

## **"A River doesn't just carry water, it carries Life"**

Rivers are precious sources of fresh drinking water and its habitats account for some of the richest biodiversity in the world and rivers are a vital, vibrant ecosystem for many species.

Firstly, we made a mistake by taking river from human perspective, but every life's perspective on the earth is different from humans and we don't consider it.

When rivers are so badly polluted by industries or unevenly distributed by poor water management practices, it can be a case of life-or-death.

Why are we talking about rivers and its pollution?

And which river do you think?

Its Tungabhadra

Tungabhadra is formed by the confluence of the 147Km Tunga & 178Km Bhadra which rise in the Western Ghats, near Shimoga. It runs as the Tungabhadra for 531Km till it joins the river Krishna at Sangam-eshwaram near Karnool. The drinking water requirements of Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Mahbubnagar districts located in the tailend of the river depend on the Tungabhadra.

Industries and mining on its banks in Chikamagaluru, Shimoga, Davangere, Haveri, Bellary and Anantapur release effluents into the river. Also, application of dangerous pesticides and nitrate & phosphate fertilizers in agriculture lands get accumulated in river through its tributaries. Experts say that the Tungabhadra is one of the most polluted rivers in the country. Testing these water potability shows it contains above normal concentration of Heavy metals, High BOD & COD.

A study revealed that pollution in Tungabhadra had affected directly or indirectly more than 10 lakh people in the sub-basin as most villages use the river water for drinking, bathing, irrigating crops, fishing and livestock water.

Govt is planning about Ganga Action plan but there is a situation we should consider cleaning Tungabhadra.

Also, govt is providing clean RO drinking water to people to safe guard their health, people & govt are thinking that only humans need drinking water but there are millions of species which depends on clean water for their life requirements and they don't get any RO water filter facilities provided by Govt. People are being misguided by providing clean drinking water facilities and forgotten to clean the river water which is the Elixir for Nature's precious Biodiversity Richness.

At every point of river flow, if this alarming rate of pollution continues what may be the situation in Oceans and ground water which are sources of water cycle. When polluted river reached ocean the same water is received again through rain causing disturbance in natural rhythm of Geo-cycles.

So we have to take an immediate step in preventing further pollution & cleaning of the the river Tungabhadra. So lets start Post card Revolution ( Send a letter to Ministry of Jal Shakti Department of Water Resources, River development & Ganga Rejuvenation; Central Ground Water Board; Water Resources Department Government of Karnataka) and email till it reaches the Govt so creating awareness hence further action can be taken.

For further technical information we have mentioned the references please go through it.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/050119/pollution-chokes-tungabhadra-river.html>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/indepth/the-poisoning-of-the-tungabhadra-32533>

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/karnataka-river-water-quality-remains-poor-despite-pollution-control-efforts/amp-11582519848582.html>

Regards

Team **Kalosmi**

***Time To Care Before Streams Are Bare***