

(V)

THE SENSE OF DIRECTON IN ROHU (*LABEO ROHITA*)

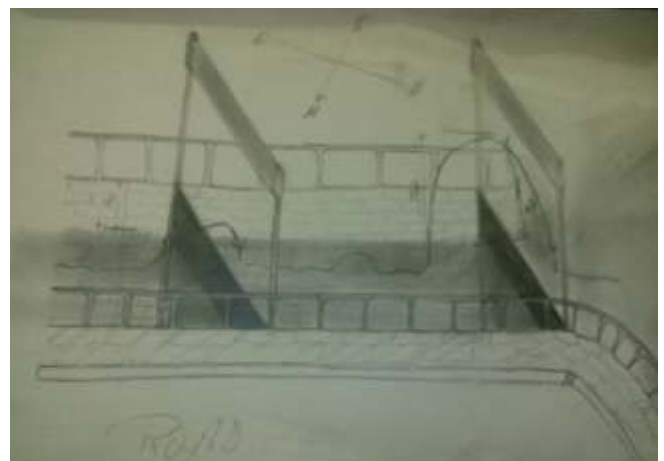
In Udaipur city there are three lakes Pichola, Swaroop Sagar, Fateh Sagar. All the three lakes are connected to each other. Pichola is directly connected to Swarop Sagar and Swaroop Sagar is connected to Fateh Sagar by a canal which has two sluice gates just to regulate the excess water.

Prior to 1989, there were scanty rains for five consecutive seasons. For the years '87 and '88 there was no exchange of water between Fateh Sagar and Swaroop Sagar. In 1989, there was good rain and all the lakes overflowed. During this season, Swaroop Sagar received a good amount of water. So, by opening the sluice gates the excess water of Swaroop Sagar was taken into Fateh Sagar. When both the lakes were full, they were closed and because the level of water in both the lakes was the same, there was no seepage from the gates. When the gates are closed, a part of the gates remain about 4 feet above the water level.

On 7th September, 1989, I was standing near the gates of the canal. At about quarter to six in the evening, suddenly a Rohu broke the surface of the water about 9 feet from the gates of the canal coming from Swaroop Sagar towards Fateh Sagar and cleared the obstacle of the gate about 4 feet above water.

Now it was trapped in the water of the canal between the two gates. After a lapse of five minutes it took yet another jump which was very high and cleared the obstacle. It landed squarely into Fateh Sagar. This time during the jump it gazed to the channel of the gate before landing into Fateh Sagar.

The distance between the surface of the water and the place on the channel where the Rohu touched, was



fully 11 feet and 9 inches. No ripples in the water prior to the Rohu's two jumps show, that it had not taken any dash before the jumps. Such a high jump, almost perpendicular to the surface of the water by a Rohu is amazing.

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