



बचाना सूंस की जान
है गंगा का सम्मान

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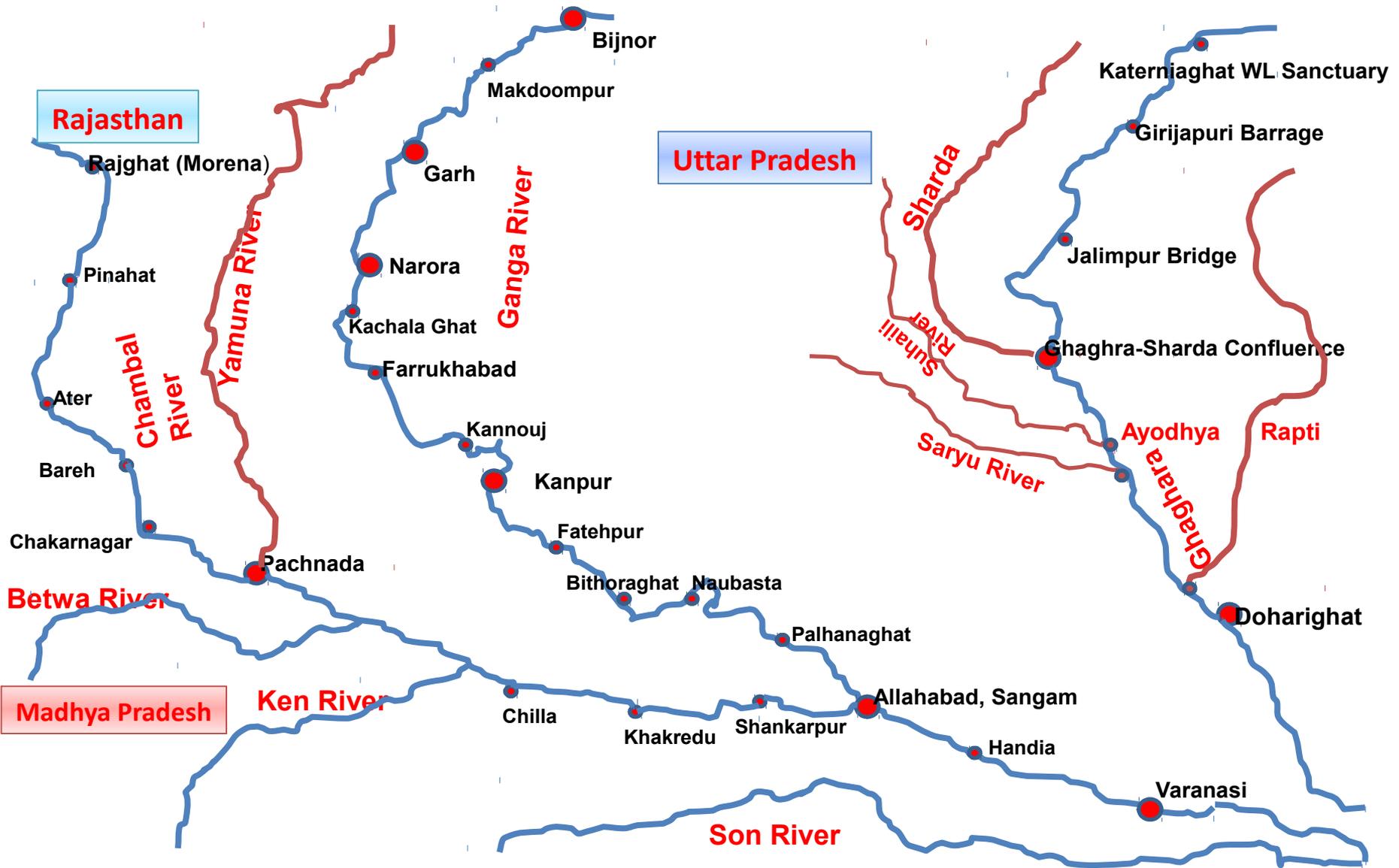


The “My Ganga, My Dolphin” Campaign

- WWF-India, in partnership with the State Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh and under the aegis of the HSBC- supported Rivers for Life, Life for Rivers program is conducting a 3 day awareness program in and around Uttar Pradesh to raise awareness about the Ganges River Dolphin from 5th-7th October 2012
 - The campaign will be flagged off on 5th October 2012 by Shri Raja Mahendra Aridaman Singh, Hon’ble Minister of Transport, Uttar Pradesh
 - Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh will also grace the occasion on 7th October 2012 and declare the total number of dolphins found during the three day survey



River stretches to be surveyed





The “My Ganga, My Dolphin” Campaign

- The campaign has a three pronged objective:
 - Survey of the number of dolphins across approximately a 2800km stretch of the Ganges and its key tributaries (Yamuna, Son, Ken, Betwa, Ghagra, and Geruwa)
 - Awareness of local communities in and around the banks of the Ganga for the conservation of the aquatic mammal
 - Capacity building of stakeholders associated with the conservation of the Ganga Dolphin





The Ganges River Dolphin-Quick Facts

- The Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) commonly known as the "Susu" or "Soons" is an endemic fauna of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river systems
- It is one of the four freshwater dolphins of the world
- The Ganges river dolphin prefers to stay in the deep waters in and around the confluence of two or more rivers
- 'Soons' shares its habitat with crocodiles, freshwater turtles and wetland birds many of which are fish eaters and are potential competitors with dolphins
- Often known as the "Tiger of the Ganges" the river dolphin is an indicator animal, which has the same position in a river ecosystem as a tiger in a forest





Population Status

- The distribution range of these dolphins has shrunk drastically and their population has been adversely affected by various developmental activities, indiscriminate fishing and habitat destruction
- The population of dolphin in 1982 was estimated to be between 4000-5000 in India
- Now it is less than 2000 with an annual mortality estimated to be 130-160 animals





The Threats to the Ganges River Dolphin

- The Ganges River Dolphins are accidentally caught in the nets of fishermen
- Fragmentation of rivers by dams and barrages , resulting in lean flows of water threaten its existence
- Other threats include habitat destruction, indiscriminate extraction of the river water for various uses, heavy siltation due to deforestation and pollution of the rivers
- Listed by IUCN as ‘Endangered’, included in Appendix – II of CITES and placed in Schedule - 1 of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the dolphin enjoys high levels of legal protection nationally and internationally





WWF-India- Working Towards Conservation of this National Aquatic Animal

- WWF-India adopted the Ganges River Dolphin as a species of special concern and initiated Ganges River Dolphin Conservation programme in 1997
- Also conducted the first ever Scientific Status Survey of the species in the country in collaboration with network Partners
- In the process, more than 20 rivers were surveyed covering a distance of approx. 6000 km
- A strategy and Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphin conservation has been formulated for the state of Uttar Pradesh with the help of the State Forest Department
- Effective Network for the Ganges River Dolphin Conservation in the country were also established with partners





THANK YOU