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## River Ganga: a symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization



The Ganga, especially, is the river of India, beloved of her people, round which are intertwined her memories, her hopes and fears, her songs of triumph, her victories and her defeats. She has been a symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, and yet ever the same Ganga. -**Jawahar Lal Nehru, First Prime Minister of India**

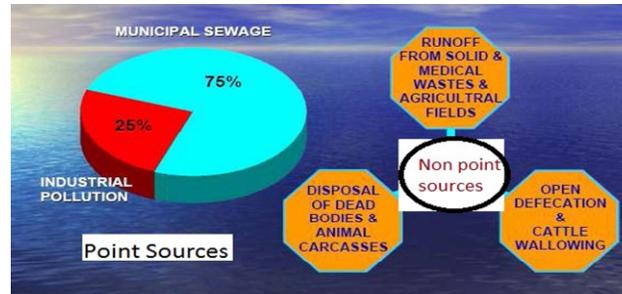
Ganga is a perennial river which originates as a stream called "Bhagirathi" from Gaumukh in the Gangotri glacier at 30 ° 55' N, 79 ° 7' E, some 4100 m above mean sea level.

The Ganga drains 9 states of India. Today, the 2,525 km long river supports 29 class I cities, 23 class II cities and 48 towns, plus thousands of villages. Nearly all the sewage, industrial effluent, runoff from chemical fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture within the basin, and large quantities of solid waste, including thousands of animals' carcasses and hundreds of human corpses are dumped in the river everyday



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## Main Sources of Ganga River Pollution



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## River pollution by Human Activity

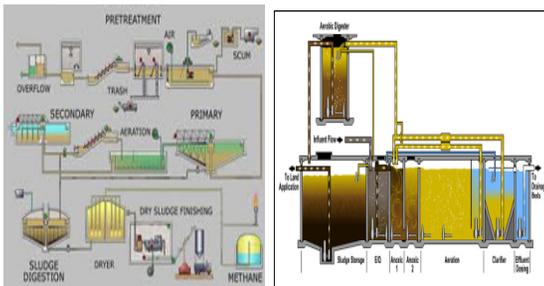


Do not do it



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## Action Plan For Industry to Reduce Water Pollution



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## Action Plan For Human Activity



- Extensive plantation on banks of Ganga
- Sewerage should flow in the river only after treatment
- Electric Crematoriums should be built and their usage encouraged
- Community Toilets and low cost sanitation to be built and usage encouraged



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## Questions Needs Discussion



1. Why have the riparian states sharing the basin not taken advantage of the vast economical potential of their water resources?
2. What effect may the Hindu religious beliefs regarding the Ganga have on future water agreements?
3. What effect will China's lack of participation in basin hydropolitics have on any decision made by India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal?
4. Are the current bilateral agreements between India and the other riparian states effective?
5. Is the Ganges Water Treaty between Bangladesh and India a good solution to the water allocation issues between the two states? What effects could harsh weather conditions have on the agreement?
6. Should an agreement such as the Ganges Water Treaty include agreements regarding pollution, additional water projects, and environmental issues? Or should one issue be tackled at a time?
7. What affect may third party involvement have on the basin hydropolitics?

Rudra P. Singh, Dept. of Environmental Sciences Dr. R.M.L. Awadh University, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh