

World water day (WWD) 2022 Gokul, UP, India - Summary Report

Sponsored by- **Rivers of the World Foundation**, Crofton, Maryland USA

<https://rowfoundation.org>



Mr. Pawan Sharma, Coordinator, for the Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation, Gokul, U.P. organized a trash cleanup program with his team and volunteers on March 27th for the World Water Day 2022. The ROW team from Gokul along with many local people including children and visitors wholeheartedly participated in the event. Subijoy Dutta from the ROW team, Maryland, USA also joined the Gokul residents in the WWD 2022 activities.

The water quality for the Yamuna River was checked by the ROW team at the Yashoda Ghat on January 10th, 2022. A lot of foam predominated the underlying flowing Yamuna River. The water quality test results and the location is provided below:

Latitude: 27° 26' 17.07961"

Longitude: 77° 43' 2.45413"

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): 530 mg/l (ppm)

Conductivity: 1022 μ mho/cm

Temp. 14.2 C

The results indicate that the water is not suitable for potable use. The water quality of the river in the Gokul area is severely impacted by pollutants from upstream area. The water quality have been poor for the past 10 years or more with seasonal dilution due to rainfall and runoff from clean areas during the Monsoon. A picture of the site shows the foaming Yamuna River downstream of Gokul Barrage.



Yamuna River, Yashoda Ghat, Gokul

The cleanup and awareness activities were conducted on two days, March 27th, Sunday and March 28th, Monday.

On Sunday, the 27th, local children were chanting “Paani Jeevan” meaning water is life and to save their river. A number of visitors and local people were present on this Sunday who joined in the program. A few pictures from the event below.







The Yamuna River had no foam during the event as apparent from the picture above. The boatmen take these opportunities to get hired by the pilgrims for rides on such days when the Yamuna River flows without any floating foam.

Because of its association with Lord Krishna, Gokul is an important pilgrimage center located close to Vrindaban, Uttar Pradesh on the bank of the Yamuna River. The focus of the event was to clean up the trash on the bank of Yamuna River and teach students and local community the importance of water quality for a healthy life.

About 200 people gathered for cleaning up of Ghats or Landings for the Yamuna River. ROW volunteers from Gokul, Junior School students, 4th – 8th grade, also students from NSS, National service scheme joined the trash cleanup event on **Monday, March 28th**.

Some of the activities during the cleanup event is captured below in pictures provided by Pawan Sharma, ROW Coordinator, Gokul.









Summary of the cleanup activity:

- Date and Time of event - March 27th and March 28, 2022; 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- Location - Bank of the Yamuna River downstream of Gokul Barrage
- Number of participants - 200
- Amount of Trash removal - 500 Kgs (about 60 bags eqvt.)
- Type of Waste - papers/plastics, earthen pots, and organic waste .

We hope to see more such events and awareness program in Vrindaban, Mathura and the Braj area.

Please visit the ROW website <http://rowfoundation.org> for further information. You can send your questions or comments to rowfoundation@gmail.com.