

Dear Sir/Madam,

We thought of providing you with a few pointers below for your kind perusal. These may aid you in introducing the children to the state of India's rivers, creating awareness of their depletion and explaining what the Rally for Rivers campaign is all about.

Of course, these are only suggested talking points. For more information, please do see the videos in the School Kit as well as other collaterals available on our website: [www.rallyforrivers.org](http://www.rallyforrivers.org).

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Hello Everyone.

Today I am here to talk to you about rivers in our country. You have definitely studied something about rivers in your text books, haven't you? Can you name a few major rivers in India? (Interaction) But do you know that these rivers are dying? Yes, they are dying. Many of the perennial rivers have become seasonal! If this continues, 25% of India will become desert.

(Name a local river) Do you know this river..... in our city/town/village? As a child, I have seen this river flowing, have swam in it, and people even used to worship it. But today when I see this river I feel so sad. There is no water. (It's only drainage). Have you seen? The same thing is happening with all the major rivers in our country.

We want .... (name the local river) and all the rivers in our country to flow again. Because if we don't get them flowing in next few years, by 2030 we will only have half the quantity of water that we need for our survival.

How old are you? (interaction) okay, so in 2030, how old will you be? (Interaction) So when you are .... years old, only 50% of the water needed for one's survival would be available. (pause) That means you will be thirsty but there will be no water. Is it a nice feeling to be thirsty? No.

If we do something now, we can avoid that situation. One simple but effective solution would be that on either side of the rivers, we plant enough trees. If we successfully do that, we can rejuvenate our rivers because trees ensure timely rainfall, help the soil to store the rain water and control the flow of the water, ensuring rivers keep flowing year around.

But this has to be done across all states, it needs support from all of us: the government, the farmers and each one of us has a role to play in this.

Sadhguru, has started a campaign called "Rally for Rivers". This campaign's objective is to bring awareness that our rivers are dying and to effect a solution for their revival. This campaign is supported by all State governments, celebrities and many other influencers in the society.

Shall we also support this campaign Yes?

*(If it's a meek Yes, engage with them to get a resounding YES!) Only this many of you will support? Ok, those who don't drink water, you don't support. :) Those of you who drink water must support this cause, will you? (get an answer))*

What we have to do as part of Rally for Rivers is - we need to give a missed call to 80009 80009.

How will this missed call help to save our dying rivers? This missed call is a vote to support a policy implementation for rejuvenating our rivers. We will recommend to the Government that we want trees on both sides of the rivers. But when we suggest this to the Government, we also have to tell them that whatever actions they need to take for planting these trees on riverbanks, we are with you. Can they do it without all of our support? No. So we just pledge our support by giving a missed call to 80009 80009.

Okay, I know you don't have phones. :) Who has it at home? *Parents.*

Will you go and tell them about this and ask them to make the missed call? Not only them but their friends and their friends and their friends...to give a missed call? Everybody who drinks water must give a missed call, isn't it? Those who don't drink, we will leave them *(in a lighter vein)*

What's the number? (wait for them to repeat) Sorry, I couldn't hear :) (wait for an answer)

Will you tell this to your parents and others who drink water.? (wait for an answer)  
Everyone who drinks water must rally for rivers and must give this missed call. Yes? Shall we make it happen?

Let's say this together - WE THE STUDENTS OF .....(name of the school) SUPPORT RALLY FOR RIVERS

As a school, we can also participate in a creative art competition and win prizes, (Coordinating School teacher) will be coordinating this, interested students meet her/ give names.

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## **Additional Points:**

### **Facts of drying rivers:**

Some of the major rivers have become seasonal. Kaveri is not reaching the ocean for about 3 months a year. Ganga is one of the most endangered rivers as per World Wildlife Fund. Godavari went dry at its source in 2016. Krishna and Narmada have also shrunk 60%.

### **Why are the rivers drying?**

There are two main reasons for the depletion of our rivers:

1. Water consumption has gone up due to a four-fold increase in our population since Independence. We are consuming much more water, especially in terms of food. 80% of the water we consume is used for agriculture.
2. As towns, cities and villages continue to expand, tree cover has come down. Without trees, perennial rivers are becoming seasonal, and water is not available throughout the year. Since there are fewer trees around our rivers now, water is being replenished at a much lower rate.

### **How does planting trees on river banks help?**

Tree roots make the soil porous so that it can absorb rain and hold water when rain falls. This water in the soil is then released into the river gradually throughout the year.

If there are no trees, during the monsoon, excess water will flow over the surface and cause floods because the soil does not absorb the rainwater.

### **What is Rally for Rivers?**

It is a campaign to raise awareness that our rivers are dying. Sadhguru, Founder of Isha Foundation has initiated this campaign. To create this awareness, he himself will be driving from Kanyakumari to Himalayas covering 16 states starting from 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The rally will culminate in Delhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, where a "River Rejuvenation Policy Recommendation" will be handed over to the central government.

