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Based on NCERT patterns

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Introduction

Pollution in Ganga

- The river Ganga is used as a sewage dump for more than 100 cities stretching across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- Dumping of untreated sewage, excreta, and chemicals from industries increases the toxicity of the water.
- This makes it inhabitable for the flora and fauna in the river system.
- In 1985 the GAP (Ganga Action Plan) project was initialised to curb the poor quality of the water of river Ganges.

Reduce, recycle and reuse

The 3 R's to save the environment can be performed by each individual in our society:

- **Reduce:** Reducing our usage and wasteful habits. Eg. not wasting food, turning off the switches to save electricity, repairing leaky taps, reducing the amount of water used for bathing etc.
- **Reuse:** Using things again and again instead of discarding them. For example, reusing plastic utensils and bottles. Many things cannot be recycled or require a lot of energy, instead, we can utilize them for other purposes.
- **Recycle:** Collecting discarded plastic, paper, glass or metal objects to manufacture different products instead of synthesizing them from scratch. Must have a mechanism to segregate and dispose of each type of waste separately.

Why Do We Need to Manage Our Resources?

Need to manage natural resources

- Due to the ever-increasing population and rising demands of changing lifestyles, natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. To ensure sustainable, equitable distribution of resources and reduction of damage to the environment, management of resources must be an integral part of our society.

- We must ensure judicious use of our natural resources as it is not unlimited and

management of such requires long-term planning in order to last generations. **Increase in**

demand for natural resources

- Increasing population is increasing demand for more resources that are getting depleted at an exponential rate.
- Changing lifestyles and advancements in technology is compelling industries to exploit our natural reserves to meet the demands.