

## Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Meeting

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External Affairs Minister of India Co-chaired the **12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting** in Bangkok with his Laos counterpart.



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# Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

[Ref - Mekong-Ganga Cooperation]

### **About Mekong Ganga Cooperation:**

- The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established in year **2000 in Laos**.
- The grouping was initially called **Ganga Suvarnabhumi Programme (GMSP)**.
- The organization takes its name from the **Ganga and the Mekong**, two large rivers in the region.
- It aims at facilitating **closer connections** between the member countries which share the Ganga River and Mekong River basins.
- It comprises **6 member countries**, namely India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- The four areas of cooperation are **tourism, culture, education, and transportation**.
- The **lower Mekong region** holds immense significance for India both in a historic sense and a contemporary one.

### **Flagship projects under Mekong Ganga Cooperation:**

- **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** project for India-ASEAN Connectivity.
- MGC Traditional Asian **Textiles Museum** in Cambodia.
- India's 50 new **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scholarships** for MGC countries.
- The Centre for Excellence in **Software Development training**.
- **Motor Vehicles Agreement** between India-Myanmar-Thailand.
- **Exchanges in agriculture, science** and technology and **water resource management**.

*About Mekong River:*



[Ref - internationalrivers]



- The Mekong or Mekong River is a **trans-boundary river in East Asia and Southeast Asia**.
- It **originates in the Tibetan plateau** and flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
- The river is a major **trade route** between western China and Southeast Asia.

### **About Act East Policy:**

- India's Act East Policy was **launched in 2014** and focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Its objective is to **promote economic cooperation, cultural ties** and develop strategic relationship with countries in the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- The **North East of India** has been a priority for development along with neighbouring countries in Act East Policy (AEP).