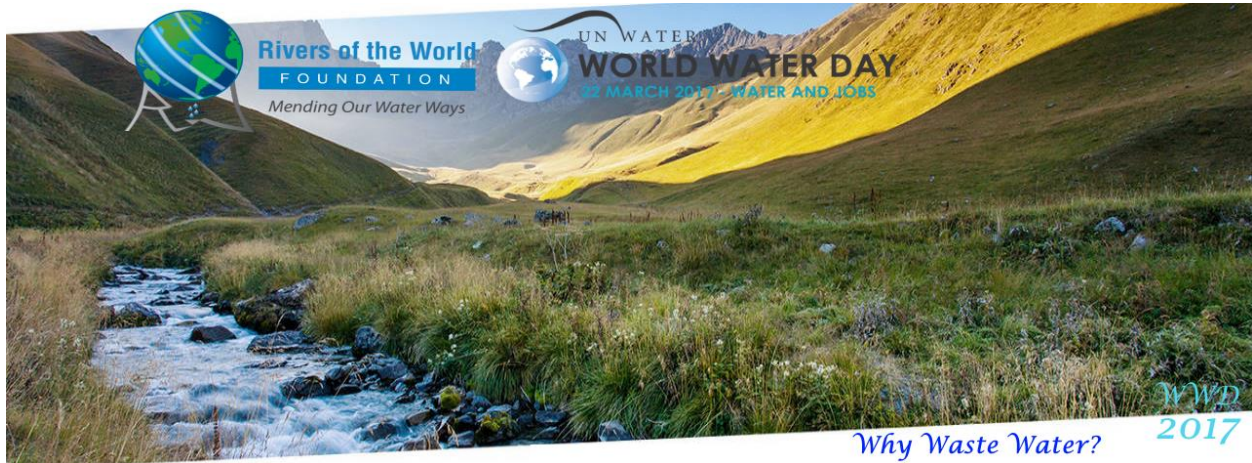


## World water Day 2017 – Gokul (India) Report



The March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 (WWD) riverside trash pick-up activity and placing of permanent trash collection bins (dustbins) on the banks of the Yamuna River was very successful.

- A total of 140 people including 80 students from secondary school and 60 volunteers from different walks of life participated in the activity.
- We collected polythene bags, empty bottles and non-biodegradable waste accumulated close to the river.
- In order to dispose Garbage safely , we contacted the local municipality and about 240 kgs of waste was disposed
- Among the team members there were few pilgrims and local priests also who were engaged in different religious activities on the banks of the river.
- Children were taught the importance of river and the importance of the quality of water available to us.

The ROW team from Gokul has successfully conducted a cleanup event in Gokul village located on the banks of sacred river Yamuna in India. On this occasion a group of about 140 people gathered for cleaning up of Ghats and placing permanent Dustbins for visitors. This location is of utmost importance because the river Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers of India and Gokul is a major pilgrimage center located on the banks of this river.

The focus of event was to clean up the trash and engage students and other stakeholders in river conservation on long term basis. People from village, pilgrims, teachers and priests of the temples all came together and worked very enthusiastically. On this occasion people have expressed a desire to contribute in river cleaning at a larger scale and they are ready to organize clean ups on a regular basis.

The event lasted for about four hours and lecture was delivered to children to make them aware about the environmental issues and importance of the quality of water for different uses in day to day life.

We also got some support from an Indian organization ‘Satkarma mission’ for buying things for cleanup, refreshments for all volunteers and few Dustbins to be placed on the shoreline of the river permanently. This event was appreciated by visitors and the local media also provided some coverage.

Bags full of trash were collected, that mostly contained polythene bags, disposable glasses, bottles and things used in rituals and few pieces of old clothes and garlands. Local municipality welcomed the step and have expressed desire to collaborate more effectively in coming events. We are seriously planning to repeat this event at multiple locations on the occasion of World Water Day-2018 and thank Mr Dutta and his ROWF team for constant guidance and encouragement. A few pictures from the event below.

Reports and pictures from various participants and organizations were compiled and sent by the ROW Foundation coordinator – Mr. Chandresh Singh (cleanganges at gmail dot com) and Pawan sharma.









