



## History

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### On the Banks of River Ganga, beyond Myth and Mystics

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**Abstract :** *History today is not just confined to the realm of social science and humanities. Its field has expanded a lot and now even study of environment in the prospect of history has become a part of it.*

*The Ganges along with her tributaries has fostered the civilization of India since eons. Whether it is economy, science, culture and natural ecosystem are all directly and indirectly connected to it.*

*However, the ever-increasing human population and the rising graph of the pollution level has affected its health severely, which will one day or another prove to be fatal for the humans as well as for all the other living beings.*

**Keywords :** *Pollution, Environment, Civilization, Population, Economy, Government.*

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#### Introduction :

Gone are the days when history was considered merely a descriptive compendium of political events associated with the rise and fall of dynasties, kings, courts, wars and peace. Today, we have a more humanistic approach towards its study which takes into account all the multifarious activities of man and his surroundings. Over a period of time, different scholars have perceived it through different lenses, while history, itself, since ages, had been trying to identify itself either with humanities or with social science. On the other hand, many historians often view it, as a bridge between these two streams. It wasn't before the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a French historian Fernand Braudel used outside disciplines like economics, geography, and anthropology in the study of global history and revolutionized it. Another milestone in this revisionary change was the rise of Environmental History between 1960s and 1970s which focused on the study of how humans and environment reciprocate in shaping each other. Environmental historians believe that even a small change in the environment affects human life and culture, and also predisposes the route of its advancement. Similar is the saga of the Ganga in India. The Ganges, the salvation of millions, is not just a river but also a hallowed mother which epitomizes love and sacrifice. She is one of those entities which represents the heritage and culture of India. The saga of this river from her origin to her emergence and her final flowing into the sea is a narrative of India's grandiose civilization, rise and fall of empires, great cities and adventures of men.