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Removal of Water Hyacinth from the Shankarabarani River - Reg.

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NEWS :

We have been removing the water hyacinth from the Shankarabarani River since 12.03.2017 with the help of local youngsters college NSS students.

As this plant has spread across the river and covered almost one and half kilometers from Villianur to Thirukanchi, it seems to be difficult to remove it by using human resources alone.

Hence, we happened to engage a Hitachi 120 machine from 23.03.2017 which costs around a ten thousand a day. We have to engage little manpower also to push the water hyacinth in the river and bring it to the shore to enable the machine to remove it.

Everyday some people who love nature help us by providing lunch for the people working there. Few people donate us to clean up the entire river.

We had given petitions to all the possible departments from PWD, CS office, CM office, LG office and finally BDO - DRDA too. Everyone said no funds right now and the DRDA says they cant take up this work as they can take up works related to lakes and ponds alone on 100 days work project purview.

Hence, we are working here to save water and save the aquatic life of the Holy River Shankarabarani which is equal to Ganga river as per our mythology and history.

This river travels almost 78 KMs from the Gingee hills. It travels around 34 KMs in Puducherry state after entering via Manalipet. When the river brought a huge flood in those days the Thirukanchi village and temple got heavily damaged and the present temple is built then, as per ASI records.

Puducherry doesnt have much water scarcity as Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai face. If we dont protect our water resources right now, it will lead to big water scarcity in the forth coming years. As we all know, now the ground water of Puducherry becomes salty as the sea water gets in slowly but consistently.

If we remove the water hyacinth, water will get protected as this plant sucks the oxygen from the water and makes the river dry faster. This plant affects the livelihood and growth to fish and other species living in the water as this plant doesnt allow air / light on water.

This plant's roots become shelter for the mosquitoes to lay eggs. The entire property of the water becomes changed because of this hyacinth. Hence we did a big research about the plant and discussed with some botony professors of Pondicherry University and we decided to remove the plant to save existing water atleast.

Our state government claims there is no funds to clean up this river. But what people will do if the government doesnt have funds. Its upto the government machinery to create funds through the system. We all know well many taxes like water tax, property tax, professional tax, state excise, electricity bill, house tax have been pending for many houses and commercial buildings. Why our state goverment should not take strong steps to collect the tax and use the fund for the welfare of the people.

We want our government to know to protect our natural resources. Its unfortunate to say that people have more awareness on water than the government machinery.

We are looking for people who can support us by giving their hands for protecting our natural resources. Many organisations approach us to go for protest. But we dont want to create issues, we always want to be part of solutions. Hence we dont protest and we are working on the field for our people and soil.

With Regards...

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President
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