

My Recent Trip to India – Summary Efforts on Yamuna River, Gokul

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- Went to Delhi and Gokul on the bank of the Yamuna River next. Our ROW team is quite active in Gokul and they follow the slogan “Gokul – mera Gaon – use’ Hariyali se’ Bharao” meaning Gokul is my village, make it fully green. I visited with a number of team members and got re-assurance about their help to keep the river clean. Most alarming change is that they no longer throw Samagris in the river but store them in a bin and then send it to landfill/composting. We have been providing that mantra for the past two years. Jagdish Kewat is our volunteer boatman there. His family have been the local boatman for years. For 17 years Jagdish (picture below) have been operating the boat there. He said he used to drink the clean water of the Yamuna 17 years ago while doing his daily “Achman”. But for the past few years he can’t drink that water, but he still does his “Achman” without drinking the water. I suggested that he should take a bucket of water from the Yamuna and boil it for about 3 minutes after it reaches the boiling temperature (bubbling). That should take out the volatile organic compounds from that water and then he should just let the water settle down, decant and use the top part of the water leaving the retente at the bottom. He said he will try that.



Pawan Sharma (L) and Jagdish Kewat (R) took me in a boat to conduct water testing of the Yamuna River near the Gokul Ghat.

They are getting ready for the World Water Day 2018 on March 22nd and got their banner ready for the event. The water quality for the Yamuna River was very poor as measured by the Lamotte TCE instrument. The total dissolved solids (TDS) value ranged from 1140 mg/l to 1220 mg/l at a water temperature of 17.5^o C (63.5^o F). This is a high level of TDS for any potable use. Moreover, the floating foam was also present in the water as shown in the picture below. The ROW Foundation is discussing with a couple faculty members at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) about installing a foam removal and



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treatment system to alleviate the problem at this site. Picture shows the foaming Yamuna River downstream of Gokul Barrage.