

Nitin Gadkari expresses satisfaction on the progress of Clean Ganga Mission

Significant changes to be visible on ground after March 2019

Kanpur freed from the ill effects of Sisamau Drain

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari today expressed his satisfaction over the positive feedback being received for Clean Ganga Mission and assured the people of the country that their dream of rejuvenated Ganga will soon be fulfilled. He said that with the support of all stakeholders, the work on Clean Ganga Mission is going on war footing and the hard work of all stakeholders has started to show visible results on ground. “The government has freed Kanpur from the ill effects of Sisamau drain after 128 years, which was infamous for the pollution it was causing to River Ganga,” Gadkari said, adding, “140 MLD of waste water has been stopped from flowing into River Ganga.” Shri Gadkari was speaking at the three-day long India Water Impact Summit 2018 (5th to 7th December 2018) being organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Six reports prepared by cGanga were released on the occasion regarding flow regimes and Ganga River Basin Management Plan of five main stem Ganga basin states. Green Ganga App, developed by Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO was also launched during the occasion. Green Ganga App is used for geo-tagging of saplings and delineation of plantation boundaries under ongoing afforestation activities of Namami Gange programme. The touch-enabled information kiosk about Namami Gange programme, developed jointly by NMCG and ISRO, was also launched.

Shri Gadkari said that since inception of Ganga cleaning programme (1985) till 2014, central government had spent less than Rs. 4000 crore. With the launch of Namami Gange programme, provision of Rs. 20,000 crore have been made for 5 years. So far, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has sanctioned 254 projects for more than Rs 24,000 crore and has spent about Rs. 5,000 crore in the last 4 years. He said that not only has the pace of expenditure increased manifold, results are visible on the ground as well. “Out of these 254 projects, 133 are for sewerage management, 11 bioremediation, one modular STP, 1 rural sanitation, 64 ghat and crematoria, 6 bio-diversity and 16 afforestation projects,” Shri Gadkari informed the gathering. He added that 133 sewerage infrastructure projects costing Rs. 19,789 crore will create 3969 MLD of sewage treatment capacity and lay down 4871 kilometer of sewerage network.

Reiterating the focus on tributaries of Ganga, Shri Gadkari said that 26 projects are being taken up on tributaries like Yamuna, Saryu, Ram Ganga, Gomti, Kali, Kosi, Gandak, Damodar, Rispana-Bindal etc.

Shri Gadkari also mentioned that the *Aviralta* of River Ganga has also been given importance and to ensure that required level of ecological flow is always maintained, a notification has already been published in October. Following this a meeting has been held with all state Chief Secretaries asking them to implement the e flow notification. Shri Gadkari also talked about the success story of Hybrid Annuity mode (HAM) in sewage water sector and One-City-One-Operator for integrating the development of new STPs with the existing treatment infrastructure under HAM.

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri complimented the Namami Gange programme for making Clean Ganga Mission a mass movement and said that all possible efforts required from his ministry is being provided in the form of three main works that include making villages Open Defecation Free, implementing Liquid Waste Treatment and Solid Waste Management. He said that under Namami Gange programme, 97 towns within 5 kilometers of River Ganga have been identified where interventions are being made. He further said that Swachh Bharat Mission is helping villages along Ganga to become ODF.

Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Dr. Satya Pal Singh hoped that the Clean Ganga Mission will be immensely benefitted from the ideas which come during the three-day long summit and said that foreign collaboration is very important for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation.

Linking the problem of Ganga Cleaning with over-extraction of groundwater, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri U.P. Singh said that there is an urgent need for paradigm shift in water resources management as it would help in maintaining the *Aviralta* of River Ganga. He expressed deep concern on the depleting levels of aquifers stopping the water flow back to the river. He stressed on the need to talk about issues of groundwater recharge, maintaining floodplains, rain water harvesting and restoration of water bodies.

During the inaugural session titled “Global Cooperation for a Global Issue” of the three-day summit, Hon. Water Minister of Ghana Ms. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Ambassador of Israel, H.E Maya Kadosh, Ambassador of Slovenia H.E. Jozef Drogenik, Deputy Chief of Mission, Germany H.E. Jasper Wieck, World Bank Director Mr Steven N Schonberger addressed the gathering.

NP/SKP/IA

(Release ID: 1554782)