

# Nitin Gadkari Says Notification of E-Flow for Ganga is a Significant Step

## He Reiterates Government's Commitment towards Aviral and Nirmal Ganga

## Says Draft Ganga Act will Soon be sent to Cabinet for Approval

The Central Government today notified the minimum environmental flows for River Ganga that has to be maintained at various locations on the river. Environmental flows are the acceptable flow regimes that are required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state or predetermined state. Calling this a significant development, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the notification of e-flow for the river would go a long way in ensuring its *Aviralta* or continuous flow. Reiterating the Government's commitment towards an *Aviral* and *Nirmal* Ganga, the Minister informed that the draft Ganga Act will soon be sent to the Cabinet for approval.

“This is a very significant moment. The discussions on notifying e flow of Ganga have been going on for a long time. We have taken this step to ensure a minimum amount of flow in the river”, Shri Gadkari said.

The notification issued by the Government today will ensure that the river has at least the minimum required environmental flow of water even after the river flow gets diverted by projects and structures for purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial use etc. This is an important step taken towards maintaining the uninterrupted or *Aviral* flow of the river.

The e-flow notified by the Government is as follows:

1. **Upper Ganga River Basin Stretch** starting from originating glaciers and through respective confluences finally meeting at Devaprayag up to Haridwar:

Sl No	Season	Months	(%) Percentage of Monthly Average Flow observed

			during each of preceding 10-daily period
1	Dry	November to March	20
2	Lean	October, April and May	25
3	High Flow	June to September	30*#

\*# 30% of monthly flow of High flow season.

**2. Stretch of main stem of River Ganga from Haridwar, Uttrakhand to Unnao, Uttar Pradesh**

Sl No	Location of Barrage	Minimum flow releases immediately downstream of barrages <i>(In Cumecs)</i> <b>Non-Monsoon (October to May )</b>	Minimum flow releases immediately downstream of barrages <i>(In Cumecs)</i> <b>Monsoon (June to September)</b>
1	Bhimgoda (Haridwar)	36	57
2	Bijnor	24	48
3	Narora	24	48
4	Kanpur	24	48

The above order will apply to the upper Ganga River Basin starting from originating glaciers and through respective confluences of its head tributaries finally meeting at Devprayag up to Haridwar and the main stem of River Ganga up to Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. The compliance of minimum environmental flow is applicable to all existing, under-construction and future projects. The existing projects which currently do not meet the norms will have to ensure that the desired environmental flow norms are complied with within a period of three years. The mini and micro projects which do not alter the flow characteristics of the river or stream significantly are exempted from these environmental flows.

The flow conditions in these river reaches will be monitored at hourly intervals from time to time. The Central Water Commission will be the designated authority and the custodian of the data, and will be responsible for supervision, monitoring, regulation of flows and reporting of necessary information to the appropriate authority as and when required and also take emergent decisions about the water storage norms in case of any emergency.

The concerned project developers or authorities will have to install automatic data acquisition and data transmission facilities at appropriate locations at project sites within six months. The Central Government through National Mission for Clean Ganga may direct release of additional water in the River Ganga to meet special demand as and when required.

The notification also stipulates that the concerned Central and State authorities shall implement demand side management plans to reduce water withdrawal from River Ganga by adopting good and scientific practices such as efficient method of irrigation, reuse and recycle of water including monitoring and regulation of groundwater withdrawals for various purposes.

Talking in detail about the ongoing efforts to clean river Ganga Shri Gadkari informed that many projects like ghats and crematoria development, sewage treatment plants, river surface cleaning etc. on River Ganga are in different stages of construction and assured the people of India that their dream of *Aviral* and *Nirmal* Ganga will come true once all these projects become operational. On the issue of construction of hydro-power projects in Uttarakhand, Shri Gadkari said that views of various stakeholders are being taken and a considered decision will then be taken in this regard.

Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Sushri Uma Bharti called the notification of e-flow for Ganga a “historic” step and thanked Shri Gadkari for taking forward the work she had started. “Ganga has been a symbol of faith for me personally but after starting working on Ganga I developed the proper understanding of the problems. It is in this regard that this notification is a historic step and a beginning to rejuvenate all the rivers of India.” She added that hydropower projects should be implemented in such a way that they do not disturb the continuous flow of rivers.

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