



Niranjana River Map near Bodh Gaya

Niranjana (Falgu) River Recharge Mission

Reporting of activities from
Feb. 2022 To July 2022 {6 Months}

ABOUT THIS MISSION

The river Niranjana (Falgu), a symbol of environmental protection and great traditions, the river on the banks of which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment and the river in which Hindus from all over the world offer Pind Daan to their ancestors, has dried up today and is dying. Till only 25 years ago, this river was perennial. Even during summer, water was available by digging a pit full of Anjali, but now even after digging with big machines, water does not come out. When people from all over the world come to Bodh Gaya and do not see the water in the Niranjana river, they feel very disappointed and tearful holding the sand of Niranjana in their palm as given the holiness of the river, they want to carry it back to their own countries.

We are anguished to see Niranjana river dying like this. That is why we have started a campaign to make it eternal. Many extinct rivers in the country and abroad have been saved by continuous efforts and it is definitely possible. We can do this by connecting the villages on both sides of the river, planting more and more trees along the river banks, fixing fragmented water sources, properly conserving the rainwater in the entire basin area in many ways and making the soil of all the surrounding villages more organic, making a positive impact for the revival of the river.

We have a detailed plan ready and many useful factors and experiences are being added every day, on which we are constantly in action.

River Rejuvenation Mission

Bodhgaya, Gaya, Bihar, India - 824231

- **The work of Niranjana Rejuvenation is possible only with the participation of the villages.**

To establish communication in the villages, we often travel to the villages to apprise and understand the pulse and to study the socio-geographical studies alongside the banks of the villages. In the meantime, it is our endeavor to work in this direction as to build the connection with the Niranjana River Recharge Mission, move forward with better thinking of the future of villagers and their village. Efforts are being made to channelize the energy such that the villagers work for themselves, work for their village and get a mutually beneficial system not only for their own employment but preserving natural resources. The resultant will be Niranjana-Phalgu river becoming perennial.

- **A meeting of some of the core team of the high level advisory board of Niranjana River Recharge Mission was organized on 17th June 2022, Delhi.**

Topics like future plans, action plans of the mission, etc. were discussed in depth. This meeting was held under the direction of Yogesh Andlay - Social Thinker & Chief Patron of Niranjana Mission. It was attended by Gulrez Hoda - former IAS and former Director of World Bank, Sanjay Sajjan, Convener of Niranjana Mission, Sunita Mittal, Social Impact Development & Advocacy, Vimal Kumar Singh - Convener of Gramyug Abhiyan and Kamal Nayan - Chief functionary.

The immediate need of the Niranjana river, about 130 km long, is to conduct a hydrological survey of the specific basin area of the river. The process has been initiated with retired Prof Gosain, IIT Delhi who is an expert and the report is expected in a few months from now basis which the future action plan will be carved out.

- **On May 14, 2022**, Chief Patron of Niranjana Mission, Yogesh Andlay reached Bodh Gaya to join the Nag Puja program to be held on May 16, Buddha Purnima and Maha Aarti in the evening.

Between May 14 to May 16, Yogesh Andlay along with Sanjay Sajjan and team, saw the current conditions of the river and discussed in-depth the efforts being made for it. The entire team concluded that it is possible only with concerted efforts from the villagers and need to create awareness amongst them.

On May 15, a 2-hour meeting was held with IIM Bodh Gaya Director Vinita Sahay and Professor Amit Srivastava, to brainstorm and initiate some concepts of this esteemed Management Institute regarding the Niranjana Mission.

Simultaneously, there was a meeting with H.E. Bounneme Chouanghom, Ambassador of Lao P.D.R. to India, in the premise of Niranjana River Recharge Mission. H.E. Bounneme Chouanghom had also come from Delhi to Bodh Gaya to attend the program of 16th May.





Naga Puja organized on the occasion of Buddha Purnima



On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, Naga Puja was organized in the Niranjana River in Bodh Gaya along with this, wishes were made to make this work a success and that there should always be water in the Niranjana river. Apart from this, 108 monks were organized in the Niranjana river after the program. In addition to the 11-member delegation from Thailand, people from Myanmar Thailand Sri Lanka Laos, Dandeti Sanghadan to Buddhist monks On this occasion, as the chief guests, Ambassador of Laos H. E. Bounneme Chouanghom, Yogesh Andlay, Secretary General of Niranjana River Recharge Mission Achin Saisain Boudhang, Bharite Sarwat, Bharite Rahul, Bharite Tejinda Niranjana River Recharge Mission coordinator Sanjay Sajjan Singh, Vijay Singh Apart from this, the caretaker of Laos temple, Sanjay Singh was also present there.

➤ **On May 16, 2022, Buddha Purnima, Niranjana River Recharge Mission, organized a program in front of Bodh Gaya Mahabodhi Temple to perform “Naag Puja” and Pindapata to 108 Buddhist monks** in the Niranjana River. This Naag worship program was done in the morning in which Thailand and Laos countries played a very major role. The idol of Naag Devta was brought from Thailand for worship.

There is a belief in Buddhism that any work that is being done for the betterment of the environment, land or river, firstly permission of the Serpent God is sought – similar belief in Hinduism. Keeping this in mind, people of many countries who love the river organized this worship program in association with this mission. Traditional dance was also performed by the guests from Thailand in front of the idol of Nag Devta.

This program was attended by the ambassador of 7 countries including Laos, H.E. Bounneme Chouanghom and his wife, Yogesh Andlay, Sanjay Sajjan, Secretary General Xaixana Bounthavong, including honourable 108 Buddhist monks, media companions, team of 11 guests who came from Thailand and the patrons of Niranjana Mission were present. This Naag Puja presided by ‘Irfan Ahmad Fatmi’.

- **On May 16, Buddha Purnima, Maha Aarti** was organized by Niranjana River Recharge Mission in front of Bodh Gaya Math near Mahabodhi Temple at evening time. This candle light and Maha Aarti program was done in Niranjana river Bodh Gaya.
- This Niranjana Aarti is a form of worship for Mother Niranjana -we have benefitted so much for the river such that it has reached to a depletion point and it is time to slowly return the wealth of the river. We Have To Save Our Rivers.
- **Niranjana - Falgu River Parliament, 18th May 2022 :-** Mahayogi Pilot Baba reached Bodh Gaya to join the Niranjana River Recharge Mission and bless the mission. He mentioned about taking this matter of the dying river to the Hon. Prime Minister of Japan.

About 50 Buddhist monks, Enlightened people of Bodh Gaya, Journalist friends, River lovers and companions of Niranjana Mission welcomed Baba.





Niranjana River Recharge Mission launches check dam



11 CORRESPONDENT
APR. 25: Under the Bodh Gaya Niranjana River Recharge Mission, the foundation stone of the first check dam was laid on Sunday in Kolhua village of Barachahi area. After completion of its construction, drinking water and irrigation water facility will be available to the farmers of 10 villages up to 2 km. It is being constructed with the public support of Niranjana River Recharge Mission. On completion, it is estimated that about 50 crore liters of water will be stored. Mission General Secretary Saisama Bodhbong, Convener Sanjay Sajjan, Monk Achun Suvita, Monk Pharelek, Devotees and Monks from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Suresh Singh, Abhishek Kumar, Baleshwar Prasad, Rajeev Kumar, Pappu, Anjan Kumar, Viji. Local people including Laos manager Sanjay Kumar were present.

➤ Under the Niranjana River Recharge Mission, the first check dam construction started in Bodh Gaya's rural area "Kolhua" (24 April 2022) -

Under the scorching heat of April and the prevailing heat wave, the foundation stone laying program of check dam was completed in Kolhua village (Lado Panchayat), and the work of digging for laying foundation started on 24th April 2022. Local Member of legislative Assembly, Jyoti Manjhi, members of Niranjana High Level Advisory Board, Buddhist monks, Sanjay Sajjan, Secretary General Xaixana Boddhavong and activists of Niranjana Mission, members of the dam construction committee and Monastery Coordinator cum media in-charge Sanjay Kumar were present in foundation stone laying. There was presence of all the colleagues of the media and Aakaar Charitable Trust, who would play a pivotal role in the construction graced the occasion.

Note - The construction of this check dam was about to start when the District Magistrate, Gaya expressed their desire to start the check dam from their side as they felt that otherwise people might feel a sense of despair towards the Government and that they might have to make efforts related to irrigation, all on our own. Appreciating the efforts of Niranjana River Recharge Mission, the District Magistrate promised to start check dam construction and mentioned that if the work gets delayed, then we are free to do the check dam construction work, with the help of Gram Sabha and outside support.

Current status is that the check dam is placed to the DRDA department by the District Magistrate. We are in regular communication with the district administration and are kept informed about every government proceeding by email.

➤ On May 1, 2022, the caretaker of Bodh Gaya main temple, Bhante Dinanath and Researcher Journalist Vimal Kumar Singh, Convener of Mission Tirutipur initiated by revered Govindacharya, arrived at Niranjana's office.

Vimal Kumar plays a pivotal role in of the mission and also showcased a master plan.

➤ On the evening of 30th April, IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Bodh Gaya Director Vinita Sahay and Professor Amit Srivastava held a meeting with the management students in the presence of the director of drama-Nukkad Natak regarding Niranjana River recharge mission.

A 2-hour discussion was held on how the street plays can be leveraged by the management students on the Niranjana mission.

➤ Gulrez Hoda, a former IAS and former Director of the World Bank, visited Bodh Gaya to further support the Niranjana Mission and held a meeting with the key workers of the Niranjana Mission.





- **On April 12, 2022**, a meeting was held with Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India, regarding Niranjana Falgu Rejuvenation along with Gulrez Hoda and Mission Sanjay Sajjan. Thereafter, a special meeting was organized in NITI Aayog on 13th April regarding Niranjana Rejuvenation in which many officials including water advisor of the commission, Avinash Mishra participated.
- **To run Niranjana Mission's official work smoothly, the office setup was completed on 3rd April 2022** and formally inaugurated with the support of Yogesh Andlay and his team. Simultaneously, in the presence of esteemed guests, monk Incharge of Laos International Temple Xaixana Bodhabong accepted the post of Secretary General of this entire mission and took pledges for the success of this mission. Sanjay Sajjan, General Secretary of Mahabodhi Society of India and member P Shivali Mahathero administered the oath to monk Xaixana Bouhabong.

The mission's well-wisher & member Sunita Mittal and Ajay Mittal visited some villages of Lado Panchayat located on the banks of the river and surveyed the places where water conservation could be possible.

➤ **Reporting of the meeting held on the day of "World Water Day" :-**

A meeting was held in the office of Niranjana River Recharge Mission on the eve of "World Water Day" and "Bihar Day" i.e. 22nd March, in which former Union Minister and present Bihar Legislative Council Member Dr. Sanjay Paswan was present. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Sanjay Paswan said that



we have to ensure the participation of the government in the efforts being taken on both sides of the river to make Niranjana eternal as we are also worried about the future of the rivers with constant efforts for its betterment. He mentioned that this project be taken to the Ministry of Rural Development should start the work of plantation around the river. He reiterated to move forward keeping the message of World Water Day in mind and understand the importance of water and its conservation.

The meeting was presided by Padma Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan.

➤ **Inauguration of "Nursery Garden" for Niranjana River :-**

Nursery for Niranjana River was inaugurated on 22nd March 2022 in the office premises and the task of setting up the nursery was started from this plot of about 5,000 square feet. Plan is to make similar nurseries in every panchayat located within a radius of five kilometers on both sides of the river. Aim is that 10 lakh trees from these nurseries be planted. Present were Padma Shri awardee Kanwal Singh Chauhan, Chief Monk and General Secretary of Mahabodhi Society of India Bhante P Shivali Thero, Chief Monk of Vatthai Siri Rajgir PS Vichiyan and mission's companions were present.



➤ **P.S. Vichian joined the “Niranjana High Level Advisory Board” :-**

Vatthai Siri Rajgir Chief Monk Ven Achan P.S. Vichiyan (Thailand resident) has joined the high level advisory board of Niranjana River Recharge Mission.



➤ **Inauguration of the office of “Niranjana-Falgu Mission” :-**

Niranjana River Recharge Mission was inaugurated an office in Bodh Gaya on 6th March 2022. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the monk In-charge of Watlao Bodh Gaya International Temple, Xaixana Bodhabong and the office for the Mission was received by the courtesy of this temple. On this occasion, the Chief Monk of Bodh Gaya Main Temple Bhante Chalinda expressed his views and said that working to keep the water flowing in the Niranjana River throughout the years is to service the God. Niranjana, apart from being the river of Lord Buddha and Vishnu, is also the river of knowledge and salvation for the people across the world.

In the villages situated on the banks of river Niranjana, a 2-day survey tour focused on water conservation was arranged :-

A 2-day survey yatra focused on water conservation was arranged and Bhupendra Ji, Abhishek from Aakaar Trust, Mumbai were involved in this yatra which focused on the places we can conserve the water from getting drained and minimize surface run-off. Focus was Atiya and Ladu panchayats of Gaya district, remote areas of Hunterganj block located in Chatra district of Jharkhand.



➤ **Niranjana-Falgu River Conference was organized :-**

An international conference was organized in the ‘Anagarika Dharmapala Auditorium’ of “Mahabodhi Society of India” located in Bodh Gaya on 27th February 2022. Representatives from many countries of the world participated in this conference. The meeting was presided over by the Chief Monk and General Secretary of the Mahabodhi Society of India Bhante P Shivali Mahathero. Longi Manjhi, who by digging canal alone for 30 years brought water to his village, Siddharth Tripathi, Senior IFS officer and social worker, Sanjay Sajjan, Vinita Sahai, Director of IIM Bodh Gaya, IIM professors Medha, Ravindra Kumar and Amit Srivastava, heads of many social organizations, office bearers of hotel association, office bearers of guide association, many educationists, prominent people associated with media participated in it.



It was agreed in the conference that the physical condition of both the banks of the 130 km long river from the point of origin of “Belgadha” in Simaria block under Chatra district of Jharkhand state to the point of confluence should be observed, a thorough study should be done.

➤ **Screening of the documentary film on the revived “Ramrekha river” :-**

By reviving the Ramrekha River that had dried up about 60 years ago, the mission got the encouragement and strength to rejuvenate Niranjana-Phalgu. The documentary film on the revived Ramrekha and Budha Budhi Dam, directed by Dharamveer Bharti was also screened at “Mahabodhi Society of India, Bodh Gaya” in the occasion of Niranjana – Falgu River Conference.

➤ **Brochure of “Niranjana River Recharge Mission” released in River Conference :-**

➤ **Under the direction of Laos International Temple, a 110 km journey was taken from Bodh Gaya to Ramrekha river (revived):-**



River Yatra from Niranjana River to Ramrekha River was taken out under the leadership of Achan Xaixana Bonthavong, head of Bodh Gaya Laos Temple. The campaign to make Niranjana river a year-round river is inspired from the dried up river named Ramrekha, which flows in Gaya and Aurangabad districts. The team of Niranjana had revived this river and this journey was to see and understand that work that was done to revive Ramrekha river.

In this yatra, 20 prominent Buddhist monasteries from 10 countries including Achan Nipun, Achan Saisana Bodhbong, Achan Suvit, Achan Nandasara, Santosh Bhante, Bhante Santosh Chakma participated. About 100 people including Shri Santosh Upadhyay of Bandi Adhikar Manch, Chief Engineer of Buddha Sansthan Awadhesh Kumar, Professor Kalim Ahmed participated in the Yatra. The pilgrims were welcomed at the Vivekananda Vision School in Dev in presence of Professor Shambhu Sharan Singh. The yatra was conducted by Sanjay Kumar and the convener of Niranjana mission – Sanjay Sajjan.

➤ **On 6 February 2022, the monk Incharge of Laos International Temple held a meeting focused on the Niranjana River:-**

A high level meeting was organized in Laos Temple itself with the initiative of monk Xaixana Bonthaong, head of Laos International Temple located in Bodh Gaya. In which the heads of monasteries of 11 countries were involved. The meeting was conducted by Sanjay Sajjan, Former Union Minister - Sanjay Paswan and Irfan Ahmad Fatmi with Santosh Upadhyay.





Convener of Niranjana River Recharge Mission Sanjay Sajjan giving the byte to media person regarding this mission

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*The river in Bodh Gaya on the banks of which Lord Buddha did
“penance” and attained “enlightenment” and where Hindus from
all over the world do “Pind Daan” for the “salvation” of their
ancestors, that river (about 260 km long) has become dead today.*

*“Niranjana-Phalgu River Recharge Mission”
is engaged in the revival of this holy river*

