

GANGA
ACTION PARIVAR

6 T'S PROGRAM

Toilets, Trash, Trees,
Taps, Tracks & Tigers



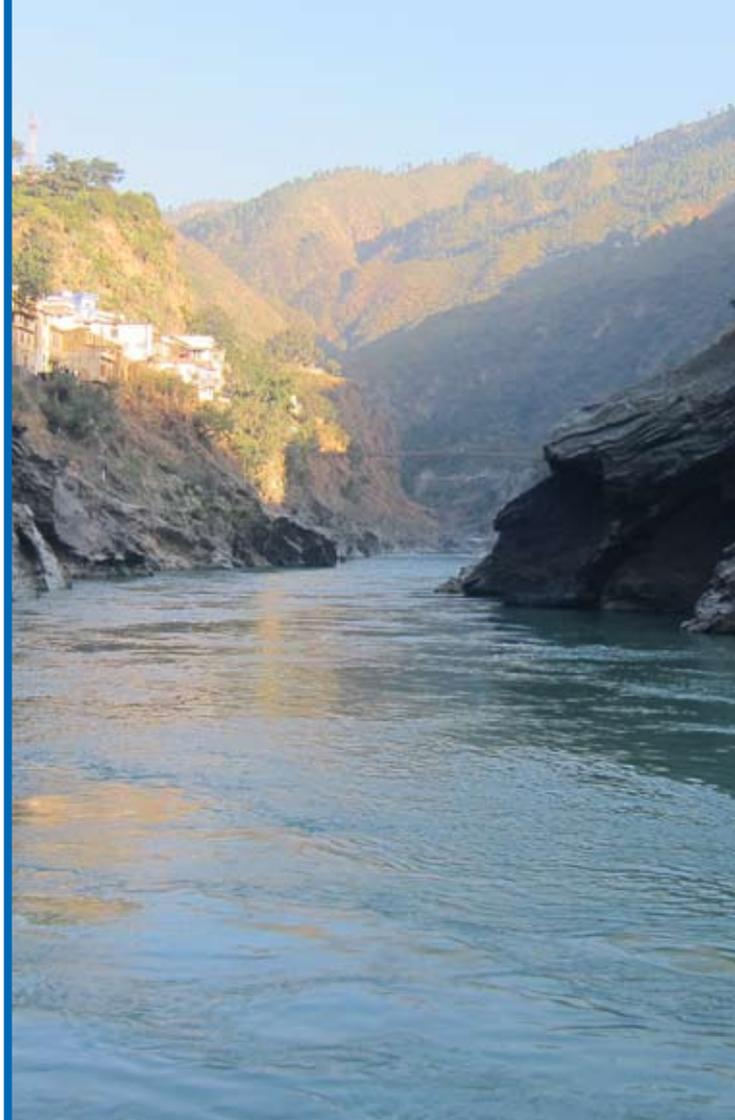
A LIFELINE IN TROUBLE

The beautiful Ganga is one of the most at-risk rivers in the world. Every day, some three billion liters of sewage and chemical waste are poured in, threatening the health and lives of millions. Ganga Action Parivar brings together networks and partnerships of the world's eminent researchers, environmentalists, engineers, business leaders and spiritual/religious leaders, as well as members of the general public. Together, we work towards thoughtful solutions to the numerous problems plaguing the Ganga and Her tributaries.

GANGA ACTION PARIVAR

Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) is a family of professionals, engineers, scientists, activists, spiritual leaders, environmental specialists and dedicated volunteers from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga.

GAP intends to restore, protect and maintain the river Ganga and Her tributaries in their *aviral* (free-flowing) and *nirmal* (unpolluted) state and to find workable solutions to the problems of pollution and obstruction.



THE 6T'S PROGRAM



Toilets



Trash



Trees



Taps



Tracks



Tigers

When Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, completed 60 years of life, everyone wanted to give Him birthday presents. He, however, declared that there is nothing He wants, nothing He needs, but that the only gift He would like is for people to commit themselves to the following '6T' program (6T's for six-ty years of life).

Ganga Action Parivar's 6T's program provides a foundation for a cleaner, greener, more sustainable Ganga and environment. Through its comprehensive, interlinked programs, we are working to help the people, animals

and ecology of the watershed not only survive, but thrive. In so doing, GAP has identified six categories of outreach that are designed to complement each other:

- Toilets, to provide proper sanitation
- Trash, to provide solid waste management & recycling
- Trees, to help clean and restore the environment
- Taps, to provide clean drinking water
- Tracks, to "green" one of India's most vital networks which connects the entire country
- Tigers, to protect India's endangered wildlife

TOILETS

1

Some 450 million people live in the Ganga River Basin, many of whom have no sanitary facilities. This is not only embarrassing, but also presents a security threat to women and girls in particular. At the same time, populations are forced to use the Ganga as a toilet out of necessity, fouling Her waters and potentially spreading disease.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Working hand-in-hand with local populations, Ganga Action Parivar is working to provide thousands of zero-waste, “bio-digester” toilets in villages and other locations throughout the Ganga River Basin.
- These toilets will not only help keep our National River clean, but will provide safe and healthy fertilizer for organic crops, water for irrigation and methane gas that can power entire villages.
- Educating the public about the importance of eco-friendly sanitation as well as bio-digester-related village empowerment and environmental leadership programs for women and girls



A young child with a red tilak on their forehead is looking out from a river filled with trash. The water is dark and murky, surrounded by various pieces of waste including plastic bags, food scraps, and other debris. The child's face is partially submerged in the water, which is cluttered with trash.

2

TRASH

In the Ganga River Basin, trash is often disposed of directly in, or near the river, endangering wildlife, plants, and human populations, while also spoiling the appearance of what should be pristine waters. Ganga Action Parivar is working to remove existing pollution (namely, solid waste) along the banks of Ganga, Her tributaries and the surrounding environment, preventing this waste from washing into the rivers and choking life from them, as well as preventing the waste from leaching its harmful chemicals into the soil and groundwater.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Working with local municipalities, NGOs and people to find sustainable solutions to effectively manage solid waste, such as installing and maintaining dustbins, setting up composting and recycling systems and more
- Conducting mass awareness campaigns to motivate populations and visitors to properly dispose of their waste before it reaches the Ganga
- Campaigning for and distributing eco-friendly alternatives to plastic and polythene, such as reusable water bottles and cloth or jute bags

A vibrant photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a small waterfall cascades over several layers of dark, wet rocks. The water is clear and creates white foam as it falls. The background is filled with dense, bright green foliage, including various types of trees and bushes. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall atmosphere is fresh and natural.

3

TREES

Trees are crucial to life, providing shade, oxygen and fruit. Their roots prevent erosion of soil, while also helping to prevent landslides. Their leaves release 90% of their water into the air, adding crucial levels of humidity to the environment. Yet, to meet the needs of rapidly expanding populations, far too many have been cut down, robbing the Ganga River Basin of its key benefactor.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Planting and maintaining thousands of trees and other plants as a direct response to help rejuvenate the environment, mitigate erosion, arrest deforestation and global warming, and create a virtual “oxygen bank” to improve and restore the air quality
- The types of trees being planted are those which will not only provide shade for all, but will also help uplift local communities by providing valuable fruit, medicines and financial viability.
- Working with NGOs to create “Green” Crematoriums, which use less wood per cremation, saving countless trees from being cut every year

TAPS

Access to clean and safe drinking water is a basic human right. Yet, in India alone, thousands of children die, and many more are sickened, by waterborne diseases such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera. Hundreds of villages along the banks of Ganga have no access to fresh, clean, safe drinking water. Adding to the problem are contaminated and shrinking groundwater tables alongside untamed pollution in the Ganga.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Working to provide taps to the rural poor, as well as water filtration systems
- Installing taps for clean water in all toilet blocks that GAP builds
- Educating the public about water conservation and advocating for proper water management, both in personal use and in farming practices, and promoting alternative water management systems such as rainwater harvesting, preservation of natural water bodies, and groundwater recharging, so that there is enough clean water for everyone



TRACKS

5

The Indian train network is one of the most impressive in the world, yet also one of the dirtiest. All along the lengths of the train tracks, garbage is thrown carelessly along the tracks, including plastic and polythene which pollute the environment and endangers wildlife. Many tracks have become like open sewers, as waste from the trains is emptied directly onto the tracks, and railway stations often lack proper sanitation as well.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Working with the Ministry of Railways to clean the tracks of the train system and install eco-friendly toilets on all trains and in train stations
- Working with the Ministry of Railways to create a special train named “Jai Gange Express” which will run along the course of Ganga from Rishikesh to Gangasagar. The train will be filled with information and inspiration on the significance of Ganga and how to protect and preserve Her sacred waters.





6

TIGERS

Under Ganga Action Parivar's 6T's program, "Tigers" stands for all endangered animals inhabiting the Ganga River Basin. One of the reasons the tigers and other species in India are threatened is due to the loss and destruction of their natural habitat. Thus, we are committed to protecting and preserving the natural habitat of tigers and other wild animals, thereby saving their lives and also saving our natural resources.

WHAT GAP IS DOING

- Working side-by-side with conservation groups, GAP provides education and awareness programs, enabling populations and visitors to better understand the fragile nature of the Ganga River Basin's ecosystem.
- As a result, all people become protectors of their own environments, enabling nature's creatures to flourish as they should.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Join the movement to restore our river Ganga and Her tributaries to their *aviral* (free-flowing) and *nirmal* (unpolluted) states and to protect and maintain the sanctity of the waters. Be a part of the family and engage in meaningful dialogue and positive action,

and implement working solutions to the issues facing Mother Ganga.

Become a volunteer today wherever you live, and meet other inspiring members who are taking up these important initiatives in your community. Remember each one should reach ten, so be sure to reach out to your family, friends and community members to get involved and be the change! Together we can!



There are numerous ways to help! Some ideas include:



1

Bring 6T's to your area! GAP is planting trees, building eco-friendly toilets and much more along the length of Ganga's banks, and needs help in local areas to bring this plan to fruition!



2

Come volunteer with GAP! Meet other inspiring members of the family, participate in GAP events, and help us be the change!



3

Organize local tree plantations and clean-ups! Bring together your community to plant trees, clean-up trash or do other activities which help restore our rivers and our environment!



4

Organize your school, group or business to help! All organizations can play an important role to protect the environment. Organize events, plantations, clean-ups and other activities with your group!



5

Learn to live "green" every day, and don't pollute! Use eco-friendly products instead of materials like plastic and polythene, try to save water and electricity, and always use a trash bin!



6

Reach out to friends and family to join the cause! Help educate your family, friends and community to learn about the issues, and inspire them to get involved and be the change!



7

Join the organic movement! Buy local and buy organic! Educate others about the importance of organic food for ourselves and for the environment!



8

Share your ideas with GAP! Help find sustainable, lasting solutions for all the issues that face Ganga and Her tributaries. All skills, expertise, professions and ideas can help!



9

Donate! Donations raised will go towards GAP's many projects. Adopt a tree, adopt a toilet! Donate specific items for these projects, such as trees, building materials, mobiles, and more!

GANGA ACTION PARIVAR

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