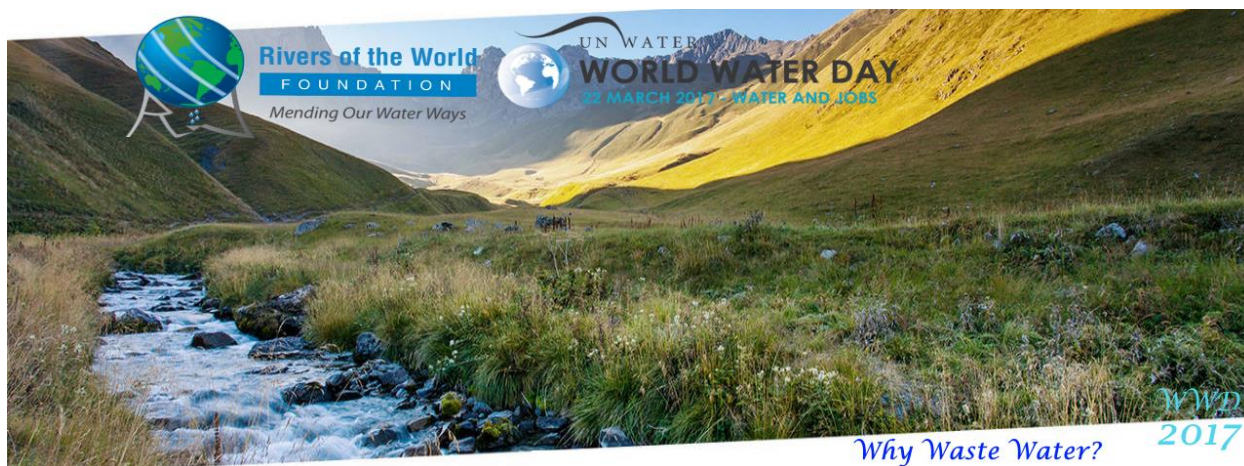


World water Day 2017 Agra – Yamuna River Report



On March 22nd, the volunteers from the ROW Foundation along with the volunteers of the River Connect Campaign who have been conducting an evening prayer (‘arti’) on the bank of the Yamuna River for over 530 days without a break, used World Water Day 2017 to highlight pollution in the river Yamuna. The pollution reached an alarming level, posing threat not only to life but to historical monuments including the Taj Mahal.

An official of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society said that the river is almost dead without fresh raw water, and all that flows down is waste from sewers and industrial effluents from upstream cities including Delhi. The toxic waste could be damaging the foundation of the Taj Mahal, he added.

ROW volunteer Shравan Kumar Singh said the government had failed to enforce the order of the National Green Tribunal to ensure a minimal flow, which Haryana had obstructed.

Shравan Kumar also noted that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had announced that steamer service between Delhi and Agra would be started in two years, but no signs of such service yet. Similarly Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti had made a number of promises but so far has not been able to do anything for Yamuna, which is the lifeline of the people of Agra and many other towns and cities.

ROW team also included Brij Khandelwal and Mrinal Agrawal.

Picture below shows some of the participants for the WWD 2017 Yamuna 'Arti'

