



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

A note from the Director

It is always exciting to be compiling a note to accompany the annual report of the undertakings at NEER Foundation. This year has been very fruitful and saw new initiatives. New projects were started and progressed.

Working within a state and country which has an alarmingly high level of the world's poorest people; a vast majority of who have does not have access to safe drinking water or even the most basic of sanitation systems. Yet despite this, we live in a nation whose economy is among the fastest growing in the world. This fact alone is food for thought for all of us, and is a stark reminder of the harsh reality of the world we live in, a world where the rich are very much getting richer and the poor getting poorer. We must remember that change is achievable and it is within our grasp to achieve it. Let us not put off for tomorrow what can be done today.

I would like to thank all our staff, volunteers and supporters around the globe who have pulled together to once again make this a momentous year for NEER Foundation. I hope that this report is an interesting and enlightening read for you.



‘Nadiputra’ Raman Kant

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Organization

To sustain the essence and conserve the natural waters, land, animals and people in the Doab region of Ganga – Yamuna Rivers, is the stepping stone for establishment of the NEER Foundation. Along with this goal, the foundation through its positive outlook and strategies, gave life to numerous programs. To protect and preserve the water bodies and its surroundings is the foremost goal of the foundation.

The underground water stays protected and safe, air remains clean, rivers flow effortlessly, fields stay fertile, so the humanity lives happily, everybody stays healthy and life grows on. With these aims, NEER was formed in year 2004 and today, it has grown into a youth.



Over the years NF has become capable of advocating for various environmental and human rights issues by means of collection and dissemination of information about the resources and accessing the damages caused to our environment and society. This has been done by outreaching to the locals through grass root level initiatives along with an active participation in the policy making by interacting with various stakeholders such as government authorities, corporate, activists, technical experts and advisors etc.

Organization

Mission

To work towards a pollution free world where every individual can have a healthy existence and promotes sustainable development in every sphere. Through its local and national initiatives NEER Foundation links up to global initiatives and believes in creating positive global impacts.

Vision

Local people's participation and empowerment in decision making at all levels and control over resources is the key way out of environmental degradation.

REGISTRATION

Societies Registration Act, 1860

Section 12 A of Income Tax Act

Section 80 G of Income Tax Act

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

NGO Partnership System (NITI Aayog, GOI)



Geographical Spread

NEER is working in Western Uttar Pradesh districts namely Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Bijnor, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Bagpat, Gautambudhnagar, Hapur, Shamli, Aligarh, Etah, Farukhbad, Kannauj, Kasganj and Moradabad. But through its various programs and campaigns, it has spread its influence in neighboring states as well.



Programs / Projects

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Neem River Revival

The NEEM River is the major tributary of Kali River (east), which originates from Dattiyana village in Hapur district and covers 180.2 km via Bulandshahar district and merges with the Kali River (east) in Aligarh district. NEER Foundation in collaboration with Hapur district administration has taken up revival of the NEEM River.

Community meetings held at merous villages of Hapur district namely Sikheda, Himmatpur and many more for raising awareness and support from the communities of the region. **Nadiputra Raman Kant** has visited the villages residing on the banks of dried Neem River and conducted *Sabhas* to aware the masses.



Neem River Revival



Commencement of the Neem River bed Preparation ...



Before & After

Year in Review

EAST KALI RIVER WATERKEEPER



Waterkeeper Alliance is a worldwide network of environmental organizations founded in 1999. There are around 350 Waterkeeper organizations and affiliates on six continents in 46 countries defending communities against anyone who threatens their right to clean water—from polluters to unresponsive government agencies.

Raman Kant of NEER Foundation had taken the role of East Kali River Waterkeeper in year 2015, following his passionate work towards restoring rivers of his region to their original glory. In January 2020, he has also taken on the role of Hindon River Waterkeeper, (moving to advisory on East Kali River Waterkeeper), with aim to establish a framework and local commitment for restoring and enhancing the water quality of the Hindon River. Both Waterkeeper are hosted under NEER Foundation. NEER Foundation was founded in 2004 after realizing the urgent need for capacity building of different stakeholders involved in the management and protection of the environment and society.



Year in Review

Progress in Revival Work of East Kali River



Construction of two new ponds for the revival of Kali River East has started on 3rd October 2020 ..



Water coming up in the ponds which are being built at the origin of Kali River East. Scallops are being found at the bottom of the river. This is a good sign for revival of the Kali River.

Water stream erupted again in the dried Kali East River on 14 Oct

Mr. Alok Yadav, Chief Development Officer of Muzaffarnagar came to see the efforts being made by the NEER Foundation for the revival of Kali River East on 8 November 2020.



The revival of Kali River (east) initiated by NEER Foundation and Muzaffarnagar district administration is towards making history. Initially it was only a plan to regenerate the river originating in the village of Antwada, but with the cooperation of Muzaffarnagar MP and Union Minister of State Dr. Sanjeev Baliyan and the district administration, this work has been extended for total flow of Muzaffarnagar district which is 22 kilometers.

Year in Review



BDO Khatauli inspected the work of East Kali River rejuvenation in Antwada and Paldi village on 4 Dec 2020.



Cooperation was done on 19 Dec 2020 in the ongoing revival of Kali River East. The total area of river flow in Muzaffarnagar district is 22.4 km. Both sides of the river have been improved by the district administration in collaboration with the NEER Foundation. The ongoing work was monitored and captured through drone cameras. Rangolis were made in various places along the river. CDO Muzaffarnagar Mr. Alok Yadav is receiving support whole heartedly.

Ms. Kanchan Verma (IAS) the Nodal Officer of Muzaffarnagar reviewed the work of revival of Kali River East done by Muzaffarnagar district administration and NEER Foundation. Chief Development Officer Mr. Alok Yadav (IAS) also accompanied the team on 28 Dec 2020.



Year in Review

HINDON RIVER WATERKEEPER



Hindon River was supposed to be originating from forests of Pur ka Tanda village in Saharanpur village but according to British Gazetteer and Satellite mapping, it actually originates from the Kaluwala village at Shivalik mountain range in Muzaffarabad block of Saharanpur district.

It passes from districts Saharanpur, Muzafarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat and Ghaziabad travelling for 355 kms before finally meeting the Yamuna River at forests of Momnathal village situated about 500 m from Tilwada village in Gautambudhnagar district. There are about 865 villages situated near Hindon and its tributary rivers.

On 27 March 2017, the origin place of Hindon River has been found by team of My Hindon – My Initiative.

This place is also similar as indicated in gazetteer as it shows the origin of Hindon River at Shivalik range situated at borders of Uttarakhand. On this basis, this discovery was led. This origin point falls under Saharnapur district, Tehsil Behat and Block Muzafarabad and region Kaaluwala. At this point, there is water reservoir at the top of mountain range from where water flows whole year.



Year in Review



Hindon *SEWA* – Community and Govt. unique confluence

Not Tomorrow but today, not today but now With this feeling in July 2017 a decision was made to improve the deteriorating condition of Hindon River. This whole plan was made a success by important role of Former Commissioner Dr. Prabhat Kumar. The motive behind this program is to bring back Hindon and its tributaries rivers to their original glories through their intervention of community. This is a volunteer program for those who actively want to contribute towards this mission. These rivers have always provided for the communities in one way or another, so it is our responsibility to take its plights in our hands from which they are suffering from last decades. It was wonderful to see the contributing efforts of the community; they did not let the mission down. On 22 April 2018, the day witnessed first day of *Sewa* by volunteers from community and govt. depts., to make their river pollution free. The Hindon Sewa continued till 22 May 2018.

Behind the Strategy For about 5 kms near Pura Mahadev, Hindon river stretch was at stagnancy condition due to dense *jalkumbhi* plantation. The actual river was nowhere to be seen. Hence it needed to be removed so that the river surface could receive air and sunlight and flow like a river would do. To propose this action, a meeting with different govt. authorities was organized under Nirmal Hindon Program, so the work plan can be strategized. This kind of intervention requires resource mobilization and step by step plan. Along with these, it was decided to work on both sides of the river together which fall in different districts. Every kilometer of the river was divided into 200 m smaller stretches and five teams were designated in both districts. Every team was supposed to work in one 200 m area of river. Required equipment and man-power (govt. & community) was allotted to each team through effective resource mobilization. Every team had about 150 Hindon volunteers, headed by a coordinator.



Year in Review

LR COMPOST PIT

Lalit – Raman compost method is a simple technique of composting innovated at NEER, which allows preparation of nutrient rich manure by the farmer himself. The farmer receives solid as well as liquid manure through this technique. This structure will sustain 20 – 25 years easily. This technique has been especially designed to end the burning practice of sugarcane leaves and paddy waste.

In western Uttar Pradesh, nearly 22 districts mainly grow sugarcane and rice, which results in lot of agricultural wastage comprising of sugarcane leaves and paddy waste. It leaves no choice to farmer than to burn it to clear the fields for new crops. This burning practice harms the soil and rips it off its natural organic and also releases harmful greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide in the air.

NEER has accomplished a project aiming at establishing 50 LR pits in partnership with Center for Environment Education (CEE), UNDP and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Through this project, 50 LR pits have been established in 50 different farmer's fields of different villages in Meerut district. Alongside, 150 farmers have been joined in the organic agricultural movement from approximately 30 villages.

Due to heavy reliance on chemicals for farming, the field soil has lost its natural organics and nutrients, resulting in reduced growing power. The carbon content is also decreasing in soil highly. In these circumstances, the farmer is not able to make natural manure to mix with the soil to increase its nutrient level. In this pit structure, sugarcane leaves, water, cow dung, soil and other agricultural wastage can be put at one time or daily or time to time, as per farmer's convenience. In this way, the farmer doesn't have to put many efforts. Once the pit is completely filled, the solid manure takes three months time to get ready where as liquid manure can be taken out frequently only after two weeks.

Around 500 acres of land has been brought under organic farming techniques under the project where farmer is using organic manures to produce the crop. Fifteen groups of farmers has been made consisting of 5-10 farmers each, which practice organic ways of agriculture collectively. Previously a pilot project of 08 pits was completed with support of IGSSS New Delhi.

Year in Review

Project “Burning to Composting” LR Pits

NEER Foundation in partnership with **HCL Foundation** has successfully completed a project to establish **35 LR compost pits** in 35 different farmer's fields of Gautam-buddh nagar, helping them to produce organic liquid and solid manure through this pit and reduce burning practice of agricultural waste, thus combating carbon emissions and climate change.

Numerous farmer awareness meetings were diligently conducted in various villages of **Gautambuddhnagar** where the project is targeted, which assisted in selecting beneficiary farmers. In the 2 quarters of the project period, all 35 pits have been completed and filled with waste leaves/residue, cow dung, water and field soil.

Another project of 50 LR pits have been started in Gautambuddh nagar villages where many farmers have been selected and their pits have been successfully made. In total 85 farmers and their families are directly benefitting from the pits.



Year in Review

WATER CONSERVATION

Public Awareness Program In the villages located on banks of Hindon and its tributaries, river discussions, Nukkad Nataks, wall logos, Pad yatras are being organized to raise awareness among the communities. These programs will be conducted in all seven districts where the river flows. Some of the villages are Bhanera Khemchand, Simlana, Khaprana, Milana, Ranchad, Kaabdaut, Kudana, Rohana, Barnawa, Balaini, Nekpur, Kalina, Saifipur, Soharkha, Momnathal and Tilwada. A documentary film is also being made.

Meri Nadi - Meri Pehel: It is a social initiative started by NEER Foundation with aim towards protecting Rivers and communities residing on the banks. Its objective is to bring the communities together to spread awareness and protect their rights along with efforts of the governments. It has focus on efforts of local community, activists and common people towards the river. All the actions taken undertaken in this initiative are coordinated with efforts from community and local authorities. Any person can become a part of this initiative through his/her active efforts. It is an opportunity to claim responsibility towards one's rivers, environment and act towards it.



Team: A central committee comprising of 5 members is formed under **Meri Nadi - Meri Pehel** initiative. In every district where the river flows, a district committee of 5 members is formed. In every village, within 5 kms of the bank of the river on either side, there is a five member village committee. On central level, there is a two member media committee. District and Media committee are selected by central committee and the village committee by respective district committee. All members of these committees shall be social activists who are concerned about environmental issues, subject specialists and/or retired officers.

Year in Review

WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

A 30 Lakh litre per day Capacity STP was upgraded at Jwalamukhi town by using **Constructed wetland system** under the leadership of **Dr. Dinesh**, in order to improve the reuse potential of the effluent. During test results, BOD of the treated effluent found about 5ppm which may be reuse in various purposes, like irrigation, pond rejuvenation, fisheries etc. Hope such models will be helpful in meeting the increasing water demand of societies.

Pleasant results of the sewage treatment plant built in Dharamshala under the leadership of Dr. Dinesh, wastewater management expert.



Visit of **Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag**, Dharamshala Zone to our 1.50 MLD STP at Chamba, Dist. Chamba H.P. We are also thankful to senior officers of the department especially Er. Rohit Dubey, Superintending Engineer, HSV circle Chamba, Er. Vikas Bakshi, Executive Engineer, JSV Division Salooni, Er. Dinesh Kapoor, Executive Engineer JSV Division Chamba, Er. Jitendir Sharma, Assistant Engineer JSV subdivision Chamba and Er. Manoj Kumar JE JSV Chamba for their active participation in monitoring the facilities. This STP is designed using his own innovative technology by **Dr. Dinesh Poswal**.

Year in Review

Water Filter Project—Dabal & Morkuka

Dabal & Morkuka are situated in the banks of the Kali River in Western Uttar Pradesh. Industries such as paper and sugar mills dispose harmful chemical wastes into the Kali River. Contaminants such as cadmium, lead, and chromium are found in high concentrations in this water, polluting the groundwater that the residents use for their drinking and cleaning needs. When NEER Foundation visited the village, few years ago, this was the condition of the drinking water sources of the whole village. In each household, it was found that at least one member suffered from an illness due to water contamination.

In partnership with **WATER COLLECTIVE**, the project was initiated to install individual filtration tanks in each household to supply purified drinking water. The households where overhead tanks was present, electric water purifiers were installed and other household which did not have any electric tank, were given non electric water purifiers which worked through pressure.



In the distribution ceremonies organized at the village, **Dr. Sanjeev Baliyan, Ministry of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt. of India**, solicited these ceremonies by handing out the filters to each beneficiary. He expressed thankfulness towards Water Collective for supporting the village and funding the filters. The villagers expressed their gratitude and happiness.

The whole village families have been divided into four sections and hence in four **Jal samitis** (water groups). Water quality training and water filter usage & maintenance training have been completed. Now these *Samitis* are capable of handling small problems in filters if they occur and guide each other towards healthy practices of saving their rivers and ponds.

Year in Review

PONDS DEVELOPMENT BILL

In the famous Yamuna-Ganga Doab region, water issues have started arising. The once sweet waters have turned polluted or are missing from their original sources. The encroachment of the ponds is the main cause behind. The ponds which were filled with water are now acted as a dirty garbage dump. This has only lead to increased illness ratio in rural population. NEER has initiated “**Talab bachao – Talab banao**” program under which new ponds are constructed and old ones are revived with help of the community.

Now the time has come that the Uttar Pradesh government should go ahead with the Groundwater Bill, Uttar Pradesh River policy and the Pond Development Authority. All the public representatives also appeal that it should be seriously taken up by the government. Ground water bill was prepared in the BSP government. After that, the SP government was unable to do anything in it, but now it is time to implement this bill in cooperation with everyone. Water is a matter of State, therefore the state should act strong.

The subject of Pond Development Authority was incorporated by the BJP its Manifesto of the Assembly elections with the consent of social organizations. It has also been drafted by the government. It should be implemented promptly.

A Draft of Uttar Pradesh River policy has already been handed over to the government by NEER Foundation.



Year in Review

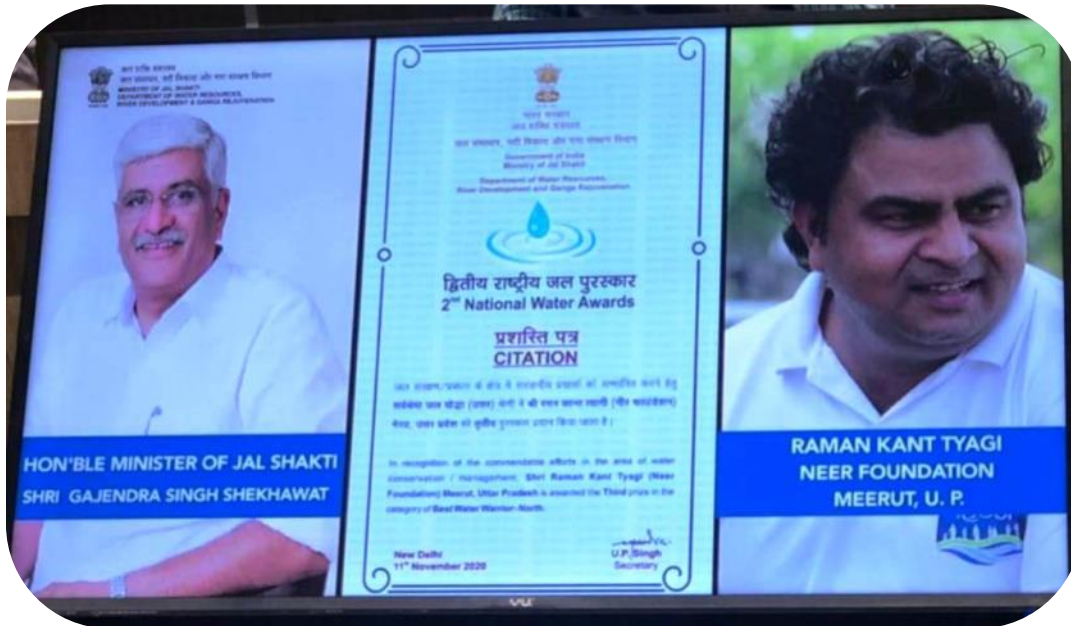
ORGANIC KOLHU

A NOVEL SYSTEM FOR ADSORBING AND SEPARATING SUSPENDED GASEOUS IMPURITIES FROM EFFLUENT GASES AND HEREBY RECOVERY OF VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS FROM JAGGERY UNIT—

In the partnership with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) Govt of India and INVENTA PVT. LTD., NEER had undertaken an innovative project in which a model jaggery unit (kolhu) was established at Poothi village in Meerut district which is pollution free and provides additional financial aide to farmer. The project committee meeting was organized where presentations on the success and functioning of the project were showcased in front of Ministry in New Delhi by NEER and Inventa jointly.



Awards & Recognitions



On 11 November 2020, the **National Water Award (Water Warrior)** of 2019 was given to Raman Kant Tyagi (Founder of NEER Foundation) by the Ministry of JAL SHAKTI, Government of India.



Raman Kant, founder of NEER Foundation, has won the 21st Century Icon Award 2020. It is a proud moment as this prestigious honor has been awarded to celebrities like international cricketer Chris Gayle and Indian musician Shankar Mahadevan among others.









Partners / Association



Advisor Committee

Sh. Sompal Shashtri	Former Central Agriculture Minister
Sh. Krishnaveer Chaudhary	Chairman, Bhartiya Krishak Samaj
Dr. Prabhat Kumar, IAS	Former Agriculture Production Commissioner, GoUP
Padamshri Mr Anil Joshi	Director, HESCO
Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi	United Nations Development Program
Dr. Pallavi Bharadwaj	Global Development Program Manager, New York
Mr. Rakesh Prashad	BallotboxIndia.com
Mr. Anil Bansal	Delhi Bureau Chief (Jansatta)
Mr. Dinesh Poswal	Director, Rebound Enviro Tech Pvt. Ltd.
Sh. K.K. Roy	Advocate, Allahabad

Team

 <p>Raman Kant Director PG from C.C.S. University, Meerut</p>	<p>Inderjeet Chaudhary Water Expert</p> 
 <p>Sonal Bhushan Project Head & Administration Gold medalist in Masters in Social Work</p>	<p>Lalit Tyagi Central Coordinator A Masters Degree holder</p> 
 <p>Anubhav Rathi Project assistant Graduate in Journalism</p>	<p>Rajeev Tyagi Coordinator GAON-100 Graduate</p> 
 <p>Mayank Malik Technical support Masters in Environment Science</p>	<p>Shubham Kaushik Field Coordinator Graduate</p> 

Membership

- NITI Aayog, GOI
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- WaterKeeper Alliance U.S.A.
- Global Assembly
- ISRN New Delhi
- Jal Doot
- End Water Poverty
- Paryavran Doot
- Help Your NGO
- India UK Water Centre

Talk Shows...



Nadi ki Baat—Talk Show



HCL Foundation Water Conservation Talk

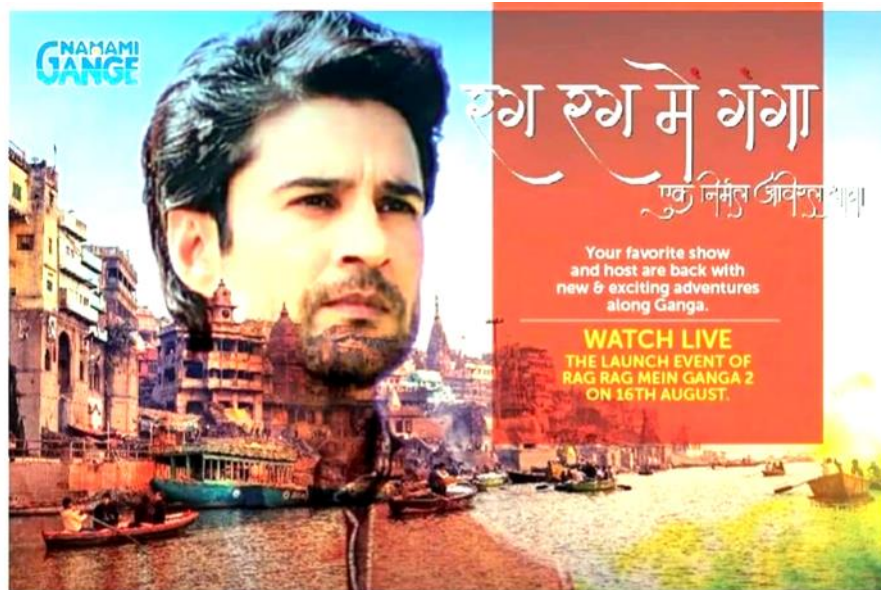


Meaningful conversation with Democracy News on India's water crisis on 12th November 2020

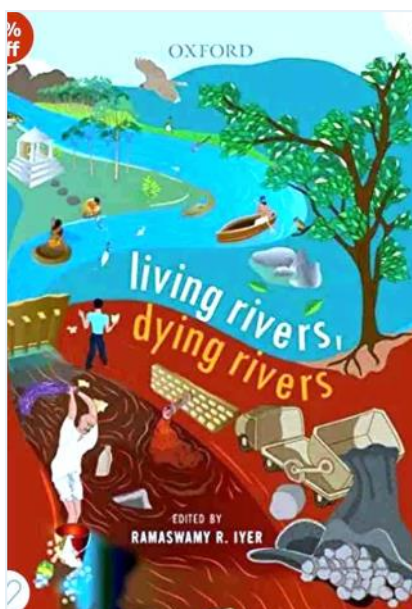


Prakarti Sanvaad on Instagram

Television Show & Publication



Rag Rag mein Ganga—A Television show hosted by Rajeev Khandelwal showcased our work on Kali east River extensively.



**Kali River East work of NEER Foundation has been ranked in the book 'Living Rivers, Dying Rivers' written by Shri Ramaswamy R. Iyer, former Secretary, Ministry of JAL SHAKTI, Government of India
December 2020**

“RAJAT KI BOONDEN”

National Water Awards 2021



Chief Guest
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra
D.G. NMCG

In association with



Water Award



Shri Sachchidanand Bharti

PIONEER
PANI RAKHO AANDOLAN
Uttarakhand

Water Journalism Award



Shri Arvind Chaturvedi

NEWS EDITOR
DAINIK JAGRAN

AWARD CEREMONY

On ➤ World Water Day 22nd March 2021
At ➤ Namami Gange Auditorium, First floor,
Major Dhyanand stadium, India Gate, New Delhi
At ➤ 12.00 pm



दाजी रीफ एगल एगल पृष्ठ



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