



THE GANGA: WAITING FOR GODOT
Presentation by: Banjot Kaur, Correspondent, Down To Earth

Holy River, Unholy attempts

Ganga Action Plan I IN 1986

Ganga Action Plan II IN 1993

Closure of GAP I in 2000 (10 years delay)

Yamuna Action Plan I in 2003

Yamuna Action Plan II in 2004

NGBRA in 2004

Finance min announces Namami Gange in budget in July 2014

Cabinet approval in May 2015, Rs 22000cr sanctioned, decline 2019

NMCG, formed in 2011, became authority via gazetted notification in October 2016

May 2018: Gadkari declared the Ganga would be cleaned by 2020, 70-80% by March 2019





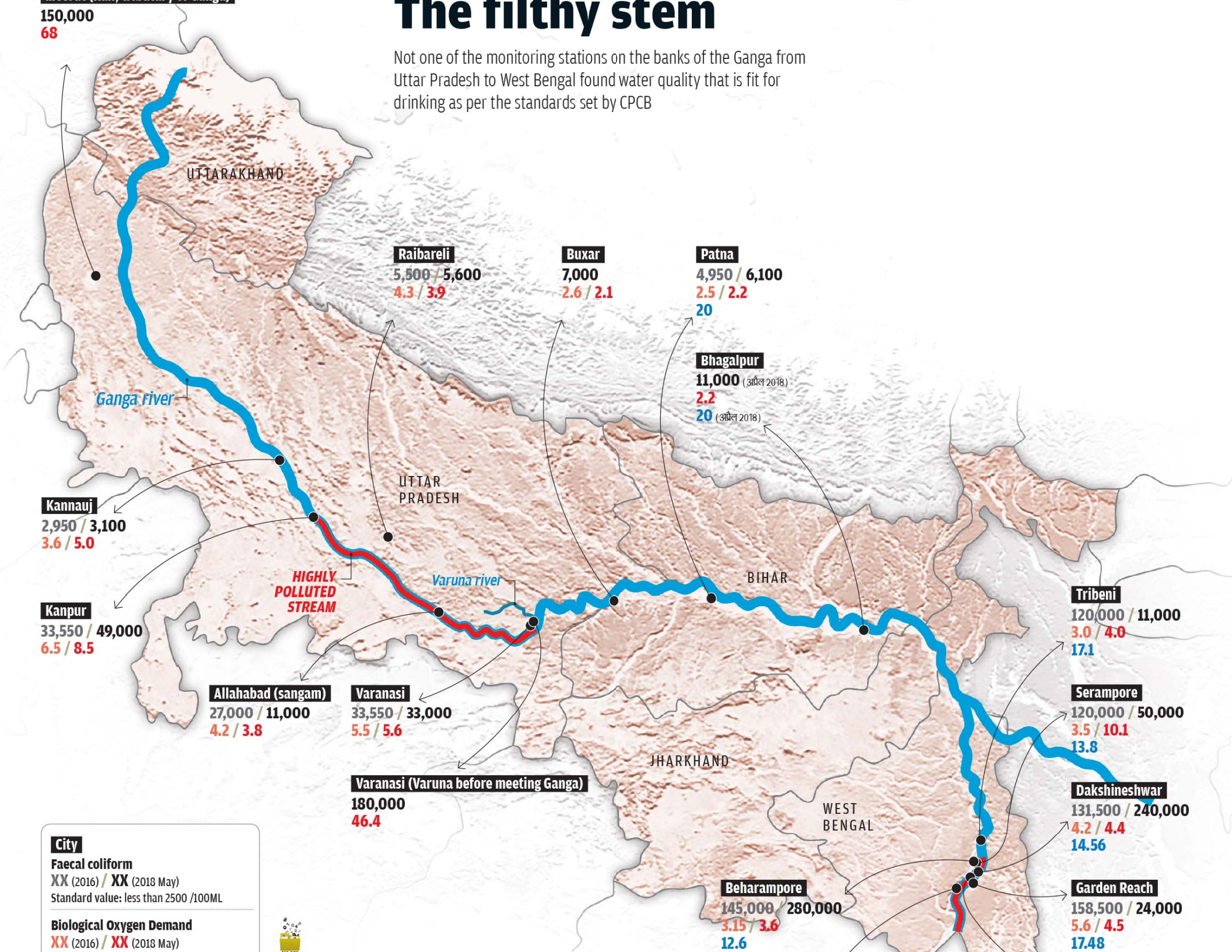
 UNFIT FOR B

Criteria : Dissolved O₂ less than 3 mg/L, Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml) and 25



The filthy stem

Not one of the monitoring stations on the banks of the Ganga from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal found water quality that is fit for drinking as per the standards set by CPCB



PROJECTS STATUS (Till August 31, 2018)

236 sanctioned, 63 completed

Rs 22323.37 sanctioned, Rs 5291.78 spent

114 sewage projects sanctioned, 27 completed

River front/ghats : 70 sanctioned, 27 completed

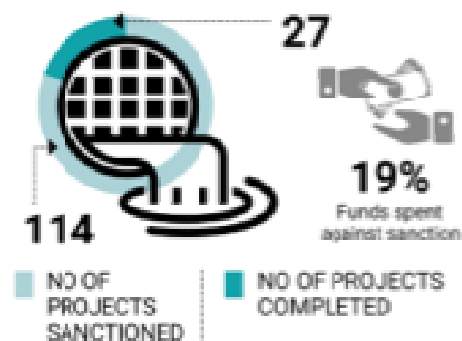
Institutional devpt: Rs 1069.92cr sanctioned, Rs 37.06cr completed

Afforestation: Rs 236.56cr sanctioned, Rs 114 cr completed

Source: NMCG

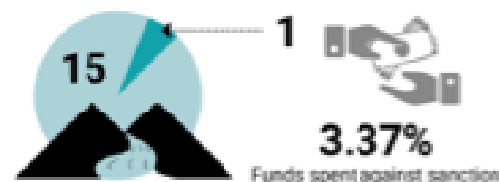
AS ON AUGUST 31, 2018

Sewage Infrastructure

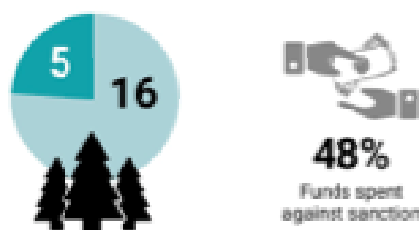


Institutional Development

This included creation of Ganga Knowledge Centre, Ganga Monitoring Centre and other activities



Afforestation



Bioremediation



Entry Level Activities

These include activities of ghat cleaning, projects for ghats and crematoria, river surface cleaning and river front development



Biodiversity

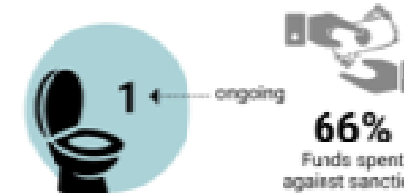
This included activities of biodiversity conservation, assessment of fish fisheries of Ganga River Basin



Composite Ecological Task Force



Construction of household latrines



UTTAR PRADESH

33 Sanctioned/8 completed

Sewer line: 1108 km laid/1643 km

Ghats/crematoria: 81 sanctioned/7 completed

Output of Kanpur tanneries



BIHAR

Sewage: 21 sanctioned/0 completed

Sewer line: 1722.36km
sanctioned/381.63km completed

Ghats/crematoria/riverfront: 5
sanctioned/0 completed

WEST BENGAL

16 sewage projects sanctioned/2
completed

Sewer line: 627km laid/1001.68km
sanctioned

Ghats.crematoria: 24 completed/31
sanctioned

JHARKHAND

Sewage: 2 sanctioned/0 completed

Sewer line: 38.78km laid/89km
sanctioned

Ghats/crematoria/riverfront: 0
completed/4 sanctioned

UTTARAKHAND

32 sewage projects sanctioned, 15
completed

LACK OF BASIN APPROACH

IIT report prepared in Rs 16 crore for basin approach lies dumped

There are about 90 cities all of main stem on the river which are on govt's radar, none included outside stem lying in the basin

E-FLOW

Challenge is not to clean the river but save the river

59% baseflow amount reduced from 1970s to 2016:
IIT Kharagpur's Abhijeet Mukherjee

14 ongoing and 14 proposed projects on
Bhagirathi and Alaknanda basins: WWI report

G D Agarwal's struggle

Govt's E-flow notification: A bluff

Sludge crisis

The Ganga basin is fast becoming open defecation free. If the faecal sludge is not properly managed, instead of reducing contamination, it will further increase the Ganga's pollution load



Twin pit toilets a fad, but no solution

No thought given to sludge management

GOVERNANCE GLITCHES

GAP vs Namami Gange: Co-ordination of departments, IIT-Kanpur's Vinod Tare says both are one and the same

No monitoring of MoUs with 10 ministries

PM-led National Ganga Council has never met

Water Resources minister led task force met only thrice since 2017, supposed to meet once every three months

NMCG director post: musical chairs: 7 people in six months

No bottom-up approach

FINANCES OF CLEAN-UP

More than Rs 986 crores spent in GAP I and II

||T: 1 paise per litre

Cost overruns multiple times: Extended deadlines

Planning of finances: UP SAAP, 2016—
Sewer line cost in Ganga basin towns is more than Rs 5k crore

WILL GANGA BE EVER CLEAN?

It will take 200 years to clean the Ganga
considering your line of action: SC to govt in
2014

Not a drop has been cleaned: NGT in 2017

It is an ever going process: IIT-Kanpur's Vinod
Tare

OR WILL IT KEEP WAITING FOR
GODOT?

THANK YOU