

Namami Gange – Program Management Consultants

Trip Report- Pratapgarh, UP for Sakarni River Rejuvenation Project

Rejuvenation Program of Sakarni River through MNREGA and
Convergence of Various Departments in District Pratapgarh, UP

Date – 27.02.2025 to 28.02.2025

Site Visit/ Trip Title:		Rejuvenation of Sakarni River in Pratapgarh District, UP	Location:	Pratapgarh, UP
Date/Time:		27.02.2025 to 28.02.2025		
#	Agenda items for the site visit/trip			
	1. Review the work done under the Rejuvenation Program of Sakarni River through MNREGA and Convergence of Various Departments (Financial Year 2023-24) in Pratapgarh District, UP 2. To explore the possibility of providing technical support from NMCG to the local administration in their efforts for the rejuvenation and restoration of the Sakarni River in Pratapgarh District, UP			

Site Visit / Trip Attendees		
#	Organization	Name
1	NMCG	Ms. Kriti Varma, Project Officer
2	PMC	Mr. Harish Kumar Mahavar (Small River Rejuvenation Expert)

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose of the visit

As Directed by the DG (NMCG), a site visit was conducted from 27.02.2025 to 28.02.2025 for the Rejuvenation Program of Sakarni River through MNREGA and the Convergence of Various Departments in Pratapgarh District, UP. CDO, Pratapgarh requesting the following:

- a. Review the work done under the Rejuvenation Program of Sakarni River through MNREGA and Convergence of Various Departments (Financial Year 2023-24) in Pratapgarh District, UP
- b. To explore the possibility of providing technical support from NMCG to the local administration in their efforts for rejuvenation and restoration of the Sakarni River in Pratapgarh District, UP

Small River Rejuvenation (SSR) team has decided to proceed with the site visit and will associate with the Local Administration to discuss the work done, emerging issues and suggestions for the above-mentioned project.

1.2 Key officials met during the site visit

1. Dr. Divya Mishra, CDO, Pratapgarh, UP
2. Mr. Dayaram Yadav, PD, Pratapgarh, UP
3. Mr. Ashwin Kumar, DC, MNREGA, Pratapgarh, UP
4. List of Officers/attendees

संयोजकतादिनि 27.02.25

क्रमांक	नाम	पद-पत्र	जोडा	दिनांक
01	Shruti Sharma	रि.प. (संयोजक)	9834465662	1
02	Abhishek Singh	रि.प. (संयोजक)	8765431103	2
03	रामकुमार	रि.प. (संयोजक)	71152171002	3
04	अमिताभ	ग्राम प्रधान	9936125222	4
05	रमेश प्रताप सिंह	ग्राम प्रधान	9939227724	5
06	मोहनप्रसाद सोनी	ग्राम प्रधान	8840707415	6
07	रजेश कुमार	ग्राम प्रधान	9457143605	7
08	विजय सिंह	ग्राम प्रधान	9670110830	8
09	सुरेश कुमार	ग्राम प्रधान	9621618369	9
10	मो. अ. सोनी	ग्राम प्रधान	7234819298	10
11	सतीश माधव	ग्राम प्रधान	9005625183	11
12	बालकृष्ण पात	ग्राम प्रधान	9452632838	12
13	रविशंकर भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	6393308781	13
14	सुरेश कुमार	ग्राम प्रधान	8318639536	14
15	रविशंकर भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9905455675	15
16	विजय कुमार भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9935964476	16
17	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	8753676622	17
18	अजय भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9919271616	18
19	विजय भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	8299379364	19
20	अमरेश भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9140050569	20
21	मो. अ. सोनी	ग्राम प्रधान	8935831562	21
22	अरवि भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9369931288	22
23	अजीत कुमार पटेल	ग्राम प्रधान	9451343939	23
24	रविशंकर भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9506377262	24
25	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9415812656	25
26	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9839657443	26
27	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	8833431155	27
28	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9580860985	28
29	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9452501214	29
30	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9696359299	30
31	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	6386555311	31
32	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9415021666	32
33	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	9768611396	33
34	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	8857474772	34
35	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	7379702000	35
36	अमिताभ भा. भा.	ग्राम प्रधान	7081141000	36

क्र.सं.	नाम	पदनाम	मो.सं.	हस्ताक्षर
34	पुनम देवी	शा.सं. 0020 सदा	7310402919	पुनम देवी
35	सुमन देवी	T.A. राउर	941681477	सुमन देवी
35	हरकेश कुमार भोष	BTA राउर	9839188576	हरकेश
36	मनोज कुमार	शा.सं. सेवक	7905560952	मनोज
37	पंकज देवी परमवीर सिंह	प्रधान	94601138628	पंकज
38	राम सुमेर	शा.सं. सेवक	8601518858	राम सुमेर
39	विनोद सिंह	APD (H)	8808312166	विनोद

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संयोजिका समन्वयक
प्रतापगढ़

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2 Overview of the site visit/trip -

2.1 Technical details of the projects visited

The district of Pratapgarh, situated along the banks of the Ganges River, is considered highly significant from historical and religious perspectives. This district of Uttar Pradesh has witnessed many important events of the Ramayana and Mahabharata eras. It is believed that the ancient Sai River, flowing through the district, was traversed by Lord Shri Ram during his exile from Ayodhya to the south, making the banks of these rivers sacred with his presence.

The sacred streams of the Ganga, Sai, and Gomti rivers flowing through Pratapgarh district continue to play a vital role in our lives. Adding to this blessing, it is fortunate that along with these major rivers, the district has also been endowed with half a dozen smaller rivers. Among these is the Sakrani River, which, however, flows only during the rainy season.

The Sakrani River originates from the **Khuilan Pond, located in the Nevadi Gram Panchayat of the Mandhata Development Block** in the district. This river flows through three development blocks of the district namely Mandhata, Lakshmanpur, and Sadar before merging with the Sai River.

The Sakrani River flows through several Gram Panchayats across three development blocks of Pratapgarh district. The river covers a total distance of approximately 28.07 km from its origin to its confluence with the Sai. The river passes through 12 Gram Panchayats in Mandhata Block.

Thus, from its origin at **Khuilan Pond in Mandhata Block** to its confluence with the Sai River, the Sakrani River covers a total distance of approximately 28.07 kilometers.

2.2 Details of visit- Agenda

DG, NMCG directed the small river rejuvenation team to visit the proposed sites to review the work done under the Rejuvenation Program of Sakarni River through MNREGA and Convergence of Various Departments, the current situation of river and understand the need of the project.

2.2.1 Project background

Restoration/Rejuvenation of the Sakrani River

On 13.10.2023 during the District Environment Committee meeting, in the presence of the District Magistrate, the issue of illegal and excessive exploitation of the Sakarni River was raised, highlighting concerns regarding irregularities and lack of sustainability. Consequently, the District Magistrate directed that the Sakarni River be

included in the river rejuvenation/restoration program under the Amrit Sarovar campaign.

On November 9 2023 Shri Sangam Lal Gupta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Pratapgarh Lok Sabha Constituency, and Shri Jeetlal Patel, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Vishwanathganj began the work of river restoration from the origin/source of the Sakrani River, the Khuilan Pond located in Newadi by contributing labor.

Under the able guidance of the District Magistrate of Pratapgarh and the efficient supervision of the Chief Development Officer, the restoration of the Sakrani River was carried out by the Gram Panchayats as per the norms, utilizing MGNREGA and convergence schemes Trees will be planted along both banks of the river to provide shade during summer and contribute to purifying the surrounding environment Additionally, drains/channels, ponds, and check dams are being constructed along the river as required.

The total estimated expenditure for this work is approximately 1.41 crore The restoration of the river is expected to generate around 58,000 person days of employment.

Sno	[Block Name]	[Village Name]	[Fund in Lakhs]	[Target Length in km]	[Completed Length in km]	[Created Man-days]	[Expenditure in Lakhs]
1	Mandhata	Newadi	6.8007	0.65	0.65	2421	5.51
2		Madhupur	2.85	0.35	0.35	1130	2.65
3		Chamroopur Pathan	11.15	1.8	1.8	4497	10.34
4		Sarai Nahar Rai	15.36	2.43	2.43	5904	13.57
5		Dhanipur	9.75	1.5	1.5	3717	8.54
6		Balapur	4.22	0.55	0.55	807	1.85
7		Sarai Sujai	4.28	0.9	0.9	1241	2.77
8		Gazipur	6.03	1.773	1.773	2041	4.59
9		Varista	13.71	2.2	2.2	1746	4.01
10		Uridih	11.57	1.8	1.8	978	2.19
11		Belkhari	6.56	1.275	1.275	906	2.08
12		Pure Lal	12.67	2.849	2.849	1714	4.02
13	Laxmanpur	Udaipur	7.15	1.5	1.5	2372	5.45
14		Sarai Dasu	2.98	0.5	0.5	1140	2.68
15		Dodpur	9.85	1.3	1.3	3720	7.41
16		Sandwakhass	1.62	0.3	0.3	618	1.42
17	Sadar	Vikrampur	14.29	1.945	1.945	5845	13.44
18		Dherhana	6.91	0.9	0.9	2807	6.45
19		Pure Rajju	13.43	2.2	2.2	5213	12.18
20		Vanbirpur Kanch	9.88	1.35	1.35	2211	5.08
		Newadi	141.9907	28.072	28.072	51028	116.23

Constructing Farm Ponds (Khet Talab):

- Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the construction of farm ponds Khet Talab is included as an eligible activity.
- Farm ponds are significant for agriculture and farmers in several ways
- For example, farm ponds provide water for irrigation and crop cultivation
- The soil extracted from the ponds is useful for leveling fields, recharging groundwater, increasing crop yield, reducing soil erosion, and providing water for livestock and birds
- The construction of farm ponds can motivate farmers towards water conservation, efficient water use, and livelihood enhancement.

क्र० सं०	विकास खण्ड का नाम	कुल निर्मित खेत तालाब की संख्या
1	2	3
1	ASPUR DEOSARA	117
2	BELKHARNATH DHAM	130
3	BABAGANJ	111
4	BIHAR	104
5	GAURA	130
6	KALAKANKAR	125
7	KUNDA	104
8	LAKSHAMANPUR	143
9	LALGANJ	104
10	MAGRAURA	110
11	MANDHATA	136
12	PATTI	111
13	SADAR	110
14	RAMPUR SANRAMGARH	112
15	SANDWA CHANDRIKA	130
16	SANGIPUR	110
17	SHIVGARH	130
Total		2017

Under MGNREGA Scheme Rainwater Harvesting Construction in Government Schools:

Progress of Rainwater Harvesting Construction in Government Schools							
S.No	NAME OF BLOCK	NO. OF SCHOOL (RURAL AREA)	ID GENERATED	FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24		FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25	
				COMPLETED IN F.Y. 2023-24	UNSTARTED AGAINST ID GENERATION	ESTIMATE IN F.Y. 2024-25	ONGOING
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	ASPUR DEOSARA	116	89	35	54	13	6
2	BABA BELKHARNATH DHAM	126	99	36	63	4	3
3	BABAGANJ	137	123	21	102	9	2
4	BIHAR	146	146	26	120	33	1
5	GAURA	112	104	16	88	19	19
6	KALAKANKAR	127	127	41	86	8	8
7	KUNDA	171	93	20	73	38	1
8	LAKSHAMANPUR	125	116	61	55	2	0
9	LALGANJ	106	78	31	47	21	2
10	MAGRAURA	119	119	22	97	23	23
11	MANDHATA	141	141	48	93	13	10
12	PATTI	102	102	43	59	10	10
13	PRATAPGARH (SADAR)	89	89	21	68	19	19
14	R. SANRAMGARH	124	46	23	23	8	8
15	SANDWA CHANDRIKA	156	123	49	74	1	1
16	SANGIPUR	152	150	49	101	20	0
17	SHIVGARH	102	95	61	34	12	12
Total		2151	1840	603	1237	253	125

2.2.2 Key Observations during the visit & report

1. During the site visit some of the river stretches were heavily silted and also encroached by the local farmers for farming at the bank of the river causing the non-point source pollution.
2. The Sakarni had nearly dried up into a puddle after decades of silt accumulation and farmland encroachment, reduced to a faint memory among villagers.
3. The Sakarni River is a seasonal river & can be used for groundwater recharge if a series of check dams, regulators & recharge ponds in the plain area are proposed.

4. For the pollution abatement nature-based solutions can be considered in the river.

2.2.3 Key Issues identified

1. There is a lack of proper data availability. Topographic Map with watershed delineation and identification of drainage contributing to the river is required.
2. Hydrogeological study all along the river and its catchment area is required with monitoring station.
3. Village and town effluent and waste water are discharged to the river due to the absence of sewerage network. This is required to be treated before discharging into river system.
4. The upper reach is undulating in both the rivers where check dams, and regulators can be constructed for Groundwater recharge while the plain area can be considered for the groundwater recharge through laghu bunds.
5. Water availability through the canal and diverting excess water from nearby catchment areas, need further study.
6. Farmers are still withdrawing water despite the presence of canal, depleting the groundwater table, and need to do awareness for the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater.
7. Sedimentation during monsoon in the river bed
8. Disappearing of rejuvenated stretch due to siltation and may be from agriculture encroachments
9. Lack of Planning, Design & Negligence: Local administration has done some conservation works like excavation & deepening of river land, free encroached river land, plantation and public awareness etc, but without proper catchment area, discharge calculations & without hydrology. Proper technology needs to be transferred for the long-term benefits of the river rejuvenation programme.

2.2.4 Way forward

- a) Since river is small in nature & is primarily seasonal. The lack of data availability requires the detailed scientific study & DPR preparation for the interventions proposed.

- b) For the pollution abatement, nature-based solutions like Soil based treatment, constructed wetlands, etc, may be implemented for improving water quality in a sustainable manner.
- c) People's participation in river conservation has to be designed for long-term effectiveness.
- d) UAV-based LIDAR mapping may be carried out for the whole catchment area of the river basin for the large-scale 3D map of the catchment area.
- e) Hydrogeological and Geophysical investigations and studies may be carried out to establish the aquifer system in the river basin.
- f) Groundwater monitoring station may be established to monitor the groundwater level and fluctuations.
- g) Natural wastewater treatment may be considered for the villages, while STP may be required for city/town sewerage for the treatment.
- h) Pilot project of Ponds rejuvenation shall be scalable at various places of river for the recharging the ground water and generating e-flow.
- i) Drains falling in the catchment of the small rivers may also be treated and cleaned.
- j) Securing the inlet appropriately to prevent the inflow of solid waste into the river.
- k) Bank slopes for nadi /stream and ponds with lesser aspect ratio. Bank & Slope Stabilization to be made through native plantation - ethnobotanical importance.
- l) Ponds: Fisheries and aquaculture for livelihood promotion so that the economic value of the pond can be enhanced at one hand while the improvement of the base flow & groundwater recharge at other.
- m) Village discharge through settling tanks for sedimentation trapping.
- n) Buffer zone agroforestry to be incentivized and livelihood oriented for the income of the neighborhood villagers.

- o) Selection of native grass species in the riparian zone and shrubs/trees of fodder/fuel/fibre usages, which will subsequently add to livelihood and economy of the area.
- p) Consideration of large ponds for wetlands development for water retention and filtration, thereby improving the water quality along with the holistic development with tourism promotion & restoration of local ecosystem.
- q) Geographical survey of the whole river stretch is required so that the capacity or volume of water collected by the catchment area, design pond area, river cross sections and design their CD structures accordingly. Based on the analysis, the design of catchment area treatment to increase clean water inflow in river just like proper channelization, catch drains, silt traps etc.
- r) Gated bunds/ gated regulator/check dams are required at regular intervals for maintaining base flow in the river at lean periods of rainfall and for groundwater recharge.
- s) The Revenue Department & Local Administration have to identify & demark the river boundary and its course area, so that the boundary of river can be fixed and secured through fencing or boundary wall to prevent future encroachment. This will also prevent animal & human accidents. Future encroachment of the river bed should be prevented through regular inspections and monitoring.
- t) Increase the capacity of the river by deepening, excavation, de-weeding and de-silting. Provide embankment protection, strengthening the bank of river in mild slope to reduce scouring and accidents.
- u) Public Awareness: Village or town-level committees should take proactive and appropriate action along with mass awareness to ensure proper disposal of village sewage & solid waste.

Day:1 Meeting with state officials & chaired by CDO at Vikas Bhawan, Pratapgarh, UP



Khuilan Pond, located in the Nevadi Gram Panchayat of the Mandhata Development Block in Pratapgarh

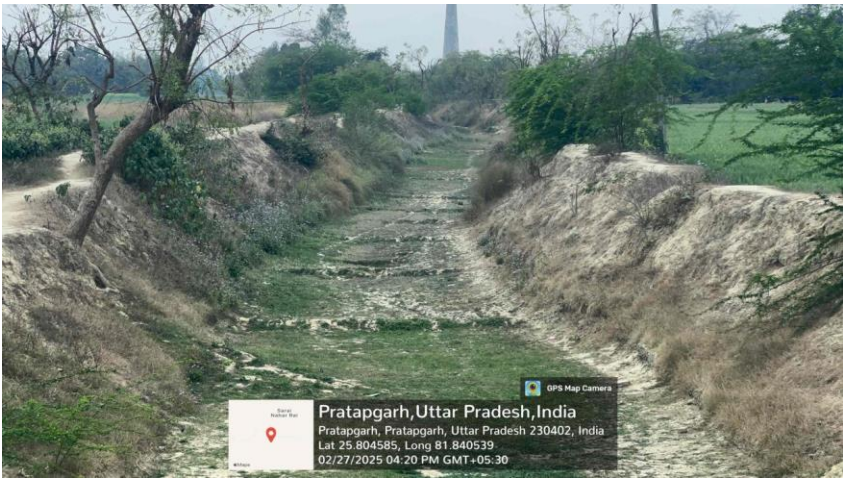


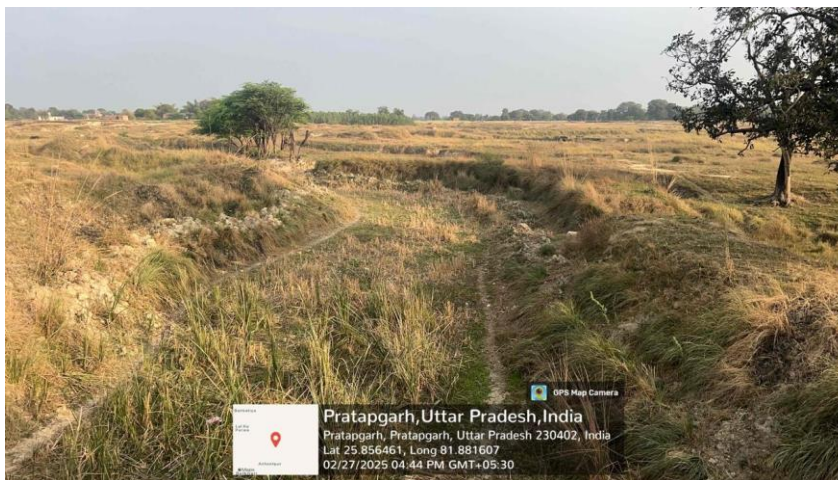


Sakarni River Channel at Khuilan Pond



Sakarni River Channel at downstream





Checkdam on Sakarani River



