

Godavari is dying: Singh



ANAGHA PATHAK
NASHIK, AUG 7

"Your Godavari is sick and might die soon. Government terms Godavari as A2-class river but I don't think it even looks as any river, it's similar to nullah. And if a river becomes nullah then we have to say that it is dying," enunciated senior water conversationalist and Magsaysay laureate Dr Rajendra Singh today. "Next year your city is going to host crores people and if the condition of the river persists then it will pose a threat to human life and on the other hand it will bring

The level of oxygen increases during Kumbh

Dr Singh said that the level of oxygen rises in a particular region at a particular time. Therefore such place becomes eligible to host Kumbha but if the water of river, on which the Kumbha rituals are completely based, is not clean and lacks necessary oxygen how will the fest hold its sacredness? He questioned.

embarrassment to the administration, leaders and citizens of Nashik during Kumbh Mela," he further added.

Dr Singh was speaking at a brainstorming session organised by Kirloskar

Vasundhara Film Festival on August 7 at Kusumagra Smarak. The session was organised with an aim to discuss primary environmental issues of Kumbha and seek solutions for the same. ■ Turn to Page 2

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The ways to implement 'Green Kumbh' were also discussed in the session.

"Kumbha has lost all its meaning. Our ancestors initiated this festival with a purpose to unite people for the betterment of the society. Kumbha used to be an event where aristocrats, theocrats, genocrats and commoners would come together and direct the society on right path. Important decisions used to take place to implement over the period of next 12 years. But today the meaning of real Kumbha has lost and everything is wrapped around superstitions. No one cares the river Godavari either," narrated Dr Singh in his address.

According to Dr Singh the water in Godavari River is not fit for bathing. "The biological oxygen demand (BOD) for the river water is



30 whereas the water up to only 5 BOD is fit for bathing.

The problem starts from here only. The only solution here is complete separation of river from sewer. I would like to insist a fact that river should only house river water and sewage should be directed to industries or agriculture after treatment.

The main reason for such solution is sewage treatment plants (STP) fails miserably in Indian atmosphere. The system might suit to countries like Sweden or France but not in India.

No matter how much we treat sewage water it will pollute the pure river water once mixed up with it. Such river water will never be fit for drinking or bathing.