

Experience Sharing:

Kumud Lata Srivastava

IAS, (U.P. 2002)

District Magistrate (DM), head of a district or chief custodian of the district has a wide range of powers and responsibilities pivoted unambiguously for local administration. Responsibilities of a District Magistrate can explicitly be categorised as; 1. Co-ordination of development and public welfare activities. 2. Revenue officer/Court of the district as District Collector; and 3. Law and Order warden.

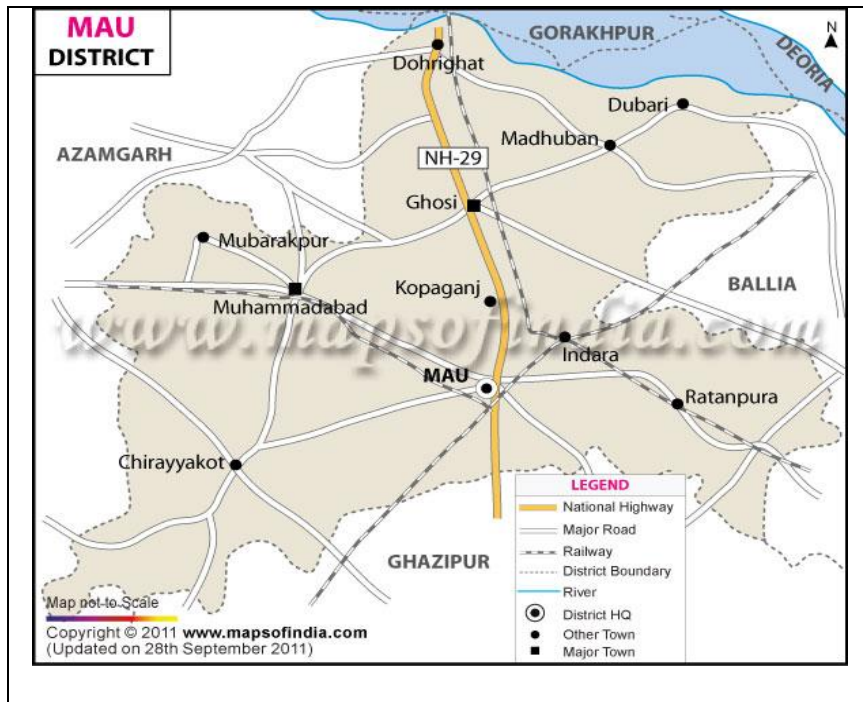
Having that said I, Kumud Lata Srivastava (IAS 2002), would like to briefly recount my journey till date. After being selected in Uttar Pradesh State Civil Service in 1983 and having joined my first post as Sub-Divisional Magistrate/District Collector in 1984, I have been posted in various capacities over time. In this 33 years of my career I have been deputed on field as well as in the secretariat, my most thankful endeavour is/was becoming a District Magistrate in 2013 after being inducted into IAS in 2012 (Batch 2002), and, most importantly being posted as DM Mau. I term this posting as golden period of my career. Moreover, I took this as a challenge to bring out my best and serve my district with utmost sincerity. As it is rightly said “with great power comes great responsibility”, I, having full authority of law and order and administration it brought immense responsibilities and accountabilities overnight.

Mau, is supposed to be a very sensitive district when it comes to Communal peace and Harmony. As a DM my priority had always been in averting problems arising due to religious outrage, communal disharmony, economic offences, etc... It is noteworthy to mention that during my tenure situations such as communal and religious disharmony arose in 2013 and I

proudly say that we successfully maintained harmony and concord. No incidents took place during my tenure and I can satisfactorily say that because 2013 did not become another 2006 where heavy riots took place and curfew was imposed for 3 months due to communal and religious tensions. It was a co-incident that in the year 2013-14 “Id-UL-Juha” and “Bharat Milap” festival occurred on the same day i.e. 17.10.2013 and same time with difference of only 45 minutes at the same place. The same festivals also coincided in 2006 as well but had a very different outcome as it had minimal administrations which lead to communal violence.

This was a great challenge to the administration to conclude both the festivals with harmony without disturbing public peace and law and order. As District Magistrate, I tried my best to maintain law and order and safety in the district and gave continuous attention to the problems arising out of religious tension, communal disharmony, economic offences, caste problems etc. The entire Government had an eye and constant vigil on the district administration. The situation was worse; I accepted this challenge and chalked out full proof strategy with police officials and administration. Careful implementation of designed strategy by me and my co-officials resulted into peaceful celebration of both the festivals. I am happy to say that I successfully maintained harmony and law and order and no untoward incident could take place.

Mau is situated in the south-eastern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Mau (formerly Mau Nath Bhanjan), hardly 90 km from Varanasi. The district is surrounded by Ghazipur district in the south, Ballia district in the east, Azamgarh district in the west, and north by Gorakhpur. Varanasi touches some area on the south side. The river Ghaghra forms the northern boundary and the south boundary touches river Tamsa (Choti Saryu). Tamsa is tributary of river Tons. Mau is a major centre of the textile weavers.



The Tamsa river finds mention in holy epic, The Ramayana. River Tamsa originates from a tank at an elevation of 2000 ft in Kaimur Range in Madhya Pradesh. Along the flow of the river and its tributaries many waterfalls are formed. The Tamsa merges with river Ganga near the town of Sirsa. Total length of Tamsa river is 264 km. It has a total drainage area of 16,860 sq. km.

The pollution load in the river Tamsa increased over the years due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and drastic increase in population. Extraction of water for irrigation, industrial, drinking purposes etc is compounding the problem. During summers quantity and quality of water in The Tamsa River used to be very low. During my posting at district Mau, I was passing through a bridge over The Tamsa, I found that the river bed was full of polythene bags, bottles, house hold debris and waste materials; colour of water was black with foul smell. Water plants and animals were completely missing. Local people and press reporters also expressed their concern regarding problem of Tamsa river.



Just after taking the charge of the Mau district I formulated a vision strategy to clean holy river Tons under the heading of “Tamsa Bachao Abhiyan”. I called meeting of different sections like local residents, press reporters, district authorities of different government departments (nagar palika, education, medical, forest, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries etc.), and non government bodies etc. After analyzing the situation I decided to start a drive for cleaning the Tamsa river with participation of different government departments, students, NSS cadets, NCC Cadets, Scout guides, politicians, media and press, doctors, non government organizations and their volunteers. Planning was done and strategy was formulated within a week to clean a stretch of 10 km. which passes through Mau city.



Drive to clean Tmasa River was started by District Magistrate.

First day I myself took the command along with Superintendent of Police to start cleaning of the holy river. I entered in the water and start digging out the waste material with the help of spade. Govt. and private Ferrymen along with their swimmers were ready to go into the deep water to dig the solid waste material. Gradually large number of people started coming from far and nearby places of Mau to contribute their tribute in the movement. Within 10 days the dream of clean river started turning into reality. It became a wide spread news to the state.

This programme remained continued almost three months and I got valuable support from people of Mau urban and rural area both. Many tones of garbage, plastic bags, and domestic solid non gradable waste was collected and disposed off. This programme was commended by different spectrum of district Mau. This whole programme was conceived by me and organized by the people with voluntary participation. The silver line of the programme was that not a single penny was spent by the district administration.

Peoples' Participation



अभियान के तहत तमसा के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

● डीएम बोली, सभी को मिलकर तमसा को करना है निर्मल
● अरशद शाहिदा ने कहा, अभियान में देने पूरा सहयोग
● स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं में भी की सफाई

आओ मिलकर हाथ बढ़ाएं, तमसा को हम स्वच्छ बनाएं



अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

मकम। तमसा नदी के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

● क्या आमजन, वण खास, सबने की इस पहल की शुरुआत
● बोले, जारी रहना चाहिए व सफर

तमसा की सफाई को आगे आये छात्र



भेरीघाट पर नदी की सफाई में नवीन संस्थान के छात्रों की सक्रिय भागीदारी

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तमसा सफाई अभियान को मिल रही गति

मकम (पुस्तकालय)। जिलाधिकारी श्रीमती कुमुदलता श्रीवास्तव द्वारा तमसा नदी को स्वच्छ रखने और उसके अविलंब प्रवाह को बनाए रखने के लिए चलाए गए अभियान को जिनवार, रविवार 8 व 9 जन सफाई 6 बजे से 11 बजे तक बढ़ा दिया गया है। जिलाधिकारी ने जनपद स्वयंसेवी अधिकारियों को बाहर सेक्टरों में नदी को बाटकर विभिन्न जगहों पर डस्टी लगाए हैं। साथ ही नगर पालिका द्वारा उनके सहयोग में मार्ग निर्देशन को भी कहा गया है। इस अभियान में 9 जन सफाई को प्रेरित अर्थोपकरण विभाग के तमसा के तमसा जिला के युवक-युवतियों भी समाहित अभियान में अपना योगदान करेंगे। सुकवाह को सफाई अभियान के तहत रोबोट रोबोट स्वयंसेवी लोगों ने अपनी सहभागिता अदा करते हुए तमसा तट पर सफाई की। जिलाधिकारी द्वारा शुक्र किर पर तमसा सफाई अभियान को लेकर लोगों में उत्साह बढ़ता जा रहा है।



मकम। तमसा तट पर सफाई करके स्वच्छ सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

लोगों ने कहा चलता रहे यह कारवाय, नहीं हटेंगे पीछे



अभियान के तहत तमसा के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

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गंगा दशहरा पर तमसा की महाआरती का उमड़ी भौड़

डीएम, एसपी संग मौजूद रहा पूरा प्रशासनिक अमला, झारखंड से जगमगाया घाट



अभियान के तहत तमसा के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

मरी हिम्मत को सराहते मरे हमसह चलो, मैंने एक शम्मा जलाई है हवाओं के रिवाज

पौराणिक 'तमसा' के उद्धार को खिला भावनाओं का 'कुम्भ'

● जिलाधिकारी कुमुदलता श्रीवास्तव के ऐतिहासिक पहल से खिलखिला रही तमसा की लहरें
● मात्र नदी की सफाई ही नहीं प्रशासनिक सभ्यता का लिखा इतिहास

मकम। तमसा नदी के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

अखिल के अतिम दिन डीएम, एसपी, जिलाधिकारी के तहत तमसा की मुक्ति की मुहिम न थमने का ले संकल्प



अभियान के तहत तमसा के किनारे भेरी घाट सफाई करके सरोवर में मछलियाँ और नए नए पौधे का बोना

I was very happy to get encouraging response from local people. Waste material was removed from the river and plantation was done on the river bed with the help of forest department. During entire period of my posting at Mau the river remained clean and greenery along the river increased.

There is no doubt that healthy and clean environment is the foremost part of our lives, without which it would be difficult for us to survive. Thus, I take great pleasure and satisfaction in saying that I was able to contribute from depth of my heart for water and environment conservation. Also, having peoples' participation in this activity was a great motivation for me and my team. I take pride in informing; "Tamsa Bachao Abhiyan" (Save Tamsa) was a great success and was world-wide news.

Moreover I would like to emphasize that it is our Fundamental Duty as per Constitution of India to protect and improve our natural environment including forest, lakes, rivers and conserving wild life.
