

नमो  
गंगे



Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Water Resources,  
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



Ministry of Environment,  
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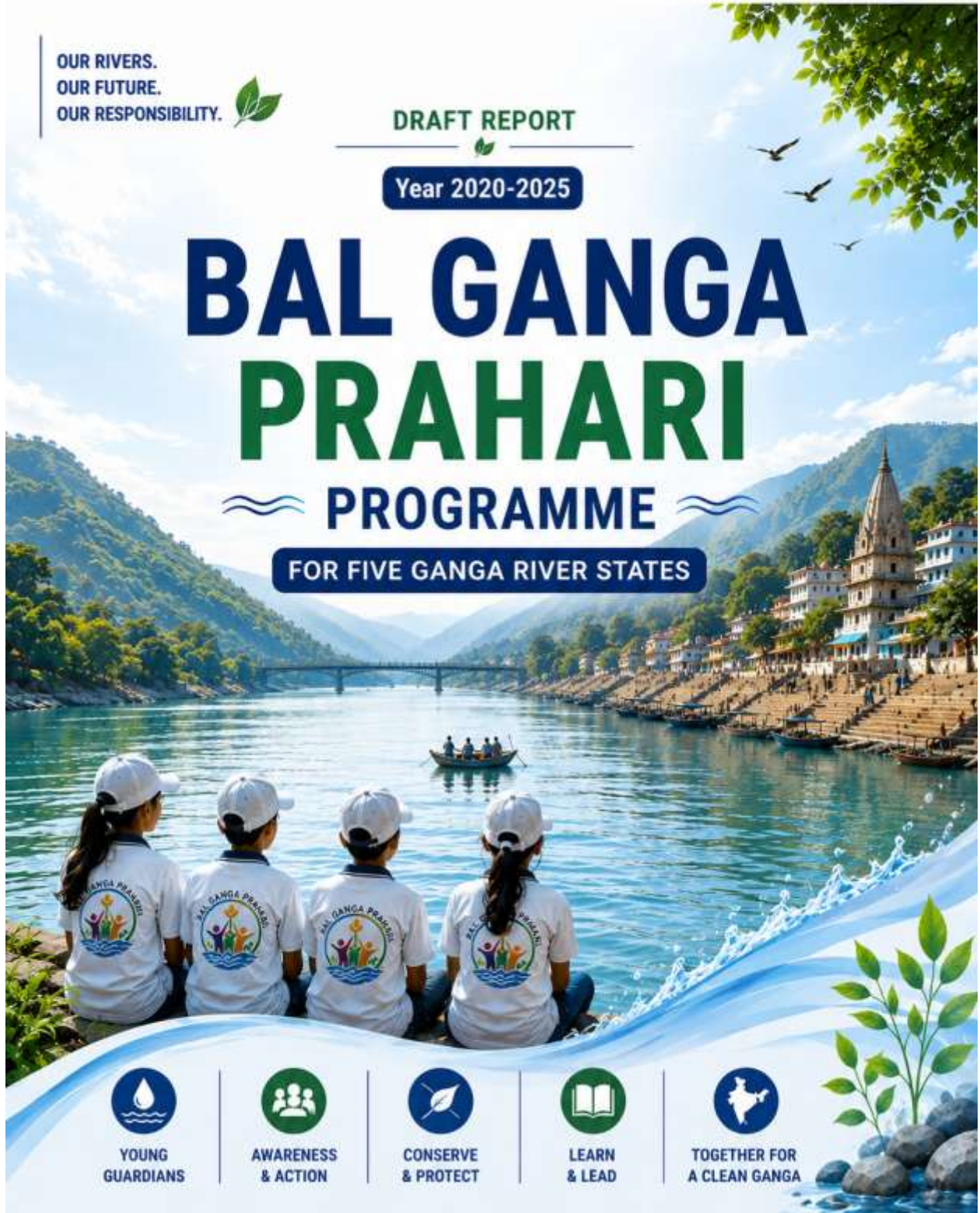


DRAFT REPORT

Year 2020-2025

# BAL GANGA PRAHARI PROGRAMME

FOR FIVE GANGA RIVER STATES



YOUNG  
GUARDIANS



AWARENESS  
& ACTION



CONSERVE  
& PROTECT



LEARN  
& LEAD



TOGETHER FOR  
A CLEAN GANGA



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## Preface

The Ganga River is one of the major river systems in Asia, originating in the Himalayas and flowing into the Bay of Bengal over a length of approximately 2,525 km. It traverses several states in India and supports a wide range of ecological, cultural, and socio-economic functions. The river is recognized for its significance in sustaining freshwater biodiversity as well as supporting the livelihoods of a large population dependent on its resources. Over time, increasing anthropogenic pressures such as pollution, habitat degradation, unsustainable resource use, and changes in river flow have affected the ecological health of the river and its associated biodiversity. Addressing these challenges requires not only policy and management interventions but also strengthening the capacities of stakeholders involved at different levels.

In this context, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), has implemented the Bal Ganga Prahari (BGP) Programme as a conservation education and youth engagement initiative aimed at strengthening awareness and participation in freshwater biodiversity conservation along the Ganga main stem. Conceptualized as an extension of the Ganga Prahari Programme, which focuses on mobilizing local community volunteers for the conservation of the Ganga River and its biodiversity, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme extends these efforts to school students, recognizing the important role of youth in fostering long-term environmental stewardship.

The programme has been implemented across the five Ganga main stem states-Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal with a focus on enhancing students' understanding of the Ganga River ecosystem, aquatic biodiversity, wetland conservation, and river management. Through structured awareness programmes, interactive workshops, educational activities, and conservation-based learning approaches, the initiative seeks to cultivate environmental responsibility, scientific understanding, and active participation among young learners in protecting the Ganga River and its biodiversity. The programme has engaged students, teachers, educational institutions, and local communities, thereby strengthening conservation education and promoting coordinated efforts towards river conservation and sustainable environmental practices.

## **Abstract**

The Bal Ganga Prahari (BGP) Programme, implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the WII-NMCG project, is a conservation education and youth engagement initiative aimed at strengthening awareness and participation in the conservation of the Ganga River and its biodiversity. The programme was implemented across the five Ganga main stem states Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, engaging school students through structured environmental education, experiential learning, and participatory conservation activities aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme focused on developing environmental stewardship among students from Classes I to XII through sensitization workshops, biodiversity awareness programmes, educational visits, interactive learning activities, and community outreach initiatives. Students were introduced to river ecology, freshwater biodiversity, wetland conservation, and sustainable environmental practices, with special emphasis on flagship species such as the Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Indian Skimmer, and Smooth-coated Otter. A variety of creative and experiential learning approaches including quizzes, storytelling, puzzles, nature walks, wildlife games, painting competitions, plantation drives, rallies, and cleanliness campaigns were used to enhance participation and learning outcomes.

Under the programme, 26 Bal Ganga Prahari Corners were established across 17 districts in five states to serve as dedicated biodiversity education and awareness spaces within schools. Bal Ganga Prahari Spearhead Teams comprising student volunteers were formed to sustain programme activities and promote peer-led conservation awareness. Through special campaigns and events conducted under initiatives such as Mission LiFE, Ganga Utsav, Nadi Utsav, and Swachhata campaigns, a total of 14,349 students from 86 schools actively participated in awareness and action-oriented activities. In addition, 4,945 students participated in various skill development workshops including paper quilling, origami, stone painting, eco-art, card making, block printing, puppet shows, and best-out-of-waste activities.

The Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan further strengthened water conservation awareness by engaging 2,970 participants, including students, teachers, and local communities, through activities such

as rallies, plantation drives, painting competitions, educational tours, and cleanliness drives across multiple Ganga basin states. Educational exposure visits organized under the programme benefited 1,233 students from 21 schools, providing experiential learning opportunities through visits to the Wildlife Institute of India, nature trails, forensic laboratories, and herbarium galleries. Furthermore, the Bal Ganga Prahari Scholarship Programme supported 25 students from rural government schools by assisting with educational expenses and encouraging continued learning opportunities.

The programme demonstrates the effectiveness of participatory and experiential environmental education in promoting conservation awareness, leadership, and responsible environmental behaviour among young learners. By integrating conservation education with community engagement and sustainable lifestyle practices, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme contributes significantly to freshwater biodiversity conservation and supports broader Sustainable Development Goals related to quality education, clean water conservation, climate action, and biodiversity protection.

## CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Bal Ganga Prahari Programme

The Bal Ganga Prahari (BGP) Programme is a conservation education and youth engagement initiative implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India under the WII-NMCG project. The programme has been conceptualized as an extension of the Ganga Prahari Programme, which focuses on mobilizing local community volunteers for the conservation of the Ganga River and its biodiversity. While the Ganga Prahari Programme primarily engages community members as conservation volunteers, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme extends this initiative to school students, recognizing the critical role of youth in shaping long-term environmental stewardship (Angom et al., 2025). The programme aims to cultivate awareness, responsibility, and active participation among young learners in protecting the Ganga River ecosystem and its biodiversity.

The BGP programme structure aligns with the developmental stages outlined in the National Education Policy 2020. The foundational stage includes students from grades I to II, the preparatory stage includes students from grades III to V, the middle stage includes students from grades VI to VIII, and the secondary stage includes students from grades IX to XII (NEP,2020) (Figure 1). Under this programme, students from Classes 1 to 12 studying in schools located in the Ganga basin are enrolled as Bal Ganga Praharis. Through structured environmental education, interactive learning, and conservation-oriented activities, the programme aims to instill knowledge and foster positive attitudes towards river conservation among students from an early age (CBSC, 2019). Bal Ganga Praharis are introduced to key aspects of river ecology, aquatic biodiversity, pollution issues, and sustainable environmental practices. The programme highlights the importance of conserving flagship and endangered species of the Ganga ecosystem, such as the Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Indian Skimmer, and Smooth-coated Otter. This structured approach gradually builds students' environmental knowledge, responsibility, and leadership for the conservation of rivers and aquatic biodiversity.



**Figure 1: NEP 2020 School Education Structure**

The initiative adopts an activity-based and participatory learning approach that includes biodiversity awareness programmes, riverbank cleanliness drives, celebration of environmentally important days, nature and river walks, and community outreach activities. Educational resources and materials such as posters, booklets, educational short films and videos, along with various radio programmes, news, and print media, and audiovisual aids are used to enhance students' understanding of the ecological and cultural significance of the Ganga. Schools participating in the programme are encouraged to establish Bal Ganga Prahari Corners, which serve as dedicated learning spaces for displaying educational materials and promoting conservation messages related to the Ganga ecosystem. By integrating environmental education with community awareness, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme aims to develop a strong network of young conservation ambassadors who can influence their families and communities towards responsible environmental behavior and sustainable practices.

## **1.2 Bal Ganga Praharis**

Bal Ganga Praharis are the school children classified into four distinct groups based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, enrolled under the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme (NEP, 2020). Students are engaged in a variety of activities, events, workshops, and sensitization programmes focused on biodiversity conservation within the Ganga River Basin. Through these experiences, they develop a deeper understanding of ecological issues and the importance of sustainable practices. As they transition from school life, they internalize sustainable lifestyles, share their knowledge with their communities, and apply these principles in their future endeavors. This programme not only empowers the youth to become stewards of the environment but also ensures the continuity of conservation efforts as they influence the next generation.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme**

To promote environmental awareness and promote a sense of responsibility towards the conservation of freshwater ecosystems, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme undertakes a range of structured activities and initiatives. These efforts aim to engage both students and teachers while building a strong network of young conservation ambassadors with the following objectives (Figure 2).

1. To conduct outreach and awareness programmes for school children and teachers through campaigns, street plays, exhibitions, river festivals, celebration of special environmental days, and exposure visits.
2. To establish a “Bal Ganga Prahari Network” aimed at strengthening conservation efforts for freshwater biodiversity
3. To train teachers and educators in science-based aquatic species conservation, promoting stewardship to ensure sustainability for future generations.
4. To establish knowledge corners in schools and colleges to facilitate youth engagement through competitions, interactive displays, films, exhibits, library resources, and hands-on sessions focused on Ganga biodiversity.

5. To create curriculum-based information for different education levels.



**Figure 2: Objectives of the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme**

#### **1.4 Activity Framework**

For the foundational stage (Grades I to II), students are engaged through simple, creative, and activity-based learning approaches such as drawing, poetry, storytelling, Pictionary, and short films (NCFSE, 2023). These activities are designed to introduce basic environmental concepts engagingly, fostering curiosity and imagination among young learners. Through visual and narrative methods, students develop an early understanding of nature, biodiversity, and the importance of environmental conservation, particularly in the context of the Ganga River Basin.



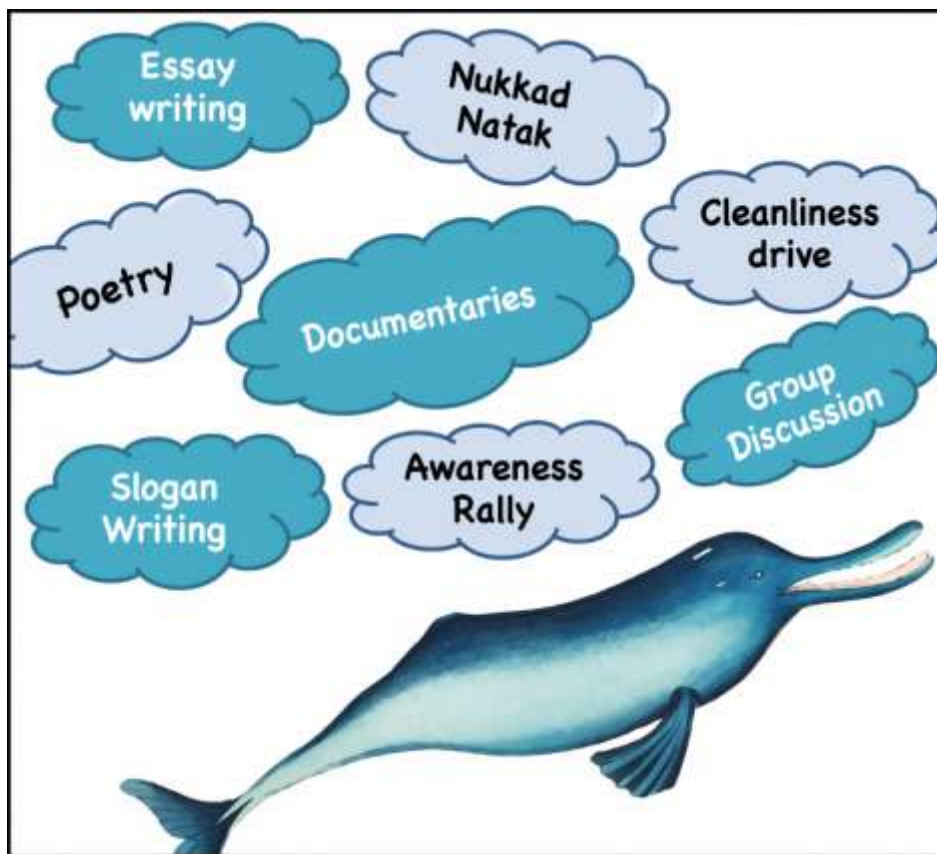
A combination of creative and experiential learning activities are designed for the preparatory stage (Grades III to V), including puzzles, painting, pebble painting, Pictionary, recycle-based fancy dress, worksheets, jumble word exercises, short films, and educational zoo visits (NCFSE, 2023). These activities aim to enhance students’ observational skills, creativity, and environmental awareness. Experiential components such as zoo visits and recycling-based activities further strengthen their understanding of wildlife conservation and sustainable practices.



Middle stage (Grades VI to VIII), (NCFSE, 2023), students are involved in more structured and participatory activities such as plantation drives, quizzes, cultural events, paper crafts, face painting, short films, and nature walks. These engagements are intended to deepen their ecological knowledge and instill a sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation. Participation in such activities enables students to develop practical insights and a stronger connection with biodiversity and natural ecosystems.



According to NCFSE (2023), for the secondary stage (Grades IX to XII), students participate in analytical, communicative, and action-oriented activities, including essay writing, documentary screenings, nukkad natak (street plays), cleanliness drives, group discussions, slogan writing, poetry, and awareness rallies. These activities are designed to enhance critical thinking, communication skills, and civic responsibility. At this stage, students actively contribute to environmental awareness and advocacy, thereby playing a significant role in promoting conservation efforts within their communities.



Secondary (IX-XII)

### 1.5 Engagement through interactive learning

A collection of captivating and interactive games has been created to educate and engage the Bal Ganga Praharis in understanding the aquatic species and biodiversity of the Ganga River Basin, for which a wide range of thoughtfully designed indoor and outdoor activities has been developed to further enhance their learning experience, participation, and connection with the river ecosystem.

Indoor activities such as quizzes, storytelling, painting, poetry, and slogan writing provide an engaging platform for students to explore environmental themes within a structured learning environment. These activities encourage creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression while enhancing students' understanding of biodiversity and conservation issues. Through quizzes and storytelling, students strengthen their knowledge and comprehension, whereas painting, poetry,

and slogan writing enable them to creatively communicate environmental messages. Such activities play a vital role in reinforcing concepts related to the conservation of the Ganga River Basin in an interactive and reflective manner.

In addition, Jigsaw Puzzle, "Totto Turtle's Motto" maze, "Wildlife Yoga Game", "Croco Tangle Panel" maze, "Sticky Wildlife Stamps" Game, "Wildlife Knock Clock" Game, "Ganga Quest Walk" Game, Wildlife Scrabble, "Aqua-web" Game, "Butterfly identification" Palette", "Game of T's", Wildlife Bingo and Crosswords etc., offer experiential learning opportunities that connect students directly with nature. These games aim not only to deepen students' knowledge of the river's ecological diversity but also to develop essential skills such as concentration, creativity, coordination, quick thinking, and presence of mind. By engaging directly with nature through outdoor activities, field trips, and community-based projects, students develop a sense of responsibility toward the environment. Students who engage in real-world conservation efforts are more likely to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors, as they comprehend the immediate effects of their actions.



**Butterfly Identification Activity**



**Wetland's Wizard Game**



**Ganga Quest Walk Activity**



**Sticky Wildlife Stamps Game**

## CHAPTER 2- METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Methodology of Bal Ganga Prahari Programme

The Bal Ganga Prahari Programme uses a structured, cyclical methodology to promote environmental awareness, participatory learning, and long-term engagement among school students across the Ganga basin (Figure 3). The approach begins with selecting schools and conducting a baseline assessment, during which institutions are identified based on their geographic relevance and potential for engagement in river conservation. This stage includes consultations with school authorities and local stakeholders, securing necessary permissions, and conducting baseline surveys to assess existing levels of awareness, attitudes, and practices related to river ecology and biodiversity.

Following this, the programme moves into the orientation and capacity development phase, which focuses on building foundational knowledge and institutional readiness. Schools are formally enrolled, and sensitization sessions are conducted for teachers, principals, and staff to familiarize them with programme objectives and their roles. Student groups, known as Bal Ganga Praharis, are formed to foster leadership and ownership. Introductory workshops on river ecology, biodiversity, and conservation challenges further strengthen participants' understanding.

The next stage involves implementing activities in which theoretical knowledge is translated into experiential learning. Environmental education is integrated into existing curricula, and students participate in hands-on activities such as river walks, biodiversity mapping, and nature trails. Creative platforms, including art, storytelling, and eco-clubs, are used to enhance engagement, while community outreach initiatives such as awareness drives and cleanliness campaigns extend learning beyond the classroom.

In the action-and-demonstration phase, students actively apply their learning through tangible initiatives. Ganga Biodiversity Corners are established as knowledge hubs, and students undertake projects related to water conservation, waste management, and plantation. These activities not only reinforce environmental responsibility but also contribute to the development of essential life skills such as teamwork and leadership.



**Figure 3: Bal Ganga Prahari Programme Framework**

The programme further emphasizes impact and outreach, encouraging students to act as “River Ambassadors” within their communities. Through peer-to-peer learning and community engagement, the programme expands its footprint while promoting sustainable behavioural change.

Finally, the monitoring, evaluation, and feedback phase ensures continuous improvement. Regular assessments and stakeholder feedback help measure outcomes and refine strategies. This cyclical process enables the programme to adapt, scale, and sustain its impact over time.

## CHAPTER 3 – RESULTS

### 3.1 Schools Enrolled in Mainstem Ganga Stem under Bal Ganga Prahari Programme

The school outreach and sensitization programmes for fresh water biodiversity and ecology along the five states i.e., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal witnessed a total enrolment of 665 schools under the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme, involving nearly 1,48,927 students and 8,786 teachers. This wide participation reflects the growing commitment of educational institutions towards environmental awareness and river conservation initiatives in the Ganga region. Among all the states, highest participation with 378 schools, engaging over 2,11,700 students and 4,589 teachers was recorded from Uttar Pradesh, indicating the programme's wider acceptability and great success in the state. Uttarakhand state followed with 147 schools, reaching 66,508 students and 2,216 teachers. Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal together contributed 140 schools, covering more than 82,419 students and 1,981 teachers. The overall data demonstrates the programme's extensive educational outreach and its success in mobilizing schools, teachers, and students towards awareness generation and community participation for the conservation and sustainable management of the Ganga River ecosystem.

**Table 1: Bal Ganga Prahari Schools Enrolled in Mainstem Ganga Stem**

State	Total Schools	Total Students	Total Teachers
Uttarakhand	147	66,508	2216
Uttar Pradesh	378	2,11,700	4589
Bihar	70	37,760	1051
Jharkhand	51	25,216	439
West Bengal	19	19,443	491
<b>Total</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>148,927</b>	<b>8786</b>

### 3.2 Bal Ganga Prahari Corners (Ganga Biodiversity Education Corners)

Bal Ganga Prahari Corners are dedicated learning spaces established in schools to sustain and strengthen the activities of the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme. These corners function as knowledge hubs where students engage with themes related to river conservation, benefiting not only the host school but also nearby institutions. As it is not feasible to establish such corners in every school across a district, one or two strategically located corners are developed to cover a wider geographical area and extend their outreach to adjacent schools. The corners include

creative wall panels, posters, charts, and other interactive displays designed to make learning visually engaging and informative. Publications, species models, wall paintings, and student-made exhibits highlight the rich biodiversity of the Ganga River and its tributaries, including key aquatic and riparian species. In addition to ecological aspects, the displays also present the cultural and mythological importance of the River Ganga in Indian society. By integrating scientific knowledge with cultural understanding, these corners create a continuous learning environment within schools and encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of river ecosystems and the need for their conservation. The cost of developing and establishing these Bal Ganga Prahari Corners is borne by the Wildlife Institute of India under the WII-NMCG project. So far, a total of 26 Bal Ganga Prahari Corners have been established across 17 districts in 5 Ganga Basin states, reflecting the growing outreach and impact of the programme (Table 1).

**Table 1: Ganga Biodiversity Corners (Bal Ganga Prahari Corner)**

S. No.	School	District	State
1	Jwalapur Inter College, Jwalapur	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
2	Govt. Inter College, Ganga Bhogpur	Pauri Garhwal	
3	Govt. Girls Inter College, Devprayag	Tehri Garhwal	
4	Govt. Inter College, Nagni	Tehri Garhwal	
5	Janta Junior High School, Rumsi	Rudraprayag	
6	Atal Utkrisht Rajkiya Adarsh Inter College, Malti	Uttarkashi	
7	Govt. Intermediate College, Patel Nagar	Dehradun	
8	Janki Children Acadamy	Dehradun	
9	Learning Tree Special School, Dharampur	Dehradun	
10	The Doon Vantage Public School, Chandrabani	Dehradun	
11	Sri Ram Janki Public School, Chandrabani	Dehradun	
12	PM Shri Atal Utkrisht GGIC Khatari, Ramnagar	Nainital	
13	Composite School, Sarnath	Varanasi	

14	Kisan Inter College	Bijnor	Uttar Pradesh
15	Govt. Inter College	Ayodhya	
16	Govt. Girls Inter College, Civil lines	Prayagraj	
17	PM Shree Govt. Inter College	Mirzapur	
18	Har Sahai Jagdamba Sahai Inter College	Kanpur	
19	Mahiyashi Mahadevi Verma Govt. Inter College	Fatehgarh	
20	Ramkali Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Vrindavan	Mathura	
21	Govt. Abhinav Inter College	Kannauj	
22	Government Senior Secondary School, Fafout	Begusarai	Bihar
23	Upgraded High School, Maskalaiya	Sahibganj	Jharkhand
24	Rajasthan Inter School	Sahibganj	
25	Rangbelia High School, Gosaba Islands	South 24 Parganas	West Bengal
26	Julpia Andharmanik High School	South 24 Parganas	



**Bal Ganga Prahari Corner at Govt. Inter College, Nagni, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand**



**Bal Ganga Prahari Corner at Kisan Inter College, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh**



**Bal Ganga Prahari Corner at Government Senior Secondary School, Fafout, Begusarai, Bihar**



**Bal Ganga Prahari Corner at Upgraded High School, Maskalaiya, Jharkhand**



**Bal Ganga Prahari Corner at Rangbelia High School, Gosaba, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal**

### **3.3 Bal Ganga Prahari Spearhead Team**

To effectively manage and sustain activities at the Bal Ganga Prahari Corner, a Bal Ganga Prahari Spearhead Team is established in each participating school. This team usually consists of 10-12 motivated students who act as trained volunteers under the programme. The members take responsibility for maintaining the corner and organizing awareness activities within the school under the guidance of the corner in charge. As young leaders, the spearhead team encourages participation among their peers and helps spread awareness about the importance of conserving the Ganga River and its biodiversity. Through this leadership role, students develop communication and teamwork, while actively contributing to the sustainability of the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme within their schools. This framework supports the development of student leadership in environmental initiatives, which has been shown to enhance sustainability efforts within educational institutions by providing opportunities for students to engage directly in environmental conservation activities.



**Spearhead team of Govt Girls Inter College, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**

### **3.4 Sensitization under Bal Ganga Prahari Programmes**

The BGP Programme actively engages students through a series of activities, events, and awareness campaigns organized throughout the year under the Ganga Biodiversity Calendar. This calendar highlights important environmental and biodiversity related days, providing opportunities for schools to celebrate and promote conservation awareness in a structured manner. Key occasions such as World Wildlife Day, World Environment Day, World Water Day, and other significant environmental observances are marked through interactive activities, including drawing competitions, storytelling, quizzes, exhibitions, and experiential learning sessions.



**Sensitization Workshop at Gauri Gopal Gurukul, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**



**Sensitization Programme at PM Shri AUGIC, Khatari, Ramnagar, Nainital, Uttarakhand**



**Sensitization Programme at Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**

### **3.5 Special Campaigns/Events**

Under the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme, National campaigns and events organized by different ministries of the Government of India align with major environmental initiatives. Activities under the Mission LiFE, Ganga Utsav, Nadi Utsav, and Swachhata campaigns support national efforts to promote sustainable lifestyles, river conservation, cleanliness, and public participation. Through these initiatives, 14,349 students from 86 schools have actively engaged in awareness and action-oriented programmes (Table 2).

The Bal Ganga Prahari Programme encourages students to understand and protect the Ganga River and its biodiversity. Through learning activities and participation in conservation efforts, students develop a sense of responsibility towards nature. The programme helps young learners become aware, caring, and active in protecting rivers and the environment for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

**Table 2: Special Campaigns/Events**

S.No.	States	Special Day/Event	No. of Schools	No. of Students
1	Uttarakhand	World Turtle Day	6	2,404
2		World Environment Day	20	557
3		World Nature Conservation Day	8	924
4		World Earth Day	4	469
5		International Biodiversity Day	1	118
6		International Yoga Day	2	151
7		World Otter Day	2	125
8		World Crocodile Day	1	75
9		International Day for Biological Diversity	2	115
10		International Literacy Day	1	250
11		International Farmer's Day	1	180
12		World Soil Day	1	150
13		World Wetland Day	1	70
14		International Children's Book Day	1	80
15		National Disability Employment Awareness Month	1	20
16		International Fisheries Day	1	80
	Total		53	5,768
17	Uttar Pradesh	Hindi Pakhwada Diwas	2	476
18		Ganga River Dolphin Day	2	62
19		World Wildlife Day	6	562
20		International Yoga Day	3	150
21		World Nature Conservation Day	2	5,150
22		International Literacy Day	1	550

23		International Day For Preservation of Ozone Layer	1	100
24		International Day of Biological Diversity	1	35
25		World Otter Day	1	35
26		World Environment Day	1	246
	Total		20	7366
27		World Wildlife Day	1	100
28	Bihar	World Earth Day	1	27
29		World Otter Day	1	150
	Total		3	277
30	Jharkhand	International Yoga Day	1	38
	Total		1	38
31		World Wetland Day	1	70
32		World Turtle Day	1	50
33		World Environment Day	1	20
34	West Bengal	International Yoga Day	1	70
35		Global Tigers Day	1	120
36		World Nature Conservation Day	1	70
37		World Elephant Day	1	500
	Total		9	900
		Total	86	14,349



**Plantation drive conducted during Nadi Utsav at Mahiyasi Mahadevi Verma Govt. Girls Inter College Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh**



**Mission LiFE Celebration at GGHSS, Kharkhari, Haridwar, Uttarakhand**



**Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan at Learning Tree Special School, Dehradun**

### **3.6 Skill Development Programmes**

Skill Development Programmes under the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme aim to enhance students' creativity, skills, and environmental awareness through engaging and hands-on activities. These programmes include creative exercises such as paper quilling, decoupage, card making, hand and face painting, and stone painting, creating best out of waste, pistachio art, origami, calligraphy, block printing, and wildlife mask walk through which student express themes related to aquatic biodiversity and river conservation. Along with artistic development, the activities promote critical thinking, teamwork, and a sense of responsibility toward the environment. By participating in such initiatives, students develop a deeper understanding of the Ganga River ecosystem and are encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible behaviors in their daily lives. A total of 4945 students participated in the skill development programmes under the Bal Ganga Prahari Programmes (Table 3).

**Table 3: Skill Development Programmes conducted under Bal Ganga Prahari Programme**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Name of the workshop</b>	<b>No. of BGP</b>
1	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Paper quilting	23
2	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Stone painting	29
3	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Card Making	25
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Decoupage Painting Art	30
5	Uttarakhand		Ganga And Its Tributaries "Grow Your Own Microgreens"	67
6	Uttarakhand		Seed Paper Making	80
7	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Card Making	60
8	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Card Making	50
9	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Eco Art Project Competition & Nukkad Natak	3000
10	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Poster Making Competition	400
11	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Winter Camp Activity (Yoga & Best Out of Waste)	45
12	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Winter Camp Activity (Card Making)	35
13	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Block Painting	190
14	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Origami Workshop	15
15	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Puppet Show	80
16	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Meeting Millets	106
17	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Diwali Celebration (Card Making Workshop)	20
18	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Christmas Celebration	70
19	Uttarakhand	Uttarkashi	Best Out of Waste Activity (Making bags by waste plastic)	100

20	Uttarakhand	Pauri Garhwal	Card Making	130
21	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	"Card Making Session" Har Ghar Tiranga	220
22	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj	Panchpran activities on International Youth Day	170
			TOTAL	4945



**Skill Development Workshop at Learning Tree Special School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand**



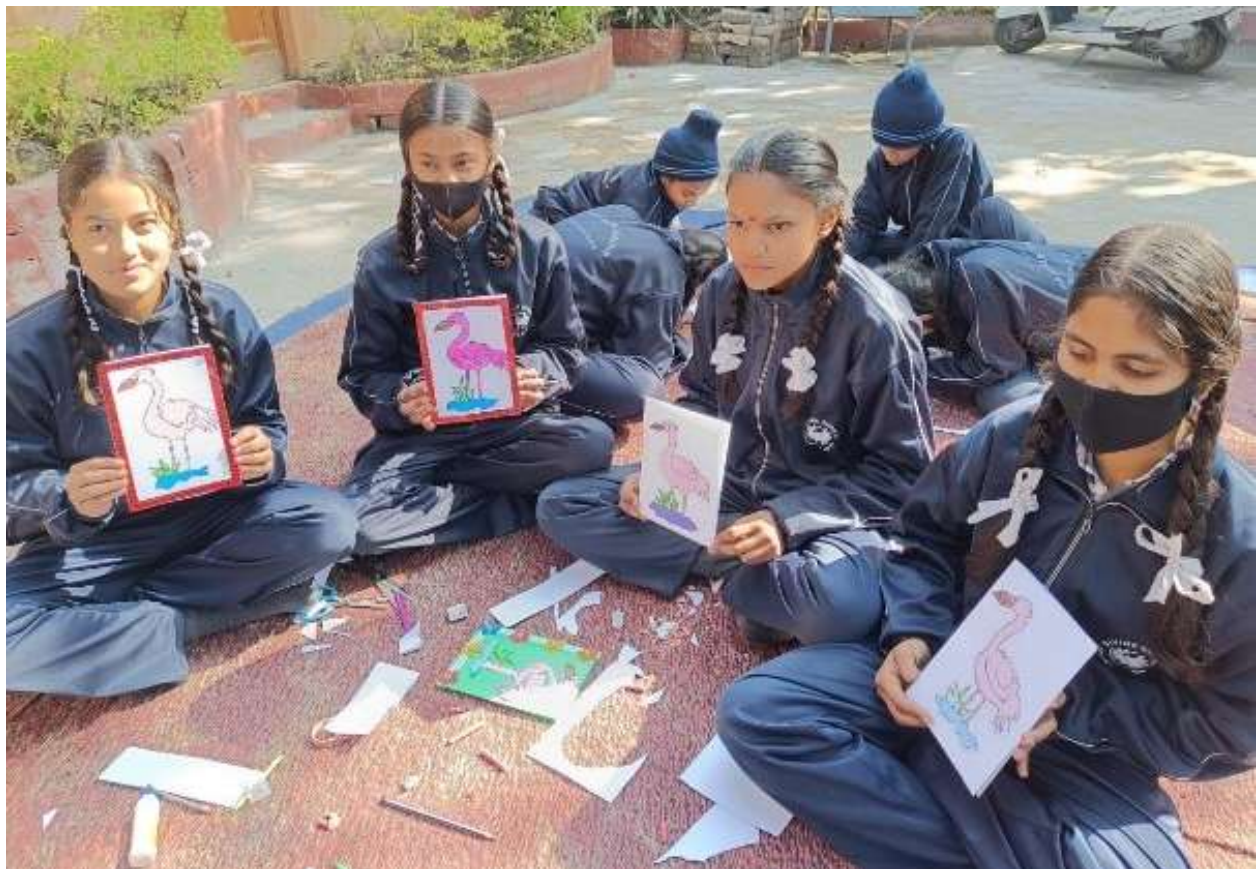
**Skill Development Workshop at GGSS, Kharkhari, Haridwar, Uttarakhand**



**Origami Workshop with CRECHE Students at WII, Dehradun**



**Block Printing Workshop of different schools at WII**



**Card Making Workshop at Parmarth Vidya Niketan, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand**

### 3.7 Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan

The Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan is a campaign aimed to actively engage school students and local communities from both government and private schools to conserve water and its resources. The initiative brings water conservation to the forefront by introducing the practical concepts of water budgeting and water accounting. Initially launched in Uttarakhand, the campaign was subsequently scaled up across the main stream Ganga River Basin states and later extended to other Ganga Basin states. It promotes a unique approach by treating water like a savings account, where every water saving action is recorded.



**Release of Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan by Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand**

These collective efforts contribute to building a “water account” for individuals and communities, clearly demonstrating the measurable impact of their actions. So far, a total of 2970 participants involving students, teachers, and local communities, have been part of the programme in five Ganga Basin States (Table 4).

**Table 4: Activities conducted under Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan**

S.No.	Activities	Location	District	State	Students	Teachers
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2	Cleanliness Drive	Jr. High School, Rumsi	Rudraprayag	Uttarakhand	40	4
3	Cleanliness Drive	Rumsi Village	Rudraprayag	Uttarakhand	7	0
4	Cleanliness Drive & Drawing Competition	Govt. Public School Surari	Rudraprayag	Uttarakhand	40	4
5	Cleanliness Drive & Drawing Competition	Govt Public School, Pata	Rudraprayag	Uttarakhand	30	2
6	Drawing Competition and Awareness Rally	M D Public School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	110	7
7	Educational Tour	WII, Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	40	0
8	Educational Tour from Maharashtra	WII, Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	53	0
9	Cleanliness Drive	Govt. Inter College, Nagni	Tehri Garhwal	Uttarakhand	54	2
10	Cleanliness Drive	GIC Nagni	Tehri Garhwal	Uttarakhand	50	5
11	Rally	Rajkiya Prathamik Adarsh Vidhyalaya, Kufnol	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand	50	4
12	Painting and Slogan Writing	Royal Dream World Inter College	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	48	2

15	Painting Competition	Gyaanodyay Brahmavart School	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	35	5
20	Painting and Rally	Eklavya Bhartiya Vidhyalaya	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	36	10
21	Cleanliness Drive and Drawing Competition	A Class for Education Deprived Children	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	35	5
22	Painting Competition	Saryu Narayan Bal Vidyalaya Inter College	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	45	4
23	Painting and Cleanliness drive	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Snathan Dharm Inter College	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	50	5
24	Plantation Drive	Composite Vidhyalaya, Sultanpur	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	45	4
25	Cleanliness Drive	B.S.R.N Inter College, Faridpur	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	48	2
26	Plantation Drive	Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya, Sarnath	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	58	0
27	Plantation Drive	Mahabodhi Junior High School, Sarnath	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	60	4
28	Drawing Competition and Slogan writing	Tulsi Niketan Inter College, Sarnath	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	55	2

29	Plantation Drive	Sankat Mochan Inter College, Singhpur	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	55	5
30	Rally	Shri Krishna Public School, Kerakat	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	145	6
31	Sensitization Drive	Dayanand Inter College	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	150	2
32	Drawing Competition	GGIC Ayodhya	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh	50	3
33	Plantation Drive and Painting	Prarthamik Vidhyalaya Tara Durbhash Kendra, Khodabandpur	Begusarai	Bihar	50	1
42	Painting Competition and Rally	P.S Gorvaddha, Khodawandpur	Begusarai	Bihar	35	3
46	Cleanliness Drive	P S Paswantol School, Khodawandpur	Begusarai	Bihar	57	2
47	Drawing and Essay Competition	Prarthamik Vidhyalaya, Khodabandpur, Pashchim	Begusarai	Bihar	55	5
48	Cleanliness Drive	New Gurukul Academy	Samastipur	Bihar	30	1
49	Cleanliness Drive	New Gurukul Academy	Samastipur	Bihar	60	2
54	Rally and Writing Competition	Julpia Andharmanik High School	South Parganas 24	West Bengal	60	1



Trail. Through guided interpretation, they learn about local flora and fauna, ecological balance, and the role of such habitats in sustaining wildlife and maintaining river health.

A key highlight of the visit is the session at the Forensic Laboratory, where simplified demonstrations and explanations help students understand how science plays a crucial role in protecting wildlife and preventing illegal activities, thereby sparking interest in conservation-related careers. The visit also includes an informative tour of the Herbarium Gallery, where students discover the diversity of plant species and learn about their preservation and ecological importance, particularly in maintaining healthy environments and riverine systems like the Ganga basin. So far, a total of 21 schools from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have participated in these visits, benefiting 1,233 students (Table 5). Overall, these visits contribute significantly to the objectives of the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme by promoting conservation education, encouraging young minds to respect nature, and inspiring them to actively participate in environmental protection.

**Table 5: Educational Visits conducted under Bal Ganga Prahari Programme**

S. No.	Name of School	District	State	No. of Student	Teachers
1	R.N.I. Inter College	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	27	1
2	G.I.C. Kishanpur	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	20	2
3	Upper Primary School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	30	3
4	Defense Officers Academy	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	25	1
5	St. Kabeers Academy	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	70	3
6	Convent of Jesus & Mary	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	42	1
7	Carman Residential and Day School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	18	2
8	Shivalik Academy	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	200	7
9	Indian Cambridge School, Doiwala	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	127	7
10	Welham Girls School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	45	3

11	Quantum University, Roorkee	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	54	2
12	Model School for Visually Handicapped (NIEPVD)	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	27	2
13	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH)	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	37	2
14	Universal Acadamy	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	120	4
15	Welham Boys School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	60	6
16	Doon Vantage Public School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	27	4
17	Learning Tree Special School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	20	2
18	St. Kabeer Academy	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	80	3
19	Universal Academy School	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	70	3
20	Govt. Abhinav Inter College	Kannauj	Uttar Pradesh	25	2
21	Govt. Inter College, Umrada	Kannauj	Uttar Pradesh	30	2
22	PM Shri Govt. Inter College	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	40	2
23	PM Shri Govt. Girls Inter College Phaphamau	Prayagraj	Uttar Pradesh	39	4
	TOTAL			1233	68



**Exposure Visit of PM Shri GGIC, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**



**Exposure visit of Universal Academy, Dehradun, Uttarakhand**



**Exposure Visit of PM Shri Govt. Inter College, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh**

### **3.9 Bal Ganga Prahari Scholarship Programme**

The Bal Ganga Prahari Scholarship Programme represents a significant effort to support talented students from rural areas, particularly focusing on empowering girls enrolled in government schools. This initiative acknowledges that financial limitations frequently hinder access to ongoing education, especially at the secondary level, and aims to address this issue by offering timely assistance. In this initiative, the WII-NMCG team works to mobilize resources and generate funds to aid deserving students by covering their tuition fees and other vital educational costs for Class 9. So far, the scholarship has positively impacted 25 students from three schools namely Mahiyasi Mahadevi Verma Government Girls Inter College, Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh, Government Inter College, Nagni, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand and RNI Inter College, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. This demonstrates the programme's strong dedication to gender equity in education and cultivating young changemakers within the Ganga River Basin.



**Scholarship distribution to the students of RNI Inter College, Haridwar**



**Scholarship distribution to the students of Govt. Inter College Nagni, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand**



**Scholarship distribution at Mahiyasi Mahadevi Verma Govt. Girls Inter College Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh**

## CHAPTER- 4 DISCUSSIONS

The Bal Ganga Prahari (BGP) Programme, implemented by the Wildlife Institute of India under the National Mission for Clean Ganga, represents a progressive and holistic approach to river conservation by integrating environmental education with youth participation. Unlike conventional conservation strategies that primarily focus on policy implementation and community-level interventions, this programme uniquely emphasizes the role of school students as future custodians of the environment. By extending the principles of the Ganga Prahari Programme to younger generations, it ensures continuity and sustainability in conservation efforts. One of the most significant strengths of the BGP Programme lies in its early intervention strategy. By engaging students from the foundational stage (Class I) through the secondary stage (Class XII), the programme systematically builds environmental awareness, critical thinking, and responsible behaviour over time. This age-specific and structured approach aligns effectively with the National Education Policy 2020, ensuring that learning outcomes are developmentally appropriate and impactful. The gradual progression from play-based learning to analytical and research-oriented activities helps in nurturing environmentally conscious individuals equipped with both knowledge and practical skills.

The programme also demonstrates a strong emphasis on experiential and participatory learning. Activities such as river walks, biodiversity mapping, cleanliness drives, and citizen science projects enable students to directly interact with the environment rather than relying solely on theoretical knowledge. This hands-on exposure is crucial in fostering a deeper emotional connection with nature, which in turn encourages long term behavioural change. Interactive tools and games further enhance engagement, making environmental education both enjoyable and memorable. Another important aspect is the programme's focus on flagship and endangered species such as the Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Indian Skimmer, and Smooth coated Otter. Highlighting these species not only raises awareness about biodiversity conservation but also helps students understand ecological interdependence and the consequences of habitat degradation. This species-centric approach makes conservation more relatable and tangible for young learners.

The establishment of Bal Ganga Prahari Corners in schools acts as a continuous learning mechanism, reinforcing concepts beyond classroom sessions. These knowledge hubs serve as

visual and interactive platforms that integrate scientific, cultural, and ecological perspectives of the Ganga River. Furthermore, the creation of Spearhead Teams promotes student leadership, teamwork, and ownership of conservation initiatives, thereby strengthening the programme's long-term impact. The inclusion of campaigns such as water conservation initiatives and alignment with national movements like Mission LiFE highlights the programme's relevance in addressing broader environmental challenges. Additionally, initiatives like the Rashtriya Jal Khata Abhiyan introduce innovative concepts such as water budgeting, making students more conscious of resource utilization in their daily lives. From a broader perspective, the BGP Programme contributes significantly to multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly quality education, clean water and sanitation, climate action, and biodiversity conservation. By fostering partnerships between schools, communities, and institutions, it reflects an integrated model of sustainable development.

#### **4.1 Contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

The Bal Ganga Prahari Programme is a flagship initiative focused on nurturing young environmental stewards for the conservation of the Ganga River and its rich biodiversity. The programme aligns with global sustainability goals by encouraging responsible environmental practices and conservation values. Through capacity building and youth engagement, it empowers the next generation to safeguard aquatic ecosystems and contribute towards a sustainable future (Figure 4) (SDG, 2025).

##### **Key SDGs Supported by Bal Ganga Prahari Programme**

**SDG 4 – Quality Education:** Promoting environmental learning and awareness among school students. This is in alignment with the objective of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities, which is a core tenet of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Specifically, age appropriate environmental education, that encompasses resource conservation, biodiversity, and climate action, is crucial for cultivating a foundational understanding of sustainability.

**SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:** Encouraging protection and sustainable management of river ecosystems. Specifically, Target 6.6 aims to conserve and restore water based ecosystems,

including rivers, by 2020, while other targets under SDG 6 emphasize improved water quality and better management of water resources by 2030.

**SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:** Promoting sustainable lifestyle practices through initiatives such as Mission LiFE. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 12 emphasizes on the global efforts to transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**SDG 13 – Climate Action:** Building awareness on environmental protection and climate responsibility. This holistic approach highlights the necessity of educational initiatives in promoting sustainable practices and climate resilience across diverse populations.

**SDG 14 – Life Below Water:** Supporting the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the Ganga River system. This explicitly highlights the urgent need to safeguard freshwater ecosystems, which, while not a standalone SDG, is integrated within SDG 6's broader mandate for water-related ecosystem protection and restoration.

**SDG 15 – Life on Land:** Promoting the protection of riparian habitats and wildlife associated with river ecosystems. This objective supports conserving and restoring terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting biodiversity loss.

**SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Encouraging collaboration between schools, communities, and conservation institutions. This collaborative approach aligns with the broader objectives of sustainable development, emphasizing shared understanding, innovative solutions, and equitable partnerships across various sectors to achieve educational and environmental goals.

However, despite its strengths, the programme may face challenges such as ensuring consistent participation across diverse regions, maintaining long-term engagement of students, and scaling the initiative beyond the Ganga basin. Addressing these challenges through continuous monitoring, feedback mechanisms, and expansion strategies could further enhance its effectiveness. In conclusion, the Bal Ganga Prahari Programme serves as a model initiative for environmental education and youth-driven conservation. By empowering students with

knowledge, skills, and opportunities for active participation, it not only contributes to the protection of the Ganga River ecosystem but also lays the foundation for a more environmentally responsible society.



**Figure 4: Supporting Sustainable Development Goals**

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