

# Water Pollution in India: Causes and Remedies

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## ABSTRACT

**In India, pollution of water is a serious issue. Due to India's recent industrialization and urbanization, this issue has grown enormously. Water access is a fundamental human right. This right is not designated as a distinct right by the Indian Constitution. According to Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, every person has the right to life. This article embodied the right to drink clean water. A human cannot survive in contaminated water. The only things tending between you and a healthy life are clean water. The contaminated water is the underlying cause of many illnesses. There are several factors contributing to the water's pollution. Water that is contaminated doesn't originate from one place. Article 47 requires the state to improve public health and nutrition, among other aspects of living standards. The public needs access to clean water, and that is the state's responsibility. In accordance with Article 51(A)g, every citizen is also obligated to exhibit compassion for all living things and to preserve and enhance the natural environment, which includes forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife.**

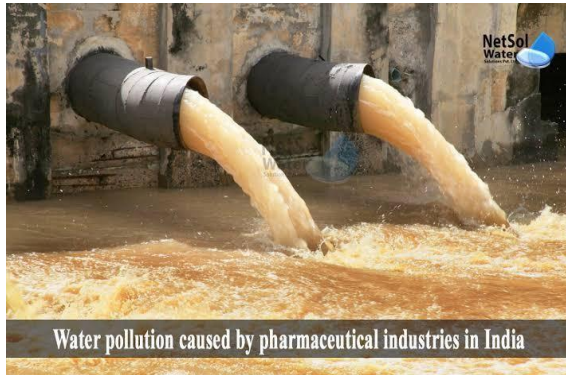
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## INTRODUCTION

Numerous illnesses are primarily brought on by contaminated water. Because the effects of polluted water are long-lasting, they have an impact not only on the lives of current generations but also on those to come. One example is the Bhopal gas catastrophe case. The worst industrial accident in history is the Bhopal Gas tragedy. According to a study conducted by Official scientific bodies, the contaminated ground water has extended 40 meters below the surface and 3.5km away from the closed plant. Over the previous 14 to 20 years, around 40,000 people have drunk this tainted water, and the community has seen several times more cases, cancer, birth defects, and illnesses affecting the skin, lungs, brain, kidneys, and liver than any other place in the nation. Water is used in many different ways. Human survival would not be feasible without water. People cannot survive without water. Pure, pollution-free water is essential for a healthy life. People and other living things are compelled to consume contaminated water if it exists in a certain location because they have no other choice and cannot survive without it. The country's water supply has been seriously contaminated in recent years, primarily as a result of untreated effluents, chemicals, and pesticides. Water pollution is caused by a variety of factors. With increased public understanding and vigorous legislative execution, these factors can be eliminated or at the very least controlled. However, Article 21 of the Indian Constitution embodies this right to sufficient and clean water due to the judiciary's activism in India. In addition, the Indian Constitution provides a remedy for contaminated or unclean water under the tort law. A writ under Article 226 of the Constitution can be filed in the High Court of the relevant State, and under Article 32, a writ can be filed in the Supreme Court.

### Causes

When water is contaminated, its natural qualities are altered to the point where it is no longer suitable for human consumption. There are numerous ways to characterize water pollution. Generally, it refers to substances that are submerged or have range of substances, infections, physical chemistry, or sensory alterations. A large number of the chemicals are poisonous. Waterborne infections can be caused by pathogens. The physical chemistry of water can change due to eutrophication, temperature, electrical conductivity, and acidity. Among the most dangerous repercussions of water pollution are infectious diseases that affect humans. In India, household and industrial wastewater together account for over 50,000 million gallons produced annually in metropolitan areas. Eighty percent of India's urban waste ends up in its rivers, according to a United Nations report released on March 22, 2010—World Water Day. The problem is only becoming worse due to unregulated urban growth and inadequate government monitoring throughout the nation. An increasing number of Indian bodies of water are becoming unfit for human use, and the Ganga River, which is sacred to the 82 percent Hindu majority in the nation, is gradually disappearing as a result of unmanaged pollution. In India, water contamination is a serious issue. Just 10% of the waste water produced is treated; the majority is dumped into our bodies of water untreated. As a result, contaminants find their way into rivers, groundwater, and other bodies of water.



### Remedies

The best course of action in cases of water pollution is to go to court. Polluting a well, pond, or any other water resource is an annoyance. A nuisance could be public or private. A lawsuit for private nuisance may be filed if someone else's irrational water pollution interferes with the use or enjoyment of someone else's property or any right over or in connection with it. Violators of the public nuisance statute may face fines, jail time, or both.<sup>29</sup> According to Section 268 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, anyone who commits an illegal act or omission that endangers, injures, or annoys the public is guilty of causing a public nuisance. The Criminal Procedure Code's Sections 133 through 144 offer a remedy in the event of a public nuisance. The magistrate may issue an order under Section 133 mandating the immediate removal of a public nuisance. Public interest litigation (PIL) can be used to ask the court for steps to control water pollution. A legal action brought before a court to enforce the public interest is referred to as "public interest litigation."<sup>30</sup> Article 226 and Article 32, respectively, permit the filing of public interest litigation (PIL) or social interest litigation in any High Court or the Supreme Court. Only when there is a dispute about the implementation of fundamental right may public interest litigation be brought before the Supreme Court; in contrast, public interest litigation be brought before the High Court regardless of the existence of a Fundamental right. Any public-spirited citizen may file it to enforce the Constitutional and legal rights of any individual or group of individuals who are unable to access the judicial system for remedy due to their social or economic disadvantages. The essential rights outlined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution are well protected by Article 32 of the document. It serves as a weapon to defend the entitlement to uncontaminated water. Although the right to water is not expressly recognized as a fundamental right in the Indian constitution, the legal perspective hold this rights enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian constitution. In the case of *Attakoya Thangal v. Union of India*, the Kerala High Court.

### Government work

**Namami Gange programme:** 'Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of Rs.20,000cr to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

There are four pillars of this program:-

- Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure.
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring.

- River-surface cleaning.
- Afforestation.

**Jal Jeevan Mission – HarGharJal:** Since August, 2019, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – HarGharJal, to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household in the country by 2024. Since launch of mission more than 5.38cr rural households have been provided tap water connection. Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a community approach to water.

- The mission will include information, education, and communication as key components.
- The mission is meant to create a people's movement for water, making it everyone's priority.
- Further, the Har Ghar Nal Se Jal programme was announced by Finance Minister in Budget 2019-20. It forms a crucial part of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The programme aims to implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, and rainwater harvesting.

**Swachh Bharat Mission:** The world's largest sanitation effort, Swachh Bharat Mission, was introduced by the Indian Prime Minister in 2014 with the goal of honoring Mahatma Gandhi by achieving an Open Defecation Free India by October 2, 2019. Over 10 million individual family toilets were built as a result of the program, increasing sanitation coverage from 39% in 2014 to 100% in 2019, they that about 6lakh villages proclaimed themselves to be open defecation free (ODF). Studies show that the SBM-G program achieved SDG 6.2 (Sanitation and Hygiene) in addition to having a considerable positive influence on the economy, the environment, and health, particularly empowering women. Individual family toilets were built as a result of the program, increasing sanitation coverage from 39% in 2014 to 100% in 2019, they that about 6lakh villages proclaimed themselves to be open defecation free (ODF). Studies show that the SBM-G program achieved SDG 6.2 (Sanitation and Hygiene) in addition to having a considerable positive influence on the economy, the environment, and health, particularly empowering women.



## CONCLUSION

The current study concludes that neither the Indian Constitution nor any other Acts expressly guarantee the right to obtain clean water. The state is required to supply clean water as well as to prevent and manage water contamination. According to the current study, water pollution is a significant problem in India. In addition to having the ability to stop the violation of fundamental rights through injunction, Article 32 grants the Supreme Court the ability to remedy violations of fundamental rights that have already occurred. This essay demonstrates how inadequate India's waste water treatment facilities are. There is effort being made. WWF has launched two pilot projects in the city to successfully purify waste water and preserve aquatic life in the Ganga. Forty every urban settlement should have a sewage treatment plant, according to the report. Ideally, approval for the urban settlement should only be granted following the construction of the sewage plant. Sanitation and safe drinking water are lacking in India. The groundwater table is falling. An effective water policy is required. The National Water Resources Council enacted the first policy in 1987. In April 2002, this was updated and amended. The public should have been made aware of the impacts of water pollution by the government, non-governmental organizations, and educated individuals. Green Earth, an NGO, held tournaments. An effective water policy is required. The National Water Resources Council enacted the first policy in 1987. At Braham Saovar in Kurukshetra, the NGO Green Earth held competitions, a poster-making program, a slogan-writing contest, and an environmental quiz to raise awareness of the environment, health, and Sanitation. These kinds of operations ought to be carried out on a military footing. In order to lighten the load on the judiciary and carry out the suggestions made in the 186th Report of the Indian Law Commission, the study emphasizes the creation of distinct environmental courts in every state.



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