

**Uttar Pradesh News Articles
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Uttar Pradesh: Fisheries need coordinated approach

<https://www.thestatesman.com/opinion/fisheries-need-coordinated-approach-1503106828.html>

"The fisherman seeking a livelihood has generations of know-how and the fishery sector in India has a history as well as hope of eco-friendly fishing practices, Sustainable utilization of inland fisheries resources, brackish water fisheries and marine fisheries make up different formats of production with broader impact of uplift of socio-economic status of large numbers of people associated with it. The sector found its due importance at the highest level of executive leadership of country with the launch of the PMMSY and KCC (Kisan Credit Cards) for the fishermen community.

Additionally, there has been strengthening of end-to-end support and empowerment of fish farmers through marketing support, best practices' dissemination, digital knowledge, access to tech infrastructure (ras, Biofloc, Cage culture), logistics like cold chain transport, and input support through collectivization to achieve more crop per drop. To give readers an idea, more than 39 lakh people were associated in fisheries activities in Uttar Pradesh alone in 2019-2020.

Adding other states, one can guess the total number of people in the country who gain their livelihood from fisheries. However, despite the enormous potential (from international demand of inland and marine fisheries, of ornamental fish and of shrimp from India), the growth in fisheries production is stagnant, the share on shelves abroad is limited, and the social upliftment of the fishing community is not uniform across the country.

The second issue is that each cog in the wheel (the scholars in fisheries universities, the corporate agrovet ventures, government departments, different sectoral agencies and the fisherfolk themselves) appear to have built their own walls. The third issue is that not just the quantity of fisheries cooperatives, but their texture is also changing. The Fish Farmer Production Organisations (FFPO) scheme under PMMSY aims to have 720 such bodies from the current 90 plus. But fishermen co-operatives are faction-ridden and not fully transparent. A significant section is in need of adequate capital infusion (needed for desilting, dewatering and preventing the shift of a water body into a waste body).

This raises a question: Why does India not have a single "Amul" like cooperative in the fisheries sector? The milk producers under Amul have a feeling of "ownership" and not servitude. They are self-motivated to contribute their last remaining rupee and they are never made to feel a different level of ownership in the cooperative. FFPOs must bridge this gap overcoming the

factors endemic at the community level – not so educated people to run them, presence of caste-based communities, vote bank politics, and at some places presence of musclemen. In addition, most seafaring trawlers are individually, not collectively, owned.

Universities and government departments should encompass the real experience of fisherfolk and work cohesively for improving efficiency in two different factors of production: The first is the human factor, where the endeavour must be to ensure cooperative ownership. The second is related to entrepreneurial and capital risks. The insidious weakening of the guardrails of a fragile ecology by overfishing, the aim for greater mainstreaming of aspirational potential of circularness and adopting a staged approach are essential.

The Policy Framework with above two factors of production need to be tailored in order to provide focused and region-specific interventions to promote and develop fisheries in different regions of India. Only by doing so can the targets of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana be achieved."

Uttar Pradesh: Boost to fish farming: Govt offers aid to new businesses, plans to meet demand locally

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/boost-to-fish-farming-govt-offers-aid-to-new-businesses-plans-to-meet-demand-locally/articleshow/92944384.cms>

"The fisheries department has extended the deadline for applying to start a new fishing business in Gautam Budh Nagar under the Pradhan Mantri Matasya Sampada Yojana from July 15 to July 21. Officials are also motivating people to apply for the benefits of the multiple government-sponsored schemes available for fishing and fish farming to meet the demand in the district locally.

Recently, the fisheries department organised a session with the fisherman community in the Kundli Bangar village of Jewar. "We motivated the fishermen to take up modern and scientific fishing methods. We also urged them to avoid fishing during July and August, the breeding time for fish. During this period, the egg-carrying fishes may get killed, reducing the overall number of fishes in the water," said Ravindra Prasad, assistant director, fisheries department, GB Nagar.

Launched in 2020, the Pradhan Mantri Matasya Sampada Yojana aims toward sustainable development of the fisheries sector over five years (2020-2025). Under it, the fisheries department has floated multiple schemes to enhance fishing and fish production through the expansion and productive use of land and water. These schemes also aim at generating

meaningful employment and doubling the incomes of the fish farmers and the fisherman community.

The applicants so far have shown an interest in developing ponds on the outskirts of the cities for fish farming and supplying fish to markets on motorcycles, cycles and mobile vans. The live fish will get sold at hygienic kiosks to enhance the fish-buying experience of customers, officials said.

According to experts, schemes like recirculatory aquaculture systems (RAS) and bio floc units, which are part of indoor aquaculture, will enhance fish farming, especially for fishes like *Pangasius*. RAS is a technology where water is recycled and reused after mechanical and biological filtration and removal of suspended matter, and bio floc units ensure sufficient nutrition for the fish.

Under the RAS scheme, fish farmers will develop six to 25 RAS tanks, with the government assisting them with a loan of Rs 25 lakh. Meanwhile, the government will give Rs 50,000 to people with spacious residential complexes under the backyard RAS scheme.

“The schemes are not just about providing means to start a fish farming business but also upgrading the knowledge of the people already into the trade and the new ones. In scientific fish farming, adequate food quantity for the fish and disease management among the fish are also considered important, unlike traditional methods. The market is huge in GB Nagar, but other cities fulfil the needs in the district. If more people become a part of fish farming, we can meet the demand from production within the district,” added Prasad.”

Uttar Pradesh: Schemes of government for fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/webinar-on-schemes-of-govt-for-fishermen/articleshow/92425121.cms>

"The fisheries department will hold a state-level webinar on Friday to inform the fishermen community about schemes that the Centre and the state government have launched for development of the fisheries sector in UP. It is a first of its kind exercise meant for the community.

UP fisheries minister and national president of Nishad Party Sanjay Nishad will address the webinar. Besides informing the community about benefits that it can raw from the welfare schemes being launched by the government, the webinar will also educate participants on how to

apply for the schemes. The Nishad Party's leaders and workers will ensure that fishermen in their respective districts attend the webinar.

The portal for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna will be opened from July 1 till 15 for people to apply. Many may not be friendly with the online process of application. The webinar will focus on the technical aspects also. In addition to this, the state government, in this year's budget, has announced Mukhyamantri Matsya Sampada Yojna and Nishadraj Boat Subsidy scheme. The two fully-funded by the government schemes will cater to 17 sub-castes of 'machhua' (Nishads) in the state besides the poor from the SC category who will apply for it. UP has over two crore fishermen."

Uttar Pradesh: Fishermen to get free accidental insurance

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/fishermen-to-get-freeaccidental-insurance/articleshow/92326611.cms>

"The fishermen (machhua) community will get a free accident insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna.

The registration for the scheme has started in the state. It is a free insurance scheme where no premium is charged from beneficiaries ranging from 18 to 70 years. The coverage includes Rs 5 lakh against accidental death or permanent total disability, Rs 2.5 lakh for permanent partial disability and Rs 25,000 for treatment in case of hospitalization due to an accident.

The fisheries department of UP has provided the information about the scheme on its portal. The scheme will bolster the welfare measures that the UP government has already taken up for 'machhua' (Nishads) in the state. The government has announced two new schemes in the 2022-23 budget, Mukhyamantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and Nishadraj Boat Yojana, fully funded by it.

The schemes will cater to the 17 sub-castes of the 'machhua' (fishermen) community in the state who have been hit hard due to the loss of their traditional sources of income and livelihood.

The schemes will provide subsidies to those who have been given lease for ponds in gram sabhas to buy boats and fishing nets and set up fish seed banks. UP has over two crore fishermen. To come up with the exact assessment, the fisheries department is conducting a survey. The ones who are from the BPL category will be identified and picked up first for the uplift."

Uttar Pradesh: Govt launches 2 schemes for fishermen community

<https://krishijagran.com/news/good-news-for-fishermen-govt-launches-2-schemes-for-fishermen-community/>

"In the financial year 2022-23, the Uttar Pradesh government announced two new schemes for the welfare and economic well-being of the state's 17 sub-castes of the 'machhua' (fishermen) group, who have been hard hit by the loss of their traditional sources of income and livelihood. The schemes were proposed in the BJP's assembly election manifesto for 2022. The two new schemes, as well as the Nishadraj Boat Subsidy Yojna, have been allocated Rs 4 crore in the budget 2022-23. The state government is funding the schemes.

""These are new schemes,"" said Rajneesh Dubey, assistant chief secretary (fisheries), ""they are aimed to benefit those who have been given a lease for ponds in gram sabhas."" The plans would double fish output in the state and, more importantly, double the income of all people who have been assigned pond leases in the gram sabhas, including leaseholders from the poor fishermen community, which makes up 3-4 percent of the state's population.

The Nishadraj Boat Subsidy scheme, which is primarily for the 17 sub-castes of the 'machhua' group - knew, Ramallah, nishad, bind, dheemar, Kashyap, railway, Cheaha, manjhi, gond, kahar, Latham, and gods, among others - has been given a provision of Rs 2 crore in the budget.

Poor people from the SC group, on the other hand, maybe covered by the scheme. The state government would subsidize the purchase of boats and fishing nets under the scheme. A subsidy of Rs 28,000 (40 percent of the per-unit cost) will be offered against a boat that costs Rs 50,000 and a net that costs Rs 17,000 (total cost of Rs 67,000).

Every year, 1,500 leaseholders in gram panchayat will be covered by the scheme, for a total of 7,500 persons in five years. On the one hand, this will prevent illicit fishing and income loss for the state government, but it will also encourage more people from the fishing community to participate in protecting the state's fish resources.

There are two projects to benefit the poor and backward leaseholders from the community in the gram panchayat under the Mukhyamantri Matsya Sampada Yojna, which is the other new plan catering to the fisherman community. The goal is to boost fish production in ponds in rural regions as well. In the first year, the state government will establish 100 fish seed banks at ponds that have been improved under MGNREGS convergence in gram panchayat and for which a lease has been provided. There could be 500 of these banks founded in the next five years.

The government would provide a 40 percent subsidy on the first-year investment made by

leaseholders in such ponds. The state government would pay a subsidy of Rs 1.6 lakh, or 40% of the entire input cost, for an input cost of Rs 4 lakh. The scheme will benefit leaseholders for ponds with a total area of 500 hectares in the first year and 2,500 hectares after five years. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna, which includes ponds on private land, is not the same as the Mukhyamantrai Matsya Sampada Yojna. The ponds on gram panchayat land area are covered by the Mukhyamantrai Matsya Sampada Yojna.

Uttar Pradesh: Does the Ganga waterway need an environmental clearance?

<https://www.indiaspend.com/development/case-on-whether-ganga-waterway-needs-environmental-clearance-delayed-14-times-814206>

"The National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) have, for the past six years, been deliberating on whether the government's World Bank-funded project--the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for National Waterway 1--requires environmental clearance. The project on the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river systems, announced in July 2014, is scheduled to be completed by December 2023. Meanwhile, the NGT has postponed the matter of its environmental clearance 14 times, documents analysed by IndiaSpend show.

Then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, while presenting the budget for the financial year 2014-15, announced the project and said it was intended to increase the capacity of vessels plying along the Ganga to at least 1,500 tonnes. The NGT and the MoEF&CC, the two key institutions tasked with safeguarding the country's environment, have since 2015 been debating whether the project requires, or warrants, environmental clearance. As on date, inland waterways are not included in the list of projects that require prior environmental clearance. But dredging, which is a critical activity for development of inland waterways, does need an environmental clearance.

India has 111 declared National Waterways on all major rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks and estuaries, per the National Waterways Act, 2016. Several similar projects, such as the Loktak Inland Waterways Improvement Project in Manipur, are in process. The NGT has noted that with such projects emerging in the country, the question of whether a legally binding impact assessment under the EIA Notification of 2006 is required or not becomes significant. Thus, a decision taken in the case of the Ganga waterway becomes a precedent for all inland waterways projects.

Experts recommend amending the EIA Notification 2006 to include inland waterways projects so that they require an environmental clearance, not only in the interest of sustaining the environment, but also so that the waterways projects are environmentally and socially viable

This is then appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee at the state or Union government level. The MoEF&CC, on the basis of the recommendation of its Expert Appraisal Committee, grants the clearance, with specific conditions attached depending on the type of project. The project proponent then submits the compliance report, which can be accessed by the public.

While expeditious disposal of cases is its stated brief, the NGT has been hearing *Bharat Jhunjhunwala & others vs Inland Waterways Authority of India & others*, the case filed asking for environmental clearance for the JMVP, since 2015. In 2018, the NGT directed that the MoEF&CC constitute a committee to examine the issue.

The petitioners had to approach the Supreme Court to access the MoEF&CC report and file objections. The case then went back to the NGT which, on January 10, 2020, directed the MoEF&CC to submit a report, within three months, in consultation with ecological experts.

Since then, the case has appeared on the cause list of the NGT's Principal Bench 16 times, and been postponed 14 times. The NGT twice reminded the MoEF&CC to submit the report--orders that the ministry has blatantly ignored. The most recent listing of the hearing was on April 12, 2022; it was adjourned because the ministry has still not submitted its report. The next hearing is slated for May 4, 2022.

Environmental impact of the the Jal Marg Vikas Project The JMVP, or the project for Capacity Augmentation of National Waterway-1 on the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river systems, spans the states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. It is being developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India, under the Ministry of Shipping, at a total cost of Rs 4,633.81 crore with the World Bank providing technical and financial assistance.

The stretch of the river systems, from Allahabad to Haldia, was declared as National Waterway - 1 in 1986. The JMVP intends to augment the freight-carrying capacity and facilitate movement of vessels with 1,500+ tonne capacity along a 1,620 km stretch from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal.

The project aims to develop the fairway, which is the navigation channel, to provide 1.5 – 3 metres of depth and 30-45 metres of bottom width clearance. This, however, is one of the siltiest riverine systems in the world, which means that the fairway has to be periodically dredged of mud to ensure the required depth and clearance. The dredging and related works have the potential to adversely affect the riverine environment and the lives and livelihoods of people who live on and off the rivers.

In addition, the project requires the construction of terminals, jetties, navigation locks, freight villages, vessel maintenance complexes etc.

""There is,"" said Nachiket Kelkar, an ecologist with the Wildlife Conservation Trust and a member of the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group, ""the risk of water pollution from release of

heavy metals such as arsenic and other bio-contaminants due to dredging; the risks due to vessel accidents in high traffic areas leading to spillage of hazardous materials from vessels; the impact of underwater noise and wave action on fish and on endangered species like the Gangetic dolphins; and the impacts of dredging on fish habitat, mollusc and crustacean breeding areas, and fishing areas."''

The Inland Waterways Authority of India prepared its Environment Impact Assessment and environmental management plan for the main components of the project, in compliance with World Bank Environmental Safeguard Guidelines. However, these reports and studies are not under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006--which means that the ministry's expert appraisal committee has not reviewed the report and not set specific terms of reference for conducting the impact assessment. Standard protocol dictates that the appraisal committee studies the environmental impact report, holds public hearings, and then recommends environmental clearance with specific conditions attached. These conditions are legally binding; they are monitored by the MoEF&CC; and in the case of non-compliance, even an ordinary citizen can approach the judiciary for recourse.

The consequence of such protocols being given the go-by is that results are presented, and action plans devised, without the required rigour. Moreover, the fact that these mitigation plans are being supervised by the inland water authority, which is also the implementing agency, raises concerns regarding conflict of interest.

For instance, the inland waterways authority has made available on its website a report for 'Study on effect of navigational activities on Dolphin in the National Waterway -1.' The Gangetic River Dolphin is an endangered species as per the IUCN Red List, and is protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Ganga Waterway passes through the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar. The report concludes that, ""vessel movement, and the sound produced thereof, and dredging activities will have some impact on the aquatic species of the River Ganga. It may also have acute and long-term impacts on the riverine ecosystem."" The report proposes an action plan for aquatic wildlife protection. However, the September 2020 report fails to mention the peer-reviewed study published in Nature's Journal Scientific Reports by Mayukh Dey et al (2019), which assesses the impact of underwater noise exposure from vessels on Gangetic Dolphins in the Ganga river.

The inland waterways authority study on the impact on Gangetic dolphins has little scientific credibility, said Mayukh Dey, Research Affiliate with the National Conservation Foundation. He points out that a vast majority of current literature on dolphins is missing from the study and some of the references used in the report refer to the effect of noise on marine dolphins. The

marine dolphin has the sense of sight; the Gangetic dolphin, however, is functionally blind and relies on echo-location to navigate, hunt, and communicate. Therefore, the sounds of machinery in operation--such as dredging, or the motors of river barges--seriously interfere with the river dolphin's ability to perform essential functions. The study is a missed opportunity in that no experimental studies have been attempted to test the efficacy of mitigation measures,"" said Kelkar of the Wildlife Conservation Trust, and also one of Dey's co-authors of the study. ""This, if done, could have shown the way in terms of how waterways could be effectively managed to reduce their impacts on biodiversity.""

The MoEF&CC in 2014 directed the inland waterway authority to commission studies by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) on the impact of coal transport through a stretch of the Ganga Waterway in West Bengal from Sagar to Farakka. found, among other things, that a rapid change was observed in the fish assemblage structure due to movement of barges, and that the full impact could only be assessed over a longer period of time.

More importantly, the study by CIFRI reveals the adverse social impacts on the fisherpeople--the community most dependent on the riverine ecosystem. ""The fishers largely depend on the fish catch for their daily livelihoods,"" as per the study. ""Disturbance caused by the movement of barge has a direct bearing on the fishing operations. Around 38% of the fishers reported loss in fishing time. The average monetary loss per fishermen was found to be Rs. 0.75, 4.35 and 17.63 per incidence of barge(s) movement in lower, middle and upper stretches, respectively."" Note that this is on the Sagar-Farakka stretch, which is only 560 km of the total 1,620 km stretch of the Ganga Waterway. Installation of the National Waterway-1 and also part of the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route which is National Waterway-97 have sounded death knell to the fish resources of Ganga and the fishing communities dependent on that,"" said Pradeep Chatterjee, convenor of the National Platform for Small Scale Fishworkers (Inland) in India.

However, the CIFRI study also said that the ""marginal impact on aquatic flora & fauna, fishing and livelihood of fishermen"" can be mitigated through the ""plans"" suggested that are ""easily implemented"". For instance, if coal is transported in a moist condition, and covered, it did not show substantial impact on the river ecology, the report found, adding that this movement also reduces substantial carbon footprint in the form of saving diesel as compared to surface transportation. Chatterjee references the fly ash barge capsizes which took place in 2020 and 2021 on the Ganga Waterway, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, and the Sundarbans National Waterway (NW-97) to point out that ""increase in water pollution due to oil, coal and fly ash spillage combined with turbidity and disturbances due to continuous movement of ships and barges and dredging is driving away whatever is left of an already dwindling fish stock."" He added that ships and barges are regularly running over the nets and boats of small-scale fishers

causing tremendous economic loss to the impoverished community.

As per the latest status report by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in the Rajya Sabha on March 29, 2020, development activities are taking place in 13 of the 26 National Waterways, including the JMVP. Of these 13 projects, National Waterways of Goa on Mandovi, Zuari and Cumberjua, stretches of National Waterway-4 in Andhra Pradesh and National Waterway-5 in Odisha were under the process of Environment Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006, but the process has been stalled due to the exemptions sought for the JMVP. This would mean the project is nearing completion without any serious environmental impact study being done. This would also mean that multiple other projects are underway in other riverine systems without the necessary impact studies. The net result would damage to the concerned environments and the fish and animals that reside in them--including the Gangetic dolphin, India's National Aquatic Animal, that is officially classified as an endangered species--as also serious loss of livelihoods to fishers and other communities that live alongside these river systems."

Uttar Pradesh: Chandauli is all set to have a first-of-its-kind state-of-the-art integrated fish marketing centre (IFMT) in the country

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/uttar-pradesh-rs-70-crore-fish-centre-in-chandauli-set-to-boost-blue-revolution-in-purvanchal/articleshow/90783641.cms>

"Chandauli is all set to have a first-of-its-kind state-of-the-art integrated fish marketing centre (IFMT) in the country. "Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who during his review of different development projects of Varanasi had underlined the need to improve fish export from Varanasi region to other states, the plan for establishing IFMT at Chandauli was finalised. It will be the first centre of its kind in the country," said divisional commissioner Deepak Agrawal.

Deputy director fisheries (Varanasi division) NS Rehmani said, "The state government gave nod to the IFMT project on March 30, after which the process of floating a tender has been started. The UP Agriculture Produce Market Committee, commonly known as Mandi Parishad, has allotted one hectare land on its campus near Chandauli district headquarters free of cost while Rs 70 crore will be spent for constructing IFMT." construction wing will implement the project and will also look after the post construction maintenance with the help of user charges from traders," he added. "Apart from wholesale and retail fish market as well as aquarium fish trading wing, the proposed IFMT will have all facilities for fish farmers including technical assistance," said Rehmani, adding that an aqua food restaurant, which will be a star attraction for fish lovers of the region and for those travelling on the highway, would also ensure regular availability of

sea food to popularize it in inland states. UP is the largest fish producer among freshwater fisheries states. Similarly, eastern UP's Varanasi division is the hub of reservoir and pond fisheries producing 2.5 lakh metric ton (LMT) of fishes which are being exported to West Bengal, Bihar, North Eastern state of India and Nepal. Despite these facts, the fish trade is scattered around Mughalsarai and Varanasi and lacks adequate infrastructure support, causing substantial loss in fish produce before it reaches the end consumer. "In view of these realities, IFMT, of a true global standard, was planned and APMC premises of Chandauli was selected to establish it," Agrawal said.

"This site is located along Delhi-Kolkata highway and 16 km from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (Mughalsarai) Railway station while distance from LBS International airport, which already has 5 metric ton cold house for perishable cargo, is 55 km. World class perishable cargo of Varanasi is just 40 km, which can be used for bulk storage of aqua products," added Agrawal, mentioning the site as suitable for interstate export .

Uttar Pradesh: Photo essay: The fisherman and the Yamuna

<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/newsdetail/index/14/21272/the-fisherman-and-the-yamuna->

"Fishing in the Yamuna River has been going on for centuries and it has been passed down from generation to generation. However, the fishing community is now facing serious threat due to increasing water pollution and restrictions imposed by the government. The Yamuna now lies desolated, bringing untreated sewage, plastics and other hazardous waste from nearby industries and suburbs. This poses a serious health threat for the fishing community. Pollution is causing severe damage to the river and fish stocks are on the decline. Many fishermen have left the area since the government imposed the ban on fishing in June 2021 and are left pondering about their future. Babu Lal (52) is a fisherman from Rai Bareli, Uttar Pradesh. Every morning, he throws his net into Yamuna's toxic foam and prays for some kind of catch from the perished flora and fauna. After travelling 25kms from his makeshift home, he states that the catch is no longer good. According to him, the government has abandoned its duties by choosing to steal a poor community's livelihood instead of cleaning a river.

While trying to catch fish one afternoon, he observes the water flow is lower than usual. "Fish have declined, especially golden ones, which are now rare in the Yamuna. ""We used to catch 20 to 30 kg fish in a day but now we rarely catch 7 to 10 kg fish. You can see a lot of dead fish in the river, which is the bitter reality of Jumna,""says Babu Lal. A sad generational shift, Raj Kumar (24), works as a delivery boy in the evening shift at Zomato. He fishes with his father Babu Lal in the morning but says that the declining fish population has forced many to change their profession. "Only traditional old people like my father who have been fishing since they

were born are still relying on the same”, he says, looking at the now polluted sacred river. Thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on various projects to clean the river; however, pollution is still on the rise, making Yamuna more poisonous day by day.

Uttar Pradesh: Kisan credit card: Dairy, fishery & livestock farmers to get KCC today

<https://krishijagran.com/agriculture-world/kisan-credit-card-dairy-fishery-livestock-farmers-to-get-kcc-today/>

"There is good news for the fishermen. On the instructions of the government, now Kisan Credit Cards will be distributed to them every Tuesday. DM of Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, S Rajalingam said that on the instructions of the Director of Fisheries Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, the camp will be put up on Tuesday. DM informed that according to the guidelines of the Government of India & Reserve Bank of India, a special campaign has been set to distribute Kisan Credit Cards to 2 lakh fish farmers of the state by running a special campaign to provide the facility of Kisan Credit Card to the fish farmers. For the Kushinagar district, KCC will be distributed to a total of 4100 fishermen & vendors. He said that block-wise camp would be organized every Tuesday from 11 pm to 3 pm.

The camps are being organized in all the block premises. In this, it is mandatory to bring an Aadhar card, bank account, photo, and mobile number along with the application form. Department of Animal Husbandry issues KCC to livestock farmers

1. Under the scheme of the central government to promote milk production, thousands of livestock farmers of the district will get easy maintenance of their animals & income will also increase due to an increase in milk production.
2. For this, the Animal Husbandry Department will issue Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) from banks to the livestock farmers in coordination & cooperation with other departments.
3. Special camps have been started at the block level for making KCC and in the last 2 camps; applications from more than 200 cattle farmers have been received.
4. According to officials, the government has given a target of issuing KCC to 16643 cattle farmers of the district. About 4.50 lakh farmers in the district

1. All the landless villagers, including farmers, have kept about 7 lakh bovine and Mahishvanshi (buffalo species) cattle to earn a livelihood from milk production.
2. Because of the limited economic resources of most of the small-marginal category farmers with low holdings, their priority is to meet the needs of crops and households.
3. Due to this, they are not able to make better arrangements for fodder, maintenance, etc. for the animals.
4. To overcome this problem, the Central Government has decided to issue KCC to the landless cattle rearers and contract farming sharecroppers like normal farmers.

Get a loan of up to Rs 1.60 lakh

1. Under the scheme, instructions have been given to issue the KCC with a loan limit of up to Rs 1.60 lakh without any guarantor.
2. Those desirous of availing

KCC with a loan limit above this will have to mobilize guarantors who have had undisputed KCC transactions in the past and also have a financial standing. 3. KCC with a higher credit limit may be needed by those cattle farmers who have set up a large dairy project despite limited capital or have kept a large number of cattle for agricultural purposes.

Uttar Pradesh: MPEDA, APEDA bid to make Varanasi hub of fish products

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/mpeda-apeda-bid-to-makevaranasi-hub-of-fish-products/articleshow/86901596.cms>

"The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), along with department of fisheries and Agriculture Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have started a series of roundtable discussions and field visits with farm produce organisations to promote marine product export from Varanasi region. The first roundtable conference to discuss the same was organised for fishery farmers at circuit house here on Saturday. APEDA regional officer CB Singh said that his authority, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India, had already been taking several key initiatives to sensitise growers, exporters, government officials and other stakeholders for harnessing the export potential of agri products from Varanasi region. "As the fishery farmers and their production have increased in this region massively in recent years, there was a demand from them for giving them similar opportunities like agriculture farmers. In view of it, MPEDA officials who operate from Kochi, were asked to hold a meeting here," said Singh.

When the 'Vanijya Saptah' (commerce week) had begun here on September 26, fishery farmers were assured by APEDA officials for starting initiatives to boost marine-agri product exports from Varanasi region by inviting MPEDA- the nodal agency for marine product export and a sister organisation of APEDA under Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Govt of India. During the meeting director MPEDA M Karthikeyan emphasised on the need to build a hatchery in Varanasi and assured that further action in this regard will be discussed with the concerned department very soon. By going through the work done in the direction of fishery promotions in this region he also said that MPEDA will extend full cooperation in making Varanasi an export hub of fish products. Deputy director MPEDA Dr Lahiri said that MPEDA is exploring possibilities for developing Varanasi as fish export hub. The deputy director, Fisheries, Varanasi said that the farmers of the area are working on high-end technology, for which capacity enhancement is necessary.

There is a need to study and practice the value addition, residual effect on the farmers. Kailash Singh from Sevapuri block, one of the aqua farmers from the region, expressed the hope that with special guidance of MPEDA, the produce will not only be marketed in the national, but also

in the international market. Another farmer Ajay Singh from Emiliya Chandauli added that with the intervention of MPEDA and APEDA, the problem of marketing will be solved. The officials said that a processing unit, packhouse for fish produce, hatchery in UP, advancement in technology may also be the project which may be proposed in future for promotion of fish and fish produce export from Varanasi. Exposure visits of FPO's and officials may also be planned very soon, they said, mentioning how fish farming in the country has grown at a steady pace after the launch of 'Blue Revolution'. In the past 10 years the value of export of fish and fish product export has reached to Rs 50,000 crores from Rs 10,000 crores.

Uttar Pradesh: Government plans to utilise 'River Ranching' to clean pollution in Ganga

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/up-government-plans-to-utilise-river-ranching-to-clean-pollution-in-ganga/818042>

"As rivers continue to become toxic due to the release of harmful chemicals from industries and other human intervention, the Uttar Pradesh government under the 'Namami Gange' initiative, has planned to clean the river Ganga using 'River Ranching'. - The Yogi Adityanath government would seek help from the fisheries department and release approximately 15 lakh fish in the river. - River Ranching initiative would help in improving the condition of the river and is expected to decrease its pollution level. The Yogi Adityanath government would seek help from the fisheries department and release approximately 15 lakh fish in the river. This initiative would help in improving the condition of the river and is expected to decrease its pollution level. The fisheries department would release 15 lakh fishes of different varieties into the river. These fishes would help in destroying the particles that increase the nitrogen content in the river. Ganga has its course across Uttar Pradesh, so the government has planned to release a massive amount of fish in almost 12 districts. The planned initiative is moving at a swift pace.

The state government is working along with the Ganga Task Force to make the initiative a success. The 15 lakh fish species would be released in 12 districts of the state, including Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Kanpur, Hardoi, Bahraich, Bulandshahr, Amrohi, and Bijnor. In the east UP's Varanasi and Ghazipur, 1.5 lakh fish each would be released into Ganga. ""We are making all out efforts to clean Ganga and improve the groundwater conservation. And this new initiative is part of the plan,"" said Anurag Srivastava, Chief Secretary, Namami Gange. NS Rehmani, Deputy Director of the fisheries department, said 'River Ranching' is also one of the processes to clean rivers and their ecosystem. ""And for this process, fish of different varieties are released into the river. The fish population is declining fast due to overfishing and pollution in Ganga. In the past 20 years, there has been a significant decline in fish which now remains at 20 per cent,"" added Rahmani. According to Rahmani,

1,500 kilograms of fish in an area of 4,000 square kilometre can contain one milligram per litre nitrogen waste. ""And that's the reason the government has decided to release 15 lakh fish into the river. Every day, a good amount of nitrogen is released into the river. If the nitrogen level increases 100 milligrams per litre or more, then it starts affecting human and marine life in different ways. This also prevents fish from laying eggs,"" the deputy director further added.

Uttar Pradesh: With third highest inland fish production, UP coming up as a major fisheries hub

<https://en.gaonconnection.com/uttar-pradesh-fisheries-fishes-fish-production-prawns-kisan-credit-card-aatmnirbhar-benefits-economy-agriculture/>

"Not so long ago, aqua farmers involved in inland fish farming in Uttar Pradesh had to bring fish seeds (small fishes that grow to become full sized) from other states but now several such farmers have developed their own hatcheries and are reaping profits too. Sanjay Srivastava, a fish farmer from Barohiya village, is one such farmer. "Earlier, we used to get the fish seeds from other states but now we have developed our own hatchery which is used for our yield and we supply it to other cultivators as well," Srivastava, who lives in Mithaura block in Maharajganj district, told Gaon Connection. "In the last few years, I have witnessed a great surge in rural people taking up this occupation. Many of my younger acquaintances have started off well in this field [inland fish farming]. Even during the COVID19 lockdown when all other cultivators were reeling under losses, this business remained unaffected," the 55-year-old said. Farmers involved in fish rearing in Uttar Pradesh have been successful in fish cultivation due to significant support from the state government's Fisheries Department.

Recognising the production of 746,000 metric tonnes of inland fishes in the state in the year 2020-2021, the central government has also awarded the state's Fisheries Department with a cash prize worth Rs 100,000 and declared Uttar Pradesh to be the best state in terms of inland fish production. In 2019-2020, India's total inland fish production was 10.43 million metric tonnes. According to SK Singh, director of the Fisheries Department, efforts are underway to increase the incomes of the fish cultivators. "In the year 2020-21, the fund allocation for the welfare schemes of the Fisheries Department was Rs 105.24 crores (Rs 1,052 million) which has been increased to Rs 271.03 crores (Rs 2,710 million) in the year 2021-22," Singh told Gaon Connection. "Every year, there is an increase of 6.28 per cent in the production of fish seeds which are being supplied to other states as well," he added. PM Matsya Sampada Yojana been a booster The central government's welfare scheme for financially weak fish cultivators has proven to be a shot in the arm in the inland fisheries sector in the state.

Under this scheme, poor cultivators are provided 40 per cent of the input cost of setting up an inland fishery unit. The amount is paid via direct beneficiaries transfer (DBT) mechanism. The share of government expenses for scheduled castes and women beneficiaries is 60 per cent. The remaining amount of the input cost is arranged by banking institutions as loans that can be repaid after the harvest. A total of 2,881 underprivileged fish cultivators have been provided housing as well and under the ambit of Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, 7,883 fish rearers have been issued loans worth Rs 697.2 million. Rajnish Kumar, a fish cultivator from Ghaziabad, told Gaon Connection that he started off his fishery unit in 2018 on about two hectares of land. “But with support from the state government’s Fisheries Department, I have expanded my business on sau ekad (100 acres, almost 20 hectares) of ponds.

I have received 50 acres of land from the government on lease and this has really helped me in expanding my business,” the 37-year-old farmer added. He also informed that the business is really lucrative for him. “Usually, fish traders come to me and buy my yield. If they don’t, I go to nearby markets in Noida (25 kilometers away) and easily sell the fish,” Kumar said. Eastern Uttar Pradesh registers maximum production According to the data provided by the Department of Fisheries, eastern districts of the state have recorded a whopping 47 per cent of the total production of inland fishes in 2020-21. The other regions that shared the production are central (21 per cent), western (18 per cent) and southern region of Bundelkhand, which shared the border with Madhya Pradesh, contributed 14 per cent of the total production. The total production in the state has been 746,000 metric tonnes. Also, according to the department, the presence of brackish water in western districts like Mathura and Aligarh, prawns are being cultivated there as well

Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal: Nearly 30 per cent reduction in fish species in Ganga in four years, says study by Centre

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/sep/08/nearly-30-per-cent-reduction-in-fish-species-in-ganga-in-four-years-says-study-by-centre-2356097.html>

"In a worrying trend, there has been a reduction of nearly 30 per cent in the total fish species in the Ganga river between 2016-2020, owing to changes in the hydrological structure due to dam construction, land modification, pollution, industrial effluents and illegal fishing activities, according to a central government assessment. The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Kolkata, under the Ministry of Agriculture carried out quarterly field sampling from April 2016 to March 2020 to understand the distribution and current status of fish species on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List along the entire stretch of the Ganga.

The assessment shows that the status of fish being threatened is a major concern nationwide, particularly in the Ganga. From the present study, a total of 104 freshwater fish species were recorded in the river. Earlier, 143 freshwater fish species were reported from the Ganga, among which 29 -- 10 endangered and 19 vulnerable -- were under the Red List. It further said that changes in hydrological structure due to dam construction, land modification, pollution, industrial effluents and illegal fishing activities are the major causes for alteration of fish diversity in the Ganga basin, which affects conservation and management strategies. "Proper study of the ecosystem should be done prior to implementing any hydro-related projects in the Ganga. Restoration of riverine connectivity with associated water bodies like wetlands which allow fish species migration for feeding, breeding as well as rearing should be managed because the linkage is an opportunity for improvement of species community structure," noted an expert from the CIFRI. The Ganga is divided into three stretches based on its characteristics, viz. upper (Uttarakhand), middle (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) and lower (West Bengal) stretches. Quarterly field sampling was done along the whole stretch of the river to collect data on fish diversity and their abundance over a period of four years. "Several fish species have been recorded under the IUCN Red List category during a survey. As these are economically prized fish, effective conservation and sustainable management plans should be implemented to restore the germplasm of fish species," the expert added.

Uttar Pradesh: Bags first prize for 'best state in Inland Fisheries

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/uttar-pradesh-bags-first-prize-for-best-state-in-inland-fisheries-2390790.html>

"With the aim of providing employment to the youth and farmers of the state, the Yogi government is running many golden schemes in Uttar Pradesh. These schemes not only provide benefits to the people but also generate many direct and indirect employment opportunities. To give more profit with less capital, the Yogi Government is encouraging small, micro-business units in the state. In this regard, it is promoting fish farming in the state. Looking at the immense potential of employment generation and income growth from fisheries, the Yogi government is going to provide golden opportunities to the farmers by providing them with jobs in fish farming. Along with imparting training in fisheries, efforts are being made by the government to expand this business on a larger scale. Now farmers can increase their income by farming as well as fisheries. The state government has increased the duration of fishery reservoirs from 3 years to 10 years as compared to previous governments.

This is the reason that the state has produced 26.44 lakh MT of fish during the last four years. As many as 1191.27 crore fishery seeds were produced in four years and 7883 fish farmers were distributed Kisan Credit Cards.

The state government also provided the benefit of free fishermen accident insurance scheme to the farmers by implementing the 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' under the Self-Reliant India Campaign. Uttar Pradesh Received 1st Prize Uttar Pradesh has also received the first prize of the best state in inland fisheries under the leadership of the CM Yogi Adityanath. This undoubtedly is one of the biggest achievements of the state government. People are directly being benefited from the construction of 57 fish seed hatcheries and 385 fish seed rearing units in the state. BJP's Promise to the people in 'Sankalp Patra 2017'. - Fisheries Welfare Fund will be set up with a corpus of Rs.100 crores for the promotion of fisheries and the welfare of the people associated with it. - Yogi government strengthened the infrastructure in the tenure of 4.5 years - Minimum contract period for fish reservoirs increased from 3 years to 10 years - UP received the first prize of Best State in Inland Fisheries - 26.44 lakh MT fish production in the last four years - More than 1191.27 crore fish seed production in the last four years - Kisan Credit Card distributed to more than 7883 fishermen - 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' implemented under the Self-Reliant India campaign - Free fishermen accident insurance scheme implemented - Construction of 57 fish seed hatcheries and 385 fish seed rearing units - UP Fish Farmer App powered

Uttar Pradesh: Reservoir fisheries: The Way forward

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/columnists/reservoir-fisheries--the-way-forward.html>

"The vision document of the fisheries department of Uttar Pradesh (2013) and now supported exceedingly well by the programmes envisaged under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) can easily deliver on the targets with some imaginative strategies. UP produced 6.99 lakh metric tonnes of fish in 2019-20 of the 104.37 lakh metric tonnes of inland fish harvested in India. Majorly, inland fish production in UP consisted of 5.61 lakh metric tonnes of Indian major carps and 1.26 lakh metric tonnes of minor carps. The current average fish yield from UP reservoirs is only 15 kg/per hectare a year, thus producing only about 1000 tons annually from 1.49 lakh hectares. Despite the straightforward strategies identified to raise the productivity of reservoirs, it is unlikely to achieve the target of 280 kg of fish/ha unless appropriate scientific and co-management practices are set in place. The importance of public-private partnership in fisheries is no less important for its success than how it has proved to be a success in sports. The contribution of Inspire Institute of Sports of Kotak Mahindra Bank and JSW sports has played no mean role in India's success at the Tokyo Olympics.

Similarly, the collaboration of Tata group in cage culture fisheries in reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh is a script that can be replicated in Uttar Pradesh. It is the livelihood element that scores highest in any project. The involvement of the Tatas began in 2016 when communities were mobilized through local self-help groups. Modified strategies and support systems can be

developed with any identified corporate group in UP under their CSR programme. It is archaic thinking to expect co-management to happen, explode and sustain on its own in fisheries, especially when dealing with live material. Constant handholding and supervision at every level of supplementary stocking, hatchery management, organizing of networking between the department and the fishers self-help groups for involving them as active partners in planning, implementation and decision making process, creation of adequate rearing space for ex-situ/in-situ production of quality fingerlings for stocking; leasing of reservoirs on long-term; and continuous programme for HRD of reservoir fisheries managers and fishers; the banks that are involved in enabling the financial flow through, marketing arrangements; sale of the fish and remittance of the income needs to be done through CSR involvement.

Another opportunity to explode reservoir fish production is to avail the PMMSY window of creation of FPOs (Fishers Producers Organisations) in the various locations in the state. The biggest hitch that we have faced in the establishment of FPOs in Maharashtra among ornamental fish breeders is the difficulty in recruiting a technically qualified manager owing to the unwillingness of qualified fisheries personnel to take up the challenge of managing the FPO. This again needs to be bridged with the CSR participation. This can also be attempted to be corrected with the involvement of fisheries students in such FPOs as a compulsory component of their RAWE program. Only with these measures can it be expected that annual fish yield will increase to 400 kg, 300 kg, 100 kg and 50 kg for small-A, small-B, medium and large reservoirs, respectively, thereby increasing the total fish production from reservoirs from the current level of about 1000 tons to over 6200 tons. Such efforts will also help meet the PMMSY targets set for the state.

Uttar Pradesh: To usher in Blue Revolution by strengthening fish production

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/up-to-usher-in-blue-revolution-by-strengthening-fish-production.html>

"The Uttar Pradesh government has made a commitment to usher in a new Blue Revolution by strengthening fish production as it is creating employment opportunities thereby increasing the rural economy. "The fish farming business, which was considered a loss deal in the previous governments, has given employment opportunities to thousands of youth in their villages. In the last four years, a total of 7.46 lakh metric tons of fish was produced in the state, which is 1.28 lakh metric tons more than during the five-year regime of the Samajwadi Party government," government spokesman Sidharth Nath Singh said. He said due to the effective schemes of the Yogi government, fish production had started spreading rapidly in UP. "Youth are more inclined to adopt new technologies and techniques and are joining this business. The record production of 7.46 lakh metric tons of fish in UP is proof of this. During the five-year

tenure of the SP government, a total of 6.18 lakh metric tons of fish was produced,” he said. The present government provided loans amounting to nearly Rs 6,972.08 lakh to 7,883 fish farmers through Kisan Credit Card whereas in the previous government not even a single fish farmer was given the benefit of the credit card scheme.

The Yogi-led UP government has allotted 2,821 houses to fishermen in the state in the last four years, whereas during the SP regime only 2,383 fishermen were given houses. Besides, in the last four years, 3,392.74 lakh metric tons of fish seed was produced in the state, whereas in the five-year rule of the Akhilesh Yadav government, a total of 2,703.56 lakh metric tons of fish seed was produced. The government has made a provision of Rs 243 crore in the budget for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana started by the Central government. In order to provide financial security to the fishing community, two lakh fishermen will be covered with free insurance in the financial year 2021-2022. Last year, UP was selected as the best state of north India for successful operation of fish farming schemes and production. The Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) system of fish farmers of Barabanki district has been implemented across the country. Most of the fish consumed in UP comes from Andhra Pradesh and therefore there was immense scope of local production in this sector.

According to Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, a state-level award winner in fish production, “possibilities of employment and livelihood are quite high in the fishing sector. Chances increase further and double benefits can be achieved if the sector is diversified by rearing ducks along with fish”. Former veterinary officer Dr Vidyasagar Srivastava says that in his one-hectare pond only the dropping (beet) of 200-300 ducks, which grow with fish, is a rich food for fishes. He does not need to provide the feed separately thereby saving about 60 per cent of the cost of fish farming. According to Dr Vidyasagar, “the larvae of mosquitoes are the natural food of ducks. They feed on the larvae present around the ponds, nearby population or the paddy fields”.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh: Heavy rainfall pours flood miseries in many districts

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/heavy-rainfall-pours-flood-miseries-in-many-bihar-up-districts-1818527-2021-06-23>

"Heavy rainfall in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has triggered floods in various districts of both states. Thirty-one of the total 38 districts in Bihar and 51 of the total 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh have received 'large excess' (60 per cent or more) rainfall in the first three weeks of the southwest monsoon season. As a result, flood alerts have been issued in some districts. In addition, reports of massive soil erosion and people living in terror are also pouring in. State-wise rainfall data shows the maximum rainfall departure in Bihar, which has reported 171 per cent above normal rainfall between June 1 and June 22 (cumulative rainfall). As against a normal rainfall of 99.3

mm, the state has received 269.3 mm rainfall. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has received 158 per cent above normal rainfall.

As against its normal of 49.5 mm rainfall, the state has received 127.8 mm rainfall. Floods in Bihar Flash floods have hit Bihar's East Champaran district since water levels of the river Gandak have increased due to the rain. According to East Champaran District Magistrate Shirsat Kapil Ashok, 45,061 residents of 52 villages have so far been affected by the floods and 1,154 residents have been rescued from marooned areas with the help of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams. Other affected areas include Nalanda, Motihari, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Chhapra, Patna, Saharsa and Bettiah. Floods in UP Floodwaters from Nepal have triggered a crisis in UP's Barabanki. About two dozen villages face soil erosion threats as the Saryu River water levels have risen. Reports of disruption have come from UP's Bijnor. Floodwaters have destroyed sugarcane crops in vast swathes of land in the district and there is an acute shortage of feed for cattle heads. Sixteen districts in Uttar Pradesh have been put on high alert for floods in the coming days. The districts include Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Maharajganj, Deoria, Basti, Kushinagar, Siddhartha Nagar, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sant Kabir Nagar, Ballia, Barabanki, Sitapur and Mau.

Uttar Pradesh: African catfish farm busted, 14 quintals of banned 'invasive' fish seized

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/african-catfish-farm-busted-in-up-14-quintals-of-banned-invasive-fish-seizedcheap-fast-growing-easy-to-farm-illegal-practice-thrives-about-10-such-seizures-in-up-this-yr-alone/articleshow/83670712.cms>

"For over two decades, the African catfish, locally known as 'mangur', has been banned in India. But it would be hard to tell by the ease with which it can be found. It's cultivated because it grows fast and needs little effort, and it's bought because it's inexpensive. The illegal catfish business is thriving, the latest instance of which yielded 14 quintals in Bulandshahr on Friday. This year alone, about 10 such fish farms have been identified in the state. "We received information that this fish was being farmed and fed carcass and meat. We have seized the school and buried it," Bulandshahr fishery development officer Neetu Singh said. "The farm belongs to someone called Iqram Ahmad." In June 2000, the department of animal husbandry and fisheries under the Union ministry of agriculture had banned the rearing of African catfish, or Thai mangur, in the country, formalised under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. In numerous orders to states, over the years, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has reiterated the need to implement this ban. "It highly tolerates adverse water quality conditions and can be raised in high densities resulting in high yields in a short period of time compared to Indian Catfish and other indigenous species," it said in a 2016 order.

“It is the most dangerous freshwater fish, introduced in the country in the ‘90s. It’s predatory. Even a pair in a large pond can destroy every living organism in the pond within no time. It can make local species go extinct,” Dr DV Singh, officer in charge of fisheries and professor of entomology at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Agriculture University said. “It is also known to have high iron and lead content, which makes it carcinogenic.” The NGT, in its orders, has also flagged the water pollution it causes because of the “decomposed wastes” of cattle it is fed. Yet, the practice continues. “This year alone, we have seized about 10 such consignments,” said Anil Kumar, deputy director of the state department of fisheries. Three of these were in Varanasi (one of which was a 15-tonne consignment), two were in Lucknow and two in Meerut (one of which led to a 10-quintal stash), among others. “It’s a menace. The main reasons it thrives are that the fish can survive on anything, including cheap slaughterhouse waste, and it grows at an amazing rate. It sells cheap and the farms require little maintenance,” Kumar added. An African catfish can grow up to 3-4kg in four months. Even the fast-growing carp takes about 10 months to attain a weight of 5kg. And the African catfish sells for about Rs 80-90 a kg. “People consume it because of its low cost,” said Singh.

Uttar Pradesh: Fish trade hit after COVID bodies dumped in river

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/business/fish-trade-hit-after-covid-bodies-dumped-in-river-542445>

"The fish business in Prayagraj, Lucknow and Kanpur have been severely hit after COVID bodies were found floating in rivers last month. ""We resumed business two days ago when the Corona curfew was lifted but people are just not coming forward to buy fish. Even our regular customers have stopped buying fish. When we made inquiries, they said that they were wary of eating fish that may have been infected due to the bodies floating in the rivers,"" said Prashant Kumar, a fish seller in the Narhi market in Lucknow. Rabindra Ghosh, a retired government employee in Prayagraj and a regular fish consumer, admitted that he had not purchased fish since the past one and a half months when bodies were found floating in the water. ""My wife and I have decided not to eat fish for the next few months. The water must have been infected with so many COVID bodies and the fish naturally would be infected too. Though fish is our staple diet, we have decided not to take any risk,"" he said. An official in the state fisheries department, meanwhile, said, ""Some varieties of fish nibble into dead animals that are thrown into rivers.

They do not differentiate between an animal carcass and a human corpse. The scare is not totally unfounded though medical experts can say whether or not eating fish is a health hazard in these times." S.K. Mitra, a private practitioner in Kanpur, said that there had been no research on whether the virus could be transmitted into fish that prey on carcasses and corpses.

Uttar Pradesh: Shrimp farming gets a push in the State as India looks to boost exports in fisheries sector

<https://india.mongabay.com/2021/06/shrimp-farming-gets-a-push-in-uttar-pradesh-as-india-looks-to-boost-exports-in-fisheries-sector/>

"Seeking to double India's export earnings from fisheries, the Indian government plans to increase fish production from 137.58 lakh metric tons in 2018-19 to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024-25, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme which aims to invest Rs. 20,050 crore (Rs. 200 billion) till 2024-25 in critical infrastructure in the fisheries sector. As part of this scheme, the government has started work on creating an export hub in north India and the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been identified for it. To this end, shrimp farming in brackish water is being promoted in a big way in the Mathura and Hathras districts of Uttar Pradesh. Brackish water is usually found in estuaries when a freshwater river meets the sea. It is less salty than seawater but has more salt than freshwater. Brackish water can have a wide range of salt concentration, generally ranging between 0.5 gms/litre (or 0.5 parts per thousand) to 30 gms/litre (30 ppt). "But in many of India's inland states, you will find subsoil water with salinity ranging between 5 ppt and 15 ppt.

Such pockets can be found in Rajasthan, Western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana," said Anil Kumar Awasthi, an independent geologist. According to a study published in International Soil and Water Conservation Research, an imbalance between incoming and outgoing salt has resulted in salinisation of soils, subsoils and waters in the semi-arid regions of the Yamuna river sub-basin. "It has increased the salinity of stream flows and land nearby," said Awasthi. Irrigation water becomes toxic to most plants at concentrations above 0.5 ppt. High sodium levels also make the soil hard and compact. This reduces its ability to absorb water. "Limited agriculture can be conducted on these lands as most vegetables and crops are intolerant to high levels of salinity," said Awasthi. Such areas support only a particular type of flora and fauna and are very productive for brackishwater aquaculture. So, pockets in the districts of Mathura and Hathras are now being utilised for culturing the popular whiteleg shrimp (also known as king prawn, Pacific white shrimp or the vannamei shrimp). Shrimp farming was piloted here in 2014-15, but did not have much success. The PMSSY and the Indian government's vision to develop an export hub in the north gave it an impetus.

Know the shrimp "The whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is preferred due to its wide tolerance to salinity and also because of its hardy nature," said Mahesh Chauhan, an officer with the Fisheries Department in the Mathura district. It also exhibits a fast growth rate and its culture period is significantly shorter than that of tiger prawn, which is also more prone to disease. But there are also some limitations in culturing this species in north India. In the coastal areas of

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where this variety of shrimp is usually cultured, the temperatures are uniform throughout the year. It makes it more conducive for its growth. “The whiteleg shrimp cannot handle extreme weather, so it hardly grows in north India after October and does not survive the cold temperatures from December to February. Hence, most farmers can only culture them from April/May till July/August,” said Sudha Jha, a marine researcher.

Help at hand In these districts, the average size of the ponds utilised under shrimp cultivation is one acre and they have a water depth of five feet. “Post-larvae seeds are procured from registered shrimp hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The hatchery owner is expected to acclimatise the shrimp seeds as per the salinity existing at the farm site so as to ensure their better survival,” said Chauhan. Farmers are trained on aspects such as pond construction, selection of seed, choosing the right fertilisers, feed and probiotics, concept of feed check trays, maintenance of various chemical parameters, use of aerators, harvesting and marketing of the shrimp. The administration also provides technical assistance in testing important soil and water parameters such as pH, total alkalinity, total hardness, calcium, magnesium, salinity, and potash. These parameters need to be maintained at desired levels for the survival and growth of the species. The average growth rate of the shrimp is approximately 25-30 gms in about 100 days of culture. “The final production rate per acre is about two tonnes, but is dependent on stocking density, growth rate and mortality levels. The shrimp are sold in mandis in Delhi and Faridabad, and the average price fetched is around Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 per kilo. Each farmer makes around Rs. 3 lakh per acre in terms of revenue,” said Chauhan.

But there are some constraints. Farmers often find it tough to access quality inputs like the seed, formulated feed and probiotics, etc. Another important aspect is the fluctuating market for shrimp. “The coronavirus pandemic too has impacted this year’s season, disrupting production schedules and supply chains,” added Chauhan. Looking ahead In the district of Hathras, Kamal Kumar Keshwani practices shrimp farming on 7.9 acres of land and is looking to further expand it. His farm has become a resource farm for nearby fish farmers who are in the process of taking up shrimp farming. With help from the local administration, Keshwani provides them with seed, feed, consultancy and most importantly, marketing facilities. “The success of shrimp farming in north India can be a game-changer for farmers. Besides other benefits, shrimp farming on saline wastelands has immense potential for generating employment for locals on a long-term basis,” he said. So far, the project, which was started on a pilot basis to check if inland regions of the country that are unsuited for agriculture activities can be utilised alternately and economically for activities related to aquaculture, has seen reasonable success. “We have 27 farmers cultivating whiteleg shrimp in the Mathura district at the moment. By the end of this year, 50 more will have taken it up,” said Chauhan. Seeing its potential, the state government has also expanded the project to the inland saline areas of Agra and Aligarh division of the state.

Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh: Times face-off: Will the proposed Ken-Betwa project solve the region's water woes or destroy livelihoods and ecosystems? Experts are sharply divided

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/panel-likely-to-meet-next-week-to-pick-next-cbi-chief/articleshow/82441255.cms>

"AB Pandya (FOR) With uneven rain, river linking only way to ensure equitable distribution of water Interlinking of rivers will help the country fulfill its dream of ensuring equitable distribution of water and, thereby, prosperity for all. There have been several such steps in this direction, and in 1980 a National Perspective Plan was formalised. This involved transfer of water from water-surplus basins to water-deficit basins/regions in which 30 links were identified. Somehow, the term 'river interlinking' stuck in the public imagination though its real name could have been the National Inter- Basin Water Transfer Project. So why do we need to link rivers? Though India receives about 4,000 BCM (billion cubic meters) of precipitation annually, utilisable resources are only 1,123 BCM. Even these are not distributed evenly in space or time. Most of the precipitation occurs in about 90 days in a year and the distribution of annual average availability ranges from 510 BCM for Ganga, 527 BCM from Brahmaputra and 11.02 BCM for Pennar and 12.06 BCM for Sabarmati. This shows the skew between potential demands and availability. It has, therefore, been recognised that the inter-basin transfer of water is the only recourse for making an equitable distribution of water across the country and thereby ensuring equal opportunities of development. Inter-basin water transfer is not a new concept and there have been many such successful examples in the country.

It has been practised in our country since 1887 when the Mulla Periyar dam was built and waters of the west-flowing river basin were transferred to east flowing Vaigai basin transforming agricultural development in and around Madurai for about 68,000 hectares. Just ask any one in Madurai about the role this water plays in their lives. Similarly, we have already made trans-basin transfers in case of the Beas Satluj link, Sardar Sahayak pariyojana, Sardar Sarovar project, Kurnool Cuddapah canal etc which are functioning well. In the US, the Colorado-Big Thompson project has been functioning since the 1930s and has contributed greatly to the economy of Colorado state. Critics of this concept propound myths like massive rehabilitation requirements, environmental damage etc but these are all based on conjecture rather than reality. One of the crucial features of the project is location of reservoirs in areas with very low population density with only the canals running in agricultural areas.

More than connecting multiple rivers like an electricity grid, the project aims at serving irrigation to the lower commands and transferring the corresponding surplus waters from upper commands to the neighbouring basin. We do not have an extreme disparity in terms of flora and fauna

between neighbouring basins in peninsular India. Hence, this talk of mixing of waters and invasion of foreign species etc are not founded in any reality. Existing water transfers have also not indicated any such effects. There is a clamour about the disruption of climate due to such transfers. Once again, the same is purely conjectural as the impacts required to be created for such a climate change versus the actual transfers envisaged are tiny. As an example, the total yield of Ganga and Brahmaputra combined in Bay of Bengal is more than 1,000 BCM whereas the diversion is likely to be no more than 40 BCM annually and that too will ultimately result in reaching Bay of Bengal due to land topography. In any case, the linkage between any of the basins and their outlets into the seas are not being modified. On the other hand, the proposals can provide 172 lakh hectares of annual irrigation which, considering an average farm size of one hectare, can benefit 17.2 million farmer families and possibly 86 million people.

In addition, 780 million can get assured drinking water supply. Surface water in water scarce areas will stop unsustainable groundwater utilisation as well. Thus, the benefits far outweigh costs. The question as to why such beneficial schemes are not yet getting implemented is due to our internal wrangling. Ken Betwa happens to be the first link which was identified for implementation. It will benefit the perennially water-short Bundelkhand region and other associated regions of Bina and upper Betwa basins. Besides irrigation and drinking water, it will generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW solar power. Like any other infrastructure project, KBLP will also have some environmental and resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) issues. Daudhan reservoir will cause submergence of about 9,000 ha land of which 5,800 ha is forest land. However, with a comprehensive environment management plan (EMP), compensatory afforestation and liberal R&R policy, these impacts will be taken care of.

A comprehensive landscape management plan is also being prepared for the conservation of Panna Tiger Reserve. Even wildlife will get sustenance in hot summers with assured water supply from the reservoir. The reservoir remaining at relatively low level will expose large tracts of land allowing fodder to be grown, benefitting the lower rung of wildlife which, in turn, can support the whole pyramid. The project will provide year-round employment in Bundelkhand region, controlling forced migration to far flung areas for livelihood. The assured drinking water supply will also uplift health standards of the local populace. D'Souza (AGAINST) Our quest to control rivers doesn't account for the stiff ecological cost At first glance, the Interlinking Rivers Programme (ILRP) offers great appeal.

India is generously endowed with a sprawling river system but though bounteous and generous, these rivers are whimsical: prone to recurring floods, bone-dry droughts and with vast volumes winding circuitously before wastefully emptying into the sea. Enter the engineer with a grand vision. Why not link India's river network through dams, diversions and barrages, while

impounding much of their flows within giant reservoirs that are connected? Then wire this mix of concrete and steel infrastructure with software involving a couple of equations, data sets, sensors and the ingenuity of some hard hat engineers and, soon enough, all the rivers can be put on tap. That is, capture the surplus flows of a river and transfer it to a water deficit or stressed region. This, in fact, is the best argument put forward for the Ken-Betwa link. On closer scrutiny, however, this fantastical and elegant ILRP notion falls flat. The disconnect between idea and reality, in fact, plays out at three levels. First, the entire project rests on a wrong assumption. There is no such thing as a river with a ‘surplus flow’. Since the 1980s, studies under the broad field of ‘river ecology’ have convincingly established that a river cannot be defined as ‘lots of water’ in a channel. Rather, every river is a fluvial highway that connects flora and fauna across and between floodplains, wetlands, deltas and estuaries.

In sum, it delivers innumerable environmental services such as creating fish habitats, replenishing soil, sustaining biodiversity and sculpting land through erosion and deposition. Seasonal variability floods or low flows are vital to enabling the river to constantly evolve its rich diversity of ecological relations. The Brahmaputra or the Ganga, for example, should therefore be understood not as massive flows but as a collection of ecological relations and environmental services. If a river is thus a biological regime, then it cannot have a surplus flow. If the principal assumption is clearly wrong, it should also come as no surprise when a second order of complications follows from the first. Notably, the flawed reasoning that often goes with making economic calculations for the project. It is now fairly well known that many if not every big dam or large-scale irrigation project in India has a tendency to get their cost and benefit ratios mostly muddled. To a great extent, this is because economics as a discipline continues to have a hard time developing methodologies that can meaningfully capture ecological costs. This gets even messier when grappling with plotting future scenarios. Consequently, for all the assumed benefits of irrigation and electricity from large dams, the long-term impacts from water logging, salinity or the loss of fisheries have yet to be meaningfully added up.

That is, no reliable assessment has thus far been carried out that can meaningfully tell us whether over 70 years of large-scale water infrastructure development were worth the ecological costs. But the wrong assumption and flawed reasoning that haunts the ILRP is actually indicative of a far more profound and fatal limitation. Recent scholarship, mostly by historians, has ably described how water infrastructure and management in post Independent India has tended to retain a strong colonial engineering mindset. The earliest version of the ILRP was, in fact, first championed in the 1850s by the famed colonial engineer and irrigator General Sir Arthur Cotton. Titled the Peninsular Scheme, Cotton’s plan was to build navigation canals that would link Karachi (now in Pakistan) to Madras (Chennai) via Kanpur, Kolkata and Cuttack with additional lines crawling upwards to Pune. In terms of rivers, this meant connecting the Indus to the Ganga

with canals before dropping the latter steeply to the South to link up with the Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and finally the Cauvery. And if such a vast navigation network could be built, the General then confidently concluded, there would be no need for the railways in British India. Though Cotton's Peninsular Scheme came to grief, the colonial quest for river control remains. Notably in the poorly understood claim that rivers are mere flows that need to be regulated and can be put to work by dams, barrages, weirs, embankments and canal systems. Starkly missing in the picture is how we make sense of the river as a complex biological pulse. Does this mean that rivers should never be engineered? No.

The argument is for 'smart engineering', which is a rapidly evolving approach in Europe. Smart engineers build projects that are in active dialogue with social scientists, ecologists and specially those who specialise in design. Cement and contractor engineering can no longer address ecological complexity and the ILRP is the last surviving dinosaur in that tradition. If the coming challenges of water shortages and extreme flood events are to be meaningfully dealt with, then Indian engineering has to embrace new knowledge and be inventive enough to enable a productive conversation between science, ecology, history, sociology and art. A river, after all, is more than just water.

Uttar Pradesh: Govt to provide employment to youth through fish farming

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=822806>

"The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is planning to provide employment opportunities to the youth in fish farming. The state government sees considerable employment potential in this sector and believes that it can play an important role in rural development and the economy. This easy-to-start business can be started with low capital. According to the government spokesman, the chief minister plans to launch many beneficial schemes through the Department of Fisheries, which will not only promote fisheries business but will also provide jobs to the needy that will help them become self-reliant once again. This will also help in increasing the income of the village panchayat from the ponds built on the barren Panchayati land in the village. ""Along with imparting training on fisheries, efforts are being made by the government to expand this business on a larger scale. Now farmers can increase their income by farming as well as fisheries,"" the spokesman said.

It may be recalled that the state government has already increased the duration of fishery reservoirs from 3 years to 10 years. This is the reason that the state has produced 26.44 lakh MT of fish during the last four years. As many as 1,191.27 crore fishery seeds were produced in four years and 5,902 fish farmers were provided Kisan Credit Cards. The state government has also provided the benefit of free fishermen accident insurance scheme to the farmers by implementing

the 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' under the Atmanirbhar campaign. The state government has also allotted 2,215 fishermen, houses in the state in the last four years. Along with this, the facilities for fishermen of Uttar Pradesh are now available through the fish farmer app. Farmers are directly being benefitted from the construction of 57 fish seed hatcheries and 385 fish seed rearing units in the state. Recently, Uttar Pradesh has also received the first prize of the best state of inland fisheries under the leadership of the chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

Uttar Pradesh: Scaling up potential of the fishing industry, 'Blue Revolution' stimulates production

<https://www.knocksense.com/lucknow/scaling-up-potential-of-the-fishing-industry-blue-revolution-in-up-stimulates-production>

"Aimed at expanding pisciculture and associated business activities in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has initiated an enterprising campaign called 'Blue Revolution'. Launched with an intention to stimulate production in the developing sector, the project is already showing promising results. As a part of this, the state administration is also implementing a list of initiatives to safeguard the interests of the fishermen and other market players in the industry. Innovative scheme from Barabanki garners national attention While executing its plans, the state government has considered the nutritional aspects of the fishes, besides the underlying business prospects. With a marked production of 6.9 lakh metric tonnes of fishes in the last financial year, Uttar Pradesh has been called the best north-Indian state for fish farming projects. Incepted in the Barabanki district, the fish Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) has garnered national attention for devising methods to produce optimum quantities of African catfish, Tilapia, and other fish species in supervised ecosystems.

A government spokesperson was quoted saying, ""The youth from the state is showing keen interest in this scheme and have registered their names to be part of the 'Blue Revolution'. This will not only create employment opportunities but will also result in better resource management, greater work opportunities, and reduced waste, as young people are more inclined to adopt new technologies and techniques"" Multiple initiatives by the state and the central government In order to expand the cultivation in inland fisheries, the government is working on plans to lease the ponds (with an area of around 3000 hectares) possessed by the gram panchayats for 10 years. Additionally, the state has allocated Rs.300 crores to amp up the production and disbursement of fish seeds. Not just the state government but the central government is also committed to the amelioration of the fisheries sector. As a part of the Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana, the union administration has assigned Rs.243 crores to integrate fisheries with technology. Under the projects sponsored by this amount, about 2 lakh fishermen shall be offered free insurance

packages in the upcoming financial year. Igniting the potential of the state's fishing industry According to experts in this field, the state harbours significant capacity in the fishing industry.

Sanjay Srivastava, the winner of several state-level accolades for fish production, mentioned that if the production is variegated, the possibilities of tapping the state's complete potential stand amplified. Another specialist stated that the fishery will become more lucrative if it is coupled with duck rearing. He informed that the ducks feeding on mosquito larvae would also be advantageous in preventing vector-borne disease. While the state government has converged its attention on prime economic sectors, it can be observed that the body also wishes to accentuate progress in the neglected spheres. Given the current interventions, it can be expected that the fishing industry would soon transform into a high yielding business for the state.

Uttar Pradesh: Fish farming gets a boost

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=806775>

"The 'Blue Revolution' launched by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to promote fish production has started yielding good results. Nearly 6.9 lakh metric tonnes of fish production was recorded during the financial year 2019-20 in the state. According to the government spokesman, UP has been selected as the best northern state for the successful operation of fish farming schemes and fish production in the state last year. The fish Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) of Barabanki district was implemented across the country which provides a constant and controlled environment for the fish, allowing for optimal and fully manageable production of African catfish, Tilapia, and other fish species. ""The youth the state is showing keen interest in this scheme and have registered their names to be part of the 'Blue Revolution'. This will not only create employment opportunities but will also result in better resource management, greater work opportunities, and reduced waste, as young people are more inclined to adopt new technologies and techniques,"" the spokesman said.

Under the 'Blue Revolution', the Yogi Adityanath government has given a boost to fish production keeping in view the potential of the sector and the nutritious qualities of the fish. The government is also providing protection to the fishermen community associated with this business. To promote the production of inland fisheries, the government will also lease the ponds (with an area of around 3000 hectares) owned by the gram panchayats for 10 years. A budgetary provision of Rs 300 crore is proposed for fish seed production/fish seed distribution. According to the officials of the fisheries department, to introduce the latest technology in the fisheries sector, the central government had also launched 'Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana' for which the central government made a provision of Rs 243 crore in the budget. This amount will provide financial security to the fishermen community, as many as 2 lakh fishermen will be

covered with free insurance in the financial year 2021-2022. According to Sanjay Srivastava, who has received several awards at the state level in fish production, ""There is a lot of potential for livelihood in fish production. If it is diversified, its chances increase."" Veterinary expert, Vidyasagar Srivastava said that if duck rearing is done with fishery, there will be a double benefit."" Explaining the benefits, Srivastava said that the larvae of mosquitoes are a natural diet of ducks. These ducks eradicate the larvae of mosquitoes present in the ponds or in the paddy field, benefitting the lowland areas where mosquito-borne diseases are more.

Uttar Pradesh: Illegal fishing in Ganga's protected stretch posing threat to dolphin, gharial & turtles

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/illegal-fishing-in-gangas-protected-stretch-posing-threat-to-dolphin-gharial-turtles/articleshow/79844640.cms>

"As the evening fell, Sumit Kumar rose from his bed after whiling away the day waiting for the moment. Carrying a plastic net on his shoulder, he marched towards the river. Just like him, hundreds of others involved in the illegal fishing reach the Ganga bank every evening, get on to their rickety boats and cast the empty nets into the water. Only to pull them out the next morning, loaded with fish some of which would have otherwise ended in the stomach of endangered dolphins and gharials which populate the 40-km river stretch between Balawali and Ganj area. Several fish markets are thriving in villages close to the Ganga river. The rampant illegal fishing is threatening the biodiversity of the region, and derailing the attempts to save the endangered species, officials say. During the recent counting of dolphins in the Ganga stretch, the teams of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) seized five such nests in Bijnor. Uttar Pradesh's chief wildlife warden Sunil Pandey had recently pointed out the menace in Muzaffarnagar and Bijnor and had even directed divisional forest officers (DFOs) of the two districts to constitute a task force to curb the illegal fishing activity.

Muzaffarnagar police took the initiative and used recently-launched Jal Safari boats to increase patrolling in Haiderpur wetland, but Bijnor is yet to take a step. "The illegal fishing is eating up the main food source of dolphin, gharial as well as of the endangered turtles, a forest official said. Officials say that dolphins are generally not killed for meat, but the possibility of their getting trapped in these nets is high. "And often, the turtles caught in the net are dumped on the bank of the river near the barrage by the fishermen, he said. When contacted, Bijnor DFO M Semmaran said, "We are planning raids to check fishing in the sanctuary area. Strict action will be taken against those found indulged in fishing. Besides, I have already written a letter to authorities for the cancellation of licence of fish market at Navalpur. This year, 41 freshwater Gangetic dolphins were spotted in the region, six more than last year's tally of 35.

Uttar Pradesh: Adjudged best inland state in fisheries

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/state-editions/up-adjudged----best-inland-state----in-fisheries.html>

"Efforts of Uttar Pradesh government in encouraging fishery conservation and promotion received national acclaim with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, adjudging it as the Best State in the inland state category. The UP government would be honoured at an event scheduled in New Delhi on November 21 and be awarded Rs 10 lakh, a citation and an emblem by Union Minister for Fisheries, Dairy and Animal Husbandry, Giriraj Singh, Union Ministers Sanjeev Balyan, and Pratap Chandra Sarangi. NFDB Senior Executive P Chelapati wrote to Principal Secretary Fisheries, Livestock and Milk Development Bhuvanesh Kumar conveying that UP had been selected the Best State and ranked third in the country in fish production. While UP bagged the top honour in the inland state category, Odisha clinched the top spot in the marine state category and Assam in hilly states and north-eastern region category. It is to be mentioned that the UP government was making several policy efforts to promote the commercial importance of fisheries.

Uttar Pradesh: East UP migrants to get support for starting fisheries business

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/east-up-migrants-to-get-support-for-starting-fisheries-business/story-kWPXGzFxp4YIMWLUstvK3O.html>

"Migrant workers from western Uttar Pradesh who returned home during the lockdown will now get a chance to start fisheries business with support from the Lucknow-based National Bureau of Fish Genetics Resources (NBFGR). The Institute will provide assistance to migrant labourers in 14 districts of UP to which majority of the migrants returned post lockdown. Most of these migrant workers lost their jobs and savings during the lockdown and depend on government aid to make ends meet. A possible employment in the fisheries sector can help them become self-reliant once again. "The plan is to involve around 3,000 families of migrant workers with the fisheries sector in these districts. We provide training and technological help to these workers.

They can use this to set up successful businesses, said Kuldeep K Lal, director NBFGR. After poultry, fisheries is the second fastest growing meat industry in the country, according to experts. The migrants can capitalise on the upward trend. NBFGR experts will provide training to these migrants to farm a variety of freshwater fish and crustaceans like prawns and crabs. "Easy availability of space and fresh water in the area will make it easier for migrant workers to start their business. We will also take help of the local district administration to provide help in

starting the business or taking loans from banks for the same, said the director. The districts that will benefit through the initiative include Ballia, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Sultanpur, Mau, Sonbhadra, Gonda, Basti, Jaunpur and Azamgarh etc. Dharmendra Verma, a migrant worker in Gorakhpur is looking forward to the programme. "Around 50 people in my village have returned from different states. We all are ready to take up fisheries as a business because it will allow us to work without leaving our village, he said.

Uttar Pradesh: 644 villages in 16 Uttar Pradesh districts affected by floods

<https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/india/644-villages-in-16-uttar-pradesh-districts-affected-by-floods>

"At least 644 villages in 16 districts of Uttar Pradesh have been inundated with flood waters, according to official sources. In a statement, Relief Commissioner said that these villages are located in Ambedkar Nagar, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ballia, Barabanki, Basti, Deoria, Farrukhabad, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Kushinagar, Mau, Sant Kabir Nagar and Sitapur districts. Around 300 villages have been completely marooned and their residents evacuated to safer places. Goyal also said 373 shelter homes and 784 flood outposts have been set up in the state and 414 boats pressed into service to rescue the people. Twenty-nine teams of the NDRF, SDRF and the Uttar Pradesh Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been deployed in the flood-affected districts, the official said. Several rivers, including the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghra, Saryu and Sharda, were flowing above the danger mark in various districts. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, meanwhile, has directed the District Magistrates of the flood-hit districts to conduct an early survey of damage to the crops and expedite compensation to the farmers.

Uttar Pradesh: Higher incidences of water-borne diseases in fishermen drinking from Ganga: Survey

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/pollution/higher-incidences-of-water-borne-diseases-in-fishermen-drinking-from-ganga-survey-73029>

"Fisher folk who heavily depend on river Ganga's water for drinking are more likely to report higher incidences of diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, cholera, cough / cold, fever, skin disease, typhoid and jaundice, a recent study done on livelihood and health challenges faced by riverine communities of Ganga has found. Incidences of at least one of these water-borne

diseases across the different sites surveyed for the study were found to be in the range of 76 to 96 per cent. The study by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), in collaboration with Tata Centre for Development at University of Chicago, aimed to analyse the impact of pollution in the Ganga river water on the health, socioeconomic status of the riverine communities and to also assess water quality along selected stretches of Ganga River in the states of West Bengal (WB) and Uttar Pradesh (UP). While fishing activities are associated with several occupations, the fishing community is the most vulnerable as its members come in direct contact of river water.

The study was undertaken in two phases along identified upstream and downstream locations in the two states. While Narora and Unnao in UP comprised the upstream sites, Jangipur and Tribeni in Bengal were the downstream sites. A total of 200 samples comprising 1,600 respondents were surveyed in each phase from each of these locations. The survey entailed conduction of water experiments using sensors, along with in-person interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Nearly 70 per cent of the respondents in Bengal and 62 per cent in UP do not have access to potable water in homes, more than half of the respondents (55 per cent) were drinking the Ganga's water. Of these, nearly 90 per cent reported facing at least one incidence of disease. Consumption of and exposure to contaminated water has also led to the predominance of skin diseases among the fishing community, the incidences of which have significantly increased over in the last 10 years. Incidences of at least one of above mentioned diseases across the sites were found to be in the range of 76 to 96 per cent during phase I and 88 to 96 per cent during phase II of the survey.

It was also observed that the highest incidence of diseases occurred during the monsoon season and the correspondingly lowest incidence during the pre-monsoon period. Medical professionals who have been practising at these sites for also highlighted the issue of polluted drinking water being the source of many water-borne diseases, said the study. "In-depth interviews with selected medical professionals provide suggestive evidence that the incidence of diseases can be linked to the quality of the Ganga's water. The FGDs with the riverine communities also revealed that water-borne diseases were primarily caused by the poor quality of potable water in the river, the report said.

However, the medical professionals also maintained that there was no clear distinction between the prevalence of skin diseases among the fishing versus non-fishing population, the report added. At all four study sites, respondents claimed that the poor quality of drinking water was responsible for their health problems. At Narora, a majority of the respondents were dependent on groundwater for meeting their daily needs. At the Tribeni site, the respondents said the tap water supplied to them had a foul smell and was yellowish in colour. The respondents were of

the opinion that the water was being supplied to them directly from the river without being filtered. “Barring a handful of people who can afford to use bottled water, the rest are all dependent on tap water. They are aware of the harm to their health, yet they are compelled to drink it in the absence of any alternative, it said. In phase I, more than 40 per cent of the respondents at all the sites except Jangipur agreed that pollution of the Ganga water also leads to contamination of the groundwater. In the second phase, it was found that while about 48 per cent of the people interviewed at Jangipur agreed that the polluted water of the Ganga contaminates groundwater, in Tribeni, only 12 per cent of the respondents agreed to this assertion.

The study also found that the respondents in both the states belonged to the economically poorer sections of the society. About 48 and 65 per cent of the fisher folk in Bengal and UP reported earning less than Rs 5,000 a month from fishing. The figure is comparable to the 2012-13 data from the 70th round of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), according to which the corresponding average monthly incomes in UP and Bengal were Rs 4,455 and Rs 4,636 respectively. Highlighting livelihood-related adversities, the study said that around 92 per cent of fishermen in both the states revealed that there were many active fishing days where they caught no fish at all. “This happens as frequently as at least two days every week when they go for fishing but without any success, the study found. There has been a significant decline in the amount of fish catch over the years. Fisher folk at all the sites in the two states reported a decline in the commercially important fish species and a rise in the number of exotic or invasive species in their fish catch over the last five years.

The respondents said low water volume was a major cause for concern, followed by irresponsible fishing manifested in the use of micro-mesh (mosquito net), which causes poisoning and also catches fingerlings and kills eggs. The participants also identified pollution as a cause for concern but only after the above-mentioned two reasons. The participants in the FGDs at Narora and Unnao also identified pollution as a major reason for decline in the catch, but only after the above-mentioned two reasons. The NCAER has recommended the need to formally recognise the communities settled on river banks as part of the riverine ecosystem and to synchronise their local ecological knowledge with scientific knowledge for better water monitoring and control techniques.

Uttar Pradesh: River pollution, conservation: UP’s fishing community bears brunt

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/environment/river-pollution-conservation-up-s-fishing-community-bears-brunt-71908>

"The quality of water in rivers Ganga and Yamuna did not improve despite four decades of pollution-mitigation measures. But they did within 10 days of the nationwide lockdown imposed

to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. For years, the regulations of industrial and municipal inflow in the river have been at the centre of policies and programmes for pollution mitigation. On ground, however, these projects have mostly dissociated rivers from the riverine communities: An integral part of the river ecosystem since time immemorial. While we don't question the objective that drives these mitigation programmes, COVID-19 has exposed the truth about their shoddy implementation. This crisis presents before us an opportunity to re-imagine solutions towards a healthier future of our rivers. Two important components of river pollution mitigations programmes Ganga Action Plan I & II and Namami Gange have been about biodiversity conservation and growing public awareness and participation.

However, despite having provisions for involving local communities in mitigation and conservation-related activities, these policies, in many instances, have robbed riverine communities off their customary rights over the river and subsequently, their means of subsistence. The reach of these programmes is unequal and has been limited to only a handful of elite members. A fisherman in Kanpur said: If we get permission to fish in Ganga, we can run our households, save some money, and afford better schooling for our kids. Fishing is banned in this stretch of the Ganga, so we work as labourers or housekeepers. Earlier, people from our community used to get ponds on lease to grow water nuts (and to fish), but now people from other communities bid in our name and get the lease. Over the years, we have been unable to match the bid amount. About 80 per cent ponds reserved for us have been taken away. Brunt of exclusionary regulations Just before the lockdown, a team from the National Council of Applied Economic Research and the Tata Centre for Development at University of Chicago visited selected villages in search of the fishing communities along the 1,140-kilometre-long course of the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh in connection with a research project. Visits to some of these stretches were an eye-opener, wherein the lack of integration of community needs and environmental conservation programmes were evident. But before going into the details of the experience, let's take a look at the river's course through Uttar Pradesh.

The Ganga enters the state in Bijnor district. The stretch of the Ganga from Bijnor to Garhmukteshwar comes under the jurisdiction of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, and the stretch from Garhmukteshwar to Narora Barrage down south is declared a Ramsar site (a wetland area of international importance) for the protection of Gangetic dolphins. Further down from Bithoor to Sangam (Prayagraj), we were told that for the last two years, the stretch has been identified of having religious importance. Fishing, a primary source of livelihood for the poverty-stricken communities, has been banned at these stretches. A woman from a fishing household in Bijnor said: "We are poor.... Our next generation does not want to do this work. But what can we do? How can we pay for their education? There are three-four months when we are able to fish, the

rest of the months we are either involved in casual labour or agriculture. This has created a unique situation: A fisherman is now compelled to poach (illegal fishing) for survival. The 'invisible' communities have not been considered a part of the riverine ecosystem and get excluded in the process of pollution mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

They are either not provided any alternative sources of livelihood or even within some existing programmes, they are deprived of the promised benefits on account of faulty implementation. Our visits also revealed significant social and economic fragmentation of these riverine groups. Weakening of their customary rights over the years, low educational status, and lack of agency and unity further limit their scope of finding any other means of earning. They even do not have any formal recognition of being riverine communities. The research team met government officials from the fisheries department. In their interaction, both the representatives of the government and local fisher communities indicated that untreated wastewater discharge was the primary contributing factor for pollution. However, the communities attributed this depletion in fish varieties and volume of catch to damming, low water volume and most importantly, malpractices: use of micro-mesh and poisoning of fish. We realised that fisherfolks were well-aware of the malpractices, but due to their desperate economic conditions and absence of any other means of livelihood, are compelled to opt for such practices.

A fisherman from Narora said: No one listens to us. We know that use of mosquito mesh for fishing is destructive, but what do we do? You will find 10 hunters in pursuit of each fish in every kilometre of the river. People from other communities bid for lease and are also involved in aquaculture. We have always demanded that water and sand is ours and it should be given back to us. For centuries, water and sand belonged to us. With the spillover of COVID-19 stress onto the rural economy and unavailability of daily wage work, the already marginalised section of the population will be pushed into even deeper layers of vulnerability. The desperate economic needs will continue to force these communities to resort to exploitative means of fishing, which, in turn, can create a conflict between the riverine species and its ecosystem. In order to conserve the river and its species, it is also important to conserve the people who live off that river. It is important that localised and integrated community resource management programmes are established in the protected areas of UP. While considering them an integral part of the ecosystem, their long-term experience and local ecological knowledge should not be discounted. In fact, with every pollution mitigation programme or conservation initiative, efforts should be made towards bringing together the scientific and experiential knowledge. Decentralised policy solutions that move from top-down imposition to collaborative and community-led protection and management of river stretches are the need of the hour. This will not only empower the communities, but will also open channels of communication between them and the policy making authorities.

Uttar Pradesh: Fishermen of an Ayodhya village who live far away from ATMs get cash via Aadhar

<https://www.businessinsider.in/india/news/fishermen-of-an-ayodhya-village-who-live-far-away-from-atms-get-cash-via-aadhar/articleshow/75424662.cms>

"Fishermen in Manjha Kalan village in Ayodhya were facing troubled times because they could not go to their bank and ATM due to the lockdown. However, on their request, a postal official reached the village and enabled them to withdraw cash from their accounts through the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) in the village itself. Union telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad tweeted about the incident from his Twitter handle. Rakesh Yadav, another resident of the village, said, ""We were not aware of this facility under which the bank would come to our doorstep. Now life will be much easier for us and we thank the government for this.""

Uttar Pradesh: Comprehensive efforts towards cleaning Ganga will bear results, says historian Sudipta Sen

<https://www.aninews.in/videos/national/comprehensive-efforts-towards-cleaning-ganga-will-bear-results-says-historian-sudipta-sen/>

"National Mission for Clean Ganga held its first session of the Ganga lecture series with an aim to educate and discuss the glorious past and present of river Ganga in New Delhi. Dr. Sudipta Sen, a distinguished professor and acclaimed historian, who also released his book--- 'Many pasts of a river'---on the occasion, presented an in-depth analysis on the subject of the lecture, Ganga and the Pulse of Civilization: The Future and Past of India's Great River. Sudipta's book also revolves around the fascinating story of the world's third-largest river from prehistoric times to the present. He has also focused on myths surrounding the origin of the river in Hinduism and its significance in Buddhism. The conduct of a lecture series is latest in NMCG's holistic approach towards restoring the purity of the river. National Mission for clean Ganga works towards ensuring effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of river Ganga through an integrated and a multi-layered strategy. While it has been working relentlessly on ground to ensure water quality and environmentally sustainable development, it has given special attention to need of spreading awareness at a mass level.

Uttar Pradesh: Govt prepares plan to promote fisheries for success of blue revolution

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/up-govt-prepares-plan-to-promote-fisheries-for-success-of-blue-revolution/1674916>

"The Uttar Pradesh government has prepared a comprehensive plan to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for blue revolution a success in the state, Minister for Fisheries, Dairy and Animal Husbandry Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary said. The department of fisheries has chalked out a plan for large-scale fish farming in the state from February, he said. Fish farming would not only add to the income of farmers but also attract unemployed youth to the profession as one can easily earn about Rs 5 lakh in a year with only one hectare of land, the minister said. ""While it would turn unproductive land into money minting machine, the side business would become an asset for the farmer,"" Chaudhary said here. A fishing experiment conducted on "oosar land (infertile land)" hit by hard water and converted into a pond in Baad area of Mathura has been a grand success and may prove to be a turning point in increasing farmers' income, he said. The encouraging part of the experiment conducted by director and deputy director of fisheries department was that it has been successful on "Jhinga" breed of fish, which is considered to be one of the best variety and has higher demand in Bangladesh, he said. The same experiment will now be conducted on 100 acre infertile land in Khayara village of Mathura on hard water ponds. Elaborating the plan for increasing fish production in the state, the minister said that flood water would be utilised for fish farming.

Ponds dug on the bank of rivers in the state would automatically be filled with water during flood in the river, he said. It would not only help in fish farming but also in increasing water level of wells in the area. The government has also decided to develop a massive fishery farm in Lucknow in collaboration with a Japan-based firm. To promote fisheries, the government is providing a subsidy of 60 per cent to women and those from scheduled castes, while others are getting a subsidy of 40 per cent, he added. With this ambitious plan, the state expects to overcome fish shortage in the state which gets 26 tonnes of fish daily from other states, he said. The state government has also decided to enhance production of eggs to at least 22.5 million eggs per day by encouraging farmers and unemployed youth to join the profession. The state's current egg consumption stands at over 22 million per day against a production of about 16 million eggs per day. The farmers will be given training on poultry and fisheries and given example of Azamgarh which produces 5 lakh eggs daily, Chaudhary said.

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar: Worst monsoon in 25 years kills 148 across India, floods ravage Patna

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/worst-monsoon-in-25-years-kills-over-100-across-india-floods-rains-in-patna-10-points-1604967-2019-10-01>

"As incessant monsoon rains wreak havoc across parts of India, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been reeling under floods since the past few days, with the death toll mounting to 148 in the country. The extended southwest monsoon over the Indian subcontinent has not only caused

devastation in several places in the country, but has also broken some old records and set new ones. The highest number of deaths 111 were reported from Uttar Pradesh, while 29 people lost their lives in Bihar since last week. Here's everything that has happened so far in 10 points: 1. India receives highest ever rainfall recorded in last 25 years, Mumbai breaks 61-year record India recorded its highest rainfall this Monsoon since 1994, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said classifying it 'above normal' as the season officially ended on Monday. However, rain bearing winds still remain active over several parts of the country. Rainfall received so far is 10 per cent more than the normal, which is highest in the last 25 years, an IMD official said. The withdrawal of southwest monsoon has been delayed by a month, the official said. "Normal withdrawal of southwest monsoon begins by September 1 in Rajasthan and other northern parts of India.

This year, the Hikka cyclone has so far brought more showers and southwest monsoon is still here," he added. In Maharashtra, the monsoon has brought copious rains with its late onslaught. Mumbai has received 3,669.6 mm rainfall so far this season - the highest in 61 years - as against its normal quota of 2,350 mm. 2. Over 100 people killed in UP, flood-like situation persists In Uttar Pradesh, since Thursday, 104 people have died in rain-related incidents, with the state government on Sunday cancelling leave of officials in view of the situation. On September 26, 36 people died, 18 people on September 27, 28 on September 28, 18 people on September 29 and four on Monday, according to officials. The MeT department has predicted rain and thunder showers at many places in eastern Uttar Pradesh and heavy rain at isolated places over the western region on October 1. In Ballia, authorities had to shift about 900 prisoners to other jails after flood waters entered the barracks of the district jail located near the Ganga River. 3. Heavy rains ravage Bihar, death toll rises to 29 Three fresh deaths caused by drowning were reported on Monday afternoon, one from Nawada and two from Jehanabad district, raising the toll to 29 in Bihar.

The disaster management department said six deaths have been reported from Gaya district where five persons were killed in a wall collapse while another person drowned in a river which has been in spate because of rains. The weather department has forecast a long delayed withdrawal of Monsoon and more rains for Bihar, including capital Patna where several areas still remain submerged, and food and relief material are being air dropped. In Patna, normal life was thrown out of gear, with several schools shut, roads inundated, and many shops, hospitals and houses submerged in knee deep waters. 4. Over 4,000 rescued in Patna, IAF chopper air drops food, relief materials More than 4,000 people, including women and children, were rescued from the flood-affected areas of Patna on Monday, the NDRF said. The force said it has deployed five teams, with about 45 personnel in each, to conduct rescue and relief works in the city. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi was "rescued" by a State Disaster Response

Force (SDRF) boat. LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan and his son Chirag Paswan are putting up at a hotel instead of their house in a posh locality of the Bihar capital. An Indian Air Force helicopter commenced air-dropping of food and other relief material to people living in low-lying areas where water level is said to be several feet high. 5. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar conducts aerial survey of flood-hit areas Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas on Monday. On Sunday, the CM visited the severely flooded areas of Patna and issued necessary instructions to the officials for resolving the issue. 6. PM Modi discusses Bihar flood situation with Nitish Kumar, assures Centre's assistance Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday discussed the flood situation in Bihar with CM Nitish Kumar and said the central government stands ready to provide all possible help. "Spoke to Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Ji regarding the flood situation in parts of the state. Agencies are working with local administration to assist the affected," PM Modi tweeted. 7. Rahul Gandhi urges Congress workers to help in relief, rescue operations in Bihar Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday made an appeal to the party workers to join the relief and rescue work in the flood-hit Bihar. Taking to Twitter, Rahul Gandhi offered his condolences to families of the flood victims and called on his party workers to immediately join the relief and rescue operations.

"I express my condolences to the families of the people who lost their lives and appeal to the Congress workers to immediately join the relief and rescue work of the affected people", he tweeted. 8. Deaths in rain-related incidents reported from other states As many as 13 deaths were reported on Saturday from Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Gujarat, three women drowned after their car was swept away at a flooded causeway in Rajkot district on Sunday following heavy rains in several parts of the Saurashtra region. In Jharkhand, three members of a family died in Dumka district after a wall collapsed on them following heavy rains in the region. 9. Rains predicted in Delhi for this week, city witnesses driest monsoon in 5 years Delhi may witness scattered rains over the next three to four days, according to the weather office. In a year the rest of India witnessed "above-normal monsoon", the city recorded the lowest rainfall since 2014 with a deficiency of 38 per cent, the IMD said. The city recorded 404.1 mm rainfall this monsoon -- from June 1 to September 30 -- against the 30-year average of 648.9 mm, a shortfall of 38 per cent, an official said. 10. Situation in other states Of the 36 meteorological subdivisions of the IMD, two -- west Madhya Pradesh and Saurashtra and Kutch -- recorded precipitation in "large excess". In the hill state of Himachal Pradesh, light to moderate rainfall occurred in most places since Sunday evening, bringing the maximum temperature down by a few notches, the meteorological department said.

Uttar Pradesh: Allahabad, Varanasi on flood alert as Ganga, Yamuna swell due to rains

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/politics/up-cm-yogi-adityanath-asks-allahabad-varanasi-to-remain-vigilant-as-rivers-swell-due-to-rains-4449461.html>

"As the water levels in Ganga and Yamuna rivers inched towards the danger mark on September 18, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials in Varanasi and Allahabad. Heavy rains over the past few days have caused the rivers to swell. A senior official said authorities in Allahabad and Varanasi have been asked to make all necessary arrangements to deal with the situation and flood 'chowkis', to monitor the water levels in the rivers, have been activated. A report from Banda district said continued rainfall in the Bundelkhand region and release of water in Yamuna had led to flooding in many areas in Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot districts. Yamuna, Ken and Betwa rivers are in spate and several acres of agricultural land has been submerged, it said. Banda District Magistrate Hiralal said incessant rains over the past four days have hit normal life, with water entering villages and damaging roads. People of the affected areas are being shifted to safer places in boats, he said. Adityanath had conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Ballia on Tuesday and distributed relief material. He asked the officials of the irrigation department to ensure the safety of bridges and embankments by undertaking regular inspections so that remedial steps can be taken promptly. At least 14 people were killed in rain-related incidents, including lightning and drowning, in the state on September 17. CM Adityanath has announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the victims.

Uttar Pradesh: No excess water to Pakistan: Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/no-excess-water-to-pakistan-union-minister-gajendra-singh-shekhawat-1568647702661.html>

"Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday said India will stop the flow of excess water into Pakistan without violating the Indus Water Treaty. The Union water resources minister said the government has begun the process. "There is a treaty between India and Pakistan on Indus river water but there is lot of excess water of other rivers which flows to Pakistan," he told reporters here. He said there is a vast land area beyond the Ravi river and rainwater which gets accumulated there goes to Pakistan through rivers. "We will stop excess flow of water to Pakistan which is the right of Indian farmers and people, and no one should have objections on it," Shekhawat said. He recently said dams are built not only to generate electricity but also for use in the lean season. The Indus Water Treaty of September 1960 lays down the rules for sharing the water from the Indus and its tributaries that flow through both the countries. The treaty vests the control of the Beas, Ravi and the Sutlej with India, while Pakistan controls the Indus, Chenab and the Jhelum. Since Pakistani rivers receive more water from India, the treaty allows India to use the Indus, Chenab and the Jhelum water for limited irrigation

and unlimited use for power generation, domestic, industrial and non-consumptive use like navigation, fisheries while laying down the precise regulations for India to build projects.

Uttar Pradesh : Minister gives away Kisan credit cards to 47 fish breeders

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/up-minister-gives-away-kisan-credit-cards-to-47-fish-breeders/1605222>

UP Minister of State for Fisheries Jai Prakash Nishad on Monday gave away Kisan Credit Cards to 47 fish breeders here. "The state has a vast potential for fisheries, as it has water bodies in a large number. He said the state could be made a leading fish breeding state of the country by ensuring use of water bodies in a planned way," Nishad said in a statement. He added that for this purpose, the fisheries development schemes of the government should be publicised widely. The district-level fisheries officers should inspect ponds in their districts and solve the problems of the breeders, he said.

Addressing a training workshop organised by the fisheries department and FISHCOPFED, the minister underlined the need for benefitting maximum fish breeders under the fishermen accident insurance scheme, besides fixing the targets as per the population of fishermen in districts, the statement said. The workshop was also addressed by UP's Fisheries Department Director S K Singh and Fishcopfed Managing Director B K Mishra. The National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) is a national-level federation of fisheries cooperatives. About 100 fish breeders attended the workshop.

Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar: Pollution control board directs 4 state to take action against ganga polluters

<https://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/020819/pollution-control-board-directs-4-state-to-take-action-against-ganga-polluters.html>

Taking strict note of effluent and industrial waste being discharged into the Ganga river, the CPCB has directed four state pollution control boards to take action on units, including closing them, if they don't comply with environmental norms. In separate letters to the chairmen of the Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar pollution control boards, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed them to process reports of inspections within 15 days. It said action, including the closure of industries violating norms, will be taken within 15 days of submission of the inspection reports. These inspections were carried out by technical institutions or under joint initiatives between them and the state boards. The CPCB said till now, over 400 grossly polluting Industries (GPIs) have been inspected, but "very few" reports were submitted to the state boards by institutions such as the IITs, Jamia Milia Islamia, Moti Lal Nehru National Institute of Technology and 12 others.

"Industries like chemical, distillery, sugar, pulp and paper, textile, slaughter house, bleaching, food and dairy located in states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar have been discharging effluent directly or indirectly into the Ganga through drains or tributaries which cause adverse effect on the water quality of the river and its tributaries," the apex pollution body said in the letters issued a week ago. Inspection is supposed to be carried out of all polluting units and reports have to be given to state pollution control boards (PCB) within 15 days by technical institutions, as per CPCB directions. "However, it has been observed that though 31 GPIs were inspected in Bihar and Uttarakhand each till July 21, out of which, one report was given to the Bihar PCB and four to the Uttarakhand PCB," it said. In Uttar Pradesh, 380 GPIs were inspected but 153 reports were submitted to the state pollution control board by technical institutes. In West Bengal, 46 GPIs were inspected, but only nine reports were submitted to its pollution control board, the CPCB noted.

"The central government has notified standards for discharge of environmental pollutants from industries and common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) under the Environment Protection Act," it said, adding that annual inspection of GPIs was made mandatory in 2017. The CPCB in a meeting in April with state boards, National Mission for Clean Ganga officials and 19 technical institutions decided that the institutes will submit inspection reports to the state boards concerned, which will then take action within 15 days and ensure follow up actions. However, the CPCB found that several such reports are yet to be processed.

Uttar Pradesh: Hundreds of fish die in Keetham lake, locals demand inquiry

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/agra-fish-die-keetham-lake-locals-inquiry-1555488-2019-06-25>

In a horrific turn of events, hundreds of fish were found dead in Agra's Keetham lake on Sunday. It is believed that the fishes died due to the severely polluted water being dumped into the Keetham reservoir which had dropped the dissolved oxygen levels to almost nil in the water body. Talking to India Today, a wildlife warden said that the fish are dependent on the levels of oxygen dissolved (DO) in the water. He also said that, over the past few weeks, the Agra canal, which fills the Keetham reservoir, had been bringing severely polluted water to the lake which had dropped the DO levels to almost nil. This caused the fish to die out en masse. The furious locals have demanded an immediate action against the perpetrators responsible for polluting the Keetham lake. The wildlife warden also said that the irrigation department has been informed of the incident and has been asked to stop the supply of polluted water to the lake. The concerned officials also sent the water samples from the lake for investigation, along with the dead bodies of the fish for post mortem analysis.

The post mortem of the fish has revealed that they died of oxygen deficiency in the water. A physical survey of the lake's water source by India Today revealed that the Agra canal was

indeed bringing in a lot of industrial waste into the Keetham lake. The chemical-laden water had created a layer of blue-green algae over the water, darkening the water and creating an oxygen deficiency in the water through increased Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). This drop in DO was the prima facie reason for the death of the fishes. National Chambal Sanctuary Project Divisional Forest Officer Anand Kumar said that the irrigation department has already been asked to stop the supply of polluted water in the lake. In the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), the Keoladeo Ghana Bird sanctuary and Soor Sarovar (Keetham) Bird sanctuary are known for the wide variety of aquatic birds. Every year, thousands of domestic and international tourists come to visit these sanctuaries where the migratory birds from various countries can be seen living, feeding and breeding.

The principal food of these migratory birds at the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary are the 8 varieties of freshwater fish living in the Keetham lake. The survival of these birds depends on the large number of fishes in the lake. The 230-km-long Agra canal was constructed in the British era, along with the Keetham reservoir, to maintain year-long water supply to Agra. Constructed in 1874, the canal continued to be used for transportation of passengers and goods till 1904. At present, the water from this canal irrigates large tracts of land in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It has resulted in the presence of significant amounts of industrial pollutants like lead, nickel and cobalt, along with pesticides and herbicides like Endosulphan, DDT, Ammonia etc., mostly released into the canal when it passes through Faridabad. As a result, a canal built to bring life to Agra is now delivering death.

Uttar Pradesh: Ganga Praharis: Guardians of the Ganga

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/ganga-praharis-guardians-of-the-ganga-119061900555_1.html

Ever since Namami Gange program was launched, several concrete steps have been taken to clean the river and to maintain its cleanliness. Among other projects and initiatives, wider public participation in the movement to clean River Ganges is of the utmost priority for National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and numerous steps have been taken from then and now to ensure the same. NMCG has selected self-motivated and trained volunteers from among the local communities, they are called 'Ganga Praharis' or the Guardians of the Ganga. The Ganga Praharis work for biodiversity conservation and cleanliness of the holy river with the ultimate objectives of restoring the 'Nirmal' and 'Aviral' Dhara of the pious river. They are also playing a crucial role in reporting and rescuing of aquatic wildlife in distress, reporting of illegal activities like poaching. A group of about 500 trained volunteers or Ganga praharis are reaching to each and every house in areas along river Ganga to educate them about the importance of protecting the river's bio-diversity.

They are spread over Ganga basin states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of NMCG said: "We have selected some motivated local volunteers and given them some training and then we have a regular outreach programme. We keep them updating them about our programmes and the idea is that every village should ultimately have a Ganga prahariso that they will be our representative and they will further train people and school people and all that". "They also engage in rescue of injured animal or some Dolphin is there. They also interact with fishermen to tell them about sustainable fisheries. Often fishermen use Dolphin and it also becomes endangered. So, some of these practices we are trying to improve," he added. RuchiBadola, a scientist and senior professor at Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun said, "The Ganga praharis, in fact, take part in a lot of rescue and rehabilitation.

Whenever any wildlife along the Ganga comes out, turtles, Dolphins or crocodile, it is the Ganga praharis in all the five states, because they have been trained, who actually come forward and inform the concerned authorities and make sure that particular animal living or dead, should go to wherever it is necessary at that point in time". Ganga Praharis are also regularly involved in are Shram Daan, Ghat Cleaning, Awareness Campaigns, Plantation Drives and coordination with local administration. "A common man should be part of this movement. Ganga is our faith, our mother. It is a source of water for us. Life is impossible without water. It is very important to protest the river and bio-diversity", said Pyare Lal, Ganga Prahari at Bhogpur village in Uttarakhand. Rameshwari Devi, another Ganga prahari at the village said, "Those people who are not aware of its ill effects, are behind polluting the river. Since we have joined as praharis, we have taken a pledge to not get it polluted".

In an attempt to improve the riverine eco-system of the Ganga, the NMCG and Wildlife Institute of India have also set up Ganga Aqualife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center at Narora in Uttar Pradesh. The Center nurtures the species such as turtle, crocodile, otters and fish and works towards the restoration of aquatic species that thrive in the river. The healthy presence of aquatic species and birds is a reliable indicator as they thrive only in and around the clean water. The Ganga Praharis also play a significant role to remain vigilant so that aquatic species remain safe.

Uttar Pradesh: Four lakh fish die overnight in Uttar Pradesh's Mudari village; hapless villagers suspect poisoning

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/four-lakh-fish-die-overnight-in-uttar-pradeshs-mudari-village-hapless-villagers-suspect-poisoning-6437721.html>

On the morning of 27 March, residents of the village of Mudari in Mahoba woke up to their worst nightmare – a veritable sea of dead fish floating in their village pond. Littering the surface of the pond, the fish had been painstakingly farmed by the colony of fishermen in Mudari, who rely solely on fish farming for their subsistence. "There is no life left in the lake, you can't even

hear the noise of the fish anymore,” said Shivdin, the pond committee’s chairman, echoing a sentiment shared by many in the Mudari village, where the soundscape of life includes the sound of gently floating fish, “We had cast a net yesterday, but we caught nothing. There are no signs that there are fish in this lake now, I think they are all dead.” As the head of the local committee, he kept track of all the fishermen involved in fish farming, as well as the quantum of fish seed they were putting into the pond. According to his estimates, 6.5 lakh fish seeds had been released into the lake, “More than four lakh of those must have survived and have been living in the lake ever since.”

Four lakh fish dying overnight is unarguably a suspect occurrence anywhere, and in Mudari, there was a suggestion of malicious intervention. “This cannot be natural causes,” said Shivdin, “Someone killed the fish by pouring in poison of some sort. It must have been diluted, because otherwise, animals who rely on this lake for water would have also died.” Kheliya, another fisherman and village elder, agreed. “You can also see the condition they’re in,” he said, pointing to the lake, “This has nothing to do with the food. We’ve been feeding them the same thing ever since I’ve been a boy.” He speculated, “It’s definitely some strange medicine, a chemical, which was poured into the lake.” Bharat Singh, a fisherman, also believed it was poisoning. He had a growing list of concerns, “We need to ask if our business is viable in this lake, whether it is a danger to other animals, to our children, if the fish themselves are now too poisonous to eat. The stink in the lake is unbearable, and it’s becoming difficult to cross it with our boats.” He concluded, “Whoever put the poison in the water must have done it out of jealousy or contempt for us.”

Fish production is a growing business, one that has consistently received the Centre’s support; most recently, this support manifested in the form of the Rs 3000 crore Blue Revolution program piloted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. Even before the Blue Revolution was instated, the development has been leasing out ponds, lakes and reservoirs, especially in rural India, to encourage fish farming – which includes growing fish seed and caring for them until they mature, and then catching them. Known as aquaculture or freshwater fish farming, it is often an alternative income source for fishermen. In Uttar Pradesh, all 375 ponds under the purview of the state fisheries department are currently being leased. “Our committee is named in the contract which is valid for ten years,” said Shivdin, “We pay an annual fee of Rs 2500 as determined by the gram sabha.” Like in most of the state, aquaculture often makes up for a major part of the income of local communities. According to Shivdin, they had only just released the fish seed.

“We have sold nothing,” he said about the possibility of recovering losses from caught fish sales. To make matters worse, he explained, “They are all dead, and this is no season for breeding. We will find no fish seed right now. It will now just stay empty.” What should have been a profitable, sustainable model of business has left 15 families, by Shivdin’s estimates, without a source of income and without a contingency plan. “Our seed should be valued by the

government. Why else would we have taken responsibility for this lake?” Shivdin said, frustrated. But after a moment of looking at the lake again, the stench of death inescapably in the air, he said quietly, “How will I provide for my family now with this lake?” Poisoning is one of the most common problems faced by fish farmers in rural Uttar Pradesh. The villagers, all suspecting foul play, reached out to the Kulpahad Tehsildar SM Sharma to conduct an investigation into the matter. Our reporter spoke with Kulpahad’s Kutval Bijender Singh who promised that now that the matter had been brought to their attention, swift action would be taken. Depending on their findings, he said, further action will be taken.

Uttar Pradesh: Opening of new Farakka lock to help Hilsa swim all the way up to Prayagraj

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/opening-of-new-farakka-lock-to-help-hilsa-swim-all-the-way-up-to-prayagraj-1502731454.html>

Fish lovers along the Ganges till Uttar Pradesh’s Prayagraj will now be able to enjoy fresh Hilsa thanks to a decision that will help the fish swim all the way from Bangladesh upstream the Ganges. With an aim to preserve the biodiversity of the Ganges, Indian authorities have decided to open the sluice gate at Farakka Barrage higher than the current level for four hours every day. This will help the Hilsa – one of the most widely consumed fish – to swim from the salty waters of River Padma to the sweeter waters of River Ganges resulting in greater chances of spawning. The movement of the Hilsa fish up to Prayagraj stopped after the construction of the Farakka Navigation Lock in 1976. A new navigation lock at Farakka was unveiled by Union Minister for Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari recently.

The navigation lock, which will be opened from June this year after the completion of its construction, will help Hilsa fish to breed in the waters of the Ganges after four decades. The new navigational Lock on National Waterway-1 (NW-1) at Farakka, which is part of the Jal Marg Vikas Pariyojna, will cost Rs 361.35 crore. The timing of the opening of the gates has been set after consultation with Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Central Water Commission and the Farakka Barrage authorities. The lock will be opened according to the Hilsa mating season. More Hilsa fish in the river will translate to more catch for local fishermen thereby resulting in a boost to the economy besides increase in the river’s biodiversity.

Uttar Pradesh: After 32 years, gates will open in Ganga allowing Hilsa to again make the journey upstream to Allahabad

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/after-32-years-gates-will-open-in-ganga-allowing-hilsa-to-again-make-the-journey-upstream-to-allahabad/articleshow/67890305.cms>

After a gap of over three decades, Hilsa, a high pedigree and arguably East Asia's most prized fish, can swim back upto Allahabad in Ganga from the next monsoon. The navigational lock at Farakka has been designed in a manner to ensure the smooth and safe migration of the Hilsa shoal (group) during the three mating seasons, particularly during monsoon, by partially opening the gates only for four hours in a day. After the construction of Farakka navigational lock in 1976, movement of Hilsa was restricted up to Farakka only. Navigational lock is a device that is used for raising and lowering boats and ships between stretches of water of different levels on river and other waterways. "We will open the gates for only eight metres and between 1 am and 5 am, which is the preferred time when Hilsa seeks passage. This provision has been made in consultation with ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Central Water Commission and Farraka Barrage Project Authority.

We have designed this in-house and have saved about Rs 100 crore," Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) vice-chairman Pravir Pandey told TOI. Hilsa has a history of migrating to Allahabad in the Ganga river system from Bangladesh. Though it's a saltwater fish, it migrates to sweet waters of the Ganges from the Bay of Bengal. It travels upstream of the river during the mating seasons and returns to its natural abode after spawning. The hatchings also head to marine water, and the cycle goes on. Pandey added for passage of vessels they need to open the gate for 25 metres width and this is a big exercise.

Union shipping and waterways minister Nitin Gadkari will announce the operation of this new navigation lock on Friday at Prayagraj (Allahabad) while launching the second phase of River Information System between Patna and Farakka. IWAI, under Jal Marg Vikas Pariyonjna to make Ganga navigable round the year, has constructed the new navigation lock. The new mechanism will help facilitate Hilsa movement from Hoogly-Bhagirathi-River system to the upstream in river Ganga and vice-versa. The navigational lock being built at Rs 361 crore is scheduled for completion by June. "Fish often disperse widely over large areas while feeding and spawning. This Hilsa migration will lead to increase in its production in the region. Simultaneously, this will increase the river biodiversity and boost the economy of local fishermen," a shipping ministry spokesperson said.

Uttar Pradesh: 16 dead as floods hit 16 districts, rescue operations underway

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/16-dead-in-uttar-pradesh-as-floods-hit-16-districts-rescue-operations-underway-2138094.html>

Uttar Pradesh has been reeling under heavy rain and a flood-like situation with deaths of as many as 16 people being reported so far. The Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel on Sunday rescued 14 people stranded in Lalitpur and Jhansi districts of the state following the heavy showers, officials said. Six people were also marooned in a village of Lalitpur district on Sunday morning. In Garautha tehsil of Jhansi district, eight fishermen were stranded on an island near Erech Dam on

the Betwa River after a sudden rise in water level owing to heavy downpour, they said. Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner Sanjay Kumar said, "All six people were successfully rescued in Lalitpur district. The IAF team did a fantastic job." He also added, "The district magistrate of Jhansi has confirmed that all eight fishermen have been successfully rescued by an IAF team."

According to an official statement in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the rescue work carried out by IAF personnel in Talbehat area of Lalitpur district in which 6 persons were rescued. The chief minister also took the opportunity to extend Janmashtami greetings to the officials and jawans. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday said that heavy rainfall was observed at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours. The monsoon trough was slight to the north of its normal position and remained active with three embedded cyclonic circulations over Haryana and adjoining northwest Uttar Pradesh and over central parts of south Uttar Pradesh and adjoining parts of north Madhya Pradesh, IMD added.

Uttar Pradesh: Thousands of dead fish found floating in Ganga, experts blame toxic effluents

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/thousands-of-dead-fish-found-floating-in-ganga-experts-blame-toxic-effluents/story-ujQ4HnvtMVXULPYRa2XENP.html>

Thousands of dead fish were found floating in the Ganga over the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday. This is the fourth time such an incident has occurred in as many years. Reports reaching here suggested that dead fish were first seen floating in the Kannauj stretch, after which the phenomenon was witnessed in Unnao and Bilhaur. Confirming the fish deaths, Kannauj district magistrate Ravindra Kumar said he visited the site along with a team of experts from the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) and the National Wildlife Institute of India at Dehradun. "The team members took samples of the dead fish as well as the water. We will get to know the exact reason for their deaths by the weekend," he added. Kumar said effluents from industrial units in Shahjahanpur were prima facie suspected of discharging toxic material downstream, poisoning the river water. Officials in Kannauj and Unnao also collected water samples from various places to determine the cause of fish deaths.

UPPCB officials suspect the presence of a poisonous substance in the Garra river, which originates from Shahjahanpur and merges with the Ganga in Kannauj. "Our teams are collecting water samples. An analysis will clarify if there was any deliberate attempt to poison the water or anything else, but one thing is for sure – it has something that's killing the fish," said Kuldip Mishra, regional officer of the board. The fish were found dead in a radius of five kilometres in Kannauj and four kilometres in Unnao, officials said. A number of pesticide units operating on the banks of the Garra and Ganga rivers allegedly release toxic effluents into the water. Bangarmau sub-divisional magistrate Pradeep Kumar, who is monitoring the situation in Unnao, said the colour of water seems to have changed near Nanamau.

“The water flowing from Kannauj seems to have had something that killed the fish; the problem is upstream,” he added. In Kannauj, the district administration deployed panchayat employees to clear the river of dead fish around Mehdi ghat. People throng the ghat for rituals and a holy dip on auspicious occasions. The step was taken after reports suggested that local residents were collecting dead fish for consumption. Health department officials have warned that consumption of these fish could cause diarrhoea, gastro and liver disorders, said Unnao (city) additional district magistrate BN Yadav.

Uttar Pradesh: WWI to encourage alternate livelihoods for encroachers on Ganga banks

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/wwi-to-encourage-alternate-livelihoods-for-encroachers-on-ganga-banks/articleshow/62273281.cms>

To keep villages on the bank of Ganga from farming on forest land and catching fish from the river, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) plans to encourage people there to find alternative means of livelihood. In Bijnor, the forest department along with the Wildlife Institute of India visited Rawli village here and encouraged villagers not to encroach on forest land. A large number of villagers on the bank of the river are known to practice vegetable farming on sand as they have no other option of livelihood. A joint team of the WII and forest department once found several nets in the river while they were conducting a dolphin census. As fishing in Ganga pollutes the river, the WII plans to visit the villages along the river and encourage them to professions that suit them best, instead activities that pollute the river. They will also prepare a report from their visits about the alternative employments the villagers could pursue, and send it to the central government for approval.

The WII plans to train the villagers in particular activities and also arrange for loans for them. Talking to TOI, Vipul Maurya, research associate of Wildlife Institute of India, said, “The WII’s aim is to conserve wildlife as well as the community around it. The wildlife has been affected by illegal farming on the sand of river and fishing. We are assessing the dependency of villagers on such activities by conducting a study from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar. Surveys are being conducted in all villages on the bank of the river. We will later devise a plan to motivate the villagers for self-employment so the wildlife can be saved.” A team from the institute visited Rawli village a few days ago and held a meeting there. As for a profession that could suit them, the team found the villagers to be efficient in making carpets and furniture, mostly from reed. “We have visited Rawli village in Bijnor.

A meeting was also held there to get an idea of possible alternate livelihoods for the villagers. We will prepare a concrete report in this regard and later work will be done under the Namami

Gange scheme (of the central government) or any other scheme for the welfare of the community, which is fully depended on the river,” Maurya added. Division forest officer of Bijnor, M Semmaran told TOI, “A team of the Wildlife Institute of India talked to villagers at the Rawli village about their social and economic status and sources of earning. Many villagers earlier used to make carpet and reed furniture but now they do not. The team wants to secure the livelihood of the villagers and at the same time, not have them pollute the Ganga. The initiative is to create self-employment for them.”

India: Fishermen issues need durable, effective remedies: Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/fishermen-issues-need-durable-effective-remedies-uttar-pradesh-governor-ram-naik-4938675/>

Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik on Wednesday called for an effective, permanent solution to disputes with Pakistan and Sri Lanka relating to fishermen while stressing on a global policy of security for them. India, the world’s second-largest fish producer, has more potential to grow in the fishery sector, but that should be done in a sustainable way and safeguarding environment, he said. Addressing the 7th General Assembly of World Forum of Fisher Peoples, Naik said there are conflicts within South Asia as scores of Indian fishermen are jailed in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and Pakistani fishermen in Indian jails. “This needs immediate attention to resolve the issue. We must strive towards effective, permanent solutions through sustained dialogue,” he said. According to Naik, this issue should be resolved seriously. In fact, there should be an international policy to ensure security of fishermen fraternity and address different problems facing the sector, he suggested. Highlighting the potential in the fishery sector, the governor said any scale-up in fish production should not be done at the cost of environment, he added. “Increasing commercialisation through industrial fishing is a matter of concern.

I think we need a policy to restrain unnecessary exploitation of nature and natural resources,” said Naik. The country’s fish requirement is estimated to be 16 mt by 2025 and there is scope to increase fish production from 11.41 mt in 2016-17, he added. India has an estimated fisheries potential of 4.41 mt from marine resources and 15 mt from inland fishery resources, he added. Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said the government has launched ‘Blue Revolution’ and the National Policy on Marine Fisheries to harness the potential in the fishery sector. The measures being taken will empower fishermen and help increase their income, he added. Earlier, talking about saving environment, the UP governor said the meeting is held at a time when the national capital is struggling to find ways to fight pollution. The pollution is caused by multiple factors, most of them created by humans. “Environment issue in Delhi is a

challenge to everyone. Everyone is trying to solve the problem. Be it the Centre or states, it is necessary to give relief to aam aadmi at the earliest,” he told reporters on the sidelines. Maharashtra and Kerala fishery ministers were present at the event, besides senior officials of the National Fishworkers Forum.

Uttar Pradesh: Hundreds of fish found dead in Ganga near UP temple town

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/hundreds-of-fish-found-dead-in-ganga-near-up-temple-town/story-YGmXasnEVQNQXrkxNm7RpL.html>

Hundreds of dead fish were found floating in the Ganga near the temple town of Shukratal, prompting Union minister Sanjeev Balyan to visit the area and demand a probe, police said today. The fish, which were found dead yesterday, may have died due to toxic industrial effluents in the river discharged by industries in upstream Uttarakhand, a police official said. Union Minister of State for Water Resources Sanjeev Balyan visited the town yesterday, where devotees thronged to see 72-foot idol of Lord Hanuman and take a holy dip in the Ganga. He directed officials to take necessary action against the culprits.

A case has been registered under sections 277 (fouling water of public spring or reservoir), 284 (negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance) and 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against unidentified industries of Uttarakhand. A team has been sent to Uttarakhand to investigate the matter, police added. A team from the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board inspected the place and collected water samples for forensic tests.

Uttar Pradesh: Saving Sangam from mining

<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/saving-sangam-mining>

There was illegal mining in the Triveni Sangam and I could not believe my eyes. Who could do something like this? The sangam or confluence has a special place in my mind as I had grown up visiting this place regularly since childhood. Many families like mine have spent long hours in the area during festivals and recreational trips. But the sangam is not just a tourist or cultural attraction. It is a unique hydrological occurrence where three rivers--the Hiren, the Kapil and the Saraswati--are known to meet before they flow into the Arabian Sea. Till about 10 years ago, this confluence was rich in biodiversity. A wide array of birds including flamingos perched on undulating sandbars in this coastal riverbed. It was a visual treat and a way of life for several of us growing up in rural areas of Gir Somnath district of Gujarat. But a year and a half ago, when I visited the place, it seemed unrecognisable.

The place had changed and several locally powerful people were responsible for it. I was told that the local mafia was soaking up all the sand and destroying the diversity of the Triveni

Sangam. The same place, which gave me utmost joy, was a reason for sadness. But I was not clear on how and when this had begun and what can be done about it. An equally bigger question for me was whether this was just my nostalgia or was this extraction of sand creating problems for people living nearby? Understanding the problem It was in 2015 that I had begun working with the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Namati on their collaborative work to achieve environmental justice (EJ). Triveni Sangam was destined to be one of my first cases as part of this work. We were looking for impacts that people of the area were facing and understand if there was a violation of law involved. Further, if this violation were addressed, would the issue be solved?

As I began enquiring, it came to light that approximately 200 people, especially from the fishing community, were being directly impacted by this activity. Since large rocks and sand were being removed, it was causing sea erosion resulting in less space for fishing shelters. Even before I could start working, one of the local residents called me to complain about the “sand mining issue”. This was only the beginning of the long story that followed. Ironically after enthusiastically showing me around once and promising to work together, he did not show up again. That pushed me to connect with the fishing village along the banks. Was it legal? I only knew a few laws around sand mining and one of them was the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification, 2011. Prohibited activities within the CRZ, i.e. 500 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL), include mining of sand and rocks (except those rare minerals not found outside this regulated zone) as well as the exploration of oil and natural gas.

As per this law, extraction happening at the river bed at the Triveni Sangam was illegal. Once I collected some evidence, especially the visual images of the damage to the riverbed, I reached out to the District Level Coastal Committee (DLCC) mandatory under the CRZ, 2011. Following efforts of some of my colleagues in the EJ program and the initiative of the Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA), I realised the DLCCs in Gujarat have several powers including monitoring violations of the CRZ law and bringing it to the attention of the CZMA. This has been clarified in the Gujarat CZMA circular no. ENV-10-2011-800-E dated October 14, 2013. It was in the course of this work that I also realised that the introduction of the DLCC clause into the law was one of the most significant changes to the coastal regulation back in 2011. It was a result of several fishing communities and their unions pushing for decentralised decision-making on the coasts. But a mere mention in the law was not enough and the committees had a long way to go in being effective.

But it certainly seemed like a tool the affected people could use to both activate the DLCC for action. What did we do? Together with the villagers of the Khorava village adjoining the Sangam, we wrote to the district collector who was also the chairman of DLCC on July 3, 2015. But no action was taken. Perhaps, the collector didn't do any work for the local people because he didn't want to stay in the local area, we thought. Saving the Triveni Sangam was important to all of us involved. So we had to follow up regularly. I contacted other local people again on

March 14, 2016, when the issue persisted. We once again approached the collector. In their letter, the small fishermen living near the area urged him to “stop the mining of the Triveni Sangam to keep the community alive”.

This time around there was action and we had collectively pushed him to end illegal sand extraction from the riverbed. Within 10 days, on March 25, he personally visited the area and removed the access road, which was being used to extract material from the river bed. A systematic method, which included evidence, persistent follow up, use of law and a clearly articulated demand seemed to have worked. Today, sand mining has stopped and we are slowly seeing the Triveni Sangam coming back to life. While some of us have found our memories again, others have gained faith in working together to find solutions.

Uttar Pradesh: Kanpur administration acts after fish die in lake

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/kanpur-administration-acts-after-fish-die-in-lake/articleshow/59119441.cms>

Hundreds of fish have died in the historical Sher Shah Suri lake in Chakeri's Lal Bangla area of the city. Members of a local organisation have removed a large number of dead fish in the past few days. They alleged negligence on the part of authorities concerned for not maintaining the lake, where a large number of fish die every year during summer season. The main cause of the fish mortality is water contamination. Sher Shah Suri Lake is a popular attractions for tourists. Residents of the area said they have been witnessing dead fish floating in the lake since the past three days. The officials of Regional Pollution Control Board carried out an inspection of the pond and took water samples for lab tests on Sunday.

"Only on getting the results of water samples, we can proceed further," regional pollution control board official Mohammad Sikandar said. He said pollution depletes dissolved oxygen in water, suffocating the aquatic organisms. "People should avoid feeding the aquatic creatures as most of the starchy items are not eaten by the fish, which often results in pollution and growth of harmful micro-organism in the water body," an official said. The municipal authorities carried out sanitation drive in and around the lake and sprinkled chlorine on Monday. Submersible pumps were used to rotate lake water.

Uttar Pradesh: Spurt in sale, price of fish in Lucknow after UP govt's crackdown on abattoirs

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/lucknow/spurt-in-sale-prices-of-fish-in-lucknow-after-up-govt-s-crackdown-on-abattoirs/story-8AEexd5jQPla4BMSK50JuI.html>

Sale of fish has gone up in Lucknow following an indefinite strike by traders in Uttar Pradesh to protest the Yogi Adityanath-led government's clampdown on illegal butcher shops and mechanised slaughterhouses. The crackdown was one of the first decisions taken by Yogi Adityanath, a Hindu hardliner who took over as the UP chief minister on March 19 after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept the state election. Meat sellers, especially mutton vendors, kept their shops closed on Monday - the first day of their strike against the crackdown in UP, which accounts for nearly 50% of India's total meat exports. As non-vegetarians shifted to fish and eggs, the sudden change in food habits also spurred a minor rise in the price of fish in the local markets. The rates of Rohu shot up to Rs 400 per kg from Rs 360 just a day before and the price of other fish, which ranged between Rs 120 to 160, shot up to Rs 180 to Rs 200 in the fish market at Qaiserbagh and Kanpur Road.

There was no change in the price of eggs (Rs 48 per dozen) in the wholesale market but the rates increased in the retail market. Major non-vegetarian food outlets, including the famous Tunday Kababi, Idris, Wahid and Rahim's, remained closed to express solidarity with meat traders. The closure of these eateries benefited small vendors selling eggs on roadside carts. The demand for boiled eggs increased three-fold, said Kashif, an egg stall owner at Lalkuan. Mutton and chicken sellers, who have pulled down their shutters, have warned the government of intensifying their stir. "The meat sellers are worried over the irrational crackdown on slaughterhouses. This has created a shortage of beef in the market. Now butchers are afraid of slaughtering buffaloes and this has adversely hit their livelihood," Mubeen Qureshi of the Lucknow Bakra Gosht Vypar Mandal said.

"The government has only ordered action against illegal slaughterhouses and ban on cow smuggling but here officials are closing down shops selling chicken and mutton," he added. Deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma has assured meat sellers that action will be taken only against illegal slaughterhouses and meat sellers, not against licensed meat traders. Chief veterinary officer Dr AK Rao also assured smooth trade to licensed meat traders but said those indulging in the illegal trade of meat would not be spared as this was directly connected with the health of the people. Prices of vegetables are stable in all major market in the city.

Uttar Pradesh: Crowds surge at city fish market

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/crowds-surge-at-city-fish-market/articleshow/57845611.cms>

As meat shops remained closed across the city on Sunday, fish markets received an unprecedented crowd of buyers. The regular buyers, Bengalis were outnumbered at Kaiserbagh fish mandi and stock that lasts entire day ended by 3pm. Despite 30-50% increase in prices, people bought all kinds of fishes. Vendors were also seen teaching first timers how to cook fish. People started pouring since 10am at Kaiserbagh mandi as soon as vendors and retailers set shop

and by noon it was overcrowded. Prices were high since morning in anticipation of increase in demand. Hilsa and pomfret fish and prawns were high in demand. According to a vendor Abdul, each counter stocks around 40-100kg fish of every variety like rohu, saur, mangur and betki but the stock that normally lasts till 7pm was exhausted by 3pm on Sunday. People said, it is a tough time and everyone has been forced to eat fish due to the strike of mutton and chicken after ban on buffalo meat.

"We are chicken and mutton eaters and partake of fish only occasionally and now for the first time I am buying fish to cook at home and this too with the thought that eventually even fish vendors may join the strike," said Mashkoo Husain Khan, a buyer at fish market. "Last Sunday, prawns cost Rs 700 per kg but today it was at Rs 1100 a kilo so we have no option but to shell out more," said Rajeev Singh, another buyer. "After reading in the papers about chicken and mutton sellers' call for indefinite strike, I bought 6kg fish, which we will store in the refrigerator for consumption throughout the week," said Vishal.

Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh: Ken-Betwa linking project receives environment and forest clearances

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/ken-betwa-linking-project-receives-environment-and-forest-clearances/story-ObCxWY3Csyl1BWLAKFzKzM.html>

The Centre's ambitious Ken-Betwa river linking project, which aims at addressing water needs of dry swathes in Madhya Pradesh and poll-bound Uttar Pradesh inter alia, has received environment, forest and tribal clearances, sources in Union Water Ministry said. However, there was no official confirmation in this regard. On the other hand, a booklet the Ministry released on Tuesday stated that the forest advisory committee of the ministry of environment and forest and climate change has considered the proposal for forest clearance during its meeting held on November 8 and "decided to have some additional information before giving clearance". The environmental appraisal committee has "duly considered" and "agreed" for the project in its meeting held on December 30. The ministry of tribal affairs has also agreed for the clearance of the project during a meeting held on Monday, the booklet reads. The booklet, circulated at a briefing called by Union water resources minister Uma Bharti, also states that the clearances for the project are in a "very advanced stage" of completion and that the government will start implementing the national project as "model link" of inter-linking of river (ILR) programme.

"The phase I of the project, first ILR project, had received clearance from the Standing Committee of National Board of Wild Life in August last year... The remaining clearances, environment, forest and tribal clearances, too have been obtained, official communication regarding which though is awaited," sources said. "Obtaining the wildlife clearance was the most difficult clearance to get in connection with the project. I am thankful to the board for giving us

the clearance...now we are pursuing NITI Ayog to change its funding pattern to 90:10 (Centre : state share) from 60:40 for the project given it is a special project,” Bharti said. Work on the project cannot be launched until the funding pattern is finalised. Phase I of the project, of linking Ken river in Madhya Pradesh and Betwa in Uttar Pradesh, at a cost of ₹9500 crore is envisaged to help irrigate an area of 6.35 lakh hectares annually. Of this, 3.69 lakh hectares will be covered in Madhya Pradesh’s Chattarpur, Tikamgarh and Panna districts. The remaining 2.65 lakh hectares of area falls in Uttar Pradesh’s Mahoba, Banda and Jhansi districts.

The project is estimated to provide 49 million cubic metres of drinking water to a population of 13.42 lakh of people in Bundelkhand region in the two states. Besides, the project will also generate 78 mega watt of power. Envisaged first in 1980 to transfer surplus river water to dry/arid areas, the river-linking the national perspective plan, under which Ken-Betwa river-linking project is taking shape, aims at creating additional irrigation potential of 35 million hectare and generation of 34000 mega watt of power. Controlling flood, navigation, water supply, fisheries, salinity, drought mitigation and combating pollution are among the other stated objectives of the NPP, which gained momentum during the previous NDA regime led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Apart from the Ken-Betwa linking project, Par-Tapi-Narmada Link (to transfer water from surplus regions of Western Ghats to the dry areas of Kutch and Saurashtra and Damanganga-Pinjal link, which will provide water for the Greater Mumbai, are among the 30 such river links planned.

Uttar Pradesh: Noida’s meat, fish vendors’ peak season hit by cash crunch

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/noida/noida-s-meat-fish-vendors-peak-season-hit-by-cash-crunch/story-foMWKZzxU6A4GNE2BEcK2L.html>

Afroz runs his meat shop in a shack near Noida’s Sector 31 market. Holding a butcher’s knife in one hand, he rests the other hand on a scaffold and laments that the past two months, particularly November, have not been good for business. “Since demonetisation, our customers have reduced. The first week was the worst, but I still get customers who offer me old notes. Winter is the time when we do good business and it is frustrating to have the year end in this manner,” he said. His ability to use online wallets or card-swipe machines is apparent in his response to being asked for his mobile phone. Smiling sheepishly, the 19-year-old said, “I don’t have my phone with me right now. My brother has gone to Ghazipur market for business and he is using it currently.” The past two months have been difficult for fish and meat vendors in Noida. First, the bird flu alert affected sales and then demonetisation hit these vendors who mostly use cash to conduct their business.

“Every year, there is a bird-flu-alert week during which the price of chicken goes down. But this time, the bird flu was followed by ‘notebandi’ (demonetisation). It has hit our business hard. The vendors in Ghazipur market now hesitate in selling us poultry on credit,” said Gautam, another

chicken vendor, referring to Delhi's major poultry market. At the Nithari fish market too, several vendors said demonetisation has lowered the price of their products. "The katla fish was earlier priced at Rs250 a kilo. Now, we sell it at Rs230. Similarly, Bahul fish was priced at Rs170-Rs180 a kilo, but now we sell it for Rs140. We have seen a gradual decline of Rs30-Rs40 a kilo in the prices of all our products," said Vishwanath, a fish vendor at Nithari fish market. Explaining the reason, Sanjay, another vendor, said, "A majority of our customer base comes from the Bengali community in Noida who used to visit us every morning to buy fish.

Now, due to lack of cash, this 'luxury' has gone and they visit us only twice or thrice a week. Also, we don't have a union or representative, which allows outside elements to dictate the price of our products." Despite the recent push for cashless transactions and plastic money, only one vendor in the 20-odd shops in the market was found to be using a digital wallet service. "I have been using Paytm for the past two years and therefore I run the only shop in the area that accepts plastic money. Some customers have conducted transactions with Paytm, otherwise we usually have customers with cash," said Rehan, a chicken vendor in the market. With experts suggesting no respite from cash shortage till the year-end, the city's meat and fish vendors are anxious that they might end up missing out in their peak season. "The period from Christmas to New Year is when we have the maximum business. We are not sure if we can have that this year," said Afroz.

Uttar Pradesh: Cases against 80 people for illegally farming Thai Catfish

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cases-against-80-people-for-illegally-farming-thai-catfish-116120501299_1.html

The District Fisheries Development Department has registered cases against 80 people for illegal farming and trading of Thai Catfish (Magur) here. "For a long time some locals of Jhalava village under the Niwari police station were illegally farming the fish with the connivance of some persons of the fishing department," District Fisheries Development Officer Rama Nand said. Cases have been registered against some fish traders from the Gazipur Mandi in Delhi and locals of Jhalava village. "Section 144 of the CrPC was already been imposed in the area to stop farming and transporting of the fish," Sub Divisional Magistrate (Modi Nagar) Atul Kumar said. The farming of the fish was banned by the central government as it has a negative impact on the indigenous variety of fishes and on human health.

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh: Reviving the Farakka debate

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/opinion/reviving-the-farakka-debate/164057.html>

The recent floods in Bihar and to a lesser extent in places such as eastern Uttar Pradesh and parts of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have again raised serious questions about the role of dams and barrages in flood protection. The massive discharges of the Sone river water from Bansagar dam have contributed to the fury of Ganga floods in an unexpected way. While this has led to a

debate on dam management, what has attracted even more attention is the statement by the Chief Minister of Bihar regarding the adverse impact of the Farakka barrage on making Bihar more prone to floods. While this is not the first time the adverse impact of the Farakka project has been highlighted, the issue being raised by a Chief Minister in rather strong terms has its own importance. Apart from voicing the apprehension that the project by increasing the silt load in the Ganga has made it difficult for flood waters to be cleared quickly, Nitish Kumar has called for a review of the Farakka project and if such a review supports the frequent allegations of its disruptive and harmful role, the possibility of decommissioning it should be kept open.

While some dam projects have been decommissioned in other countries in recent times, this is the first time that a senior leader in India has raised this possibility. There are many implications, as some of the projects now under consideration, including those which are part of the massive river link project, may have similar impacts of worsening the flood situation instead of providing protection from floods. Hence it is important to examine the old Farakka controversy in some detail. Apart from Nitish Kumar, several other senior leaders and social activists in Bihar have spoken about the adverse impact of the Farakka project on floods and on the livelihood of fisherfolk caused by a big reduction in fish. A former West Bengal Irrigation minister Debabrata Bandyopadhyaya had said some years back that the people of Malda and Murshidabad are doomed by this project. He had said this in the context of increasing erosion of land as the river bed was clogged by too much silt. Bangladesh has all along been opposed to the Farakka project due to the adverse impacts on water availability.

If our people are so unhappy with the project and the neighbours are also so unhappy, then why did we spend so much money to build the barrage in the first place? This is actually a classic case of trying to correct earlier mistakes by making bigger ones. This very expensive (in economic as well as ecological terms) story starts with the dams of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). A lot of silt and sand accumulates in the lower reach of Hooghly river which was earlier flushed into the sea by the normal floods of Damodar and Rupnarayan rivers. But this natural process was disrupted by the DVC dams. Silt deposits accumulated, reducing the water carrying capacity of the river and causing destructive floods. The navigability of the river was threatened, endangering the future of Calcutta Port. It was at this stage that Farakka Barrage was taken up on the plea that this would divert more water to the Bhagirathi above the Hooghly.

But the real story turned out to be quite different and this became a case of more costly mistakes being committed in the name of correcting previous mistakes without bothering to learn. Bangladesh was soon complaining that after the diversion, the lesser flow to the Padma river led to sand accumulation in its lower reach which could even change the river flow and hence bring floods in new areas, while also causing water shortages in other areas in the lean season. There were also reports of salt water intrusion in coastal areas and adverse impact on fisheries. It was only a matter of time before reports of adverse impacts also started appearing from several parts

of India, namely Bihar and West Bengal. In fact well-articulated advance warnings had been voiced by a high-placed official and engineer who was well informed about the region.

When his warnings about the ill impacts of DVC dams started to actually appear true, he suggested that instead of building the Farakka barrage the government should consider the alternative of giving up the irrigation component of DVC and instead using this water to flush the lower Hooghly. But like his previous advice of not building the DVC dams this second caution too was not approved by government officials and big construction lobbies which decided to go ahead with the Farakka project. One can only hope that with the recent opening up of this old debate the question will be examined impartially and decisions that are most in conformity with the protection of environment and sustainable livelihoods of people of India and Bangladesh will be taken.

Uttar Pradesh: NGT notice to Environment Ministry on Surajpur wetlands

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/NGT-notice-to-Environment-Ministry-on-Surajpur-wetlands/articleshow/52423838.cms>

A plea claiming construction of permanent structures and chopping of trees inside Surajpur wetlands in Greater Noida on Tuesday prompted the National Green Tribunal to seek environment ministry's response on the issue. A bench headed by Justice U D Salvi issued notices to the ministry of environment and forests, UP irrigation department, state pollution control board, Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority and forest and wildlife department of the state while seeking their reply by May 30. A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and has a distinct ecosystem. The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by environment activist Vikrant Kumar Tongad against alleged construction in the Surajpur wetland situated in the reserved forests in Gautam Budh Nagar Forest Division and illegal felling of trees by forest officials in the reserved forest area.

The plea said that as per the Wetland Rules, 2010 any construction of permanent structure is prohibited in the eco-sensitive area. However, the state Forest Department has constructed a road for visitors on the wetland which hosts large populations of fauna. "Direct that no activity is undertaken in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and permanent structures constructed in violation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 in Surajpur Wetland and Reserve Forest area of Surajpur and the area be restored to its original position," the plea, filed through advocates Ritwick Dutta and Rahul Choudhary, said. Tongad has claimed that there is "illegal" construction of a pathway and an "Eco Park" taking place within Surajpur wetland and its catchment area in gross violation to Rule 4 of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

"Construction of Sports City and of a 130m wide road connecting Noida and Greater Noida is being undertaken by the Greater Noida Authority. These construction activities are being undertaken on an area that forms the 'Kheri-Bhanauta' storm water drain which passes through Sunpura village and then through the Kheri-Bhanauta area to eventually end one kilometer before the Surajpur wetland. This water is an important feeder to the wetland in question. "Currently, the Sports City is in the preliminary stages of construction. The drainage is being covered with soil and will not be able to supply water to the Surajpur wetland. However, the impacts of Sports City and of construction of the road on the wetland have not been taken into consideration," the plea alleged.