

Steven, with porpoise

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SOURCES close to actor Steven Seagal tell us that the fading action hero's home has been under siege, for a whole week now, by an angry horde of endangered Yangtze river dolphins. The dolphins were inspired to attack the Seagal home after watching, over a stray NDTV feed, the family of emperor penguins that had last month built a bridgeless moat around Barabanki farmer Amitabh Bachchan's Daulatpur property in protest of his "bloody self-important voiceovers".

The Baiji have increasingly become embittered by the Chinese government's refusal to abandon the Three Gorges project. The project's colossal dam has been choking up the Yangtze river, destroying habitats and making jiaozi taste like industrial effluent. In an unexpected combined application of chaos theory and Stanley Milgram's small world hypothesis, the baiji have logically come to the conclusion that Seagal's lush silk robes are a direct cause of the damming of at least one of the three Gorges. "In all fairness, Seagal's endorsement of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso has been factored into the 'Seagal + Silk = 1/3 Gorge' equation as a big green tick in favour of the actor, but his long hair and inability to perform convincing high kicks tilted the scales once more towards an overall negative verdict," says Mr. Keyko, the official baiji spokesdolphin.

The disgruntled cetaceans, currently in the process of stationing a pair of mid-range trebuchets at the two main entrances to Seagal's home, have lately come under some criticism from veteran roundhouse-specialist Chuck Norris: "Their thinking and their strategy are flawed, if y'all ask me [even though no one did, in fact, ask him]. It's no wonder they're functionally extinct, I tell ya. If I were them -- and let's face it, they'll never be a burnin' urn of churnin' funk like me, even if they grew a beard and took advanced lessons in b**l-busting -- I'd forget the medieval battle plan and use my crunchin' and punchin' fists instead." Norris, however, also admits to a lack of familiarity with basic marine mammal anatomy. "Flippers? You mean floaters? You better get this straight, buddyboy. The Chuckathon only. ONLY. Wears steel-toed boots."

The sensex, meanwhile, has been steadily plummeting in response to the baiji aggression. Mr. Chidambaram is reportedly in the process of bribing Seagal -- with a fully-paid vacation to Bylakuppe -- to shave his head and switch to khadi.

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