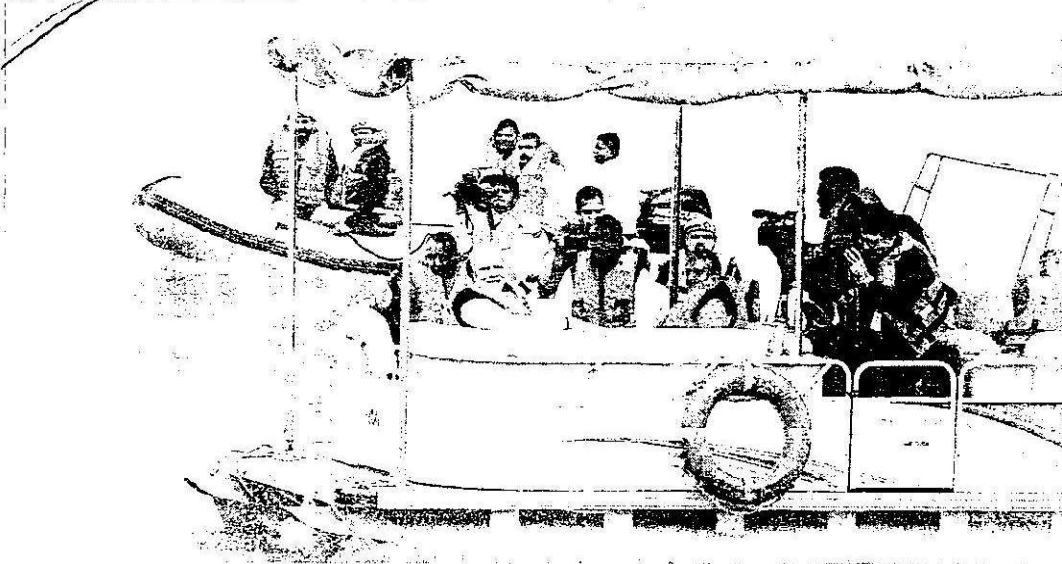


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Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews the cleanliness of the Ganga in Kanpur on Saturday | pti

Modi reviews Namami Gange project, focuses on cleanliness

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NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired the National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur, where he also reviewed work done under the 'Namami Gange' project.

Modi reviewed progress of the work done and deliberated upon various aspects of cleaning the Ganga. He also discussed a joint report on the projects carried out under the Namami Gange mission. Later, the PM took a steamer ride for taking stock of the level of cleanliness of the river.

The issues related to maintain uninterrupted flow of Ganga and commercial use of the river also came up for discussion in the meeting that was attended by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi, Union ministers Prakash Javdekar, Hardeep Singh Puri and Gajendra Singh Shekha-

Mahakumbh ferry?

The upcoming Mahakumbh in Haridwar may see the debut of ferry services between Rishikesh and Haridwar. The Uttarakhand government is in discussion with the central government for starting the service. "We have got encouraging response from the Centre," a state minister said.

wat among others. The target of ensuring zero discharge into Ganga has been included in the new action plan.

"There were deliberations on the extent of improvement in water quality in the 2,017-km-long Gaumukh to Ganga Sagar stretch," said an official.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, at the meeting Modi observed that the Ganga is the holiest river in the sub-continent and its rejuvenation

should embody a shining example of cooperative federalism.

With Uttar Pradesh in focus of the Namami Gange Project, the Centre has already released ₹15,000 crore to five states for afforestation and vegetation along Ganga's catchment areas to ensure adequate availability of water and uninterrupted flow of the river. Action plans for river rejuvenation and cleaning will be done in phases to address issues such as cleaning of the Ganga tributaries, phase-wise shifting of industries, tapping of all big and small drains and setting up STPs in smaller cities.

Earlier, as per the schedule, the PM landed at Chakeri airport in the morning and reached Chandrashekhar Azad University to attend the National Ganga Council meeting. Modi then took a steamer ride from Atal Ghat to assess the condition of the Ganga. He was accompanied by two CMs, a deputy CM during the trip.