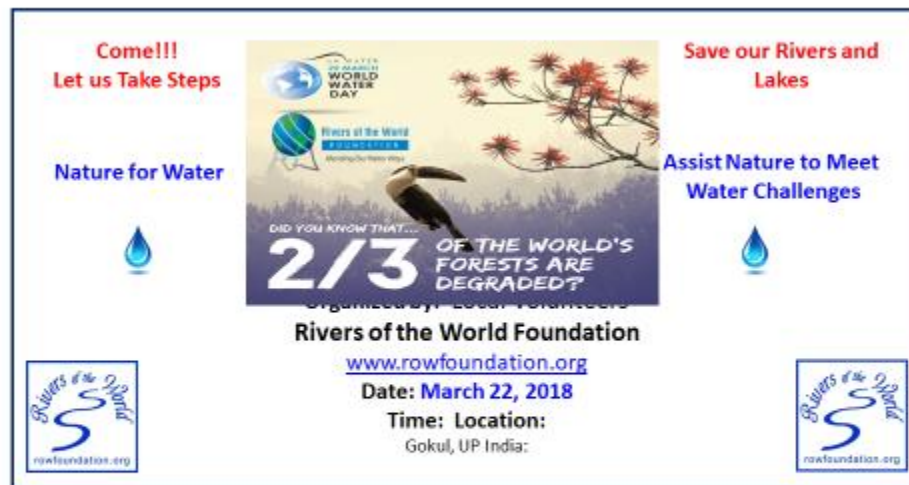


World Water Day 2018 – Gokul (Yamuna River Bank) Trash Cleanup Report



The waste pick-up activity and stakeholder awareness program on March 22nd, 2018 by the Rivers of the World (ROW) volunteers and local participants was very successful.

As we are organizing the world water day program every year at this sacred bank of river Yamuna, a good number of locals are now actively involved in this effort to protect and clean the Yamuna river banks in Gokul area.

A map showing Gokul and the Gokul Barrage along the east bank of the Yamuna River is below.



- Many of the Students remembered the lessons from last year and were enthusiastic to learn more in this field
- Volunteers collected polythene bags, empty bottles and non-biodegradable waste accumulated close to the river banks.



- We have involved the local municipality and they disposed the waste collected by the participants during the event. The total waste collected in garbage bags by the participants was approximately 190 kg.



- This time we specially invited people from diverse professional backgrounds to get their views and to involve them in post cleanup activities. Some of them were very keen to have a permanent cleanup plans for few more banks of the Same river.
- On this occasion the local community who visited the River bank were also made aware of the issue of river pollution and some of them took an oath of saving the rivers in their own villages.



The ROW team from Gokul gathered on the banks of sacred river Yamuna in the morning and according to the plan started cleaning up activities. A total number of of about 203 people

gathered for cleaning up of Ghats or Landings for the Yamuna River. This particular Bank is of great significance for the Indian people, but ironically river Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in the country. Because of its association with Lord Krishna, Gokul is an important pilgrimage center located on the bank of the Yamuna River.

The focus of event was to clean up the non-biodegradable trash and teach students and the local community the importance of water quality for a healthy life. Some of the youths also discussed the issue of contamination of the ground water due to river pollution and its possible consequences. All the stakeholders from nearby villages, school teachers and youths from different walks of life came up together and expressed their desire of spreading this mission to other important villages along the river.



The event lasted for about three hours and Dustbins placed on the shoreline of the River were also checked and maintained. This time trash mostly contained polythene bags, disposable glasses, bottles and bio-degradable items used in rituals including a few pieces of old clothes and garlands.

Local municipality appreciated the program and have extended cooperation for future events. The volunteers and members of the ROW Foundation are also planning to organize this event again in 2019 and expressed their thanks and appreciation to the ROW Foundation for constant guidance and encouragement.

A few more pictures from the event are included below.





Local Coordinators – Pawan Sharma and Chandresh Singh