



## SAVE GANGA MOVEMENT

A GANDHIAN NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT FOR A NON-VIOLENT CULTURE OF DEVELOPMENT

Ganga symbolizes all rivers and water bodies; Giriraj Himalaya symbolizes all mountains, forests and wildlife; Gandhi symbolizes a culture of Truth and non-violence, i.e. a culture of pursuit of ethical perfection as the ultimate goal of life and pursuit of selfless ethical life of universal love as its means.

**Subject: One day Save Ganga & Save Himalayas Meeting-Cum - Panel Discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, K.M.Munshi Marg,Girgaon Chaupati, Mumbai from 10.30 a.m.to 4.30 p.m.**

Dear Friends,

We are glad to inform you that as part of our Save Ganga Movement in collaboration with Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai and Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Mani Bhavan Mumbai, we are organizing a one day Save Ganga& Save Himalayas Meeting -Cum- Panel Discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Mumbai where various like-minded eminent persons from different streams of life- eminent scientists , intellectuals, jurists, artists, leaders of industry, political, social and religious leaders , concerned Govt. officials and social activists, etc- are intended to participate and discuss over the issue of what short-term and long-term time-bound course of actions we must take to save the Ganga symbolizing all rivers and water bodies and the Giriraj Himalayas, symbolizing all mountains forests and wildlife. For a discussion on this issue, please see the note entitled “What We Must Do to Save the Ganga: Some Reflections” attached/ enclosed herewith.

**We earnestly request you to participate in the Save Ganga & Save Himalayas Meeting-cum Panel Discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.**

It is deeply painful and highly deplorable that although more than 4 years are over since the formation of our National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) for the abatement of pollution and conservation of our National River and its tributaries, our progress towards the objective is highly insignificant, even though we know that the polluted water directly or indirectly causes health hazards like cancer, respiratory diseases, renal failure and much other water borne or water related diseases, and that the river is the life-line of nearly 40 % of our country’s population and crores of our people consider her to be their divine mother. Unfortunately we are continuing to commit the same kind of mistakes which are responsible for the failure of our Ganga Action Plan Phase-1 and Phase -2 which poses serious threat of wastage and misuse of funds. Unfortunately also hundreds of hydro-electric projects on various rivers of the highly earth quake prone, eco-fragile and ecologically, aesthetically, religiously invaluable Uttarkhand region of the Ganga Basin are being proposed or promoted although we know that it is likely to cause massive and irreparable damage to its age old invaluable ecosystems causing the loss of various benefits our nation gets from its natural eco systems including the age old various beneficial qualities of the GANGAJAL, and it is likely to have devastating effects if there is some major earth quake or some other natural disaster.

We must adopt the policy of zero discharge into the rivers, and promote Reuse and Recycle of wastewater after proper treatment, conversion of sewage into natural manure and organic farming for

decreasing the non-point sources of pollution of rivers and also for maintaining soil fertility, checking the groundwater degradation, reducing water requirement of crops, protecting human health, etc., which the Consortium of 7 IITs has strongly recommended in its Draft Reports submitted to MoE&F. We must restore the bactericidal, health promoting, non-putrefying and self-purifying properties of the water of Ganga. Decision on the controversial issue of construction of eco-hostile dams for hydropower must be postponed till the consortium of 7 IITs who are preparing the NGRBEMP makes a holistic scientific assessment of what would be the loss to the nation because of the loss of various benefits our nation gets from its natural eco systems as well as of the devastating implications of natural calamities if hydropower plants are constructed in the highly earth quake prone eco-fragile Himalaya region of the Ganga Basin, and we have a broad national consensus thorough open critical debate based on the assessment report. (Please see the recommendations on these issues of the Save Ganga Meeting at Gandhi Darshan on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 enclosed herewith.) We must not allow our development activities to deprive the masses the various invaluable services they have been getting freely since ages from the Ganga and its tributaries and their source the Himalayas. **The Ganga must be constitutionally declared as the National River with provisions that ensure due respect to her, considering her National River status.** Protection of the Ganga, symbolizing all rivers and water bodies, and the Giriraj Himalaya, symbolizing all mountains, forests and wildlife, must be accorded highest priority in our national development process. **We must reflect over the Gandhian claim that the culture of having unlimited desires and going to the ends of the earth with the help of science and technology causing irreparable harm to earth's life- sustaining natural eco-systems in search of their satisfaction is satanic and suicidal.**

With warm regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rama Rauta,  
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Encl.: As the above

Note: Morning session will be open for all. Afternoon session will be only for experts, NGO's & special invitites.