

SAVE GANGA FORUM

Clean India – Healthy India

A holy desire for integrity of India

A mission of great revolution

A need that is not nurtured

A voice that is free from the flow of Indian spirituality

An effort that is unending

A resound that is the source of life of Indian cultural heritage

An inspiration that echoes with the hearts of nation lovers

A dream that every person living on the banks of Ganga sees

A voice of the soul for India's cultural pride and civilization

Indian civilization and culture cannot be imagined after detaching it with Ganga. Ganga has been flowing perennially since thousands of years, it has moulded the Indian culture since ages, and it has given a form to the civilizations and cultures and has been evidence to the happiness and unhappiness. The paddy and food crops grown from its fertile land along with herbal plants have made the civilizations strong and healthy. It has responded to our faith, belief and confidence. This has made its banks so holy and pious that they became the centers of spirituality, religion, actions and Yog. Its glory has helped the discoverers of Yog and spirituality living on its bank to realize the secrets of soul and world and theology. It has been known as giver of salvation due to this fact. Polluted, criminal and fragmented minds have become pure, pious and divine under its proximity and it got the name of purifying the sinners. Its miraculous water has given health benefits to the patients suffering from incurable diseases. Therefore it is also known as health improving Ganga. Ganga has been flowing in this form since several ages and has been the center of faith of Indians and Indian culture. This expression reaches the optimum level during the holy Kumbha month where thousands of people both Indians and foreigners gather here to touch the holy waters of Ganga in spite of facing several difficulties. Today the Ganga water is not so pure. The water is obstructed at very stages with dams, it is polluted in different ways and cursing the same culture and values that have nurtured us. The present state of Ganga is the problem of our cultural heritage, problem of our age-old values, of our unhindered faith, prob-

lem to our religious rituals and values. Today all the nations of the world are involved in saving their cultures because if they lose their origin then they would lose their identity as well. Today we are also facing the problem of origin, if Ganga is not there then what will happen to our age-old values? If Ganga loses its shape then our faiths will also get fragmented, our beliefs will be baseless, and our confidence will be failures, what will happen to our religion and rituals? If the issue remains limited only to religious sentiments then it would have been different but actually Ganga is nurturing around 25 percent of land area along with cultural heritage. It provides water to 25 crore people, it is a source of transport, fisheries, and several other aquatic industries, these cannot be imagined without Ganga and if it is polluted it would all the more affect the revenue of these industries. Therefore it is extremely important to keep the Ganga pure, clean and pollution free. If we do not pay attention to this aspect today then it would destroy us in reaction. History is evidence to the fact that the civilizations and cultures that did not pay attention to their values and needs have destroyed in course of time.

Yogrishi Swami Ramdev Ji Maharaj has started a mission to purify and clean Ganga. A meeting in this affect was organized on 17 August at Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar that saw the participation of all great personalities of leading organizations. Respected Swami Ramdev Ji expressed that he has taken up four missions in order to make India a superpower. They are:

1. Clean India, Healthy India

2. Self-reliance with indigenoussness
3. Hundred percent voting
4. Population control

As a first step to make clean and Healthy India, he has begun the movement of cleaning and purifying the Ganga because if Ganga is not pure then we cannot imagine of having a clean India. He said, "I am making efforts to make Healthy India through Yog." Ganga is associated with our glorious past of thoughts, civilization and culture. Therefore Ganga should be declared a national heritage and national river. The Indian government should set up a high level authority at national level in the name of 'Ganga conservation authority,' which should include the participation of prominent people from the fields of science, law, social and religious organizations. We all have to work collectively for maintaining the purity of the Ganga. Public awareness should be created among the people living on the banks of river Ganga. They should be made to realize the responsibility of conserving Ganga.

Maintaining the purity and sanctity of Ganga is not just the responsibility of political organizations and groups but it is the responsibility of the 100 crore Indian population. Polluting Ganga should be a cognizable offence. The Indian government should issue a white paper on Tihari dam so that the society becomes aware of the real situation. These are some issues, which hurt our sentiments.

The problem of underground water level lying below the areas of Ganga is associated with the unobstructed flow of Ganga. According to the survey, the water level in Ganga basin is at the lowest level. The Ganga basin surface is plain and hence the soil erosion is less. If we exploit the Ganga water then the river will not flow in full pace, and as a result the Ganga will not

be able to retain oxygen. It is necessary to flow lowest level of water level in order to maintain the Ganga, because Ganga controls the entire water system of northern India. The length of Ganga between Gangotri and Ganga Sagar is 2525 km. It contains around 18 thousand-cusec water by the time it reaches Hardwar. Around ten thousand-cusec water is pushed into Ganga canal after it moves from Bhimgoda. A lower Ganga canal with eight thousand cusec water comes out from Narora canal. 18000 km long irrigation canals come out from both these canals. This water is used for irrigation of agricultural work and drinking purpose. Besides this Ganga water is also supplied to Delhi city for drinking purpose. After Narora barrage around 300-cusec water is left into Ganga. It is true that the river Ganga almost ends after Narora Barrage.

All the religious, social and spiritual organizations of the nation have come together under Save Ganga Forum in order to preserve the purity and sanctity of Ganga with the five point program demands made to find the solutions for the above mentioned problems. Revered Swami Ramdev Ji appealed during a meeting held on August 17 and asked the people not to make it an individual issue and look at it in the national perspective. He declared that the name of this program is 'Save Ganga Forum.' It will not have any president; it will have a guidance committee, which will include all the people of the main institutions, which have the power of influencing the social life.

Revered Swami Ji had taken this resolution at Kanpur, the area which is the most polluted. Swami Ji created awareness among the people towards Yog and pranayam along with good health and appealed the people to become a part of it.

DESCENT OF BHAGAIRATHI

If we analyse the study conducted on the sacred Ganga conducted in the year 1783 by James Rainal wherein he has talked about the origin of Ganga from snout. Captain Hadgson was the first tourist in 1817 who could reach the origin of Ganga and saw the enchanting sceneries of that place. There is a 300 feet high ice wall on the surface of the river above the cave. The ice melts during the daytime and freeze at night. The sharp ice hanging above the cave reminds the devotees of the hair of lord Shiva. It has been described in the mythological stories as the river arising out from the hair of Shiva. According to the studies of archeologists, it is possible that Ganga was there before but the present form is of the Pleistocene age. Geological survey of India produced a report in 1969 stating that the snout of Gangotri glacier is around four thousand years old. This corresponds with the description of Bhagirathi river made in mythological books.