

'Set up committee to tackle river's pollution'

■ Magsaysay award winner & Water Man of India, Rajendra Singh, suggests measures to clean up the Dakshin Ganga

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At the seminar held on the second day of the three-day Vasundhara festival, the speakers agreed with veteran water conservationist Rajendra Singh's suggestion to set up an action committee to protect the Godavari River.

The topic of the seminar, held at Kusumagraj Smarak on Saturday, was 'Simhastha 2015- Ek Chintan'. Singh, a Ramon Magasaysay award winner and the Water man of India, said that the committee should have local residents. This committee will help in stopping further pollution of the river, especially during the upcoming Simhastha Kumbh Mela.

Singh said that Godavari can be revived even now. Nashikites should take initiative themselves and entrust the responsibility of the river's security on the universities situated on its banks. "Its pollution is not going to stop with police protection. Citizens should come forward to take care of the river."

The seminar discussed the origin of Godavari and its journey into the sea

Some of his suggestions

- ◆ Conduct a Parikrama of the river
- ◆ Have a Kumbh Mela-like set up to study the problems likely to be encountered during the actual Kumbh Mela
- ◆ Join the broken pipelines and take them outside the city
- ◆ Remove the mud and silt from river base while retaining the sand as it is
- ◆ Continuous flow of water must be maintained in the river
- ◆ Set up various levels in the action committee and have lifeguards, helpers and managers. These measures will free Godavari from pollution in just a year and a half. Otherwise the river which has brought fame to your city will soon be a nullah.



—Rajendra Singh, Water conservationist

Around 54 million litres of water will be required during the Mela, over the usual supply. The civic has made preparations for this. Sewage water will be processed, purified and reused. This will stop further pollution.

—R K Pawar, NMC Superintending engineer

Senior journalist Vishwas Deokar gave the introductory speech and also expressed the need to save Godavari. Divisional commissioner Ravindra Jadhav spoke about the funds for cleaning the river: "Nashik Municipal

Corporation (NMC) will be receiving large funds to tackle the river's pollution. These funds should be used effectively."

Corporators Shahu Khaire and Vikrant Mate also spoke on the occasion. While speaking

about the difference between the state of the river in the past and today, Khaire alleged that the encroachments on the river's banks and unnecessary constructions have increased pollution and have lead to the extinction of several water birds and aquatic creatures, which were previously found on a large scale.

Mate spoke about the initiatives undertaken to clean the Nirmalya and water weeds in Godavari's waters.

Corporator Shashikant Jadhav spoke in the interest of 'Amulya cleanup' and said that citizens are not interested observing basic cleanliness, as is done in foreign countries.

"People complain about the fine they are made to pay. They have become immune to unclean premises." He also said that the NMC is mulling over deploying a robot to keep the city clean.

Purohit Singh president Satish Shukla said that it is the duty of all citizens to keep our river clean. He also appealed to the municipal corporation to stop releasing drainage water in the river and deal with the issue seriously