

# ‘Cancel Kumbh if pollution can’t be stopped’

Abhilash Botekar | TNN

**Nashik:** Magsaysay award winner and renowned water conservationist from Rajasthan Rajendra Singh said on Saturday that if the local civic body (Nashik Municipal Corporation) could not curb pollution in Godavari river, then the Kumbh mela should not be held at all as its water is not fit for bathing. The mega pilgrimage is scheduled to take place in 2015.

Singh was in the city to attend the Vasundhara festival organised and took stock of the river from

Someshwar till Tapovan. He expressed grave concern over pollution in the river in which millions of pilgrims are expected to bath during the ensuing Kumbh mela.

“There have been reports in the past and the pollution in the water is visible as well. Besides, sewage is being released in the water openly,” Singh said, adding that the civic body should stop all the effluents and even treated water from being released into the river so that the sanctity of the river is maintained. “If it is not

There have been reports in the past and the pollution in the water is visible as well. Besides, sewage is being released in the water openly. If the civic administration does not stop this, then the Kumbh mela should not be conducted at all

**Rajendra Singh** | MAGSAYSAY AWARD WINNER



possible, then the administration should not conduct Kumbh mela at all,” he said.

The water conserva-

tionist said that Rs 235 crore spent on cleanliness of Godavari river has gone down the drain.

“This is because the jal

niti (water policy) looks at water yield through irrigation process, but nadi niti (river policy) which can be monitored by the gram panchayats in the vicinity will speak about duties and rights. This will not be accepted as it has little scope for the contractors,” he said.

Singh added that though security of rivers throughout the country was important and the need of the hour was to frame a nadi niti, the central government had ignored the water plan submitted to it.