

'LAKES OF ODISHA' SERIES-1



RAPID STATUS APPRAISAL: ANSHUPA LAKE



Bikash Rath

21 December 2024

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NIRMAN

**An Initiative for
Sustainable Development**

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A Note from NIRMAN

NIRMAN has been interested in wetlands conservation, and has initiated studies on lakes, mangroves, and salt marshes of Odisha. The present paper is an outcome of our studies on the lakes of the state, and we hope to publish more in this series soon.

Our observations are constructive as we understand the complex nature of the larger socio-ecological systems and hence believe that no single stakeholder can be made accountable/responsible for the overall situation of the larger concern.

Our consultant Mr.Bikash Rath has his own ways of conducting credible socio-ecological studies, and this series shall chiefly contain reports based on his rapid assessments as in-depth appraisals require a lot of resources & time which we can't afford at present because of our limitations and want of sponsorship for this work. While accepting the limitations of this paper, we are however sure that Mr.Rath has sincerely attempted to produce an authentic document for all stakeholders.

We look forward to constructive feedback and collaborations for some more concrete achievements in wetland conservation in the state.

Prasant Mohanty

Executive Director

STATUS APPRAISAL: ANSHUPA LAKE

1. Introduction to the lake:

Anshupa is the largest freshwater lake, that too of Oxbow shape, situated in the Banki Sub-division of Cuttack district (20.26'28.43" to 28.28'34.44" latitude and 85.35'56.74" to 85.36'30.01" longitude¹) easily accessible from Bhubaneswar or Cuttack as it is but few kilometres away from the Athagarh town. On its south-western side is the Saranda hill whereas on the north-eastern side lies the Bishnupur hill. The lake is said to be a source of livelihood, either directly or indirectly, to as many as 28 villages.

Neglected for many years, this important wetland was enlisted as a RAMSAR site in 2022 for conservation purpose. During an on-spot appraisal of the lake on 13 November 2024, we however observed that this purpose was yet to be fulfilled chiefly due to want of funds.



2. Appraisal methodology:

This series is based on a rapid appraisal of the lakes following the methodologies mentioned below:

- Study of literature (like management plan, if any; media reports; other relevant documents, etc.)
- On spot-appraisal including interaction with various stakeholders and where feasible/possible a boating for understanding some of the marked realities of the lake.

3. Conservation concern:

Purnachandra Bhashakosha, the great Odia lexicon published during the colonial period(1931) in Odisha, i.e. about a century ago, describes Anshupa's length to be about 2.5 miles(approx.. 4 kms) and

¹ Nanda S. *et al*(2019 ¹), **Fish & Fisheries of Anshupa Lake**, Chilika Development Authority

width about 1 mile (approx. 1.6 kms), indicating a total area of about 2.5 sq. miles which is about 6.47 sq. kms or 647.49 hectares. The depth was said to vary between 2 ft to 5 ft. The lexicon further mentioned about the coming of migratory birds in winter and a lot of fishing during summer².

On the other hand, other records indicate the lake area to be originally between 283-364 hectares later reduced to 169.70 hectares by 1915³.

However, the Management Plan for Anshupa mentions the current status of the lake area as under:

“The length of Anshupa Lake is about 3 km. and breadth varies from 250 m to 500 m. The area of the lake is about 382 acres xxxx. The currently estimated water spread area stands at 206.65 ha⁴.”

It is very clear that the lake area has shrunk considerably to about 154 hectares (382 acres) in more than a century. The degradation is in fact multi-dimensional as briefed in the said management plan as under:

“xxx with passage of time, the eco-degradation of this nature’s bounty was started with thick growth of aquatic weeds of various types. The lake water gradually lost its productivity due to non-penetration of sunlight through thick weed cover. The lush green forest cover started depleting on the hillocks around the lake⁵. Some parts of the hillocks are recently planted with *Anacardium occidentale* and *Acacia auriculiformis*⁶. Its natural scrub jungles are no more seen. The lake, which was once rich with valuable carps, cat fishes and murels and lotus on crystal clear water, as poets describe, is now full of varieties of aquatic weeds⁷.

The channel which was connecting the lake with the river Mahanadi through which the flood water from the river Mahanadi was entering into the lake was almost dead, most probably due to the rising sand bed of river and changing river course. Previously during the high flood, the flood water of the river Mahanadi used to pass through the lake from its south eastern side and was driving away the weeds through its south western side and was a process of natural de-weeding. Now the backwaters of south eastern side do not have sufficient force to take away the weeds. So the water body of the lake was now seen completely covered by different types of weeds, leading to excessive growth of aquatic weeds belonging to rooted, submerged and floating categories. The decay of weeds and its accumulation on the bed of the lake gradually increased organic sedimentation.

Though the catchment area is recently planted with *Anacardium occidentale* (Cashew) the steep hillocks have very poor ground flora and therefore the surface run off is constantly

² Vol.1, p.19

³ Das, B.N. (2009). **Conservation Plan of Anshupa Lake**, Sub-section 2.6; M.Tech dissertation; <http://shodhbhagirathi.iitr.ac.in:8081/jspui/image/pdf/web/viewer.html?file=/jspui/bitstream/123456789/9937/1/HYDG14381.pdf>

⁴ **Integrated Management Plan for ANSUPA LAKE 2019-20 to 2023-24**, Sub-section 2.1; https://rsis.amsar.org/RISapp/files/31454058/documents/IN2487_mgt210902.pdf

⁵ The lake is said to have enough bamboo forests alongwith mango trees on the Saranda hill, but the forest bamboo is said to be almost lost (vide ‘**Ashru Jharauchi Anshupa**’, *The Sambad*, Bhubaneswar edition, dated 5 September 2024) and may be this is the reason that a mini bamboo park has been developed there with plantation of diverse bamboo species for awareness purpose, but as we found even that is not properly maintained.

⁶ Both non-indigenous for the locality

⁷ A good discussion on the weeds of Anshupa is available in Nanda, S. *et al* (2020). **Macrophytes of Anshupa**, https://rsis.amsar.org/RISapp/files/31454058/documents/IN2487_taxo210902.pdf

adding the silt into the lake. Besides, the huge amounts of weeds which are completing their life cycles in the lake added to the problems. Therefore, the lake bed was rising every year. The high amounts of organic deposits are have resulted due to eutrophication of the lake; as a result, the water quality is drastically going down causing a great loss to the fish productivity of the lake. The size and amount of the fish production was decreasing every Year. The lake which was producing over 50 tonnes of fishes annually in the long past was gradually declining and reached its lowest landing of 3.75 tonnes in 1986-87. The lake water is also being used for agricultural irrigation in the peripheral areas. There are four lift irrigation points which help considerably for agriculture. On the other hand by closing the openings of two inlets 'Godighai' Hanaghai' and kabulajora' the local village grow different corps in rabi season and even in kharif season in the Years of drought. However, the local people do not take much interest to develop this wetland and its resources. The water is polluted through various sources, particularly due to eutrophication, through decay of weeds and now the sewage from the nearby public Health Centre being drained into the lake. The problems of encroachment by the local people for agricultural activities is well marked during the onset of summer when they go for summer paddy (cultivation on the fringes of the lake by putting earth barriers to separate the peripheral low water lying areas from the main water bodies. In Ostia even the whole water is drained into river Mahanadi by opening the earth barrier and converting the whole water body into cultivated field in summer⁸."



Lotus & weeds covering Anshupa

⁸ Integrated Management Plan for ANSUPA LAKE 2019-20 to 2023-24, Sub-section 1.1



Some major weeds of Anshupa (seen in this image are the locally called Chalunia dala, Chingudia/Kanta dala, Nanda dala, Naga dala, and Kacharingi, with Pani singada, as shared by Sudam Dalei & Budhibaman Dalei)

To address these issues some broad measures were taken⁹, like the construction of Dahalia embankment to increase the water holding capacity of the lake, boulder packing for lake side protection to protect the soil erosion due to wave action of pounding water, construction of drainage sluice at the inlet point of Mayuree channel on Mahanadi left embankment to facilitate entry of flood water from river Mahanadi to Ansupa Lake, excavation of the Mayuree channel from the inlet point up to the lake to increase discharge, manual & mechanical de-weeding¹⁰, release of Grass Carp for biological control of the weeds¹¹, desilting by dredging, and plantations of various kinds¹². However, these measures have not proved to effectively save the lake from deterioration seemingly because of the following reasons:

- Climate change impact (decreased & irregular rainfall, etc.)
- Land-use changes & other adverse man-made interventions (like, permanent closure of “Godighai” near Anandapur village and installation of a narrow sluice gate at “Hanaghai” on “Dahalia” embankment, and encroachment of the lake area by the villagers for paddy cultivation, etc¹³.)
- Insufficient or irregular follow-up (like, manual de-weeding was not regular).

Earlier, different government agencies used to plan, as per their own mandate, different interventions in the lake area without proper coordination; but the lake management was transferred to the Chilika

⁹ Conservation initiatives are said to have started in 2001-02, [vide Das, B.N(2009), *op.cit.*, Abstract] although the restoration initiatives are said to have started much before, i.e. in 1958 [Nanda, S. *et al.*(2019²). **Anshupa**(Odia).p.18; <https://ia801309.us.archive.org/17/items/ansupa-2019/ansupa-2019.pdf>]

¹⁰ *Ibid*, Sub-sections 7.2.2 & 7.3.1; Nanda, S. *et al.*(2019²), p.21

¹¹ Personal interaction with local fishers

¹² Das, B.N. (2009). *Op.cit.*, Sub-sections 3.2.1.1 & 3.2.3

¹³ **Integrated Management Plan for ANSUPA LAKE 2019-20 to 2023-24**, Sub-section 7.5

Development Authority(CDA) in 2010¹⁴. CDA has prior experiences in managing the Chilika lake, and has also Wetland Research and Training Centre; so it was supposed to be competent enough to manage Anshupa and other lakes also. However, during our visit we got to know that due to paucity of funds CDA has not been able to do much except for developing a limited eco-tourism facility there.

As of the fauna, there are some wild animals in the adjacent forests (particularly the Bishnupur hill area), like the wild boar and deer. It is evident that due to the loss of the original forest cover, significant loss of the original wildlife is quite natural in the area¹⁵. *Gloriosa superba* and *Trapa natans* among the flora, and *Mycteria leucocephala*, *Vanellus duvaucelli*, *Sterna aurantia*, and *Psittacula eupatria* among the avi-fauna are of conservation concern¹⁶. Among the fish fauna, “ xxx 2 species *Clarias magur* (Clariidae) and *Cyprinus carpio* (Cyprinidae) are under threatened category being assessed as endangered (EN) and vulnerable (VU) respectively. xxx 6 species are assessed as near threatened (NT)¹⁷ xxx”.



A part of the Khandak nala joining the Anshupa lake, as seen from the bridge. Mahanadi flood water occasionally enters the lake also through this route.

4. Socio-ecological concern:

The socio-ecological concerns of the lake area are of diverse nature. Fisher villagers like that of Subarnapur allege that the irrigation facility has been so developed that it would benefit the farmers of Ostia village whereas their(Subarnapur villagers) lands suffer from the back water resulting out of this arrangement. The water released from the Dahalia(ni) embankment is said to result in this back water submerging the lands of these sufferer villagers because of the Kabula embankment. They say this unethical arrangement was done at the cost of their own livelihood because of political connections of the people of Ostia. Even a court case against this by the villagers of Anandapur is said to have not succeeded. Although one sees greenery near the Dahalia embankment from a distance that gives impression of normal paddy cultivation there, Govinda Chandra Dalei, a villager of

¹⁴ Nanda, S. et al.(2019²), *op.cit.*, p.19

¹⁵ Poet Nityananda Tripathy mentions the lost resources of Sal(*Shorea robusta*), Piasal(*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Kurum(*Adina cordifolia*), and bamboo in Anshupa area; while Poet Damodar Mishra mentions the presence of Otter & tiger in the area, as quoted in Nanda, S. et al.(2019²), *op.cit.*, pp.28,180

¹⁶ Rout, Y. et al (2019), **FLORAL & AVIFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF ANSHUPA LAKE**, Tables 1 & 2, JBC-APRF-3(1): 181-182, 2019;

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362539758_JOURNAL_OF_BIODIVERSITY_AND_CONSERVATION_FLORAL_AVIFAUNAL_DIVERSITY_OF_ANSHUPA_LAKE

¹⁷ Nanda S. et al(2019), Sub-section 2.3

Subarnapur, explained that this was not paddy but the *ghodalanjia* grass growing there in the fields. Still some summer paddy is said to be grown in feasible areas.

Budhibamana Dalei of Subarnapur narrates another interesting dynamics. He says, the spread of lotus in the lake suppresses the growth of *pani singada*(Water chestnut, an economic species), but earlier when the Dahaliani embankment was about 10 ft high the flood water entering the lake from Mahanadi would first submerge not only the lotus cover but also other invasive weeds like the water hyacinth which in turn would rot if this submergence continues for a week or so, and this is how the weed cover vanishes. Once gone, it used to take about two years for the lotus to regain its coverage; but after the height was increased to about 25 ft in 1999(?) and this natural hydrological mechanism was further controlled for other purposes, the ecosystem dynamics was disturbed¹⁸.



The Dahaliani embankment from the lake side (upper) and Subarnapur side(lower) as marked by the red arrows. The arrow on the lower image shows the sluice gate.

¹⁸ B.N.Das(*op.cit*) explains in his M.Tech dissertation report that the Kabula nala(channel) used to connect the lake on one side, and during high floods Mahanadi water entered(inflow) the lake through this channel(there are two other inflow routes like the Khandak nala and the Mayuree nala) and when the flood water receded the excess water from Anshupa returned through this nala as outflow. After construction of the embankment & sluice gate this hydrological dynamics was disrupted. (Vide sub-sections 2.15 & 3.1.2 of his report)

On the other hand, Gangadhar Samantaray, supervisor at the eco-tourism facility, says that since Mahanadi is at a lower level than Anshupa, hence flood water doesn't enter the lake unless there is a big flood. He shares that the last flood water entry was about 2 years ago.

5. Socio-economic concern:

The major socio-economic concern is the loss of fishery-based livelihood as most of the shoreline villages of Anshupa are fisher villages and because of the poor fish availability they have to adopt other alternative livelihoods like wage labour & distress migration.

More than 60 fish varieties have been documented here (including a good diversity of ornamental fishes¹⁹), but the actual availability is limited to but few species like *Rohi*, *Mirikali*, and *Pohala*, etc.. The natural auto-recruitment of the fish species in the lake is essentially dependent on the Mahanadi river system but this connectivity is highly disturbed affecting the fish production (weeding & other factors just worsen the situation). Although the Fishery Department releases fingerlings of few important economic species in the lake, it is either insufficient, or, as fisher Trilochan Behera of Subarnapur alleges, is not retained properly but lost during the release or outflow of water.

“The main factor that threatens the fish diversity is excessive fishing pressure, encroachment of fringe areas for agricultural activities using chemical fertilizers and pesticides and decrease in recruitment due to poor connectivity with Mahanadi River²⁰.”

The situation is such that local fishers like Basanta Behera²¹ of Subarnapur now continue their fish business by purchasing dry fish from as far as Raj Sunakhala and selling the same here as local fishery is not of considerable scale.

Large areas of agricultural land close to the Dahalia embankment remain fallow or unused which is another matter of concern.

A secondary concern is the loss of scope for the local boatmen to take the tourists in their boats on their own because the eco-tourism facility has its own boating facility and also because of the heavy weeding taking boats beyond a certain limit is not possible.

6. Scopes in tourism:

The eco-tourism facility at Anshupa has a watch tower, a good park maintained by women's SHG²², a limited boating facility, and awareness-building boards. It is a good place for leisure time, picnic, and kid's entertainment. There is a ticket-based entry system and boating charges are extra. However, the facility is not much adventurous for adults.

In winter, migratory birds arrive at the lake and stay for about three months till the warmer period. They are another attraction.

¹⁹ Nanda S. *et al*(2019), *op.cit.*, Section 2

²⁰ *Ibid*, Sub-section 2.5

²¹ Personal interaction

²² The local people, particularly the women, are engaged in helping maintain the facility which is praiseworthy and is also appreciated by the local communities as it fetches some income. This is a part of the management initiative engaging the local communities, and can be seen at other similar sites like the Tampara lake.

7. Recommendations:

As the existing management plan was valid for 2019-20 to 2023-24, the first & foremost measure should be the revision & modification of the plan essentially & sincerely on participatory basis as like Chilika the Anshupa lake is also a clear case of **conflict of interests** between the major stakeholders (fishers, farmers, and conservation authorities).

If the anticipated funds are not coming from the government/agreed sources, then CSR funds may be mobilized quickly so as to start the pending work.

The long-term ecological impacts of all the broad measures previously taken without finer considerations should be reviewed and actions should be taken accordingly. Like, the impact of the existing embankments & sluice gates has been quite questionable and the long-term impact of Grass Carp is also debatable given its adverse impacts observed in the Great Lakes²³. Remedial measures should be taken for sustainable improvement of the lake status with a long term vision.

Necessary measures should be taken for agricultural use of the farm lands near the Dahaliani embankment in the regular cropping season.

While restoration of indigenous forest species on the hills & shore lines should be prioritized, all the species of conservation concern (like those of avi-fauna) should be highlighted in the local policy & practices on a participatory mode.

The existing boating area should be extended upto the Bishnupur hill; both manual & mechanical de-weeding measures be taken on a regular basis engaging the local fishers; and effective propagation of the fish species of conservation concern should be initiated.



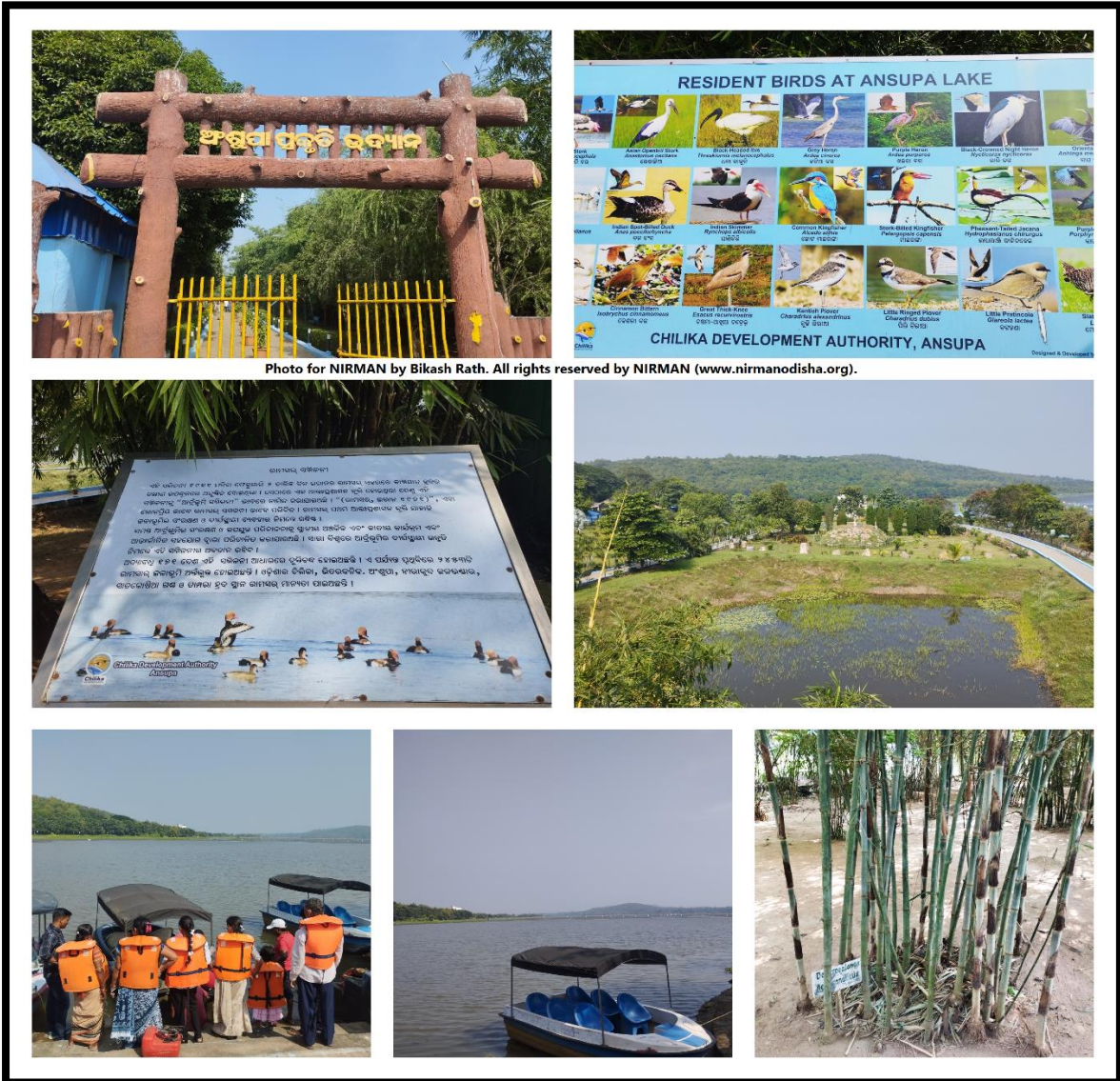


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Annexure-1

Media report published in the Odia daily 'Sambad' on 5th September 2024

ଅଶ୍ରୁ ଝରାଉଛି 'ଅଂଶୁପା'

'ଅଂଶୁପା' ଉପରେ ହେଉଛି ଅତ୍ୟାଚାର। ଦଳ ଓ ପଙ୍କରେ ପୋତି ହେବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି ଦେଶର ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟ ବୃହତ୍ତମ ମଧୁର ଜଳ ସ୍ରୋତ। ରାମସାରେ ସୀମିତ ଏହି ସ୍ରୋତ ତାର ପୂର୍ବ ଗୌରବ ଫେରି ପାଇବାକୁ ସଂଘର୍ଷ କରୁଛି। ବିକାଶ ନାମରେ ଏଠି କେବଳ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି। ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଯୋଜନା ନଥିବାରୁ ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା ନଷ୍ଟ ହେବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି। ବିଦେଶୀଗତ ପକ୍ଷୀ ମୁହଁ ଫେରାଇ ନେଉଥିବା ବେଳେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କୁ ଆକର୍ଷିତ କରିପାରୁନି ଅଂଶୁପା। ନିଜ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ନିଜେ ଗର୍ବ କରୁଥିବା ଅଂଶୁପା ଏବେ ଭାଗ୍ୟକୁ ନିହି ଅଶ୍ରୁ ଝରାଉଛି।



ଆଉ ନାହିଁ ସେହି ବାଉଁଶ ବଣ

କୁହାଯାଏ ବାଉଁଶ ବଣରେ ଭରପୁର ଥିଲା ଅଂଶୁପା। ହେଲେ ଏବେ ମାତ୍ର ୨/୮ ବାଉଁଶ ବୃକ୍ଷ ନିକଟରେ ଅଂଶୁପାରେ ଘାଟାଘାଟି ଲୋକଙ୍କ କନ୍ଦିବା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ବାଉଁଶ ବଣ ଭିତରେ ଅଂଶୁପା ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହେଉଥିବାବେଳେ ସରକାରୀ ପାହାଡ଼ରେ ଆମ୍ବର ଉତ୍ତର ଚାଲିଛି। କିନ୍ତୁ ବିକାଶ ନାମରେ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟଧୀନକରଣ ପାଇଁ ବାଉଁଶ ସବୁ କଟାଯାଇ କାଟୁକ ପିଣ୍ଡ, ପାକ, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଚାଷରେ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ତିଆରି ହୋଇଛି। ଅନେକବିଧର ଲତା, ଗୁଳୁଧାରେ ଧାରେବିଲୁଗୁ ହୋଇ ଚାଲିଛି।

ପଙ୍କରେ ପୋତି ହୋଇଗଲାଣି

ସିତିଏ ପକ୍ଷୀ ବାଲିଥିବା ଏକ ସରୋବରେ ଅଂଶୁପା ସ୍ରୋତ ପାଖାପାଖି ୨୦ ଫୁଟ ପଙ୍କରେ ପୋତିହୋଇ ଯାଇଥିବା କୁହାଯାଇଛି। ମହାନଦୀରୁ ନଳପୁରୀର ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ପରେ ଏବେ ବେବକ ବର୍ଷା ନଳ ଭରଣରେ ଅଂଶୁପା ରହିଛି। ପଙ୍କ ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର କାରାଗଣନେ ଆଗକୁ ଅଂଶୁପାରେ ଅସ୍ଥିତ ହରିବା ସହ ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେବ ଆଶଙ୍କା କରାଯାଇଛି।

କଣ କହୁଛି କିଂବଦନ୍ତି ?

ଗଙ୍ଗବଂଶର ରାଜୁତି ସମୟରେ ରାଜା ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣକେଶରୀ ଅଂଶୁପାରେ ଶୋଭାରେ ବିମୋହିତ ହୋଇ ସରକାରୀ ପାହାଡ଼ ଓ ଅଂଶୁପା କୁଳରେ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣପୁର ଗ୍ରାମ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିଥିଲେ। ତେବେ ବାଙ୍କୀରେ ଧଳବଂଶ ରାଜୁତି ସମୟରେ ଅଂଶୁପାକୁ ଲାଗିଥିବା ସରକାରୀ ପାହାଡ଼ ଉପରେ ସରକାରୀ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରାଯାଇଥିବାର ଲୋକକଥା ରହିଛି। ଏହି ଗଡ଼ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ପରେ ଶତ୍ରୁପକ୍ଷରୁ ନିକଟ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ରହିଥିଲା। ଏବେ ମଧ୍ୟ ରାଜୁ ଗଡ଼ର ଧୂଃସାଗଣେଷରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ବାଉଁଶ ଗୁଡ଼, ଭାଉଁସା ଗୁଡ଼, ପୁସ୍ତର ନିମିତ୍ତ ପ୍ରବେଶ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ରହିଛି। ଏହି ପ୍ରବେଶ ଦ୍ଵାରରେ ଏକ ବିଶାଳ ଚାମୁ ନିମିତ୍ତ କବାଟ ଲଗାଯାଇଥିବା ଜଣାଯାଏ। ସାହାର ଖୋଲିବା ଓ ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ଦେବା ଶବ୍ଦରୁ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀ ରାଜାଙ୍କର ପ୍ରବେଶ ଓ ପ୍ରସ୍ଥାନ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଜାଣିପାରୁଥିଲେ। ଏପରିକି କଥା ଅଛି ଯେ, ଏହି କବାଟ ଖୋଲିବାର ଶବ୍ଦ ଏବେ ପ୍ରବନ୍ଧ ଥିଲା ଯେ, ଏହା ବୈଦେଶ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାତାଙ୍କ କୋଠା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପହଞ୍ଚିପାରୁଥିଲା। କିନ୍ତୁ ଏବେ ଏହି ସରକାରୀ ପାହାଡ଼ର ସିତିହାସିକ ଘାଟକୁ ଠିକ୍ଠାରେ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କରାଯାଇପାରୁନି। ମୂଲିକା କ୍ଷୟ ପାହାଡ଼ ପାଇଁ ବିପଦ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛି।

ହଜିଯାଉଛି ଦେଶର ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟ ବୃହତ୍ତମ ମଧୁର ଜଳ ସ୍ରୋତର ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା

କଟକ, ୪/୯ (ରମିପ): 'ଅଂଶୁପା' କେବଳ ଏକ ସ୍ରୋତ ନୁହେଁ ଏହା ଅନେକ ବିଦେଶୀ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ପ୍ରାଣୀ ଅନେକ ଲୋକ ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସାର ମୁକ୍ତସାଥୀ। କଣ୍ଠାଭର ଚାନ୍ଦ୍ର ସ୍ରୋତ ଦେଶର ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟ ବୃହତ୍ତମ ମଧୁର ଜଳ ସ୍ରୋତ। ଅଂଶୁପାକୁ ବିଦେଶୀ କରାଯାଏ। କିନ୍ତୁ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅଂଶୁପା ଏବେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କୁ ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରିବା ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତେ ନିଜର ସିତି ପାଇଁ ସଂଘର୍ଷ କରୁଛି। ସରକାରୀ ପାହାଡ଼ ଉପରୁ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଦୟ ଓ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟାସ୍ତ ସମୟରେ ଏହି ସ୍ରୋତ ଶୋଭା ଏବେ ବି ଆକର୍ଷଣ ହୋଇ ରହିଛି। କିନ୍ତୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାରଣରୁ ଏହି ଅଶ୍ରୁଧାରାକୁ ସ୍ରୋତ ଶୁଖି ଚାଲିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ କାରଣ ହୋଇଛି। କେବଳ କିଲ୍ଲାର ବାଙ୍କୀରେ ରହିଛି ଏହି ସ୍ରୋତ। ଅଂଶୁପା ସ୍ରୋତ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମୟରେ କୋଟି କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ବି ହୋଇଛି। କିନ୍ତୁ କଳାଧରଣ କ୍ଷମତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି ନିଗମରେ ପୋଲିନାଭବ ପରଷେପ ନିଆଯାଇ ନଥିବାରୁ ଅଂଶୁପା ତାର ପୂର୍ବ ଗୌରବ ଫେରି ପାଇବା ବଦଳରେ ଏକ

ପରିତ୍ୟକ୍ତ ସ୍ରୋତ ରୂପ ନେଇଛି। କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ବି ଅଂଶୁପା ସ୍ରୋତକୁ ରାମ୍ପା ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପରେ ସୀମିତ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଏହାର ପରିଚାଳନା ଦାୟିତ୍ଵ ତିଲିକା ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା(ସିଡିଏ) ହାତକୁ ନେଇଛି। ହେଲେ ପାକ, ଦଳ ସଫେଇ, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଚାଷ, କୋଠାବନ୍ଦି ନିର୍ମାଣରେ ଅଂଶୁପା ବିକାଶ ସୀମିତ ରହିଛି। ଶୁଷ୍କ ଅଂଶୁପା ଭିତର ସବୁବେଳେ ଜଳପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରହିବ ସେବେଲେ ଯୋଜନା କରାଯାଇନାହିଁ। ମହାନଦୀ ଶୁଖିଲା ପରିଥିବାରୁ ଅଂଶୁପାକୁ ପାଣି ପଶିପାରୁନି ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଇ ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ଏକପ୍ରକାର ଅଗଣେଶ କରାଯାଇଛି। ବାଙ୍କୀରୁ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ସଞ୍ଜ୍ୟା ପାହାଡ଼ ପାରବେଶରେ ରହିଥିବା ଅଂଶୁପା ସ୍ରୋତ ଅବଦାନକ ପରିସି ପ୍ରାୟ ୫ ହଜାର ୨୩୧ ହେକ୍ଟର ଥିବା ବେଳେ କଳାଧରଣ କ୍ଷମତା ଥିଲା ୧୪୯ ହେକ୍ଟର।

ଅଂଶୁପା ଅବଦାନକରେ ୨୮ଟି ଗ୍ରାମ ରହିଛି। ଅଂଶୁପାର ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଦିଗରେ ସଞ୍ଜ୍ୟା ପାହାଡ଼ ଓ ଉତ୍ତରପୂର୍ବ ଦିଗରେ ବିଶୁପୁର ପାହାଡ଼ ରହିଛି। ଏହି ସ୍ରୋତ ସହ ମହାନଦୀକୁ ଚାଲି ନଳ; ଦକ୍ଷିଣରେ କାରୁଣା ନଳ ଓ ଦକ୍ଷିଣପଶ୍ଚିମରେ ବୁଦ୍ଧୁକା ନଳ ସଂଯୁକ୍ତ ଥିଲା। ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ ତାହା ମହାନଦୀରୁ ବିଚ୍ଛିନ୍ନ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି। କେବଳ ମହାନଦୀରେ ବନ୍ୟା ଜଳ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହେବା ସମୟରେ ଏହି ନଳ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଅଂଶୁପାକୁ ପାଣି ଆସୁଛି। ନଳଧାରଣ କ୍ଷମତା ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଗ୍ରାମ ପାଇଁ ଧଳା ପଙ୍କରେ ଏହା ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭରଶୀଳ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣପୁର, କଟକବାଡ଼ି, ଓସିଆ, କଟପାରିଆ ଆଦି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ମହାନଦୀବାନଳର ନିର୍ବାହନାଧିକାରୀ ସହ ସ୍ରୋତ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେଉଛି।

ସଂକ୍ଷେପରେ ଅଂଶୁପା	
ସର୍ବାଧିକ ଲମ୍ବ	୫ କି.ମି.
ସର୍ବାଧିକ ଓସାର	୧.୬ କି.ମି.
ଖେତ୍ରଫଳ	୧୪୯ ହେକ୍ଟର