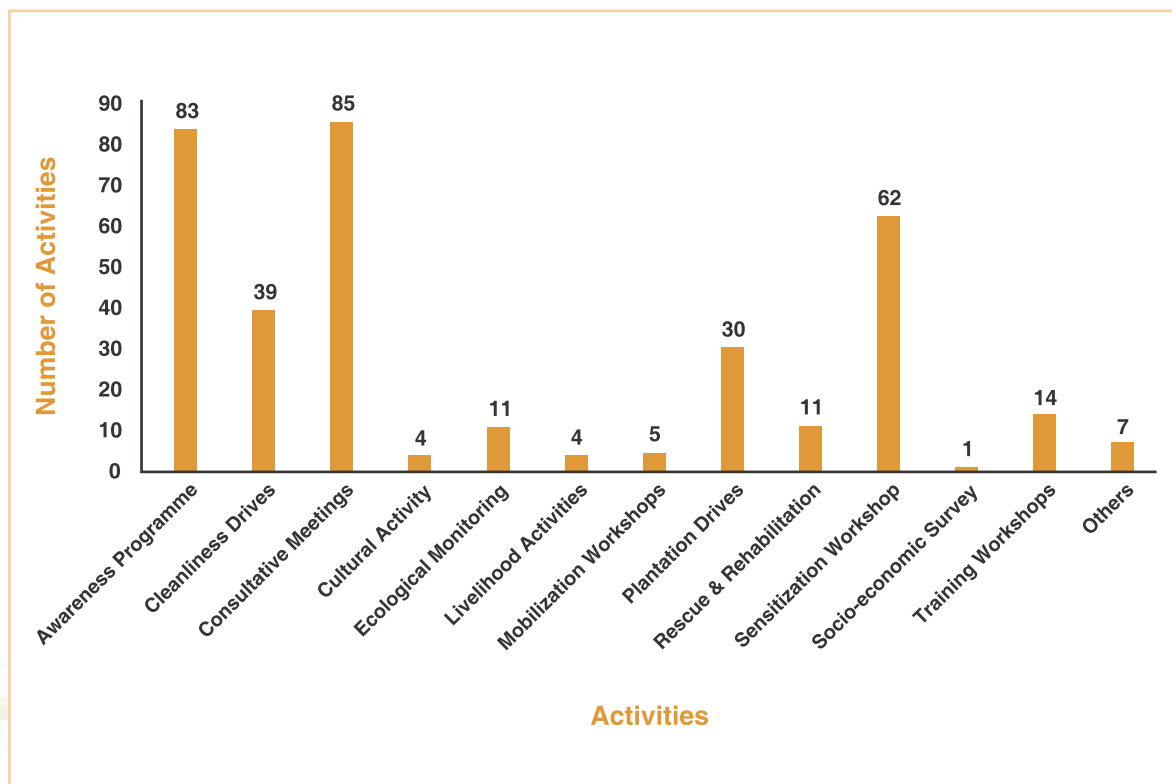
Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) were signed with 16 Village Panchayats and Nagar Panchayat Narora to ensure continuous and active participation in WII's initiatives. As a part of this, more than 14,642 participants from various stakeholder groups were sensitized, covering 50 villages in two adjoining districts. Sixty-two sensitization workshops for various stakeholder groups were conducted, and 170 *Ganga Praharis* were identified to take forward the conservation efforts.

Steps towards the Ganga River conservation

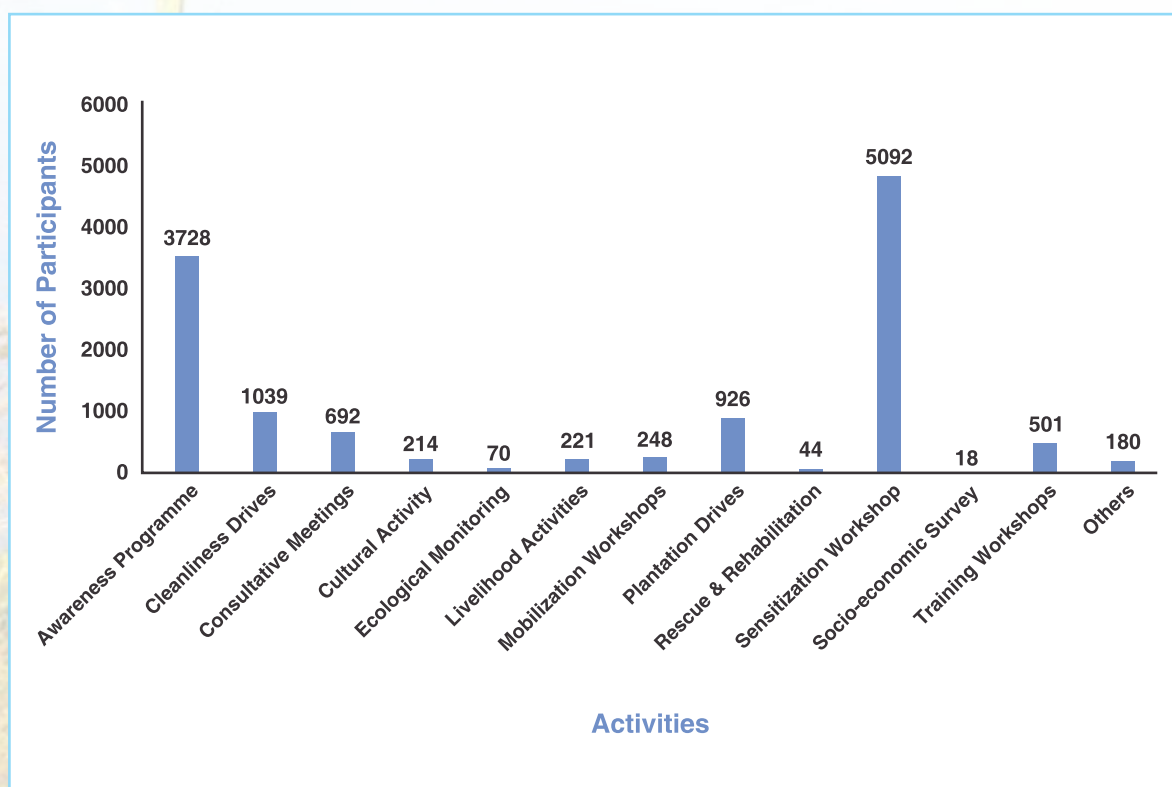
In Narora, Bulandshahr, 356 activities were conducted between January 2017 and October 2021, in which about 13,000 individuals participated. The number of participations was highest in sensitization workshops (39.3%) followed by awareness programme (28.7%), cleanliness drives (8.0%), plantation drives (7.1%), consultative meetings (5.3%), training workshops (3.9%), mobilization workshops (1.9%), livelihood activities (1.7%), cultural activity (1.6%), others (1.4%), ecological monitoring (0.5%), rescue & rehabilitation (0.3%), and socio-economic survey (0.1%).



Activities conducted with local institutions and communities



Activities conducted from January 2017 to October 2021 around Narora



Participation in activities conducted from January 2017 to October 2021 around Narora

A Life Less Ordinary: *Ganga Prahari* Cadre

Number of *Ganga Prahari*

27 
Male

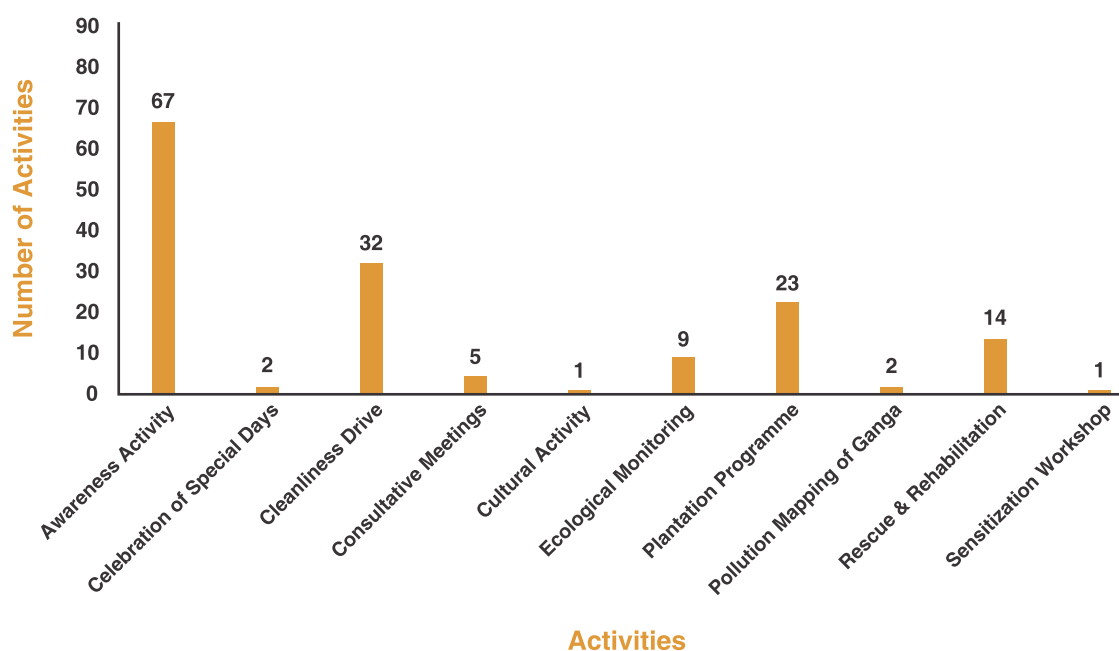
143 
Female

Ganga Praharis from Narora Vicinity Bulandshahr

Ganga Praharis, a cadre of self-motivated volunteers from the local communities, was created by the WII in the five Ganga states, viz. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. The primary criterion for the identification of a *Ganga Prahari* was the passion and zeal to work towards the conservation of the Ganga River and its biodiversity. In Narora, Bulandshahr, 170 *Ganga Praharis* were identified. The number of female *Ganga Praharis* (84.1%) is more than male *Ganga Praharis* (15.9%), reflecting their major role in the Ganga conservation related activities. Among these, ten *Ganga Praharis* are members of the spearhead team

Initiatives of *Ganga Prahari* towards conservation

The WII team conducted 200 activities for *Ganga Praharis*, and the *Ganga Praharis* themselves conducted 156 activities. Among activities conducted by *Ganga Praharis*, the number of activities was highest for awareness activity (42.9%), followed by cleanliness drive (20.5%), plantation programme (14.7%), rescue & rehabilitation (9.0%), ecological monitoring (5.8%), consultative meetings (3.2%), the celebration of special days (1.3%), pollution mapping of Ganga (1.3%), cultural activity (0.6%), and sensitization workshop (0.6%).



Activities organized and conducted by trained *Ganga Praharis* around Narora

Livelihood Interventions: Linking Local Economy with Conservation

The local community's livelihood was linked with Ganga conservation to ensure on-ground sustainability of the conservation efforts and long-term participation. Thus, linkages were established with various organizations and institutions for area-specific livelihood interventions, prominent among which are:

National Rural Livelihood Mission to revive existing self-help groups in the villages

Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Punjab National Bank, Bulandshahr- for alternative livelihoods

Department of Science and Technologies, Government of India

Himalayan Environmental Studies & Conservation Organization, Dehra Dun

Mahila Samakhya for livelihood training among women Self-help groups in Ganga Grams

Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation for awareness and introduction of productive cattle species

USHA Social Services for setting up the Sewing and Stitching Centre

Developing Green Livelihood Skills

As part of the community-based conservation initiative, 15 livelihood and skill enhancement training sessions were conducted for local communities in Narora, Bulandshahr. The training sessions provide the forums to discuss the issues and challenges in biodiversity conservation of the Ganga River and the importance of a clean river ecosystem with trainees. Some of these trainees are enrolled as *Ganga Praharis* and conduct regular cleanliness and plantation drives, awareness activities focusing on the importance of the biodiversity of the Ganga River, and motivating other members of the community for biodiversity conservation. The livelihood training sessions reduce the local communities' direct dependence on the Ganga River and build their stake in its conservation.



Livelihood training conducted at Narora, Bulandshahr



Livelihood training conducted at Narora, Bulandshahr



Number of livelihood training conducted for *Ganga Praharis* at Narora, Bulandshahr

To provide livelihood opportunities to women in rural areas, WII partnered with NDTV-USHA and conducted a workshop “Kushalta Ke Kadam” from 2nd to 3rd May 2019. This partnership received attention from local and national media. NDTV covered the story of women from Narora in its USHA-Kushalta Ke Kadam” programme.



"To promote livelihood in the state of Uttar Pradesh, we reached out to USHA and requested them to train women working in rural areas. The training has not only increased the income of these women, but also provided various incentives, as it has some Rs. 17 thousand each."



"In Uttar Pradesh's Baner, I've initially undertaken a 10-day training program and now she is taking about training. This is to support her better financially, and needs to sustain family of eight."

NDTV-USHA-WII partnership: Kushalta Ke Kadam



A workshop on the “Green and self-reliant local economy” was conducted on 24th October 2019. As an outcome of the programme, a trainee opened a parlour cum stitching centre, “Priyanshi beauty parlour and silai centre”, after receiving training in sewing, stitching, and beauty parlour course workshops.



Green and self-reliant local economy

Online livelihood training was conducted from 1st to 15th September 2020 on “Health and Wellness”. This workshop aimed to create awareness among women *Ganga Praharis* on their health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic by training them about the importance, benefit, and market value of natural products. During online training, methods to produce various beauty products (for skin, hair, and body) from natural products such as grains, pulses, vegetables, fruits, milk, multani mitti (fuller's earth), spices, herbs, roots, shoots, dry flower powders, and their leftovers were demonstrated. This workshop empowered women and ensured their contribution as *Ganga Praharis* for the conservation of the Ganga River.



Online livelihood training

Contribution to Kumbh Mela, 2019

The Kumbh Mela was celebrated from 15th January 2019 to 4th March 2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, which was visited by approximately 150 million people. This platform was used for reaching out to the general public to create mass awareness about the benefits of a clean Ganga and its biodiversity. From Narora, Bulandshahr, 17 *Ganga Praharis* were mobilized to participate in the Kumbh Mela. During the Mela, 175 *Ganga Prahari* person-days were invested in which *Ganga Praharis* assisted the NMCG-WII team, Prayagraj Mela Authority, and Ganga Task Force (GTF) in rescue and rehabilitation of aquatic wildlife species in stress, disseminated awareness on NMCG-WII initiatives for biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation, supported in managing Kumbh Mela ground and provided logistic support by cleaning ghats and Mela grounds during and after the Mela and by setting up the tents and other infrastructure, guided women and children to their shelter camps. For their contribution to managing the Kumbh Mela, *Ganga Praharis* were rewarded with the honorarium (as per state government minimum wage norms) to appreciate their efforts. This appreciation in future will motivate the long-term participation of *Ganga Praharis* in the Ganga River conservation activities.



Ganga Praharis involved in various activities during Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh



Building Capacity of the Stakeholders

For sustaining the conservation and ecological monitoring activities, capacity building programmes were developed for Forest Departments and other stakeholders. The training curriculum on modules like monitoring of aquatic wildlife, management planning of wetlands, community involvement in conservation, and conservation education were prepared for stakeholders. The spearheaded teams of state forest departments from five Ganga States were established and trained. These trained spearhead teams carry forward the training of other frontline staff for successful conservation efforts. In five years (from 2017 to 2021), eight capacity building workshops were conducted at Narora, Bulandshahr. In these workshops, various stakeholders such as Uttar Pradesh Forest Department officials, Panchayat members, District officers, District Magistrate, Chief Development Officer, NAPS officials, field veterinarians,

media personnel, school students, teachers, *Ganga Praharis*, and other line agencies were trained. During capacity building programmes, the stakeholder's were trained on different aspects such as monitoring of aquatic wildlife, community involvement in conservation, water sampling technique, skill development, and conservation education. These trainings are briefly described below:

One day stakeholder training workshop was organized on 18th May 2017 for Panchayat members of villages in Narora, Bulandshahr to disseminate information and spread awareness about the mission, objectives, and activities of the NMCG-WII project, focusing on the status, ecological significance of the aquatic biodiversity found in the Ganga River, and cultural and economic importance of the Ganga River.



Stakeholder training workshop at Narora



One day district level stakeholder training workshop was organized on 14th June 2017 at Vikas Bhawan, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, for district officers, NAPS, and other line agencies. The workshop aimed to introduce NMCG-WII project objectives and the need to strengthen the cross-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination for the successful implementation of the project.



One day district level stakeholder training workshop at Bulandshahr

One day capacity enhancement workshop on “Rescue and rehabilitation of aquatic fauna and role of different stakeholders in biodiversity conservation of Ganga River” was organized for Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, Chief Development Officer, District Magistrate, and field veterinarians on 28th June 2017 at the Sabhagar Vikas Bhawan in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.



Capacity building workshop at Bulandshahr

One day sensitization workshop was conducted for the school students to introduce monitoring techniques for the riverine vegetation on 20th December 2017 at Rajghat inter-college Narora, Bulandshahr.



Workshop on riverine vegetation monitoring technique at Narora

Two days capacity enhancement workshop was organized from 1st to 2nd February 2018 for officials of the NAPS-ESP and frontline forest staffs of Uttar Pradesh Forest Department on “Aquatic species conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation”, emphasizing the role of rescue and rehabilitation of species of conservation significance, in the biodiversity conservation of Ganga River.



Training workshop for NAPS-ESP and forest officials at Narora

One day consultative workshop for the media personnel on “Role of media in biodiversity conservation of the Ganga River” was organized on 28th January 2019 at Uday Prabhat Guest House, Narora, Bulandshahr. The workshop highlighted the importance of the role played by media in creating mass awareness among the general public on biodiversity conservation and the activities carried out under the NMCG-WII project.



Consultative workshop for media personnel at Narora

Skill development workshop was conducted from 5th to 12th February 2020, for teachers and school students on “Eco-friendly ways to celebrate festivals of India” in different schools of Dibai and Anupshahr block, Bulandshahr. The focus of the workshop was to sensitize the students about the significance of the use of organic colours instead of chemical colours and train them to prepare the Holi colours from natural products.



Skill development workshop for school students



Training students on eco-friendly ways to celebrate festivals of India

Online training on “Sampling guidelines for collecting sediment and water samples” was conducted on 17th May 2020. The workshop aimed towards the capacity building of local communities in biomonitoring studies and systematically investigating the contamination risk posed by the toxic industrial effluents on the aquatic ecosystem of the Ganga River. Twenty-six *Ganga Praharis* from five states and 17 sampling locations were trained in this workshop.



Online training for water sample collection

Celebrating Ganga and Its Biodiversity

Wildlife Week

Wildlife Week is annually celebrated in India from 2nd to 8th October to raise awareness among general people on wildlife conservation. During Wildlife Week, drawing and quiz competitions were organized on 3rd October 2017 for the students of Irrigation Inter-College, Narora, Bulandshahr. In this event, students were sensitized about the significance of celebrating wildlife week and the importance of wildlife in maintaining the ecological balance. In the subsequent year, WII collaborated with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and celebrated Wildlife Week on 2nd October 2018 at Basi Ghat with local people and *Ganga Praharis*.



Wildlife Week celebrations at Narora

Mission Gange: River Rafting Expedition

The 1500 km, month-long rafting expedition, Mission Gange, was organized by the NMCG in partnership with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) in October 2018. The expedition aimed to create public awareness about the *Namami Gange* Programme, the cleaning of ghats, and sensitize the riverside communities and stakeholders about the status and importance of biodiversity in the Ganga River. The expedition was led by the acclaimed first Indian woman Everest climber, Ms Bachendri Pal. The expedition team comprised a diverse and industrious team of 40 members, including eight mountaineers, environmentalists, and engineers. Before starting the expedition, the team met and interacted with Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, and Shri Nitin Gadkari, former Minister of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The expedition commenced from Haridwar on 5th October 2018, and the team reached its first destination, Bijnor, on 8th October 2018. After spending two days at Bijnor, the team left for Farrukhabad with a stopover at Narora. At Narora, a cleanliness drive was organized, with participation from the local community and the *Ganga Praharis*. Traversing through Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Buxar, the expedition concluded at Patna on 30th October 2018.

Rag Rag Mein Ganga

“Rag Rag Mein Ganga” a TV series produced by Doordarshan in collaboration with NMCG spreads awareness on the need for Ganga River rejuvenation and also informs about the Government's initiatives to clean Ganga. Season one of the series (21 episodes) was first aired on DD National on 2nd February 2019. Episode eight in season one of the series showcased the GARRC. The show's host, Shri Rajeev Khandelwal, visited GARRC where he interacted with the NMCG-WII project team members and *Ganga Praharis*. The episode broadcasted the activities conducted at the GARRC under the NAPS-NMCG-WII initiatives for biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation.



Interaction of NMCG-WII researcher with Shri Rajeev Khandelwal during the shoot of Rag Rag Mein Ganga in Narora



Earth Week celebrations at Narora

Earth Week Celebration

Earth Week is celebrated every year from 16th April to Earth Day, 22nd April. The Earth Week celebration aimed to raise awareness among the general public about the environment and inspire them to save and protect it. In Narora, Uttar Pradesh, Earth Week was celebrated from 22nd to 28th April 2019 to promote biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation among school students and teachers. The awareness programmes were organized on the theme “Protect Our Species”.

Van Mahotsav

Van Mahotsav is a pan-Indian tree planting festival celebrated annually in July. Since 2018, Van Mahotsav is organized annually at Narora and its vicinity. A plantation drive was conducted on 3rd July 2018 in Rajghat, Narora, in which saplings of economic, medicinal, and cultural values were planted. On 15th July 2018, *Ganga Praharis* conducted a plantation drive in Nayabas Bangar village of district Bulandshahr. In Narora, the Van Mahotsav programme was organized on 5th July 2019; during this programme, the saplings of economic, medicinal, and cultural values were planted.



Van Mahotsav cum plantation drive at Narora

Celebration of Special Days

World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on the 2nd February to mark the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. On 2nd February 2018, a one-day field training on river monitoring and identification of waterbirds and freshwater turtles was organized at Narwar Ghat for students of Rajghat Inter-college and *Ganga Praharis*. In the subsequent year, a cleanliness drive was organized by the local community and *Ganga Praharis* on 2nd February 2021



World Wetlands Day celebrations at Narora



World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated on 12th May 2018 with the school students and teachers from Raghunath Inter College and Primary School, Rajghat, Narora. During the event, students and teachers were sensitized about the migratory birds, their ecological importance, threats, and the need for conserving their habitat along the Ganga River. In the subsequent year, an event was organized on the theme “Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution” for the students and teachers of Primary School Children from Nibari Khader Village, Dibai block, Narora on 11th May 2019.



World Migratory Bird Day celebrations at Narora

World Turtle Day

World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on 23rd May to spread the message among the general public to help turtles survive and thrive in their natural habitat. During the World Turtle Day on 23rd May 2017, an awareness programme and painting competition was organized at Rajghat Gram Panchayat, Narora. In this awareness programme, the school students were sensitized about the conservation of turtles found in the Ganga River and their role in cleaning the river and maintaining the ecological balance of a wetland ecosystem. On 23rd May 2019 at Nibari Khader village, Narora, an awareness workshop was conducted by five trained *Ganga Praharis* to impart information to the participants on the importance of turtles of the Ganga River.



Painting competition organized during World Turtle Day



Awareness workshop conducted by *Ganga Praharis* during World Turtle Day

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5th June to encourage awareness and environmental protection among the general public. On 5th June 2017, WII collaborated with NAPS to celebrate World Environment Day in GARRC at the NAPS STP facility. The occasion was honored by Sushri Uma Bharti Ji, the then Minister of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. She visited the NAPS-WII facility where rescued freshwater turtles were taken care of before releasing into the Ganga River and planted an “Ashoka” tree on GARRC premises. In the subsequent year, on 5th June 2018, WII collaborated with the forest department of Uttar Pradesh to celebrate World Environment Day at Narora, Bulandshahr. The event was based on the theme “Beat the plastic pollution”, during which the participants were informed about plastic pollution and the importance of plantation. The *Ganga Praharis* who participated in Kumbh Mela from 15th January 2019 to 4th March 2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, received the appreciation certificates during the World Environment Day celebration on 5th June 2019 at New Delhi, where Hon'ble Union Minister of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitated them.



Ganga Praharis with hon'ble minister Shri Gajendra S. Shekhawat during World Environment Day at New Delhi



World Crocodile Day

World Crocodile Day is celebrated every year on 17th June to raise awareness about endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world. During World Crocodile Day, an event was organized on the theme “Save Crocodilians” at the Rajghat Gram Panchayat, Narora, on 17th June 2017. In this event, students were sensitized about the ecological significance, habitat, distribution, and threats to the crocodiles found in the Ganga River.



Celebration of World Crocodile Day at Narora



Mass Awareness: Slogan, Painting and Awareness Panel

Slogans on saving the Ganga and its biodiversity were painted on the walls of the villages, roadside areas, railway stations at Narora and its vicinity. Awareness panels were installed at ghats, and banners were installed on the auto rickshaws in Narora to create mass awareness among the general public. Dustbins were also placed for proper waste disposal along the ghats.



Slogans and wall paintings at Narora



Awareness panel installed at ghat at Narora



Auto Rickshaw with awareness banner

Promoting Jan Bhagidari in Government of India Initiatives

Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan

As a part of the Forestry Interventions in Ganga, NMCG initiated “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” and launched afforestation drive in five Ganga basin states, viz. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. This campaign aims to spread the message among the general people and various stakeholders on the importance of afforestation and Ganga rejuvenation. To turn this campaign into a people's movement, several schools, colleges, and departments have been requested to “Adopt a Plant”.

Ganga Vriksharopan Saptah

As a part of Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan, Ganga Vriksharopan Saptah was organized in Narora from 25th to 31st July 2017, during which around 600 saplings of *Terminalia arjuna*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Bauhinia variegata* were planted at five Ganga Grams viz. Gokulpur Khader, Nayabas, Bilona Roop, Haridwarpur Beheriya, and Rajghat. The plantation drives were volunteered by Nehru Yuva Kendra, various school and college students, local communities, including women. Ganga Vriksharopan Saptah also marked the celebration of “World Nature Conservation Day” on 28th July 2017 to spread awareness on the need to conserve nature and the natural resources of the Ganga River. During Vriksharopan Saptah, to create awareness, a series of events like essay writing and drawing competitions were organized in primary and junior schools of Udaygarhi, Narora.



Plantation drive at Narora



Plantation drive at Narora



Plantation drive at Bulandshahr

Swachhata Hi Sewa

“Swachhata Hi Sewa” was initiated in 2017 and celebrated from 15th September to 2nd October, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The aim was to promote nationwide public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. In 2017, a series of events were organized during “Swachhata Hi Sewa” Pakhwada from 17th September to 2nd October 2017 at different locations in Narora.

On 27th September 2017, a Swachhata awareness programme with slogan and essay writing competitions were organized for school students and teachers of Udaygadi Junior High School and Rajghat Inter-College, Dibai block. During the event, the students and teachers were sensitized about the cleanliness of the Ganga River and its surroundings for ensuring a healthy ecosystem for its aqualife; this was followed by the Swachhata Pledge (Humara Sankalp- Swacchta hi Sewa).



School students reciting Swachhata Pledge



Ganga Chaupal at Narora

Ganga Chaupals were organized for the religious group at Bhriku Ashram, Narora, on 27th September 2017 and for the local community at Panchayat Ghar Dhaknagla, of Dibai block, Narora on 1st October 2017. During these Ganga Chaupals, the role of religious groups and local communities in keeping the Ganga River and its surroundings clean was discussed.

On 2nd October 2017, a cleanliness drive was organized at Rajghat, Gram Panchayat, Uttar Pradesh which was volunteered by the local community and members of Shiv Sena, Dibai block.



Cleanliness drive at Rajghat



Wetland and Water Programme

NMCG, in association with the WII, initiated a pilot-scale “Wetlands and Water Programme”, which aims to restore select wetlands of the Ganga basin through community involvement and low-cost investment.

Wetland and Water Week

During Wetland and Water Week from 26th to 27th July 2019, wetland cleaning and restoration programmes were organized in local wetlands. In Narora, the efforts of the local community and *Ganga Praharis* have successfully restored and rejuvenated two wetlands.



Wetland restored by local community and *Ganga Praharis*

Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan

The 2500 km, a month-long river rafting and kayaking expedition “Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan” was organized by the NMCG in October 2019. The Abhiyan aimed to connect various stakeholders of the Ganga River and create awareness on water conservation and Ganga rejuvenation. The expedition commenced from Devprayag, Uttarakhand, on 10th October 2019, traversing through Rishikesh, Haridwar, Bijnor, and Garhmukteswar the expedition team reached Narora, where they halted for two days. In Narora, a cleaning campaign and flag-off event were organized on 15th October 2019 at Narwar Ghat. NMCG-WII team and *Ganga Praharis* from Narora participated in the event. Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan was concluded at Bakkhali Beach, West Bengal, on 12th November 2019. To mark the conclusion of Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan, a flag-in ceremony was organized by the NMCG on 13th March 2020 in New Delhi. The Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and presented awards to the various achievers who contributed to the successful completion of the Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan. The event was attended by 13 *Ganga Praharis* from Bulandshahr.



Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan expedition team at Narora



Swachhata Pakhwada

Since 2017 “Swachhata Pakhwada” is being celebrated to raise awareness on the importance of cleanliness and promote the participation of the general public in the cleanliness drives. On the occasion of Swachhata Pakhwada, *Ganga Praharis* of Biharghat, Narora conducted a cleanliness drive on 18th March 2021 to inculcate cleanliness values among the general public. *Ganga Praharis* from Bulandshahr district created awareness among the general public by conducting a cleanliness drive at Ramghat, Narora, on 25th March 2021. At Ramghat, Narora *Ganga Praharis* and the local community organized a cleanliness drive on 29th March 2021. On the same day, *Ganga Praharis* and the local community of Rajghat, Narora, conducted a cleanliness drive and Ganga chaupal to sensitize people about the importance of clean Ganga in biodiversity conservation and Ganga rejuvenation.



Cleanliness drive at Ramghat, Narora

Ganga Utsav

To mark 4th November as the day of the declaration of the Ganga River as the “National River”, Ganga Utsav is celebrated every year. Ganga Utsav aims to promote stakeholder engagement and ensure public participation under the aegis of Ganga Knowledge Center and highlights the importance of the “Jan Bhagidari”. To create awareness among the general public on the importance of Ganga Utsav, awareness programmes were conducted in Sirora Banger, Bulandshahr, on 30th October 2021 and Ahar Bangar, Bulandshahr, on 31st October 2021. To inculcate the values of the tradition in river conservation among school students, an awareness programme was conducted at Bal Bharti Inter College, Uttar Pradesh, on 1st November 2021. On the first day of Ganga Utsav- a River Festival 2021, NMCG won the Guinness Book of World Records for most photos of handwritten notes uploaded to Facebook in one hour. Ganga Praharis from different Ganga Basin states participated in the event.



Ganga Utsav celebration



Ganga Mashaal Yatra

Ganga Mashaal was welcomed at Narwar Ghat, Narora Ganga Mashaal, an expedition led by the Ganga Task Force (GTF) to raise awareness among the local people and voluntary groups, viz. *Ganga Praharis*, *Ganga Mitras*, and *Ganga Doots*, on water conservation and Ganga rejuvenation. The Ganga Mashaal was flagged off on the last day of the Ganga Utsav, 3rd November 2021, from New Delhi by Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Pankaj Kumar, Director General, NMCG, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, and Chairman, Central Board of Film Certification, Shri Prasoon Joshi. Ganga Mashaal formally started its journey from Rishikesh and Haridwar in Uttarakhand. Along the Ganga River, the Ganga Mashaal traversed through 23 locations, including Narora, where an event was organized on 9th November 2021 at Narwar Ghat to welcome Ganga Mashaal in Narora. The Ganga Mashaal Yatra was concluded in Ganga Sagar, West Bengal.

Ganga Mashaal welcomed
at Narwar Ghat, Narora



Nadi Utsav

As part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, "Nadi Utsav", an extension to the Ganga Utsav, was conducted from 17th to 23rd December 2021 across ten major rivers (Brahmaputra, Indus, Narmada, Sabarmati, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, Ganga, and the Yamuna) as well as many other rivers in India under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Culture. Nadi Utsav was celebrated under the four chosen themes of cleanliness, patriotism, nature and ecology, and devotion and spirituality. Nadi Utsav was aimed to raise awareness among the general public about the rivers, their biodiversity, the importance of river cleanliness and the need to celebrate river festivals. During Nadi Utsav, events were organized in over 22 Indian states and more than 170 districts. For Nadi Utsav, in Bulandshahr, Narora, Uttar Pradesh, nine awareness programmes were conducted from 16th to 23rd December 2021.

On 16th December 2021, an awareness programme was conducted with the local communities of Anupshahr, Bulandshahr. During the awareness programme, local people were educated on the importance of the Ganga River, its biodiversity, the importance of rivers, and the need to celebrate river festivals. People shared their views on the Ganga River conservation, followed by an awareness rally from Mubarakpur village to Avantika Devi Ghat, Anupshahr, Bulandshahr. The programme was concluded with a recital of a pledge to protect Ganga and its Biodiversity. Sixty local people, including *Ganga Praharis*, participated in the event.



Nadi Utsav celebration around Avantika Devi Ghat, Bulandshahr

On 17th December 2021, an awareness programme was conducted for the Post Graduate and Under Graduate students of Durga Prasad Baljeet Singh (PG) College, Anupshahr, Bulandshahr. Students were educated on the importance of the river, its biodiversity, and the need to celebrate river festivals, followed by an awareness rally and a cleanliness drive around Anupshahr Ghat. Around 250 students participated in the programme.



Nadi Utsav celebration with the college students at Anupshahr, Bulandshahr



School students from Narora visited the GARRC facility



Nadi Utsav celebration with school students at GARRC, Narora

On 18th December 2021, Nadi Utsav was celebrated with Atomic Energy Central School students at GARRC, Narora. A total of 90 people participated in the event. The programme was initiated with a visit to GARRC, where the students were briefed about the turtles and their role in the aquatic ecosystems and the importance of rescue and rehabilitation activities for the conservation of aquatic species, followed by bird watching activity to educate students on the basics of field ornithology and bird identification.

At Ramghat, Bulandshahr, an awareness programme was conducted on 20th December 2021 with local communities. During the programme, local communities were educated on the Ganga River, its biodiversity, and the need to celebrate river festivals. A cleanliness drive was conducted at Ramghat, Bulandshahr, with the help of the local community to raise awareness among the general public. Thirty people participated in the programme.



Nadi Utsav celebration with local community at Ramghat, Bulandshahr

On 21st December 2021, an awareness programme was organized for school children at Maharaj Shri Jeevan Dutt Ji Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Narora, Bulandshahr. Students were educated about the Ganga River and its biodiversity during the programme, followed by a painting competition. Forty students participated in the programme.



Nadi Utsav celebration with school students at Narora

On 22nd December 2021, an awareness programme was organized at Lala Jwala Prasad Saraswati Shishu/ Vidya Mandir, Narora, Bulandshahr for the primary and senior secondary school students. Students were educated on the Ganga River and its biodiversity during the programme. Fifteen staff teachers and staff members, two *Ganga Praharis* and 250 school students participated in the programme.



Nadi Utsav celebration with school students at Narora

A painting competition was organized at Durga Prasad Baljeet Singh (PG) College, Anupshahr, Bulandshahr on 22nd December 2021, with Under Graduate and Post Graduate students.



Nadi Utsav celebration with school students at Anupshahr, Bulandshahr

An awareness programme was conducted at Bal Bharti Shiksha Sadan Inter College, Anupshahr, Bulandshahr, on 23rd December 2021, for the primary and senior secondary students. Students were educated about the Ganga River and its biodiversity and the importance of the river celebration during the programme, followed by a recital of a pledge to protect the Ganga River and its Biodiversity. Seven hundred students participated in the programme.



Nadi Utsav celebration with school students at Anupshahr, Bulandshahr



An awareness programme was conducted at Aahar Banger Village, Anupshahr, Bulandshahr, for the sewing and stitching centre trainees on 23rd December 2021. This awareness programme was aimed to create awareness among trainees of the livelihood centre about the importance of the river celebration. Twenty people participated in the programme.



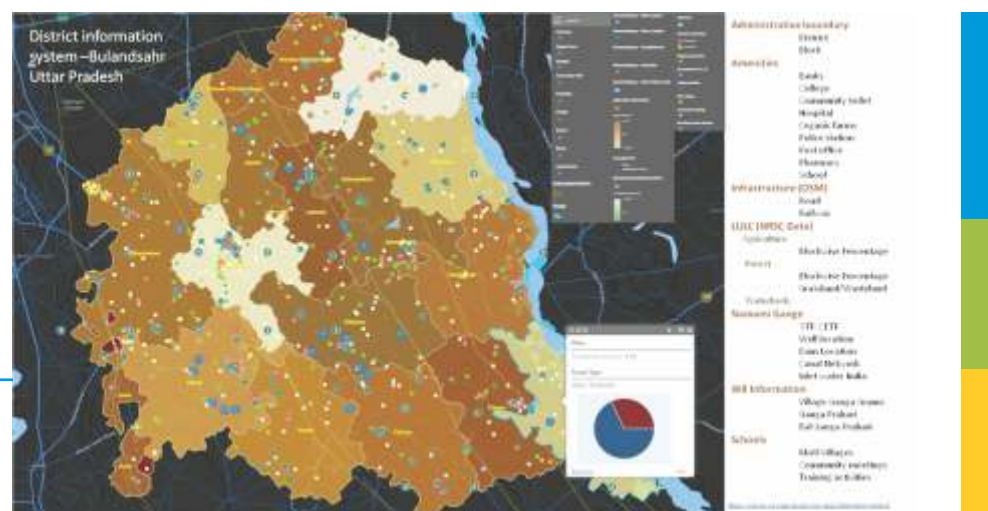
Nadi Utsav celebration with livelihood centre trainees at Anupshahr, Bulandshahr

River Centric Planning: Streamlining Conservation Concerns in Village Development

The village-level microplanning approach was used to internalize Ganga River biodiversity conservation in the village development planning. A document "Village Level Microplanning for Ganga Biodiversity Conservation: A Guideline" to guide various institutions in planning site-specific solutions while addressing the conservation and developmental issues of the Ganga grams was published. The document also aims at linking and implementing government schemes at the village level for biodiversity-sensitive development. Three village microplans have been prepared for Udaygarhi, Rajghat, and Niwari Khader, Narora, Bulandshahr. Implementation for the village microplan for Rajghat, Narora has been initiated.



Digital microplanning and online data collection form

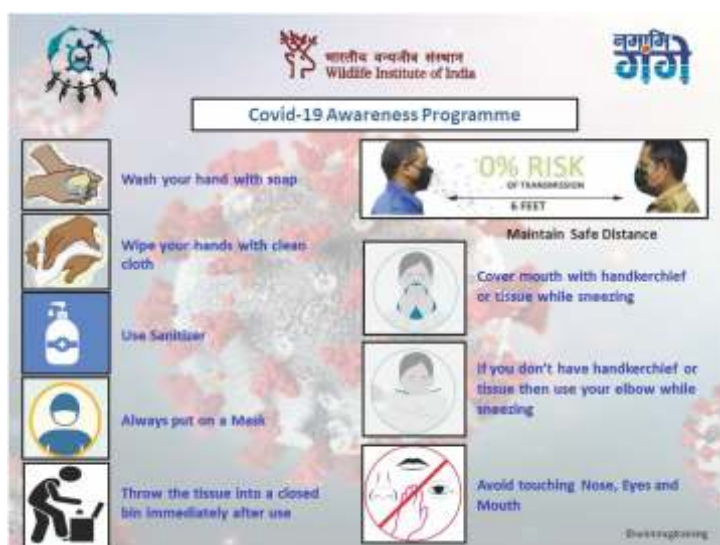


District information system in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

Trained and Motivated Ganga Praharis Contributing in COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Activities



COVID-19 pandemic relief camps



Amidst the national lockdowns imposed in the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020 and 2021, relief camps, awareness activities, online trainings were organized to mitigate the COVID-19 situations. *Ganga Praharis* actively participated in conducting on-site, off-site, and online activities.

At Narora, Bulandshahr, eight COVID awareness programmes and four distribution activities (food, mask and sanitizer) were conducted in which 1669 individuals participated. Of 12 COVID relief activities, one input activity was organized and conducted by WII, and the rest of the 11 output activities were conducted by *Ganga Praharis*.

Appraisal and Monitoring by NMCG

Shri Upendra Singh, the then Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga visited GARRC, on 25th February 2017 to monitor the progress made by the NMCG-WII project in Narora and expressed his satisfaction in the effort made by WII and NAPS, Narora. Later, as a Secretary of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, he visited GARRC for the second time on 3rd January 2021 to review the progress and appraise the work being done at the Centre and efforts of the NMCG-WII project in Narora.



“Review Makes us stronger”



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