

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO ----- OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

ASRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF ODISHA AND OTHERS

RESPONDENTS

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SANKAR PRASAD PANI

ASHUTOSH PADHY

S.Pani *A.Padhy*

ADVOCATE

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PLACE: BHUBANESWAR

DATE: 14/05/2024

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 31/07/2021 The Asrukholā Punorrudharāo Bikash Manch (APoBM) was formed to protect the Asrukholā Jorā
- 2/9/2021-18/10/2021 A Memorandum for the renovation of Asrukholā was submitted to the Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha and all other concerned Department Heads, as well as the concerned Hon'ble MLAs and MPs of the locality.
- 21/10/2021 Letters were sent to Odisha Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board with the request to evaluate the environmental conditions of Asrukholā Jorā to understand the degree of pollution.
- 12/12/2021 Hon'ble MP Sri Bhartruhari Mahatab At zero hour in the parliament urged the Union Govt. to renovate and restore the Asrukholā Jorā.
- 24/12/2021 An Appeal for the Renovation and Restoration of Asrukholā wetland was submitted to the Central Ministries of Jal Shakti and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, for support.
- 16/11/2021 APoBM delegation met with the Engineering-in-Chief (EIC), Department of Water Resources and presented about the depleted state of Asrukholā wetland and proposed some scientific-based solutions through a Power Point Presentation.
- 27/12/2021 Odisha Pollution Control Board after evaluating the environment status of Asrukholā Jorā, informed to the Principal Secretary, Water Resources about the severity of pollution in Asrukholā Jorā and recommended to

provide water-flow to avert excessive weed growth with a copy endorsed to APoBM vide Memo No.20824 dated 27.12.2021

27/12/2021

Under Secretary, Govt. of Odisha also recommended to take appropriate action to EIC, Water Resources, Odisha with a copy endorsed to APoBM vide Memo No.577, dated 7.1.2022. Further, Director, Environment cum Special Secretary to Government vide Letter No.FE-ENV2-ENV-005-2021-20259 dated 18.11.2021 and vide Letter No. FE-ENV2-ENV-005-2021-20988 dated 1.12.21 wrote to Principal Secretary, DoWR(Department Of Water Resources) to take action as per the recommendation of Chief Secretary and Odisha Pollution Control Board. Thereafter the Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack instructed the Executive Engineer to prepare a Detailed Project Report(DPR) for the top 4.7 KM renovation of Asrukhola at the first phase action and the DPR of Rs.1901.03 lakhs were prepared for the purpose. On further request by APoBM to extend renovation to another 5 KM stretch of Asrukhola, the then Chief Engineer agreed and another DPR was also prepared of Rs.470.23 lakhs by SE, Kendrapara.

21/01/2022

Both the DPRs were considered and approved by 136th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held.

13/03/2022

Hon'Ble Mp Sri Bhartruhari Mahtab requested the House to provide adequate funding for the renovation and restoration of the memorable wetland.

- April 2022 The first DPR obtained administrative approval, while the second DPR was stalled due to a land acquisition petition that is still pending with the SE, Drainage, Kendrapara and Collector, Kendrapara.
- 18/11/2022 A complaint was registered with Hon'ble Prime Minister for redressal of Asrukholā pollution vide No. PMOPG/E/2022/ 0308052 but that is still pending with Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Govt. of Odisha for disposal.
- 21/08/2022 APoBM was renamed as **ASRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ADC)**
- 14/12/2022 A letter was sent to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha for his kind intervention and support. The letter is still pending with the Chief Engineer, MKS (Mahanadi Kathajodi System), DoWR (Department Of Water Resources).
- 22/04/2023 The state government issued a tender based project of first phase project of only 4.7 KM out of 63 KM at an estimated cost of Rs. 1595.15971 lakhs on 22.3.2023.
- 15/11/2023 Work was initiated by Contract Agency for top 4.7 KM of Asrukholā Jora at a Bid Cost of 1356,00,000 lakhs wef 15th November 2023,
- 20/11/23-10/1/24 Over 1000 Post Cards were sent to Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Odisha by the people of 29 Gram Panchayats requesting to sanction Pilot Project to renovate entire 63 KM Asrukholā Wetland to save it.

- 12/01/24 ADC collected 1261 signatures from the villagers of 29 Grampanchayats and posted to Hon,Chief Minister of Odisha and Chief Secretary, Odisha requesting complete renovation of 63 KM Asrukholā Wetland to restore its water quality to urgently meet public need.
- 29/01/2024 A complaint was submitted with the grievance cell of CM office vide DEPT 2024436849 but the grievance was disposed without any concrete step by the
- 27.03.2024 Considering the request of signatories of 29 Grampanchayats, the Chief Secretary directed to the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government wrote a letter to The Special Secretary to Government, Department of Water Resources citing previous letters Nos.20259 dated 18.11.2021, 20988 dated 01.12.2021 and 9595 dated 09.05.2023 to take necessary steps to restore/renovate Asrukholā Jora under intimation to his office. A copy of the letter has also been endorsed to ADC vide Memo No. 6043 / FE&CC dated 27.03.2024 for information.\
- 26/04/2024 ADC once again submitted its dissatisfaction over the grievances submitted on 29/01/2024 and resubmitted a representation countering the actions taken by the chief engineer vide grievance no DEPT20244550867

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLAKATA

(Under Section 18(1) read with Section 14(1) and 15(1) of the National Green
Tribunal Act.2010)

Original Application No /2024

1. Asrukhola Development Council, represented by its president, Amarendra Nath Mohanty S/o Bipra Charan Mohanty aged about 76 years, Currently residing At- Parijata Sriramnagar, Uttarasasan, Dist-Puri, 751002

.....APPLICANT

VS

1. State of Odisha Represented by Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Lokaseba Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN -751001, Email Address: csori@nic.in
2. The Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Odisha, Secretariat Building, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN - 751001,Email Address: wrsec.od@nic.in
3. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Kharbela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha 751001 email fesec.or@nic.in
4. The District Collector Cuttack, At/PO- Office of the Collector and District Magistrate, Dist- Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-753002, Email Address: dm-cuttack@nic.in
5. Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department, At Heads of Department Building, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha,Pin- 751001 Email Address: eic-wr.od@nic.in

6. Chief Engineer, Drainage Division, AT/PO-Gandarpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Pin-754005, Odisha, Email Address: cedrainage@gmail.com
7. Union of India represented through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbag, Newdelhi 110003, secy-moef@nic.in
8. District Collector Kendrapara, At/PO- GC3C+P38, Collectorate Buildings, 754211, Dist- Kendrapara, Odisha, Email Address: dm-kendrapara@nic.in
9. The Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Cuttack, At/PO- Revenue Divisional Commissioner Central Division, Cuttack-753002, Odisha Email Address: rdctc@nic.in
10. The Superintendent Engineer, Drainage Division, At/PO:Marshaghai, DIST- Kendrapara, Odisha,751013, Email Address: eeddkendrapara@gmail.com
11. Chairperson, State Wetland Authority Odisha, At/Po- Kharbela bhawan, Bhubaneswar, odisha, 751001 Email: direnvodisha@gmail.com , susant64@yahoo.com , susantaifs@gmail.com

...RESPONDENTS

- I. The address of the Applicant is given above for the service of notices of this Application.
- II. The addresses of the Respondents are given above for the service of notices of this Application.
- III. This application seeks direction on the critical need to Restore, Preserve, and Rejuvenate the Asrukhol Jora, a critically important perennial water body in the state that is currently at risk of extinction.

BRIEF FACTS

1. The applicant is a Registered Society under the Society Registration Act 1860, established on August 1st, 2023. It's primary objective is to protect and preserve Asrukhola Jora, to serve as a lifeline for the surrounding villages. Copy of Registration Certificate is Annexed here with as **ANNEXURE-1**

That on dated 30/04/2024 management committee members of the Asrukhola Development Council called for a meeting and by majority gave the authorisation to the president to appoint advocate to argue the case before Hon'ble NGT.

2. That the Ministry of Forest environment and climate change department Govt. of Odisha is the convenor of State Wetland Authority.
3. The Asrukhola Development Council, which represents twenty-nine Grama Panchayats, has been concentrating on drawing the attention of both the State and Central Government to take immediate action to renovate and protect the Asrukhola Jora/ wetland. Its objective is to restore its lost biodiversity, encourage sustainability in bio-production, strengthen the livelihoods of rural poor people, and ensure water security for more than 5 lakhs people living within its precincts that span over 29 Grampanchayts of 3 districts.
4. The rationale of this application of the Asrukhola Development Council (ADC) before the Hon'ble NGT is to direct the Govt. Of India to prepare a Detailed (Comprehensive) Project Report (DPR) in consultation with Asrukhola Development Council (ADC) to form the backbone of an ancient perennial water body Asrukhola Jora rejuvenation endeavour which would provide a comprehensive analysis of the Jora's current state, challenges, it 's encounters, and suggested approaches for its revitalization. Essential elements of DPRs should include:

- **Hydrological Analysis:** Study of the Jora's flow rate during flood, water quality, sediment transport, and groundwater interaction.
- **Ecosystem Assessment:** Evaluation of the flora, fauna, and habitats along the Jora's corridor.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involvement of local communities, NGOs, authorities, and experts in the planning process.
- **Action Plan:** Strategies for pollution control, habitat restoration, and sustainable water management.

Initiatives by ADC

- ADC is committed to recognizing Asrukhola Jora as a stagnant water body rather than a Drain or Drainage System, and are dedicated to addressing the issues it faces and ensuring its safety. The Asrukhola Jora holds great significance for coastal Odisha and the people living in its vicinity.
- ADC is dedicatedly working alongside esteemed professionals, including soil conservators, scientists, geologists, professionals, technicians, environmentalists, etc. to ensure its well-being in various ways.
- ADC is conducting stakeholder meetings in different villages on a regular basis to educate the general public about the critical importance of restoring their own Asrukhola Jora, which is on the brink of extinction.
- ADC organized a signature campaign to increase awareness among the people residing near the Asrukhola. The collected signatures were then sent to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha and the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha. A special event was organized to send postcards to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of

Odisha, with a total of 1200 postcards sent requesting his assistance in preserving Asrukhola Jora.

- Striving to revitalize the heavily polluted Asrukhola Jora, ensuring its long-term sustainability through the restoration of its natural flow from the nearby river Sukpaika during flood and restoration of water quality and bio diversity.

5. THE HISTORY OF ASRUKHOLA

Asrukhola Jora, an ancient perennial water body/wetland, possesses a history shrouded in mystery, awaiting further exploration. This Jora originated from its Mother River 'Sukapaika' at Saukheta of Babujang Gram Panchayat in Cuttack district. It flowed through the Mahanadi- Chitrotpala-Paika islands of Cuttack, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts before draining into the Bay of Bengal. So, the Asrukhola Jora originated from the Sukapaika river, a distributary of the mighty Mahanadi River. In order to mitigate the impact of natural disasters like floods in the above stated coastal districts of Odisha, the State Government closed the mouth of the Sukpaika river during 1960 and strengthened the vulnerable points of southern side embankment of the Chitrotpala river during 70's. These closures of the mouth of river Sukpaika and strengthening the embankment of the river Chitroptala effectively prevented the natural inflow of over-flown water during floods, resulting in certain lower regions of the Asrukhola Jora drying up.

Asrukhola was renowned for its rich variety of fauna and flora, including numerous avian species that reside or migrate to the area. These birds can be observed resting on the vegetation along the banks and swimming in the water. The presence of various insects, including butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, honeybees, wasps, and beetles, enhanced the overall beauty of the surroundings. The wetland housed a wide range of biotic species, such as minor and major carp, catfish, ornamental fish, and crustaceans including

second largest fresh water prawn *Macrobrachium malcomsonaii*, contributing to its natural allure.

6. FAULT IN PLANNING LEADS DESTRUCTION:

Subsequently, the closure of the mouth of the Sukapaika River (now a man-made 11 Kilo Meter dead river known as Kaninai) and the reinforcement of the southern embankment of the Chitrotpala river completely stopped the influx of flood water into Asrukhol. This led to the rapid proliferation of Water hyacinth, scientifically known as *Eichhornia crassipes*, which covered the entire surface area of the wetland within a few years. Additionally, the increased rate of sedimentation was caused by soil erosion during the monsoon season and then subsequent die off of weeds.

The extensive spread of water hyacinth in the Jora/Wetland over the last six decades has posed a major ecological threat to the water bodies in this area. This invasive plant has not only suppressed the growth of native plants but also drastically hurt the biodiversity and fishery diversity in the wetland. The wetland became devoid of food, causing both migratory and resident birds to leave. As a result of the detrimental effects on the Jora / Wetland ecosystem, its degradation was rapid and severe, raising concerns about its survival. In addition, the invasive weed's mat-forming nature completely halts the efficiency of the Jora / Wetland, which serves as a crucial natural drainage system for rainwater disposal during the monsoon and navigation connectivity. In addition, the decomposition of die-off weed, there is also a concern about the foul smell being emitted, which is causing pollution in the wetland water and surrounding air. This is not only endangering public health due to the breeding of disease-bearing mosquitoes, and flies but also having a significant impact on the groundwater table. As a result, bore wells, dug-out wells, and ponds are drying up, even during February. The local community is currently experiencing significant challenges as a result of the lack of action taken by the District

Administration in managing the Jora/Wetland. This disregard for its ecological and environmental significance has led to unfortunate consequences. Currently, the availability of water poses a significant challenge for the local communities.

Further, the negligence and lack of proper maintenance by the Drainage Division of Water Resources Department of the Government of Odisha have led to the spread of the invasive floating weed, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), which now covers the entire water surface. This, along with the presence of rooted fern and unethical human activities such as encroachments and blockage of waterways, has caused the fragmentation of the water body into two major parts. The wetland has been gradually deteriorating in size and water quality, which has had a negative impact on the entire ecosystem. The utility potentials of the wetland have significantly declined and this no longer exists as a single-flow water body. The wetland has experienced a significant decrease in water volume and quality, leading to the loss of biodiversity and human utility. It is now on the brink of extinction.

Following the 1960 closure of the Sukpaika River mouth and during 1970 strengthening of the weak points of the Chitroptala River's southern side embankment, floodwaters were completely prevented from entering the Asrukhol Jora. However, the government's mishandled actions in maintaining the wetland resulted in the rapid growth of invasive floating weed, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*), and wild growth of rooted fern, along with unethical human activities like encroachments and obstructions of water passage, which caused the 63 KM Wetland to split into major two parts, each of which began to deteriorate over time, posing a threat to the entire 63 KM Wetland eco-system. Consequently, the wetland's potential for human usage was severely diminished, and eventually, it vanished as a single-flow water body. The wetland's water flow was greatly impacted by this, and it is currently in danger of being extinct.

ADC therefore proposed to both state and Central Governments an important-must Pilot Project for entire 63 KM long Asrukholā Jora/wetland for complete renovation and thereafter the revival of the dead river the Sukpaika (Kaninai) by rejuvenating to its parent river the Mahanadi and finally its connection to the Asrukholā wetland at its originating point to generate water-flow in the wetland water during flood for its natural cleaning as suggested by Odisha Pollution Control Board vide its Memo No.20824 dated 27th December 2021 addressed to Principal Secretary, Department of Water resources, Odisha and the letter of Under secretary to Government to the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Odisha vide No.WR-FCDR-PG-0109-2021 - 576 dated 7th Jan.2022.Hence, the afore-mentioned projects are considered most important to save the Asrukholā wetland and needs to be prepared on priority basis to save a Freshwater water body of 950 acres failing which a small part of renovation of Asrukholā Jora/Wetland, what the DoWR (Department Of Water Resources) is executing, would yield nothing as proliferation of weed will restart and cover the entire water surface of wetland within a couple years and the investment is being made now would be a total loss of Tax payers.

That, on the request of APoBM, the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) collected samples of water and sediment at different locations of the Asrukholā Jora, evaluated its qualities and reported to the Government for necessary action. The Board in its letter dated 27/12/2021 stated that “In inviting a reference to above cited letter, this is to inform that the Board had collected water samples and sediment samples from five different locations of the AsrukholāJora on dated 24/11/2021 to assess the water quality status of the Jora by evaluating different chemical parameters in wetland water and underlying sediments. Figure of sampling locations on **Asrukholā Jora** indicated on the Google earth satellite map of the area is enclosed as Annexure-1. Test Reports for water quality and sediment quality along with the photographs of sampling

locations are enclosed herewith as Annexure- 2 and 3 respectively. **As observed from the analysis report, water quality of the Jora did not confirm to Class-B (for outdoor bathing) and Class-C (drinking water source with conventional treatment and after disinfection) with respect to the critical parameters like Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at all monitored locations and with respect to Total coliform and fecal coliform at some locations.**

Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Paradeep, Odisha who has conducted the inspection of the area on 21.11.2021 has informed vide Memo No.20824 dated 27.12.2021 that there is no source of any industrial wastewater as well as any community sewage discharge to the said stretch of Asrukhol Jora/ wetland. The cause of the pollution may be due to **stagnant water body and huge growth of aquatic vegetation over the stretch because of eutrophication caused by agricultural run-off.** Therefore, it is requested to take necessary action at the earliest to restore the water quality of the Asrukhol Jora by reviving its natural flow. Action taken in this regard may be informed to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with a copy to the Asrukhol Punarudhar O Bikash Manch (APoBM) and also to this end, since the document is supplied by SPCB Odisha coloured photograph of the document is not available. Copy of the letter dated 27/12/2021 is Annexed here with as **ANNEXURE-2**

7. It is pertinent to mention here that on dated 18/11/2021 Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Govt wrote a letter to the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Water Resource for Repair, Restoration and Renovation of the Asrukhol Jora.

Copy of the letter dated 18/11/2021 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-3.**

8. That on dated 10/11/2021 the Hon'ble Minister of Education; Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India wrote a letter to the Chief minister of Odisha stating, "I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. A.N. Mohanty, President, Asrukholā Punarudhar O Bikash Manch, Cuttack, Kendrapada, Odisha wherein it has been requested that Asrukholā Jora, a lengthiest Wetland of Odisha may be got renovated on priority basis" (copy enclosed).

It has been mentioned in this appeal that Asrukholā Jora was the life line of half a million people of over 29 panchayats of 03 districts, districts (Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Cuttack) which is now over-choked with an invasive weed spoiling completely the bio-diversity of the Jora/ Wetland, where near about 02 meters thick mud has been accumulated which has drastically affected the ground water.

And the Hon'ble Minister also stated in his letter that, I take this opportunity to request your personal intervention to take necessary action in the matter with a favourable consideration in public interest.

Copy of the letter dated 10/11/2021 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-4**.

9. That on dated 21st January 2022 a review meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR (Department Of Water Resources) on Drainage Improvement Project (DIP) and possibilities for revival of rivers, where they stated the improvements to the Asrukholā drainage channel as below,

- It is originating from village Dharibil in Cuttack District and after traveling a distance of 63.00 Km it outfalls to River Mahanadi at Kula in Kendrapara District.
- A D.P.R amounting to Rs. 1901.03 lakhs was prepared by Drainage Division, Cuttack & approved in 136th TAC with the following provisions:
 - 4.2 Km Dredging

- Bathing ghats with retaining walls
- A D.P.R amounting to Rs. 470.23 lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division Kendrapara for approval with the following provisions;
- Renovation of Drainage Channel
- Construction of 3 No bridges
- Land acquisition

Copy of the letter dated 01/02/2022 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-5**.

10.It is pertinent to mention here that again on 27/03/2024 Director, Environment-cum, Special Secretary to Govt. wrote a letter to the Special Secretary to Government, Department of Water Resources requesting to take necessary steps for restoration of Asrukholā Jora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme.

Copy of the letter dated 27/03/2024 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-6**.

11. That on various occasions Leading odia newspapers published about the dying condition of the Asrukholā jora.

Copy of the news articles is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-7**.

12.That considering the ecological importance of Asrukholā Jora, the applicant seeks indulgence of the Hon'ble Tribunal to direct the state respondents to appraise the Hon'ble Tribunal about the steps taken for Revival and Restoration of such an important water body.

13.That the ADC has also prepared one brochure highlighting the issues the wetland is facing and sought urgent attention of all authority, copy of one such brochure is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-8**.

14.It is pertinent to mention here that the MOEF&CC, Govt. of India, directed to the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), to prepare a comprehensive project on the renovation, restoration and development of this Wetland

Asrukholā Jorā. According to the project report the CDA has identified certain threats to the Asrukholā Jorā which are as follows;

- i. High rate of siltation
- ii. Changes in Water connectivity
- iii. Regional Climate Change
- iv. Invasion of Water Hyacinths
- v. Increasing pressure on Jorā Fisheries
- vi. Increase Tourist pressure

Copy of the Project Report prepared by CDA is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-9.**

15. That on dated 14/02/2022 one appeal was sent to The Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment and Climate Change for renovation and restoration of an important Wetland ASRUKHOLA JORA - a lengthiest natural water resource / Wetland of Kendrapara and Cuttack district of Odisha.

Copy of the appeal letter dated 14/02/2022 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-10.**

16. That the Hon'ble MP of Cuttack on dated 14/03/2022, In the Lok Sabha Debate raised certain questions Regarding inclusion of Asrukholā Jorā, Cuttack district, Odisha in National Wetland Conservation Programme.

Copy of the question raised by Hon'ble MP SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB is here unto annexed **as ANNEXURE-11.**

17. It is needless to mention here that the CPCB is also well aware about the dying condition of the Asrukholā Jorā and on dated 29/10/2021 CPCB wrote a letter to the Member Secretary SPCB odisha and Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resource, Govt. of odisha to investigate into the matter and to take necessary action.

Copy of the CPCB letter dated 29/10/2021 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-12.**

18. The ancient Roman Empire developed a legal theory known as the "**Doctrine of the Public Trust**". It was founded on the premise that certain common properties such as air, sea, water and forests are of immense importance to the people in general and they must be held by the Government as a trustee for the free and unimpeded use by the general public and it would be wholly unjustified to make them a subject of private ownership. The doctrine enjoins upon the Government to protect the resources for the enjoyment of the general public rather than to permit their use for private ownership or commercial exploitation to satisfy the greed of few.
19. Although, the Constitution of India, which was enforced on 26/01/1950 did not contain any express provision for protection of environment and ecology, the people continued to treat it as their social duty to respect the nature, natural resources and protect environment and ecology. After 26 years, Article 48 A was inserted in Part IV of the Constitution and the **State was burdened with the responsibility of making an endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forest and wildlife of the country**. By the same amendment, Fundamental Duties of the citizens were enumerated in the form of Article 51A (Part IV A). These include the duty to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures [Article 51A(g)]
20. That the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Association for Environment Protection vs. State of Kerala and Ors. (02.07.2013 - SC) : MANU/SC/0622/2013, has directed for demolition of the structure raised by reclaiming the river for establishing a restaurant as part of renovation and beautification of Manalpuram Park at Aluva within a period of three months.
21. It is not out of place to mention that Supreme court and National Green Tribunal in catena of cases have directed the state authorities to maintain the

free flow of river, remove construction from river bed and at times penalize the state and other person for all kind of such nuisance activities.

22. That on 28th September 2022, Original Application No.20/2021/EZ disposed of with direction as follows

Para 21-We are in agreement with the anxiety of Mr. Sisir Das, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Applicants, that the Sukapaika river has been dead for several decades causing grave hardship to the local people who are dependent on the river for drinking water as well as for agricultural purposes and that the said river must be rejuvenated. This will also help in recharging the ground water as well as in maintaining the water level in the natural water bodies around the area.

Para 22. We, therefore, direct the State Respondents that in case the proposed budgetary allocation of Rs. 4967.13 lakhs for rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel has not been made by the Government, the same shall be made within a period of one month for which purpose a copy of this judgment shall be placed before the Chief Secretary, State of Odisha for appropriate orders.

Para 23. We also direct the State Respondents to complete the entire Project for rejuvenation of Sukapaika River Drainage Channel by 13.03.2023 and file an affidavit of compliance in this regard.

Para 24. With the aforesaid directions, the Original Application is disposed of.”

Copy of the order dated 28/09/2022 is here unto annexed as **ANNEXURE-13**.

23.As per the Ramsar Convention, a wetland is defined as ‘areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of

marine water the depth of which at low tides does not exceed six meters'. In addition, to protect coherent sites, Article 2.1 of the Convention provides that 'wetlands may include riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six meters at low tide lying within the wetlands.'

24. That the Wetlands are protected under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Allocation of wetlands for any other purpose constitutes a violation of statutory requirement under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 in addition to running contrary to the Principle of Sustainable Development, the Precautionary Principle, the Public Trust Doctrine and the Eco-centric approach propounded by the Hon^{ble} Supreme Court of India. Receiving the excess water from Rushikulya River and flood water during rainy season from the surrounding villages and by changing the land use for recreational purposes and altering the land use will seriously affect the purpose it was serving.

25. It is widely recognized that Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. An immense variety of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals can be part of a wetland ecosystem. Climate, landscape shape (topology), geology and the movement and abundance of water help to determine the plants and animals that inhabit each in wetland. The complex, dynamic relationships among the organisms inhabiting the wetland environment are called food webs. The future of humanity depends on wetlands. Wetlands are some of the most important biodiversity areas in the world. Many of the challenges of the future can be met through conserving and sustainably using wetlands, such as food and water security, human health, disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience.

Wetlands can be thought of as "biological supermarkets." They provide great volumes of food that attract many animal species. These animals use wetlands for part of or all of their lifecycle. The functions of a wetland and the values of these functions to humans depend on a complex set of Relationships between the wetland and the other ecosystems in the watershed. A watershed is a geographic area in which water, sediments and dissolved materials drain from higher elevations to a common low-lying outlet or basin a point on a larger stream, lake, underlying aquifers or estuary. Role in mitigating Climate Change: Wetlands' microbes, plants and wildlife are part of global cycles for water, nitrogen and sulfur. Thus, wetlands help to moderate global climate conditions

26. That MoEFCC vide letter dated **8th March 2022**, addressing all the state governments reiterated the need for Protection of Wetlands as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and further highlighted the Hon'ble **Supreme Court Order dated 4th October 2017 in W.P. (C) No. 230 of 2001** has inter-alia, directed that,

“We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, around 2,01,503 wetlands that have been **mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010**”.

2. The same has been communicated by this Ministry to all the States and UTs in November, 2017. Hon'ble NGT has also reiterated the same in various recent cases.

3. In view of above, it is once again clarified/reiterated that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This protection is irrespective of the applicability of notification as per the said Rules”.

27. Wetlands and Sustainable Development Goals: The sustainable use of water and wetlands, by protecting the services they provide, is **critical** to enable society to achieve sustainable social and economic development, adapt to climate change and improve social cohesion and economic stability. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a universal agenda that, for the first time, recognizes the need for restoration and management of water related ecosystems, including wetlands, as a basis for addressing water scarcity and water risks. Wetlands are a solution for several key challenges around the world related to water, food and climate, and key to meeting the SDGs. Most of the SDGs are relevant in some way or another to wetlands, but the following are of particular importance

28. That Wetland Atlas of 2010 estimates of various wetland categories for Orissa has been carried out using GIS layers of wetland boundary, water-spread, aquatic vegetation and turbidity. In the state of Orissa **12,266 wetlands have been delineated**. In addition, **66,174 small wetlands** (< 2.25 ha) have also been discerned. Total wetland area is estimated to be **6,90,904 ha**. Inland wetlands dominated the extent of wetlands constituting about 66 per cent. Further, inland natural and man-made wetlands shared approximately similar extents with about 34 and 32 per cent of area under wetlands. Out of 24 per cent of coastal wetlands, the natural accounted for about 20 per cent and the rest 3 per cent is shared by man-made wetlands.

29. The major wetland types are River/Stream (2,23,522 ha) comprising about 32 per cent of extent wetlands (Table 5) followed by Reservoir/Barrage (1,89,972 ha), Tank/ Ponds (29,301 ha), Lagoon (89,023 ha), Intertidal mudflats (25,514 ha) and Mangroves (23,395 ha). There are large number of small wetlands (<2.25 ha) contributing about 10 percent of the extent under

wetlands in Orissa. The open water spread is 5,08,282 ha in post-monsoon constituting about 81 per cent of the the wetland area. It has reduced to 4,19,310 ha in pre-monsoon, **which turns out to be about 14 per cent.** The reduction in open water spread is visibly observed in case of Reservoir/Barrage, which were 1,80,240 ha in post-monsoon has got reduced to 1,09,975 ha in pre-monsoon season. The aquatic vegetation was observed to constituting about 10 per cent of wetland area in post-monsoon (62,733 ha) has shown a significant increase during pre-monsoon (1,42,584 ha) that turns out to be about 23 per cent. Open water exhibited dominantly moderate turbidity in both seasons followed by low and high turbidity levels

30. The total geographical area of Ganjam district is 8,033 sq km. The district comprises of 4,783 wetlands including 4,088 that are smaller than 2.25 ha. Together they account for 29,920 ha of area (Table 25). The major wetland types are Lagoon (6,998 ha) followed by River/Stream (6,131 ha) and Reservoir/Barrage (4,689 ha). The small wetlands contribute a significant area (about 14 %) towards the aerial extent of wetlands in the district. Open water component of wetlands has shown about 15 per cent reduction as seasonal change from post-monsoon (18,883 ha) to pre-monsoon (16,099 ha). Aquatic vegetation has shown an increase of about one and half times from post-monsoon (4,894 ha) to 7,167 ha in pre-monsoon. Open water has exhibited larger area under moderate turbidity followed by low without the presence of high turbidity in both the seasons.

31. That in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government , MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND

CLIMATE CHANGE has notified rules for conservation and management of wetlands, namely Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 vide NOTIFICATION dated 26th September, 2017.

32. While notifying the Rules 2017 the MoEFCC has acknowledged in its preamble that the wetlands are vital parts of the hydrological cycle, are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation, aesthetic enhancement of landscapes while simultaneously supporting many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage;
33. It further acknowledges that many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands;
34. That clause (g) of article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;
35. That the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a comprehensive legislation to provide protection and improvement of the environment, including inter-alia, wetlands, and for matters connected therewith; And whereas the National Environment Policy, 2006 recognizes the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and emphasizes the need to set up a regulatory mechanism for all wetlands so as to maintain their ecological character, and ultimately support their integrated management;

36. That India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is committed to conservation and wise use of all wetlands within its territory;
37. That the Central Government has published the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, vide number G.S.R. 951(E), dated the 4th December, 2010;
38. That conservation and wise use of wetlands can provide substantial direct and indirect economic benefits to state and national economy, and thereby the Central Government stands committed to mainstreaming full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services in development planning and decision making for various sectors;
39. That the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations need to take into account wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values likewise within their developmental programming and economic well-being, also taking into cognizance that land and water, two major ecological constituents of wetland ecosystems, are enlisted as State subjects as per the Constitution;
40. That Rule-4(Restrictions of activities in wetlands). —
- (1) The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority.
 - (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely, -
 - (i) Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition

Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) **any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,**
- (vii) poaching.

41. That Rule 4(2)(vi) clearly **prohibits any construction of a permanent nature within fifty meters from the mean High Flood Level observed in the past ten years**, calculated from the date of commencement of **Rules 2017**, the bench observed and the present construction is in the prohibited zone.

42. The Guidelines of 2020 of MoEF&CC and Administrative order dated 16.03.2022 also lay down similar provisions. The rigor of clear provisions thereof cannot be breached by reference to any decision of State or Local Body/authority in as much as EP Act, 1986 which is a Central Act and provisions framed there under shall prevail over any decision of State or local bodies.

43. That Rule 7 provides Delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. —

(1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, **prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing: —**

- (a) **demarcation of wetland boundary** supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - (b) **Demarcation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover** thereof indicated in a digital map;
 - (c) ecological character description;
 - (d) Account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
 - (e) List of **site-specific activities to be** permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
 - (f) List of site specific **activities to be regulated** within the wetland and its zone of influence; and
 - (g) Modalities for enforcement of regulation;
- (2) Based on the Brief Document, **the Authority shall make recommendations to the State Government or Union Territory Administration for notifying the wetlands.**
- (3) The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, **notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Authority.**

- (5) (a) The Central Government shall create a dedicated web portal for information relating to wetlands. (b) The Central Government, **State Government and Union Territory Administration shall upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction.**

44. That in view of the objectives of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 more particularly need for identification and **demarcation of zone of influence** of wetland and as of now no such effort has been made by the state authorities as well as the district authority. Government of Odisha vide Gazette Notification dated **21st May 2018** has constituted state wetland authority with including 20 members under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment. The last and only meeting of state wetland authority held on **17/08/2019** and minutes of the meeting as follows

“He stressed upon for **submission of Action Plans** to Govt. of India for restoration of degraded wetlands of the State As desired. Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary presented the state Wetlands and salient points of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rule 2017.

He also conveyed the order dated 10.05.2019 of Hon'ble NGT in M.A 26/2019 in OA No. 325/2015 in the matter of **Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi & Ors and the order dated 29.03.2019** in OA. No. 503/2018 of Honble NGT in the matter of **R.K.Gupta Vs Delhi Development Authority & Ors** to the notice of Authority wherein Hon'ble Tribunal **directed that the State Wetlands Authority to identify wetlands and water bodies to be notified in their jurisdiction and review** existing framework of restoration all water bodies by preparing an appropriate action plan

After detail discussion, the following decisions are taken.

1. Regarding, constitution of Technical Committee, it was decided to include representatives of Forest & Environment Department, Water Resources Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, PR& DW Department, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Fisheries & Animal Resources Department and **ORSAC** for review of brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the State Wetlands Authority.
2. Further, it was decided to **constitute a Grievance Committee consisting of Principal Secretary Forest & Environment Department**, Chief Executive, CDA/ICZMP: one NGO and Director, Environment to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority
3. **Technical Committee is to identify all wetlands in the State.** They may refer the National Wetland Atlas prepared by ORSAC besides may also consider Hirakud reservoir, Hadagada as well as major, medium and some minor irrigation projects of Water Resource Department. On the basis of importance, Technical Committee will suggest the details of the wetlands in the next meeting of the **Authority so that the Authority can recommend the eligible wetlands to be notified by the State Government.**
4. For sustainable management of wetlands, **Action Plans for each wetland need to be prepared.** The objectives of the Action Plan should include **catchment treatment, silt load reduction, checking of inflow of organic wastes, fertilizers& pesticide residues and open defecation thereby decrease of pollution load in water**

bodies. Further, site specific ecotourism, increase of fisheries and other recreational use may also be promoted”

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE NON-FUNCTIONAL

45. That on 7/02/2020 the grievance committee was constituted by state forest and environment department under **Chairmanship of director Environment cum Special Secretary to Forest and Environment department.** However not even a single meeting has been ever held and no response ever received in regard to the complaints made to the committee regarding violation of Wetland Rules suggesting the committee is merely confined to paper and practically non-existent.
46. The MOEFCC in Lokasabha on 19/07/2019 responded to starred questions of Hon’ble MPs confirming the requirement for constitution of grievance committee and delegation of power to state authorities to notify the wetlands.
47. In view of the Precautionary Principle’s and the objectives of the Wetland Conservation and Management Rules 2017, there is an urgent **need to stop construction, demolish the permanent structures and restore to its original condition along with need to identify, demarcate and protect the wetlands of the Ganjam district.**
48. Further the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) since February, 2013 for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country in a holistic and integrated manner. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments for undertaking various activities for conservation of wetlands and lakes, which also include a small component of lake front development and beautification, especially in urban lakes.

49. That the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2015-16) in its Tenth Report on “**Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies- Encroachment on Water Bodies and Steps Required to Remove the Encroachment and Restore the Water Bodies**” dated 26th July 2016 has taken the issue of encroachment seriously
50. That the Central Pollution Control Board has framed “Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies” in June 2019 (in compliance to Hon’ble NGT Order dated 10.05.2019 in O A. No. 325 of 2015) and same has suggested a detailed methodology such as **recognition, restoration, protection, improvement and sustenance phase** as the measures to restore the water bodies.
51. That NITI Aayog based on a study warning that India is facing its ‘worst’ water crisis in history and that demand for potable water will outstrip supply by 2030 if remedial steps are not taken. Nearly 600 million people faced high to extreme water stress. Also, made predictions that twenty-one cities, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad will run out of groundwater by 2020, affecting 100 million people. If matters are to continue, there will be a 6% loss in the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2050. Moreover, critical groundwater resources, which accounted for 40% of India’s water supply, are being depleted at “unsustainable” rates and up to 70% of India’s water supply is “contaminated” ‘Therefore, water resource available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent.

ENCROACHMENT OF WATER BODY IN VIOLATION OF JUDGMENTS OF HON’BLE SUPREME COURT

52. That in view the Order of Hon’ble SC reported as **M.K. Balakrishnan v. Union of India** (2017) 7 SCC 810(2), considering the embargo on reclamation of wetlands under Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and

Management) Rules, 2010, the action of the State in the instant case of construction in Tampara Lake would be illegal

53. It is further emphasized that the Hon'ble Apex court in plethora of judgments have stressed on restoration of water bodies and in no case such water bodies should be allowed to be encroached and then after regularized. Some of the important operational parts of the judgments are reproduced as follows.

In Jagpal Singh v. State of Punjab and noted that since time immemorial, certain common lands had vested in village communities for collective benefit. Except in exceptional circumstances when used exclusively for the downtrodden, these lands were inalienable. It was observed that such protections, however, remained on paper, and since Independence powerful people and a corrupt system had appropriated these lands for personal aggrandisement. Pointing out the harms in allowing such misappropriation, the Court noted an urgent public interest in stopping such misdeeds. Further, various directions were issued for eviction of illegal occupants and restoration of the common land to villagers. It was explicitly specified that “long duration of such illegal occupation or huge expenditure in making constructions thereon” can not be a “justification for condoning this illegal act or for regularizing the illegal possession”

54. That the Hon'ble Apex Court in the matter of Hinch Lal Tiwari –vs- Kamala Devi And Ors(2001) 6 SCC 496 decided on 25th July, 2001 with reference to the Appeal (Civil) No 4787 of 2001 and as reported observed at Para: 13 as follows:-

“13. It is important to notice that the material resources of the community like forests, tanks, ponds, hillock, mountain etc. are nature's

bounty. They maintain delicate ecological balance. They need to be protected for a proper and healthy environment which enables people to enjoy a quality life which is the essence of the guaranteed right under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government, including the Revenue Authorities i.e. Respondents 11 to 13, having noticed that a pond is falling in disuse, should have bestowed their attention to develop the same which would, on one hand, have prevented ecological disaster and on the other provided better environment for the benefit of the public at large. Such vigil is the best protection against knavish attempts to seek allotment in non-abadi sites. For the aforementioned reasons, we set aside the order of the High Court; restore the order of the Additional Collector dated 25-2-1999 confirmed by the Commissioner on 12-3-1999. Consequently, Respondents 1 to 10 shall vacate the land, which was allotted to them, within six months from today. They will, however, be permitted to take away the material of the houses which they have constructed on the said land. If Respondents 1 to 10 do not vacate the land within the said period the official respondents i.e. Respondents 11 to 13 shall demolish the construction and get possession of the said land in accordance with law. The State including Respondents 11 to 13 shall restore the pond, develop and maintain the same as a recreational spot which will undoubtedly be in the best interest of the villagers. Further it will also help in maintaining ecological balance and protecting the environment in regard to which this Court has repeatedly expressed its concern. Such measures must begin at the grass-root level if they were to become the nation's pride.”

55. That the Hon’ble Apex Court in the matter of Jitendra Singh-Versus-Ministry of Environment & Others decided on 25th November 2019 observed at Para: 18, 19, 20 are as follows: -

“18. Even otherwise, the action of the respondent authorities contravenes their Constitutional obligations. Article 48 A of the Constitution casts a duty on the State to “*endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country*”, and Article 51A (g) expects every citizen to perform his fundamental duty to “*protect and improve the natural environment*”. A perusal of our Constitutional scheme and judicial development of environmental law further shows that all persons have a right to a healthy environment. It would be gainsaid that the State is nothing but a collective embodiment of citizens, and hence collective duties of citizens can constructively be imposed on the State. Such an interpretation of the Constitution has also been adopted in *MC Mehtav. Union of India* wherein this Court mandated the State to ensure mandatory environmental education to all school students in pursuance of the fundamental duties enshrined in Article 51A (g)

19. There remains therefore no doubt that it is the responsibility of the respondents to ensure the protection and integrity of the environment, especially one which is a source for livelihood for rural population and life for local flora and fauna.

20. Protection of such village commons is essential to safeguard the fundamental right guaranteed by Article 21 of our Constitution. The right to access to clean drinking water is fundamental to life and there is a duty on the state under Article 21 to provide clean drinking water to its citizens’. The State is duty-bound not only to provide adequate drinking water but also to protect water sources from pollution and encroachment. Any act of the State that allows pollution of water body must be treated as arbitrary and contrary to the public interest and in violation of the right to clean water under Article 21 Constitution of India. These common areas are

the lifeline of communities, and often sustain various chores and provide resources necessary for life. Water bodies, specifically, are an important source of fishery and much needed potable water. Many areas of this country perennially face a water crisis and access to drinking water is woefully inadequate for most Indians. Allowing such invaluable community resources to be taken over by a few is hence grossly illegal”.

50. The Hon’ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 07.05.2019 in O.A No. 176/2015, Shailesh Singh Vs. Hotel Holiday Regency, Moradabad &Ors., directed the CGWA to prepare a policy for conservation of groundwater with a robust institutional mechanism for surveillance and monitoring with a view to enhance access to ground water for drinking purposes in OCS(Over Exploited, Critical and Semi critical) areas by way of appropriate replenishment practices which can be properly accounted and measured as well as to sustain the flood plains of rivers in terms of e-flows, augmentation of subterranean flows and preservation of other water bodies.

56. That the **Hon’ble NGT Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union Of India, OA NO 325/2015/PB and order dated 10/05/2019, Para 6** has observed that

“There can be no dispute that the water bodies play significant role in recharge of ground water, preventing soil erosion, harnessing rain water and maintaining micro-climate in the area. Need for conservation and protection of water bodies is thus obvious. This requires involvement not only at the level of the State but also at the level of the community for which State needs to take initiative. The threat caused to the water bodies is by dumping of waste, discharge of effluents and encroachments. The steps required for restoration will include preparation and implementation of catchment area treatment plans, setting up of green belt and wherever

viable setting up of bio-diversity parks around the water bodies, cleaning up of the garbage/debris and demarcation by the Revenue Department on identification survey and demarcation. Each water body is required to be given a geo-reference-UID and an action plan is required for restoration and protection of each of the water bodies. In this view of the matter, need for conservation and protection of water bodies are not confined to the State of Haryana alone but extend to the whole country.”

57. In Para 8 of the order while relying upon the Judgment of SC in Hinch Lal Tiwari case, Hon’ble NGT observed that:

“The above observations advance the **Public Trust Doctrine** which is based on the principle that certain resources like air, water and forests have such great importance to the people as a whole that the same cannot be subject of private ownership. The same are gift of the nature and should be made freely available to the people. **The Doctrine requires the State to protect such resources and not to permit them to be used for private or commercial purposes.** This concept is applicable to wetlands and all water bodies which is essential for protection of the environment. **If the ponds and other such water bodies are not protected and conserved, this will in turn affect recharge of ground water, rain water harnessing and soil preservation.**

58. The Hon’ble Tribunal also considered the matter in the context of Delhi, vide order **dated 30.08.2018 in Original Application No. 496 of 2016**, Tribunal on its own Motion Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors., and appointed a Committee headed by the former Judge of Delhi High Court to oversee the steps for conservation of ground water in Delhi. We also note the guidelines for National Lake Conservation Plan prepared by MoEF&CC in May 2008 as well as National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA) prepared by MoEF&CC in November, 2016. Irrespective of the subject

being covered by a **particular State statute, the protection of water bodies is an essential need for protection of environment as held in Hinch Lal Tiwari (Supra)**. Such requirement is covered by the **‘Precautionary’ principle as well as the ‘Sustainable Development’ principle which are required to be enforced by this Tribunal under Section 20 of the NGT Act, 2010**. The HPWWMA Act, 2018 covers only ponds having area of more than 0.5 acres. Thus ponds of lesser area have been left out of regulation under the said Act. This aspect needs to be addressed to the extent the same remains un-addressed not only in Haryana but throughout India to the extent the existing statutory framework or guidelines do not cover comprehensively the subject of restoration of all the water bodies”.

59. That Hon’ble NGT in order dated 05.07.2021 in OA 360/2018, **Shree Nath Sharma vs. Union of India &Ors.** directed the District Collectors for preparation of District Environment Plan of each District and vide order dated **25/11/2021 in Raja Mujafar Bhat Vs State of Jammu Kashmir, OA 351/2019/PB, issued direction to cover the wetlands in the district**. If necessary, the said plans be revised accordingly by the District Magistrates concerned by providing that the core activity for conservation and protection of wetlands may primarily focus on not discharging of sewage, disposal of solid waste and other wastes, preventing siltation, demarcation of wetlands/flood protection zone and removal of encroachments. There should be regular monitoring of water quality under water quality management programme at strategic locations (around 10 locations) to ensure that it is compliant with TC/FC norms. Water quality of the wetlands with respect to BOD needs to be less than 3 mg/l, fecal coliform should meet norms and contamination due to toxic constituents either directly or through runoff from the catchment should be prevented. Biodiversity of the wetlands needs to be maintained. Monitoring of steps for compliance of Rules in relation to such

Wetlands ought to be at District level by the District Magistrate, at State level by State Wetland Authority and at National level by National Wetland Authority. We are confident that such initiatives in monitoring will go a long way in protecting the Wetlands which have significant environmental functions.

60. Further considering the larger interest of ASRUKHOLA Jora – a longest water body and its ecology, the probable impact on the villages adjoining the water body and to allow the waterbody a free flow, this petitioner prays before this Hon'ble Tribunal to direct the state respondents to RESTORE ASRUKHOLA WETLAND BY MAKING PROVISION OF WATER FLOW DURING FLOOD BY LINKING IT TO SUKPAIKA RIVER AFTER REJUVINATING to ITS MOTHER RIVER THE MAHANADI FOR NATURAL CLEANING.

Grounds

That the applicant is relying on the following grounds to invoke the jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

- I. That the issues in the application are a substantial issue relating to environment as because the site in question is a wetland and important water body
- II. That if the restoration of the water body is not taken then will bring irreparable damage to the local environment, biodiversity, livelihood and much needed protein.

LIMITATION

That there is subsisting cause of action as because the continuous inaction of the state respondents in restoring the Asrukhola jora an important wetland despite of grievances and the last grievance which was

acknowledged is of 27/03/2024 hence the application is not barred by limitation.

PRAYERS

The applicant society prays before the Hon'ble Tribunal for a direction to the state respondents

- 1. Revitalize the 63 kilometer long stretch of Asrukholā Jora, encompassing approximately 950 acres, through the process of desiltation and removal of water hyacinths and wild growth of ferns.**
- 2. To ensure water flow in the wetland during flood for natural cleaning and Rejuvenate the 11 kilometer long SUKAPAIKA (Kaninai) river and then connect to Asrukholā jora for its long term sustainability as was in past .**
- 3. Include the lengthiest and serpentine Asrukholā wetland in Ramsar site.**

That the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass any other order as deem fit in the interest of justice.

And for this act of Kindness the Humble petitioner shall as in duty bound ever pray._

UNDERTAKING

That I undertake to file the English translation of vernacular documents as and when directed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Place- Bhubaneswar

By The Applicant Through

Date- 14/05/2024



ADVOCATE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO -..... OF 2024/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

ASRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF ODISHA AND Others ... RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT 14 MAY 2024

I, Amarendra Nath Mohanty , S/o Bipra Charan mohanty aged about 76years,At/Po- Parijata Sriramnagar, Uttarasasan, Dist-Puri, 751002 do hereby solemnly affirm, and declare as under:

- 1. That I am the President of the applicant society in the above mentioned Original Application and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and therefore competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have read over the contents of the accompanying original application and the same is true and correct and is drafted on my instruction.

Amarendra Nath Mohanty
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified on this 14th day of May...2024 at P.P.R...that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Identified By Advocate

Amarendra Nath Mohanty
DEPONENT



The above named deponent(s) being duly identified by Sri... Advocate... Appears before me on oath that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

President Asrukhola Development Council

Signature of Notary: Janme Jaya Rautray, Notary, Govt of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Regd. No. - ON-86/2012, Mob. No. - 9337121273

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ANNEXURE-1 Certificate of Registration of Societies

FORM 1

(See rule 7(2))



ACT XXI OF 1860

NO . 596/720202300049 of 2023-2024

I hereby certify that **ASRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PLOT NO.118, FIRST FLOOR, AT : ODKHAND,, AT : ODAKHANDA , PO: DHARIBIL, VIA : TYANDAKURA,, CUTTACK, ODISHA, INDIA, 754134** has this day been registered under the Societies Registration Act (No.XXI of 1860) which shall remain valid for five years till the date **01-Aug-2028 .**

Given under my hand at **CUTTACK** this **01st** day of **August Two Thousand Twenty-Three**



Digitally signed by JYOTI
PRAKASH DAS
Date: 2023.08.01 15:25:19
+05:30

Registrar of Society, Odisha



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
(DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII,
Bhubaneswar - 751 012

No. 20821

Dt. 27.12.2021

VISC (LEM)Proj-174/2021-22

By Registered Post/Email

To

The Principal Secretary
Department of Water Resources
Govt. of Odisha

Sub : Appeal received for renovation and restoration of Asrukhal Jora/ wetland in Odisha-reg

Ref : This Office Letter No. 17799 dated 12.11.2021

Sir,

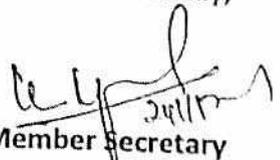
In inviting a reference to above cited letter, this is to inform that the Board had collected water samples and sediment samples from five different locations of the Asrukhal jora on dated 24.11.2021 to assess the water quality status of the Jora and concentration of different chemical parameters in the underlying sediments respectively. Figure of sampling locations on Asrukhal jora indicated on the Google earth satellite map of the area is enclosed as Annexure-1. Test Reports for water quality and sediment quality alongwith the photographs of sampling locations are enclosed herewith as Annexure-2 and 3 respectively. As observed from the analysis report, water quality of the Jora did not conform to Class B (for outdoor bathing) and Class C (drinking water source with conventional treatment and after disinfection) with respect to the critical parameter Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at all monitored locations and with respect to Total coliform and fecal coliform at some locations.

Regional Officer, SPC Board, Paradeep who has conducted the inspection of the area on 24.11.2021 has informed vide letter No. 1165 dated 20.12.2021 that there is no source of any industrial wastewater as well as any community sewage discharge to the said stretch of Asrukhal jora/ wetland. The cause of the pollution may be due to stagnant water body and huge growth of aquatic vegetation over the stretch because of eutrophication caused by agricultural run off. Copy of the letter is enclosed as Annexure-4.

Therefore, it is requested to take necessary action at the earliest to restore the water quality of the Asrukhal Jora by reviving its natural flow. Action taken in this regard may be informed to CPCB with a copy to the Asrukhal Punarudhar O Bikash Manch and also to this end.

Encl : As above

Yours faithfully,


Member Secretary

Contd..

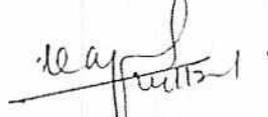
35005

Memo No. 20822

Date 27-12-2021

Copy forwarded to Sri J.C. Babu, Sc-E, WQM-I Division, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, new Delhi-110032 through email (jcb.cpcb@nic.in) for kind information.

Encl : As above

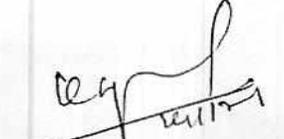

Member Secretary

Memo No. 20823

Date 27-12-2021

Copy forwarded to the Regional Directorate, Kolkata, Central Pollution Control Board, South End Conclave, Block 502, 5th and 6th Floor, Razidanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107 through Email (rdkolkata.cpcb@gov.in) for kind information.

Encl : As above


Member Secretary

Memo No. 20824

Date 27-12-2021

Copy forwarded to Sri A.N. Mohanty, President, Asrukhala Punnarudhar O Bikas Manch, Cuttack and Kendrapara districts through email (asrukhala21@gmail.com) for kind information.

Encl : As above


Member Secretary

Memo No. 20825

Date 27-12-2021

Copy forwarded to Regional Office, State Pollution Control Board, Paradeep, 1st Floor, CMCE Building, Marine Drive Road, Nua Sandhakuda, Paradeep by mail (rospcb.paradeep@ospboard.org) for kind information.

Encl : As above


Member Secretary



Sampling Locations on Asrukhal Jore



CENTRAL LABORATORY STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA

Plot No. B-59/2 & 59/3, Chandaka Industrial Estate, Patia,
Bhubaneswar - 751 024

E-mail: centrailab@ospcboard.org



TC-9245

TEST REPORT

Page 1 of 2

1. ULR No. : TC924521000000435F
- 2 (i) Report No. : OS/293/12/2021
- 3 (i) Date : 06.12.2021
4. Sample Submitted By : Sri Jadunath Sahoo, F.A
(Name and address) Regional Office, SPCB, Odisha, Paradeep
- 5 Reference Letter No. : 1030 dt.23.11.2021
6. Date of sample receipt : 24.11.2021
7. Sample Description :

(i) Discipline : Chemical Testing and Biological Testing, (Biological Testing, Chemical testing)	(ii) Group : Water (Water/ Pollution and Environment / Atmospheric Pollution)	(iii) Sub Group : Surface water (Surface water/ Ground water/ Wastewater Effluent/ Ambient Air)
---	--	---
8. Analysis Starting Date-Analysis Completion Date : 25.11.2021 - 04.12.2021
9. If uncertainty is desired by Customer : No
10. Analysis Results :
(Attach separate sheet if necessary)

Sl. No.	Parameter, Unit	Standards/Regulatory Limits	Test Method	Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara				
				Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1138	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1139	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1140	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1141	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1142
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Results								
1.	pH	*6.5-8.5	4500-11* -B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8
2.	EC, μ S/cm	-	2510 B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	182.2	321.4	208.7	191.3	181.4
3.	DO, mg/L	*5.0 mg/L or more	4500-O-C, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	0.5	Nil	2.6	1.8	1.4
4.	BOD, mg/L	* 3.0 mg/L or less	IS 3025: Part 44 (1999)	3.8	11.8	3.6	3.4	3.6
5.	COD, mg/L	-	5220 B APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	15.0	52.3	15.0	15.0	15.0
6.	NO ₂ ⁻ -N, mg/L	-	4500-NO ₂ ⁻ -B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02
7.	NO ₃ ⁻ -N, mg/L	-	4500 NO ₃ ⁻ -E APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3
8.	Na, mg/L	-	3500-Na B APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	10.20	31.22	10.11	8.21	10.33
9.	K, mg/L	-	3500 K -B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	4.48	13.33	4.23	4.09	4.56
10.	NH ₃ -N, mg/L	-	4500-NH ₃ -B followed by 4500-NH ₃ -C, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	0.56	1.68	0.56	0.56	1.12
11.	TKN, mg/L	-	4500-Norg B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	2.24	3.36	1.68	2.8	2.24
12.	SO ₄ ²⁻ , mg/L	-	4500-SO ₄ ²⁻ -E, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	6.25	13.14	6.15	5.83	6.04
13.	PO ₄ ³⁻ -P, mg/L	-	4500-P-D APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	<0.05	0.122	<0.05	<0.05	0.066

(Cont..)

Sl. No.	Parameter Unit	Standards/Regulatory Limits	Test Method	Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara				
				Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1138	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1139	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1140	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1141	Others/Nov - 21/SW/ 1142
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
14.	Cl, mg/L	-	4500Cl B. APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	12.0	50.0	12.0	10.0	12.0
15.	TC, MPN/100 mL	*500 or less	9221-B APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	390	1100	940	1400	230
16.	FC, MPN/100 mL	**500 desirable (2500 permissible)	9221-E. APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	92	490	170	630	45
17.	Pb, mg/L	-	3111 A, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	0.010	0.012	0.010	0.011	0.006
18.	Cd, mg/L	-		0.0042	0.0162	0.0039	0.0041	0.0038
19.	Cu, mg/L	-		0.068	<0.001	0.028	<0.001	<0.001
20.	Zn, mg/L	-		0.109	0.009	0.045	0.004	0.052
21.	Ni, mg/L	-		0.239	0.009	0.011	0.482	<0.001
22.	Fe, mg/L	-		0.088	0.766	0.107	0.229	0.264
23.	Cr ⁺⁶ , mg/L	-	3500-Cr-B, APHA, 23 rd Edn., 2017	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002

- (1) Village -Dharibil, GP- Manijang, Block-Nischintakoili, Dist-Cuttack (Shallow zone) Longitute-86°14' 29.7"E Latitude-20° 23'03.5" N
- (2) Village- Odakhonda, GP-Manijang, Block- Nischintakoili, Dist- Cuttack (Medium depth) Longitute-86°14' 34.2"E Latitude-20° 23'49.2" N
- (3) Village -Tendakuda (Jaitalang) , GP- Tendakuda, Block-Ganadpur, Dist -Kendrapada (Nrusinghnath Temple), Longitute- 86°15' 21.07"E Latitude-20° 22'4.2" N
- (4) Village -Tyendakuda (Chharumahala, Hemagiri) , GP- Manijang, Block- Nischintakoili, Dist- Cuttack, (Deeper zone), Longitute- 86°15' 38.38"E Latitude -20° 22'57.97" N
- (5) Village -Alijanga , GP-Tyendakuda, Block-Ganadpur, Dist -Kendrapada (Shallow zone), Longitute-86°15' 49.55"E Latitude-20° 23'11.46" N

* Class B – outdoor bathing criteria (CPCB - ADSORBS /3/1978 – 79)

** Bathing water Quality (MoEF Notification G.S.R. No.742 (E) Dt.25.09.2000)

11. Deviation from Test Method, if any : No
12. If Sampling Conducted by the Central Laboratory, Yes/ No. No
If Yes,

(a) Date of Sampling : (b) Method Used* :

-----End of Test Report-----

Authorised Signatory
06/12/21
Authorised Signatory
(Biological)

Authorised Signatory
06.12.2021
Authorised Signatory
(Water/wastewater)

Board Analyst
6/12

Note :

- (i) The results stated above relate only to the items tested.
- (ii) This report shall not be reproduced in full or in part without written approval from the In-charge of the Central Laboratory.
- (iii) The laboratory is not responsible for the authenticity of photocopied Test Reports.
- (iv) The Test Item will not be retained for more than 15 days from the date of issue of Test Report except in case as required by applicable Regulation.



**CENTRAL LABORATORY
STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA**

Plot No. B-59/2 & 59/3, Chandaka Industrial Estate, Patia,
Bhubaneswar - 751 024
E-mail: centrallab@ospcboard.org

TEST REPORT

Page 1 of 1

1. ULR No. : -----
2 (i). Report No. : SW/12/12/2021
3 (i). Date : 09.12.2021
4. Sample Submitted By : Sri Jadunath Sahoo, JSA
(Name and address) Regional Office, SPCB, Odisha, Paradeep
5. Reference Letter No. : 1030 dt.23.11.2021
6. Date of sample receipt : 24.11.2021
7. Sample Description :

- 2 (ii). Amendment No : ---
3 (ii). Amendment Date : ---

- (i) **Discipline** : Chemical Testing (Biological Testing, Chemical testing)
(ii) **Group** : Soil and Hazardous waste (Water/ Pollution and Environment / Atmospheric Pollution/ Soil and Hazardous Waste)
(iii) **Sub Group** : Soil and Hazardous waste (Surface water/ Ground water/ Wastewater Effluent/ Ambient Air/ Stack/ Soil and Hazardous Waste)

8. Analysis Starting Date-Analysis Completion Date : 24.11.2021 - 08.12.2021
9. If uncertainty is desired by Customer : No
10. Analysis Results :

(Attach separate sheet if necessary)

Sl. No.	Parameter, Unit	Standards/Regulatory Limits	Test Method	Sediment samples from Asrukhal Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara				
				Others/Nov-21/SHW/265	Others/Nov-21/SHW/ 266	Others/Nov-21/SHW/ 267	Others/Nov-21/SHW/268	Others/Nov-21/SHW/269
				Village – Dharibil, GP-Manijang, Block-Nischintakoili, Dist-Cuttack (Shallow zone) Longitude-86°14' 29.7"E Latitude-20° 23'03.5" N	Village- Odakhonda, GP-Manijang, Block-Nischintakoili, Dist- Cuttack (Medium depth) Longitude-86°14' 34.2"E Latitude-20° 23'49.2" N	Village – Tendakuda (Jaitalang) , GP-Tendakuda, Block-Ganadpur, Dist – Kendrapada (Nrusinghnath Temple), Longitude-86°15' 21.07"E Latitude-20° 22'4.2" N	Village – Tyendakuda (Chharumahala, Hemagiri) , GP-Manijang, Block-Cuttack, (Deeper zone), Longitude- 86°15' 38.38"E Latitude - 20° 22'57.97" N	Village –Alijanga , GP-Tyendakuda, Block-Ganadpur, Dist – Kendrapada (Shallow zone), Longitude-86°15' 49.55"E Latitude-20° 23'11.46" N
Results*								
1.	pH (1:5 ratio)	-	-	6.3	5.8	6.9	7.0	5.9
2.	Total Iron (mg/kg)	-	**	25335.8	19506.9	24565.5	6390.3	32533.2
3.	Organic Carbon(%)	-	***	0.782	1.182	0.693	0.987	1.468
4.	Available Nitrogen (%)	-		0.0006	0.001	0.0004	0.001	0.002
5.	T. Nitrogen (%)	-		0.021	0.036	0.011	0.037	0.043
6.	Available-P as P ₂ O ₅ (mg/kg)	-		259.8	201.8	151.8	299.7	148.1
7.	Free CaCO ₃ (mg/kg)	-	****NA	****NA	****NA	****NA	****NA	****NA

* Except pH, all values are reported on dry weight basis

** CPCB Publication Series- ATS/16/2002-03, (Chapter-5)

*** A Text book of Soil analysis by TC Baruah & HP Barthakur

**** Not Analysed , as standard procedure is not available with us

11. Deviation from Test Method , if any :
12. if Sampling Conducted by the Central Laboratory, Yes/ No. - No
If Yes,

(a) Date of Sampling : (b) Method Used* :

-----End of Test Report-----

Analysed by

M. Beheta
09/12/2021

09/12/2021

09/12/2021

V. K. ...
Board Analyst**Note :**

- (i) The results stated above relate only to the items tested.
(ii) This report shall not be reproduced in full or in part without written approval from the In-charge of the Central Laboratory.
(iii) The laboratory is not responsible for the authenticity of photocopied Test Reports.
(iv) The Test Item will not be retained for more than 15 days from the date of issue of Test Report except in case as required by applicable Regulation.

Head Office: State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, FAX : 2562822/2560955

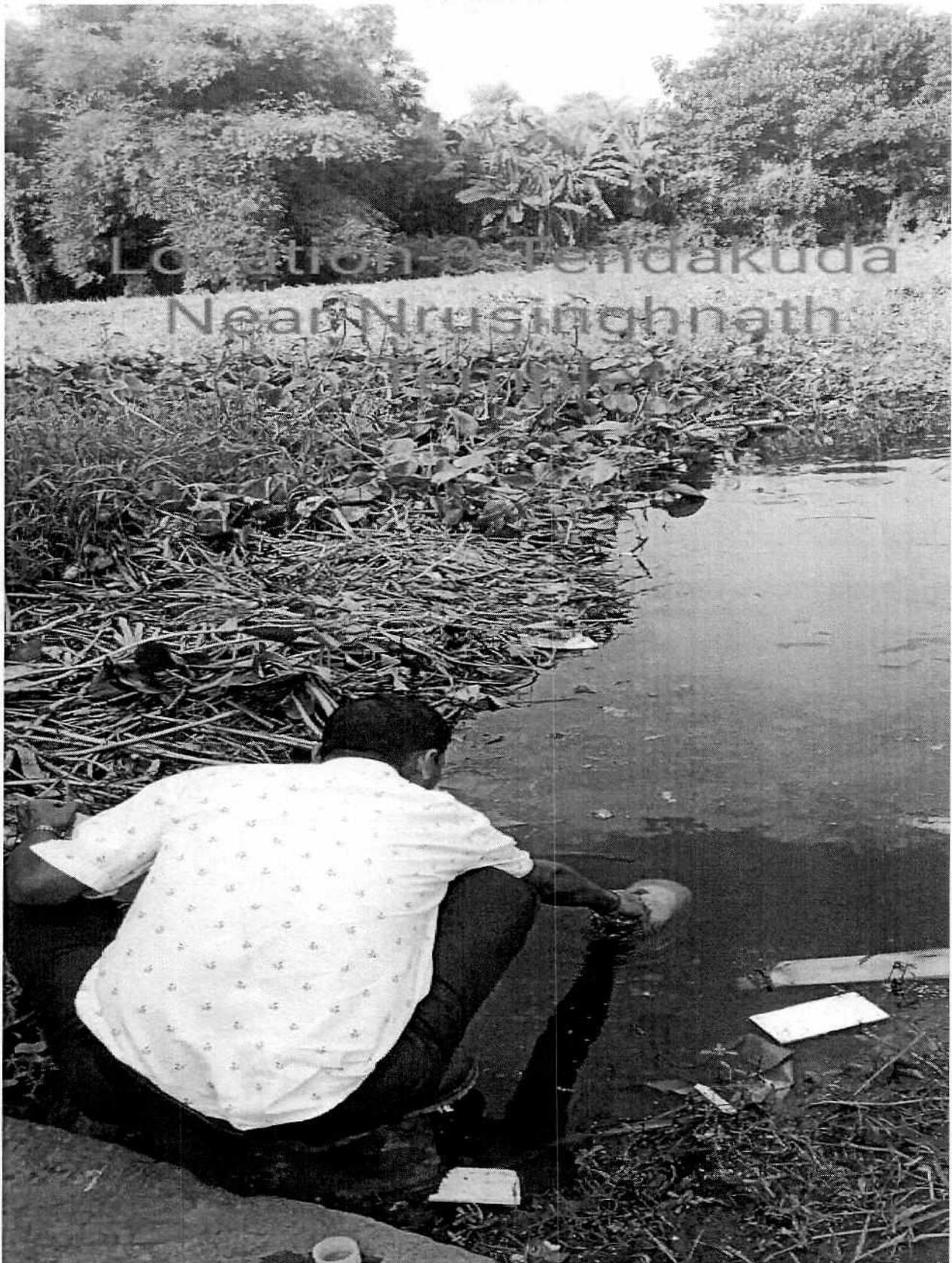
The photographs of Water Sampling of Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara on Dtd. 24.11.2021 Regional Office, SPCB, Paradeep.



The photographs of Water Sampling of Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara on Dtd. 24.11.2021 Regional Office, SPCB, Paradeep.



The photographs of Water Sampling of Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara on Dtd. 24.11.2021 Regional Office, SPCB, Paradeep.



The photographs of Water Sampling of Asrukhalda Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara on Dtd. 24.11.2021 Regional Office, SPCB, Paradeep.



The photographs of Water Sampling of Asrukhala Jora, stretched in Cuttack and Kendrapara on Dtd. 24.11.2021 Regional Office, SPCB, Paradeep.





STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
REGIONAL OFFICE, PARADEEP

[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
1st FLOOR, CMCE BUILDING, MARINE DRIVE ROAD, NUA SANDHAKUDA, PARADEEP
JAGATSINGHPUR-754142

No. 1165 / RO/PDP/LAB/13

Date 20/12/2021

By E-mail

From:

Er. D.K. Dash
Regional Officer

To

The Sr. Environmental Scientist,
Central Laboratory,
State Pollution Control Board, Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub.- Identification of sources of water pollution in connection with the appeal received for renovation and restoration of Ashrukhala jora/wetland in Odisha - Reg.

Ref.- Your letter No. 20331 ; Dt. 17/ 12/ 2021 and 117798 Dt.12/11/2021

Sir,

With reference to the letters and subject cited above, it is to mention that there is no source of any industrial wastewater as well as any community sewage discharge to the said stretch of Ashrukhala jora/wetland. During the day of sample collection, it was noticed that the water in the said jora/wetland was stagnant and there was huge growth of aquatic vegetation over the stretch, which may be due to eutrofication caused by agricultural runoff.

This is for favor of information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Regional Officer

Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department

No. FE-ENV2-ENV-0005-2021 20259 ^{*****} /F&E, Dated 18-11-21

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government
Department of Water Resources

Sub: Repair, Restoration and Restoration of Ashrukholra Jora, Cuttack and Kendrapara District

Madam,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of Memorandum dated 14.10.2021 of the President, Ashrukholra Jora Punarudhar O Bikash Manch, Cuttack and Kendrapara District received from O/o- the Chief Secretary, Odisha with a request to kindly take necessary steps for restoration of Ashrukholra Jora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme.

Yours faithfully,


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 20260 /FE&CC, Dated 18-11-21 Email: bhartruhari.mahtab@gmail.com
Copy forwarded to Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), AB-94, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi - 110 011 for kind information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 20261 /FE&CC, Dated 18-11-21
Copy forwarded to Sri Rajasekhar Ratti, Scientist 'D', Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003 with reference to their Letter dated 20.10.2021 for information and necessary action.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 20262 /FE&CC, Dated 18-11-21
Copy forwarded to the OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha with reference to their diary no. 36046/CSO dated 27.10.2021 for kind information of the Chief Secretary, Odisha.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान
धर्मेश्वर प्रधान

Dharmendra Pradhan

57



मंत्री
शिक्षा; कौशल विकास
और उद्यमशीलता
भारत सरकार

Minister

Education; Skill Development
& Entrepreneurship
Government of India

D.O. No. 788/2021/(Minister)/SDE

Dated: 10/11/2021

UM-21/2021/CM

18. 11. 2021

I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. A.N. Mohanty, President, Asrukhala Punarudhar O Bikash Manch, Cuttack, Kendrapada, Odisha wherein it has been requested that Asrukhala Jora, a lengthiest Wetland of Odisha may be got renovated on priority basis (copy enclosed).

2. It has been mentioned in this appeal that Asrukhala Jora had been life line of half a million people of over 50 panchayats of Odisha districts (Kendrapada and Cuttack) which is now over-choked with an invasive weed spoiling completely the bio diversity of the area, where near about 02 meters thick mud has been accumulated which has drastically affected the ground water.

3. I take this opportunity to request your personal intervention to take necessary action in the matter with a favourable consideration in public interest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dharmendra Pradhan)

Encl: As Above

Shri Naveen Patnaik
Chief Minister of Odisha,
Lok Seva Bhawan,
Bhubaneswar,
Odisha.

सबको शिक्षा, अच्छी शिक्षा



कौशल भारत—कुशल भारत

39

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

No.-WR-FCDR-SCH-0002-2022 2309 // WR
From

Date 1/2/2022

Shri Rabindranath Chinara
Under Secretary to Government

To
The EIC, WR, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proceedings of the review meeting held on 21st January, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR on Drainage Improvement Project (DIP) and possibilities for revival of rivers.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith proceedings of the review meeting held on 21st January, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR on Drainage Improvement Project (DIP) and possibilities for revival of rivers for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature and date: 1/2/2022

Handwritten initials and date: 1/2/2022

Encl: As above.

Under Secretary to Government

Date 1/2/2022

Memo No. 2310

Copy with copy of the enclosure forwarded to Special Secretary to Govt, DoWR (Ms. A Patnaik, IAS) / EIC-cum-Special Secretary to Govt, DoWR for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Handwritten initials and date: 1/2/2022

Under Secretary to Government

Date 1/2/2022

Memo No. 2311

Copy with copy of the enclosure forwarded to EIC, P&D, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar/ Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Handwritten initials and date: 1/2/2022

Under Secretary to Government

Date 1/2/2022

Memo No. 2312

Copy with copy of the enclosure forwarded to PS to Additional Chief Secretary to Government, DoWR for kind information of Additional Chief Secretary.

Handwritten notes: Memo No. 608/wc, date 15/02/2022, DoWR-1-1-1/22, Copy fwd to the Addl CE

Handwritten initials and date: 1/2/2022

Under Secretary to Government

Handwritten notes: Cuttack & Bhubaneswar - SE DD Khandagiri/ for information & necessary action.

Proceedings of the Review Meeting held on 21st Jan 2022 Under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, DoWR on Drainage Improvement Project (DIP) and possibilities for revival of rivers.

A review meeting was held on virtual mode at 3.00 P.M on 21st Jan 2022 under the Chair of Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Department of Water Resources on Drainage Improvement Programme (DIP) and possibilities for revival of rivers with the following members:-

1. Special Secretary to Govt in DoWR
2. Engineer-in-Chief Water Resources ,Odisha
3. Engineer-in-Chief P&D, Odisha
4. EIC-cum-Spl.Secretary ,Scheme & Monitoring
5. Additional Secretary to Govt.DoWR
6. Chief Engineer Drainage,Cuttack
7. Chief Engineer MKS,Bhubaneswar

At the outset the CE, Drainage appraised on 5 Nos. of Projects through a Power Point Presentation and the details are as follows;

Rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel:-

- It is originating from River Mahanadi at Ayatapur village & after traversing a distance of 30.45 Km it outfalls to River Mahanadi near Bankal.
- To make the channel alive, a DPR amounting to Rs. 4967.13 lakhs has been approved in the 136th TAC Meeting for Flood Control & Drainage on 14.12.2021 with the following provisions;
- One no of sluice for intake of water
- Construction of CD work
- Construction of 4 No of VRB
- Renovation of Drainage Channel
- Land acquisition

Improvement to Ashrukhala Drainage Channel:-

- It is originating from village Dharibil in Cuttack District and after traversing a distance of 59.00 Km it outfalls to River Mahanadi at Kula in Kendrapara District.

A D.P.R amounting to Rs. 1901.03 lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division, Cuttack & approved in 136th TAC with the following provisions:

- 4.2 Km Dredging
- Bathing ghats with retaining walls
- A D.P.R amounting to Rs. 470.23 lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division, Kendrapara for approval with the following provisions;
- Renovation of Drainage Channel
- Construction of 3 No bridges
- Land acquisition

Construction of Weir at Hulhula Nalla to Divert water to Ansupa Sweet Lake:-

- Hulhula drainage channel is originating from the paddy field near village Basudevpur & after traversing a distance of 19.56 Km outfalls to river Mahanadi near village Ghodabara.
- A DPR amounting to Rs.5294.64 lakh has been prepared by Drainage Division, Cuttack & approved in 132nd TAC with the following provisions;
- Construction of Controlling Structure to divert water in reverse direction to Kanapanhara Pata
- Construction of CD works over Retaining Wall to allow entry of water into Ansupa lake
- Excavation of channel from Kantapanhara Pata to Ansupa lake
- Land acquisition

Rejuvenation of River Devi Taunla:-

- It is originating from village Suneimuhan & after traversing a distance of 20.00Km it outfalls to River Devi .
- The D.P.R amounting to Rs. 10099.72 lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division, Cuttack & approved in 132nd TAC with the following provisions;
- Renovation of Drainage Channel
- Construction of 1 no of Control Structure for entry of Kanadal River water into the channel
- Construction of 1 no of CD Works to cross the existing canal
- Construction of 10 no of VRBs
- Slope Protection Work

Rejuvenation of River Prachi:-

- It is originating from village Ramchandrapur in Khurda district and after traversing a distance of 78.00Km outfalls to Bay of Bengal near village Bajapur of Puri district .

- A D.P.R amounting to Rs.10,669.15 Lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division, Cuttack with the following provisions;
 - Renovation of Drainage Channel
 - Construction of 1 no of control structure for entry of river water from Kusabhadra & 2 no of weirs
 - Construction of 25 no of VRBs
 - Slope protection work
- A DPR amounting to Rs 19244.00 lakhs has been prepared by Drainage Division, Puri with the following provisions;
 - Dredging works
 - Construction of 4 no of VRBs & weirs
 - Retaining wall
 - Service road
 - Sea mouth protection with groins

After detailed deliberation, the following decisions are taken as outlined below:-

1. Rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel:-

A technical team comprising EIC WR, CE Drainage, CE Planning , CE Mahanadi & Kathajodi System & CE Designs to be formed to access the feasibility of the proposal in proper way including impact during flooding & submit a detailed report within a month.

2. Improvement to Ashrukhala Drainage Channel:-

The project to be included in the action plan for the coming year. For the purpose necessary budget provision to be made.

3. Construction of Weir at Hulhala Nalla to Divert water to Ansupa Sweet Lake:-

To make a detailed technical investigation on the feasibility of the project and revival of Ansupa Lake to be taken up by Chilka Development Authority (CDA)

4. Rejuvenation of River Devi Taunla:-

A technical team to be formed under the chair of EIC,WR to assess the feasibility of proposal in proper way. The report of the technical team to be submitted to the Deptt. .

5. Rejuvenation of River Prachi:-

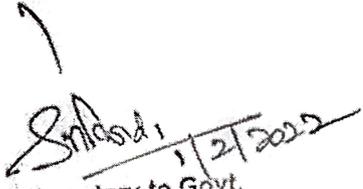
To properly assess the costing analysis of the Project by a technical team and then to prepare a DPR for posing the same before TAC .

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

The above minutes have the approval of Addl. Chief Secretary ,Water Resources.

By the Order of Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt.

Department of Water Resources


Additional Secretary to Govt.

Reminder / by email today

Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department

No. FE-ENV2-ENV-0005-2021 6041 /FE&CC, Dated 27/03/24
From

Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS
Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

To

The Special Secretary to Government
Department of Water Resources

Sub: Repair, Restoration and Restoration of Ashrukholra Jora, Cuttack and Kendrapara District
Sir,

In inviting a reference to this Department Letter No.20259 dated 18.11.2021, No.20988 dated 01.12.2021 and No. 9593 dated 09.05.2023 on the subject cited above, I am directed to say that you were requested to take necessary steps for restoration of Ashrukholra Jora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme. But no information regarding the same is has been received at this end yet. In the meanwhile, a similar representation from the President, Ashrukholra Development Council, Cuttack has been received in this Department (Copy enclosed).

You are, therefore, once again requested to take necessary steps for restoration of Ashrukholra Jora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme under intimation to this Department at an early date.

Yours faithfully,


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 6042 /FE&CC, Dated 27/03/24
Copy forwarded to the OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha with reference to their diary no. 5056/CSO dated 24.01.2024 for kind information of the Chief Secretary, Odisha.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt

Memo No. 6043 /FE&CC, Dated 27/03/24
Copy forwarded to the President, Ashrukholra Development Council, Plot No. 118, 1st Floor, At- Odakhanda, PO- Dharibil, Via- Tyandakura, Dist- Cuttack, PIN- 754134 with reference to their representation dated 12.01.2024 addressed to the Chief Secretary, Odisha for information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt





ଅଶୁଖଳା ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ପୋତି ହୋଇ ମାଟିକୁଦରେ ପରିଣତ ହେଲାଣି । ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଲୋକେ ବେଆଇନ ଭାବେ ଏହାକୁ ଅଧିକାର କରିଛନ୍ତି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଏହାର ମୂଳ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ମୃତ୍ୟୁପ୍ରାପ୍ତରେ । ଏହାର ଦୂଷିତ ଜଳ ବିଷ ପାଲଟି ଯାଇଛି । ଫଳରେ କୃଷି, ଜଳସେଚନ, ମହ୍ୟତାପ ଓ ଗୋପାଳନ ଆଦି କରି ଜୀବିକା ନିର୍ବାହ କରିବା ଅସମ୍ଭବ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଛି । ଏଣୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଲୋକେ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ବିସ୍ଥାପିତ ହେବାରେ ଲାଗିଛନ୍ତି ।

ସ୍ତ୍ରୋତ ପାଲଟିଛି ଯୋର ଅଶୁଖଳା

କାଳିଙ୍ଗ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ନିଶ୍ଚିନ୍ତକୋଇଲି ବ୍ଲକ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ବାବୁଜଙ୍ଗ ଗ୍ରାମର ରୁଆଁ ସାହି ନିକଟରେ ଉତ୍ପତ୍ତି ଲାଭ କରିଛି ମହାନଦୀର ୧୧ କି.ମି ଲମ୍ବ ଶାଖା ନଦୀ ଶୁକ ପାଇକା । ଏହାର ଅନତି ଦୂରରେ ଶୁକ ପାଇକା ନଦୀ (ଲୋକ ମୁଖରେ କାଣି ନଈର ସାହୁ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରଠାରୁ ଅଶୁଖଳା ନାମରେ ଏକ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଯୋର (୬୩ କିମି ଲମ୍ବ) ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇ ମହାନଦୀ-ଚିତ୍ରୋତ୍ପଳା ଦ୍ୱିପାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହୋଇ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରାପଡ଼ା ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଗରଦପୁର, ମାର୍ଗପାଇ ଓ ମହାକାଳପଡ଼ା ବ୍ଲକରେ ଗତି କରି ଚିକରପଙ୍ଗାସା କୁଳାଠାରେ ମହାନଦୀ ମୁହାଣରେ ପଡ଼ି ସମୁଦ୍ରରେ ମିଶିଛି । ମହାନଦୀର ଏହି ଶାଖା ନଦୀ ଶୁକ ପାଇକା ଓ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ଅଶୁଖଳା ଏପରି ଏକ ଜଳଉପ ଯେଉଁଠି ବର୍ଷସାରା ପାଣି ରହିଥାଏ । ଦ୍ୱାପାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଜନସମୂହ ପାଇଁ ଅନୁକୂଳ ଥାଇ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଓ ଜୀବିକାକୁ ମେଣ୍ଟାଇବା ସହ ଏହା ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ବଜାୟ ରଖୁଥିଲା । ଲକ୍ଷାଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସାହାରା ଥିଲା ଉନ୍ନତ ଜଳଉପ ।

୧୯୫୫ର ପ୍ରକାଶନା ବନ୍ୟାରେ ଚଳାକାନ କଟକ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପ୍ରବଳ କ୍ଷତି ହୋଇଥିଲା । ସେତେବେଳର ସରକାର ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ବନ୍ୟା ଦାଉରୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ଉଚ୍ଚତମ ଉତ୍ସାହ ଗଠନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଏହାର ଉଚ୍ଚତମ ପାଣ୍ଠିକୁ ବନ୍ଧ କରିବା ବଦଳରେ ମୁହାଣକୁ ବନ୍ଧ କରିବେଇ ଯେଉଁବନ୍ଧ କରିବେଲେ । ପତଙ୍ଗ ଉଚ୍ଚତ

ଶୁକ ପାଇକା ଓ ଅଶୁଖଳା ଯୋରରେ ବନ୍ୟାଜଳ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବା ବନ୍ଦ ହୋଇଗଲା । ଫଳରେ ଏହାର ଶଯ୍ୟା ବନ୍ୟାଜଳର ସ୍ତ୍ରୋତରେ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଭାବେ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀର ପକ ଓ ଦଳଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ଚଳମୁଣ୍ଡକୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର ନେଇ ସମୁଦ୍ରରେ ପକାଇ ପାରିଲା ନାହିଁ । କେବଳ ଉପର ମୁଣ୍ଡରୁ ବର୍ଷାକଳ ଆସି ସିର ହୋଇ ଫରକ୍ଷିତ ହୋଇ ରହିଲା । ଫଳରେ ଏହାର ଶଯ୍ୟା ପୋତି ହୋଇଗଲା । ସିର ଜଳରେ ଜଳକ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ, ଗୁଳ୍ମ ଓ ବିଭାତି ବନ ବୃକ୍ଷି ପାଇଥିଲା ।

ଅଶୁଖଳା ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ଅଧିକ ପୋତି ହୋଇ ମାଟିକୁଦ ଭଳି ଅବସ୍ଥା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି । ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଲୋକେ ବେଆଇନ ଭାବେ ଏହାକୁ ଅଧିକାର କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ନାମରେ କାରକପତ୍ରରେ

ରେକର୍ଡ କରାଇନେଇ ନିଜ କର୍ତ୍ତାରେ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଉଚ୍ଚତ ପାଣିର ମୂଳ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ମୃତ୍ୟୁପ୍ରାପ୍ତରେ । ଏହାର ଦୂଷିତ ଜଳ ବିଷ ପାଲଟି ଯାଇଛି । ଫଳରେ କୃଷି, ଜଳସେଚନ, ମହ୍ୟତାପ ଓ ଗୋପାଳନ ଆଦି କରି ଜୀବିକା ନିର୍ବାହ କରିବା ଅସମ୍ଭବ ହେଉଥିବାରୁ ଲୋକେ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ବିସ୍ଥାପିତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସହରକୁ କର୍ମ ଅନ୍ୱେଷଣରେ । କୁପୁଷ୍ଟରେ ଜଳ ଫରକ୍ଷିତ ହୋଇ ରହୁ ନଥିବାରୁ ଚୁଟକ ଜଳ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଇଛି । ଖରାବିନେ ପାଣି ଚୋପେ ପାଇଁ ଲୋକେ ତହଳ ବିକଳ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ଏହି ଦ୍ୱାପାଞ୍ଚଳ ଏକ ମରୁଭୂମି ପାଲଟି ଯିବାର ସମ୍ଭାବନାକୁ ଏତଳା ଦିଆଯାଇ ନପାରେ ।

ନିୟମ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଜଳ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟକରି ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ରକ୍ଷଣବେକ୍ଷଣ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ହେଉଛି ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କର । ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ବା ଯୋଗଗୁଡ଼ିକର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଗଠିତ ଦେଶମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ରାମସର ଅନ୍ତରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଅନୁବନ୍ଧିତ ଦେଶଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସହ ଭାରତ ସରକାର ବି ଦକ୍ଷତା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଦେଶ ଓ ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ଉନ୍ନୟନ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ ଗଠନ କରି ଅନ୍ତରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ ଚୁକ୍ତିକୁ ପାଳନ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ପରିବେଶ, ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ବିଭାଗ ଓ ସମ୍ପୃକ୍ତ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସେହି ବିଭାଗ ସହ ସମନ୍ୱୟ ରକ୍ଷା କରି

ସେହି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀର ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ତିଆରି କରି କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ଏହାକୁ ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ ଦେବାପରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ୫୦-୫୦% ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ବହନ କରି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଅବଧି ଭିତରେ ଶେଷ କରିବାର ନିୟମ ରହିଛି ।

ଅଶୁଖଳା ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ଓ ଶୁକ ପାଇକାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଦ୍ୱାପାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ‘ଅଶୁଖଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ’ ନାମରେ ଏକ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସଙ୍ଗଠନ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଜାରି ରଖିଛି । ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ, ଲୋକପ୍ରତିନିଧି, ବିଧାୟକ, ବିଭାଗୀୟ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଯତ୍ତା, ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ଯତ୍ତା ଓ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ମାରକପତ୍ର ଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ କିଛି ସୁଫଳ ମିଳୁ ନାହିଁ । ମଞ୍ଚର ଆବେଦନକ୍ରମେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଆର୍ତ୍ତକୁମ୍ଭୀ ଉନ୍ନୟନ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ତୁଳାଇଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଉନ୍ନୟନ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ୪୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଏକ ବିକାଶ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି । ତେବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦ ବିଭାଗର ଏବିଗରେ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନନେବା ଦୁର୍ଭାଗ୍ୟଜନକ । ଏହି ପ୍ରସ୍ଥାବିତ ଓ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱୀକୃତି ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ଉପରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନନେଲେ ଦ୍ୱାପାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଯେଉଁ ଅସନ୍ତୋଷର ଦାନା ବାହୁଛି ତାହା ଏକ ବୃହତ୍ ଜନ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବାର ଆଶଙ୍କାକୁ ଏତଳା ଦିଆଯାଇ ନପାରେ । ■■

ଅସୁରଖୋଳାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ନ ହେଲେ ଜଳସଂକଟ

ପାଟକୁରା, ୧୫୫୭ (ଡି.ଏନ.ଏ.)



ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ଯୋର ଦଳରେ ଭର୍ତ୍ତି।

କଟକ ସଦର, ପାଟକୁରା ଓ ମହାକାଳପଡ଼ା ବିଧାନସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନମଣ୍ଡଳୀ ଦେଇ 'ଅସୁରଖୋଳା' ନାମକ ଏକ ଯୋର ବା ସଫେଇ ପୁରାତନ କାଳରୁ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହେଉଛି। ପୁରାତନ କାଳରେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ଗାଁ ଗଣ୍ଡାରେ କୁଅ, ପୋଖରୀ ଓ ନଳକୂପ ନ ଥିଲା, ସେତେବେଳେ ଏହି 'ଅସୁରଖୋଳା' ପାର୍ଶ୍ଵବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଲୋକେ ଦୈନନ୍ଦିନ ନିତ୍ୟକର୍ମ, ଗାଧୋଇବା, ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ଭାବେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା, ଶୁଦ୍ଧିକ୍ରିୟା କର୍ମଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଲୁଗାସଫା, ତେଣୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ଜମିକୁ ପାଣି ମଡ଼ାଇ ଚାଷ କରିବା, ଗୋରୁ, ମଇଁଷି ଆଦିକୁ ଗାଧୋଇ ଦେବା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଏହି ଅସୁରଖୋଳାରେ କରାଯାଉଥିଲା। ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଏହି ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ଦଳପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି। ଫଳରେ ଏହାର ପାଣି ବିଷାକ୍ତ ହୋଇଯିବା ସହ ଏହି ଦଳରେ ମଶା, ବିଷଧର ସର୍ପ ଓ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାର ସରୀସୃପ ରହୁଛି। ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଏହି ଅସୁରଖୋଳାର ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ତିଳ

ମାଛ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧି ଲାଭ କରିଥିଲା, ହେଲେ ଏବେ ଆଉ ମାଛ ବିଶେଷ ନାହାନ୍ତି। ପାଣି ବିଷାକ୍ତ ହୋଇଯିବା ଫଳରେ ମାଛସବୁ ମରିଯାଉଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଗାଧୋଇଲେ ଦେହରେ ଫଳିଯାଉଛି। ମହାନଦୀରେ ଖରାଦିନେ ପାଣି ଆସୁ ନ ଥିବାରୁ ଶୁଖିଲା ପଡୁଛି। ତେଣୁ ଅସୁରଖୋଳାର ଦଳ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବେ ସଫେଇ କରି ଏହାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର କରା ନ ଗଲେ ନଳକୂପର ଜଳସ୍ତର କମିଯାଉଥିବାରୁ ନିକଟ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ଜଳସଂକଟ

ଦେଖାଦେବାର ଆଶଙ୍କା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଛି। ଏସବୁକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି କଟକ ସଦର ଓ ପାଟକୁରା ନିର୍ବାଚନମଣ୍ଡଳୀ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ତେଣୁକୁଡ଼ା ଓ ମଣିଜଙ୍ଗ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର କେତେଜଣ ଯୁବ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ଅସୁରଖୋଳାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଅଣ୍ଟା ଭିଡ଼ିଛନ୍ତି। ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ବହୁ ବୁଦ୍ଧିଜୀବୀ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଯୋଗାଇବା ସହ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି। ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ଆମ ଜୀବନ ଧାରା ଏକ ଗୁପ୍ତ ଗଠନ କରି ନିଜ ନିଜ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଭାବର

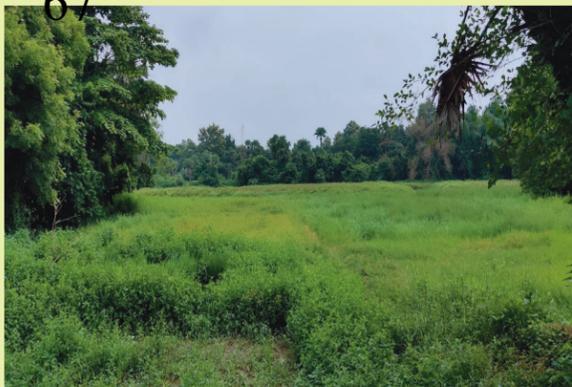
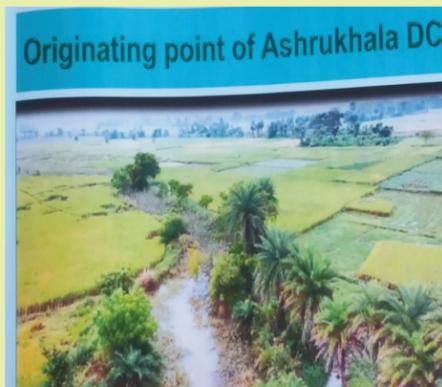
ଆଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରି ଏହାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆଗେଇ ଆସିଛନ୍ତି। ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଭାବେ ଆଲୋଚନା ପାଇଁ କୋଭିଡ଼ ଗାଇଡ଼ ଲାଇନ୍ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଜୟତଳଙ୍ଗ ଗାଁର ଯୁବକ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀକାନ୍ତ ଦାଶଙ୍କ ଆବାହକତ୍ଵରେ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚନା ଗତ ରବିବାର ଆଳିଜଙ୍ଗଠାରେ ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ନିକଟରେ ହୋଇଥିଲା। କେତେକ ସ୍ଥାନ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ କରି ଅବସ୍ଥା ସମସ୍ତେ ଦେଖିଥିଲେ। ମଣିଜଙ୍ଗ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସରପଞ୍ଚଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତିନିଧି ସର୍ବେଶ୍ଵର ନାୟକ, ଦୀପ୍ତିରଞ୍ଜନ କାନୁନ୍ଗୋ, ତେଣୁକୁଡ଼ା ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ପୂର୍ବତନ ସମିତିସଭ୍ୟ ସରୋଜ କୁମାର ବେଉରା, ମିର ଗୋଲାମ ଜିଲାନୀ, ସୁବାସ କୁମାର ବେଉରା, କୈଳାସ ସ୍ଵାଇଁ, ସୁକାନ୍ତ କୁମାର ନାୟକ, ସ୍ଵରୂପ ମହାନ୍ତି, ପ୍ରତାପ ପାଣି, କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ବେଉରା, ଅରୁଣ କୁମାର ମହାପାତ୍ର, ଦେବରାଜ ମହାନ୍ତି, ମନୋରଞ୍ଜନ ମହାନ୍ତି ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗଦେଇଥିଲେ। ସେମାନେ ଅସୁରଖୋଳାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋଚନାରେ ଭାଗ ନେଇ ମତବ୍ୟକ୍ତ କରିଥିଲେ।

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF NEWS PUBLISHED ON
DATED 15/06/2023

A stream called 'Asrukhola' has been flowing through Cuttack Sadar, Patkura and Mahakalapada constituencies assembly since ancient times. In the olden days, when there were no wells, ponds and tube wells in the village, the daily routine of the people of the area adjacent to this 'Asrukhola' was bathing, Using it as drinking water, purification work, cleaning, irrigating the land with the help of Tenda, bathing cattle, cattle etc. were done in this Asrukhola. Now Asrukhola is full of gangs. After six months, its water becomes poisonous and mosquitoes, poisonous snakes and various types of reptiles live in this Jora. In earlier days Fishes of this Asrukhola jora were famous, but now there are no more fish. Due to the poisoning of the water, fish are dying and drowning. The river is getting dry due to lack of water during the summer days. Or, if the weeds of Asrukhola is not completely and cleanly restored then the water level of the tube well is reduced.

In view of this, some youth groups of Tendakuda and Manijang panchayats under Cuttack Sadar and Patkura constituencies have bent their waists for the recovery of Asrukhola.

They have proceeded to restore it by giving an exchange. Primarily. A discussion was held on Sunday near Asrukhola in Alijunga under the leadership of Laxmikant Das, a youth from Jayatlang village by keeping on mind the Covid guidelines. After visiting some places, everyone observed the situation. Manijang Nijanga Panchayat Sarpanch is represented by Sarveswara Nayak, former member of the Panchayat, Sambrit ranjan Kanungo, of Tendakuda panchayat, Saroj Kumar Beura, Mir Gholam Jilani, Subas Kumar Beura, Kailas Swain, Sukant Kumar Nayak, Swarup Mohanty, Pratap pani, Kartik Chandra Beura, Arun Kumar Mahapatra, Deba Raj Mohanty were major participants. For the discussion and recovery Asrukhola.



ANNEXURE-8 Ashrukhola Jora Our Lifeline

Water is the most vital natural resource, a basic human need, and a valuable national asset. It is at the center of economic and social development; vital to maintain health, grow food, generate energy, manage the environment, and generate employment. Water availability and management impacts whether poor girls are educated, whether cities are healthy places to live, and whether growing industries or poor villages can withstand the impacts of floods or droughts.

With this perception, Ashrukhola Jora (Wetland), a perennial water body, is one of Odisha's unfortunate longest wetland jewels at almost 63 kilometres long. It needs urgent government attention for its repair, renovation, and restoration to protect this precious water reserve and save the lives of about half a million people living on either side of it. Discover its intriguing past. This waterway was part of the Journey to Bali when merchants traded along the Bay of Bengal coast to most of Southeast Asia.

The natural wetland Ashrukhola served as the lifeline for the people who lived on either side of it in the past. It contributed to livelihoods through fishing, agriculture, meeting all human needs for water, including drinking water, and communication using wooden boats. That was the main factor preventing villagers from migrating to cities in search of employment.



availability, and environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency. Along with ensuring food and nutrition security for locals, providing food and habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improving water quality, controlling soil erosion, and providing opportunities for recreation, education, and research, this also includes community participation and self-supporting systems for sustainable management for water bodies.

Investing in this initiative will improve rural lives and lessen conflicts between people and wildlife. Thinkers, poets, writers, and environment enthusiasts are all fascinated by wetlands. Wetlands are great places for research, instruction, and pleasure.

Efforts to buck the trend

Ashrukhola Development Council, the representative body of twenty-nine Grama Panchayats, is currently working to bring the attention of both the State and Central Governments to take immediate action under the repair, renovation and restoration scheme (RRR) of this natural and defunct "Ashrukhola Jora (Wetland)" in order to restore its lost biodiversity, sustainability in bio-production, rural poor people's livelihood, and to ensure water security for more than 3 lakh people

In a "Memorandum" addressed to the Hon. Chief Minister, the ADC urged the Government of Odisha to act right away on the following issues :

- (1) Complete mechanical weed removal from the entire stretch of 63 KM water surface, followed by dredging out organic-rich mud by at least 3 mt. for faster improvement of water quality and restoration of biodiversity,
- (2) Cancelling the illegal conversion (RoR) of Ashrukhola's 1.5 KM earth-filled waterway, which would have been followed by eviction or land acquisition,

in order to turn it into a single water body to drain surplus water during the monsoon

- (3) Reviving the dead river Sukpaika (Kani Nai) and connecting it to Ashrukhola in order to transform it into a self-regulating purifying body that can sustain high water quality all year long.

The ADC also urged the government of India to:

- (1) Declare Ashrukhola as the country's longest and freshest water wetland;
- (2) Include this wetland on the national list of wetlands with geo-tagging and assign it a UID number in accordance with NGT directive; and
- (3) Take the necessary steps to develop Ashrukhola into a "Biodiversity Park" that incorporates departments from water resources, irrigation,



The Task Ahead

- (a) The restoration of the historic, naturally serpentine-shaped, and longest (63KM) Wetland in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts, Ashrukhola Jora, which is currently believed to be the most urgent due to the threat of extinction,
- (b) Reviving the dead river Sukpaika (11 KM), a branch river of the Mahanadi, and joining it to this priceless wetland, which is thought to be necessary to transform this wetland into a self-regulating system in order to avoid further maintenance.

Immediate Benefits

- i) To ensure ecological balance and environmental sustainability in the Wetland;
- ii) To ensure throughout the year good quality water for public use; iii) To restore and enrich biodiversity and to protect flora, fauna, and native birds.
- iv) To promote integrated aquaculture and agriculture through public participation, forming Ashrukhola Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) not only to generate employment but also to ensure food and nutrition security for half a million people residing in over 28 Grama Panchayats on either side of the serpentine-shaped Wetland,
- v) To achieve sustainability in auto-maintenance of the Wetland by joining with the nearby river Sukpaika - a tributary of the Mahanadi after its' revitalization;
- vi) To ensure nutrition and livelihood security, preventing migration to nearby cities.

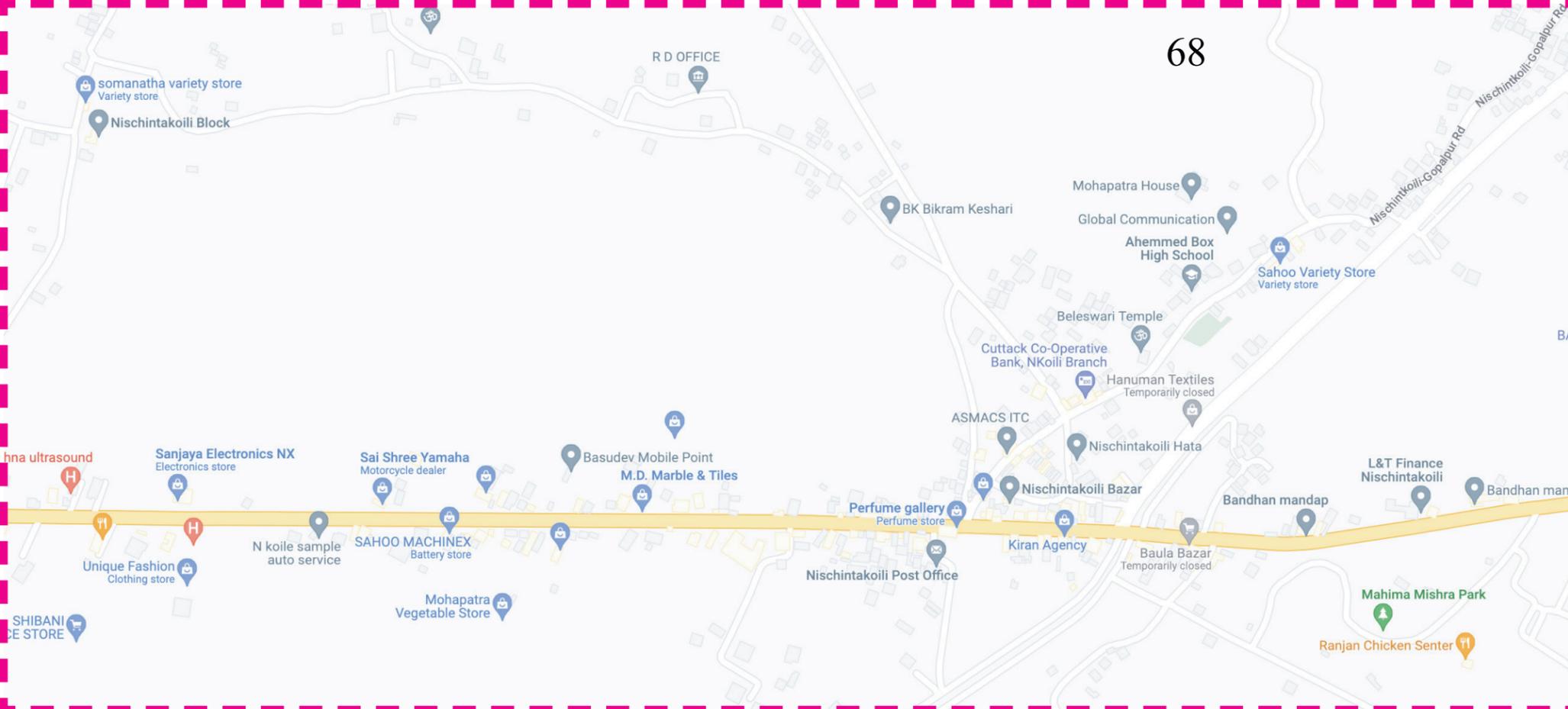
Long Term Benefits

- i) To ensure the conservation of natural water resources of Ashrukhola Jora (Wetland) - a state heritage site - and the Sukapaika River after its revitalization.
- ii) To ensure Water Security for the people by maintaining maximum water level in the Wetland, which will provide adequate surface water for public utility and groundwater for drinking purposes on account of recharging of aquifers at an optimum rate,
- iii) To ensure enhanced economic vitality and livelihood for the local people of the locality and would prevent their migration into cities,
- iv) To introduce income-generating projects such as agro-forestry that would protect soil erosion,
- v) To ensure nutritional and livelihood security preventing migration to nearby cities.
- vi) Introduce Wetland-Dependent tourism (eco-tourism), etc., in coordination with relevant government departments and private sector organisations,
- vii) To Introduce aquatic sports for adolescents in coordination with the OAA and IOA
- vii) To minimize loss of life and property in areas prone to repeated natural disasters such as cyclones,
- viii) Inviting Naturalists, Scientists, Researchers, and Historians to investigate the origin-mystery of this nature-given wetland

ASHRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

(Representing 29 Grampanchayats of Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur & Kendrapara Districts, Odisha)
 Regd. Office: Odakhand, PO: Dharibil, Via: Tyandakuda, Dist: Cuttack, PIN:754134, Odisha
 Organizing Office : Parijata, Uttara, PO : Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar-751 002, Odisha
 E-Mail - asrukhala21@gmail.com, Phone : 8249190500, 9937699808, 8895813258

Join us in our mission to save Ashrukhola and the lives of half a million people.



Diversity and Nature

Ashrukhol was well-known for its fauna and floral diversity, as well as many resident and migratory avian species (birds) lounging on the vegetation along the banks and swimming in the water. Insects such as butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, honeybees, wasps, and beetles multiplied the grandeur of its beauty. The wetland also contained a diverse biotic population, including minor and major carp species, catfishes, and ornamental fish species, which added to its natural enticement.

Improper Planning Leads Destruction

In order to protect people's lives and property from the repeated floods in the Sukapaika River (overflowing) and Chitrotpala River (breaching on weak points of the southern side embankment) in the past, the government built embankments on the southern side of the river Sukapaika as well as strengthened the southern side embankment of the river Chitrotpala during 1970. It completely stopped the entry of flood water into the Ashrukhol. Following erroneous government maintenance, the rapid growth of an invasive floating weed, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crasipes*), and rooted fern combined with unethical human activities like encroachments and obstructing of wetland passage, caused this 63 KM longest Wetland to be divided into several pieces and started deteriorating each part over time, endangering the entire 63 KM Wetland eco-system. As a result, the wetland's capacity for human use was drastically reduced and it ultimately ceased to exist as a single-flow water body. This had a significant influence on the wetland's water volume, and it is now on the edge of extinction.

Impediments

For over 50 years, water hyacinths spread rapidly across the wetland's surface, threatening its ecological stability, biodiversity, and biotic community, including fishery diversity. Even the local and migratory birds left this marsh due to food shortages. Thus, the Wetland ecology was degraded so quickly and severely that its survival was uncertain. Due to the mat-forming nature of this invasive weed, the Wetland cannot hold water or operate as a natural drainage system during rainy seasons. Die-off weed decomposes, releasing a foul smell that pollutes the air and



Members of the ADC discuss the future plan of action for the revival of Ashrukhol Jora (Wetland) with the then Hon'ble MLA Shri Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak.

wetland water, breeds disease-carrying mosquitoes, and depletes the groundwater table, drying up bore wells, dug-out wells, and ponds even in February. The district administration's neglect of this Wetland's biological and environmental importance is the only reason communities are facing such severe challenges. Our community faces a major water shortage.

Hope for Revival

The Government of India launched a Scheme for Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies to revive, restore, and rehabilitate traditional water bodies like Asrukhol to increase water storage capacity, ground water recharge, drinking water availability, agricultural productivity, and environmental benefits. Our goal is to replicate a natural, self-regulating, environmentally integrated system to address the basic needs of the common man while resolving all difficulties.

Pure water comes from water bodies. These water bodies have historically supplied

FACTS ABOUT ASHRUKHOLA JORA (WETLAND)

Origin Point	Originates from Lanji of Nischintakoili Block to Tikarapanga of Mahakalapada Block before draining into Bay of Bengal
Original Length	63 KM
Average Width	61 meters
Total Area	378 ha / 945 Acres
Spread over	3 districts and 29 Grama Panchayats
Average weed Infestation	About 95%
Average Sediment Layer	2.8 -3.5 meters.
Water level	2.7 mt to 6.5 mt during summer to monsoon months
Bottom Mud Level	2.5 to 3.5 mts.

GRAMA PANCHAYATS COVERED BY ASHRUKHOLA JORA (WETLAND)

District	Block	Grama Panchayat
Cuttack	Nischintakoili	(1) Babujang (2) Uttarkul (3) Manijang (4) Mahammadpur
Jagatsinghpur	Tirtol	(1) Samantarapur
Kendrapara	Garadpur	(1) Bedari (2) Padmapur (3) Pakhada (4) Patakura (5) Garadpur (6) Talakusuma (7) Palasudha (8) Bantala (9) Tyandakuda
Kendrapara	Marshaghai	(1) Antei (2) Batira (3) Mangarajpur (4) Talasanga (5) Beruhan
Kendrapara	Mahakalapara	(1) Tikhiri (2) Ameipal (3) Khursia (4) Teregaon (5) Patalipanka (6) Tikarpanga (7) Gadaromita (8) Jayachandrapur (9) Jadupur



Members of the ADC presented a Memorandum to Smt Tukuni Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha, addressing the revival of Ashrukhol Jora (Wetland).

drinking water, domestic needs, agricultural production, and livelihoods. Thus, the Asrukhol Wetland needs quick repair to maintain a healthy ecosystem and human resources.

Scope for Revival

Therefore, it is urged that the Government of both the State and the Centre grant adequate funds to repair, revive, and restore this Wetland, a traditional water body, in order to benefit half a million people in the districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, and Cuttack. This will be done by using modern technology to completely remove weeds and then dredge out at least two to three feet of mud to begin the faster restoration process of this Wetland under the Government of

The simultaneous use of surface and groundwater is encouraged with the multiple goals of comprehensive water body improvement and restoration, increasing wetland water storage capacity, groundwater recharge, increased drinking water

URGENT

ASURAKHALA PUNARUDHAR O BIKASH MANCH

*Babujanga, Uttarakul, Manijang, Tyandakuda, Mahamadpur, Bantala and
Palasudha Gramapanchayats*

CUTTACK & KENDRAPADA DISTRICTS

E-mail - asrukhala21@gmail.com

From : PRESIDENT

Dated: 22nd. Nov. 2022

To

Dr. Brijesh Sikka,

Sr. Consultant, NMCG, Ministry of Jal Shakti,

Department of Water Resources and River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation,

New Delhi - 110002

Sub : Repair, Renovation and Restoration of 63 Km long defunct (weed choked) **ASRUKHALA Wetland** located in Kendrapara and Cuttack districts, Odisha and its to restore its past ecology and biodiversity and sustainable management thereafter, request of:

Respected Sir,

I on behalf of APoBM bring to your kind notice on the sad state of our ancient and natural **Asrukhala Jora**- a beautiful Water Body/Wetland which was once, the life line of half a million people of over 28 Grampanchayats , is now completely defunct due to water hyacinth infestation and at the verge of extinction. On this aspect, we have been writing letters for immediate action on its renovation to Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board, Govt. of India and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Ministry of Water Resources Department and Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Odisha Pollution Control Board, Govt. of Odisha since last one year.

Finally on the direction of MOEF&CC, Govt. of India, Chilika Development Authority (CDA), the nodal agency, has prepared a comprehensive project of 47.07 cores on the renovation, restoration and development of this God's Gift Wetland **Asrukhola** (Copy attached) and submitted to Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Water Resources Department, Gandarpur, Cuttack for processing and submission to your Department through the Engineer-in-Chief, Odisha for funding with a copy endorsed to you for kind information and necessary action.

I therefore earnestly request you to kindly take an immediate action as deemed proper to benefit a large section people of these two districts since the water of the wetland is highly polluted so also the surrounding environment due to decomposing of die-off weed and spreading of mosquitos bearing diseases. I once again, request immediate action. Thanking you,

Dr. A.N.Mohanty,

President, APoBM,

Contact : 8249190500

Copy to Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Water Resource Dept., Cuttack for kind action.

**Project proposal for “RENOVATION OF ASHRUKHOLA
JORA/WETLAND under RRR Scheme”**

YEAR 2022-26

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DRAINAGE DIVISION, CUTTACK
(WATER RESOURCES DIVISION,
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)**

***The page dedicated to the
Longest Wetland of Odisha
“Ashrukholā Jora”***

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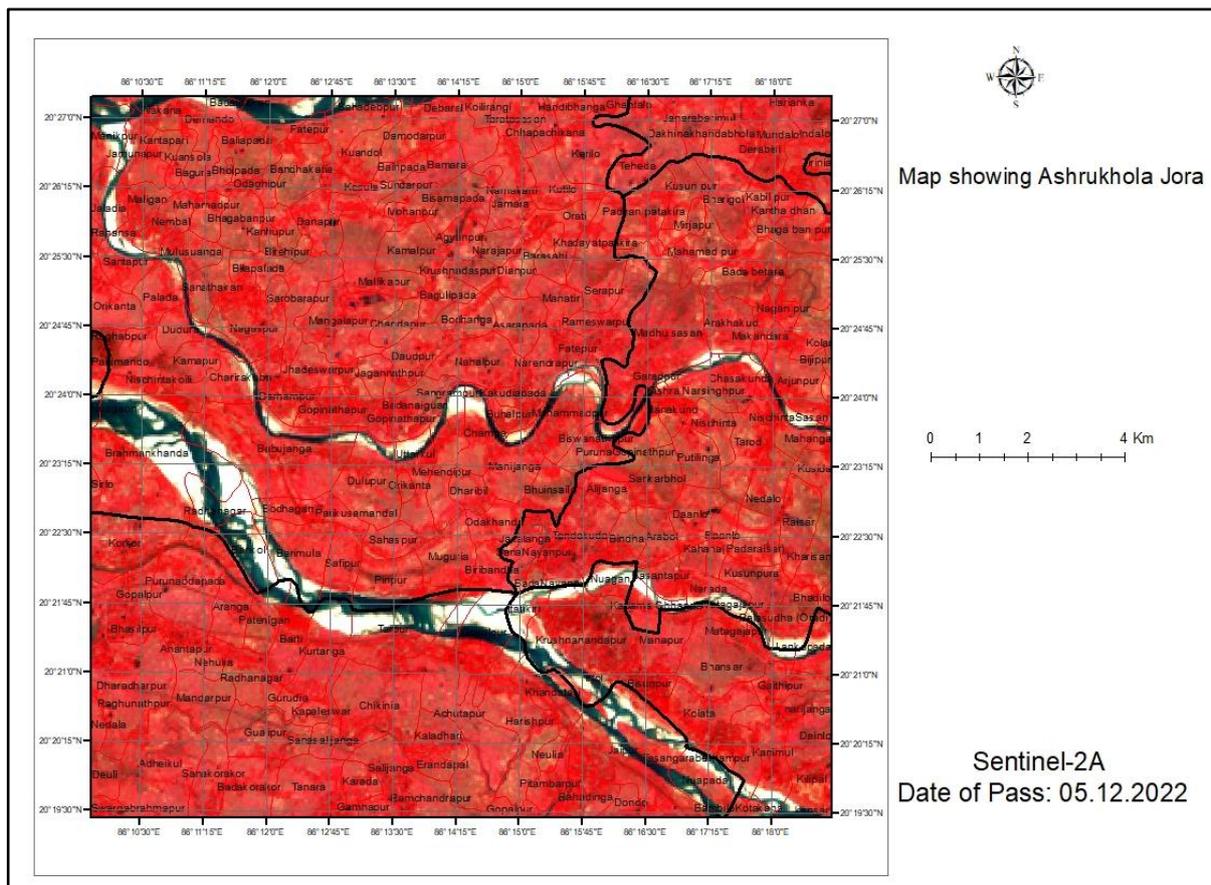
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INTRODUCTION

Water is the prime natural resource, a basic human need, and a precious national asset. Its' planning, development, and management are therefore considered most important and need to be governed by the national perspective. Under such perception, Asrukhala Jora/Wetland, a perennial water body is one of such unfortunate lengthiest wetland-jewel of Odisha which is now facing the danger of extinction and triggers urgent attention of the Government for its repair, renovation, and restoration in order to protect this precious water reserve to save the lives of about half a million people living either side of this wetland.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ashrukhala Jora/Wetland is unfortunately the lengthiest wetland of Odisha which is now completely defunct. Originally its total length was approximately 63 Km and its breadth was 30 to 120 mt. embracing an estimated total area of about 378 ha / 945



acres with adequate cultivable lands and over 50 villages on its bank on both sides. This Jora/Wetland originates from its mother river 'Sukapaika' at Saukheta of Babujang Grampanchayat under the Nischintakoili block of Cuttack Sadar

Constituency and has flown through the Islands of Mahanadi- Chitrotpala- Paika, located in Patkura and Mahakalpada Assembly Constituencies to Tikarpanga village in Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district before draining into Bay of Bengal. Therefore, the origin of this Grate Ashrukhala Jora / wetland is from the "Sukapaika" river which is a distributary of **THE MIGHTY MAHANADI**. The length of this wetland is over 63 KM and is probably the lengthiest wetland in the state of Odisha. Ashrukhala Jora / Wetland has a mysterious history that is yet to be explored. The geometry of this wetland looks like a SNAKE SHAPED WETLAND. It is believed that during ancient times the business community was using this waterway for traveling to most parts of Southeast Asia along the coast of the Bay of Bengal for trade and was a part of the "*Journey to Bali Island*".

THE BIODIVERSITY

This Ashrukhala Jora / wetland was famous due to its richness in fauna and flora diversity and some resident and migratory avian species (birds) sitting on the vegetation at the banks and swimming on its water. Different species of insects like butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, honeybees, wasps, and beetles were multiplying the magnitude of its beauty. The wetland also had varieties of the biotic community including minor, and major carp species, catfishes, and varieties of ornamental fish species in its water which were the real beauty of this wetland.



PAST MEMORIES

This natural Ashrukhala Jora / wetland was the life-line of the people living on either side of the wetland in the past and was instrumental in providing livelihood to about

50,000 people living on either side of the wetland at the top 6 KM stretch of fragmented part through main fisheries, agriculture, meeting all human need of water including drinking water and communication using small wooden boats. That was the main reason for the migration of village people to cities for earnings. Besides this Jora, was also used for acquiring learning skills in boating and swimming for the locals.

Threats:

The major problems of the Jora are:

- (I) Poor vegetation on the catchment of the lake resulting in soil erosion & sedimentation
- (II) The channel connecting the Jora with the river is no more functional. The natural de-weeding process is being arrested.
- (III) Gradual decreasing of water depth of the area and high rate of weed infestation.
- (IV) Environment of the fringes (low water laying areas) of the Jora for agricultural use by way of schematic encroachment and
- (V) Depletion of the fishery resources of the Jora,
- (VI) (vi) loss of bio-diversity.

Threats to Ecological Character;

Key threats	Likely influence on Ecological character	Likelihood of changes in ecological character in the near term
<p>High rate of siltation-</p> <p>Ashrukhola Jora receives silt load from the catchment, which aggravated the siltation processes and also the change in the land use pattern in the Ashrukhola Jora catchments. The poor vegetation in the catchment triggers the rapid sedimentation of the Jora bed, which affects its bathymetry</p>	<p>Loss of water holding capacity and thereby able to regulate hydrological regimes. Due to siltation, the Jora became shallow. The environment of the fringes (low water laying areas) of the Jora for agricultural use by way of schematic encroachment</p>	<p>High</p>

<p>Changes in Water connectivity-</p> <p>Ashrukhola Jora receives the flood water from the Mahanadi River during the South West Monsoon. As the feeder channel that connects to Mahanadi River got silted up, which affects the input of fresh water into the Jora, in the process it also affects the auto recruitment of fish juveniles from Mahanadi River into the Jora</p>	<p>Changes in the Hydrological regimes, Impact on the fishery resources and its ability to sustain the fishery and regulate the Hydrological regimes</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Regional Climate Change-</p> <p>Observation of the precipitation data during the SW Monsoon shows that there is a decrease in fresh water in the Mahanadi River due to the impact of Climate Change, which impacts the temporal variability of the precipitation regimes. These changes will have an adverse impact on the hydrological regimes, which is a key determinant for the Jora biota and also the ecosystem services</p>	<p>Changes in hydrological regimes with associated changes in several components and also processes</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Invasion of Water Hyacinths</p> <p>The rapid increase in the area of the Water Hyacinths and rooted fern, due to the high input of nutrients from the catchments, and also open defecation creates stress on the fish breeding ground and also health hazards to the local communities</p>	<p>Stress on the fishing breeding ground and also, communities livelihood</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Increasing pressure on Jora Fisheries-</p> <p>The due proliferation of the Water Hyacinths in Jora, the freshwater flow from Mahanadi during SW monsoon, severely affects the recruitment of the fish juveniles into the Jora, which ultimately affects the fish output, affecting the livelihood of the local fishers, who have been depending on the Jora for their day-to-day livelihood.</p>	<p>Stress on the Biota and ecosystem services</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Increase Tourist pressure:</p> <p>The uncontrolled tourism will impact the biota and also it will impact the livelihood of the local communities (Eco-system services). As there is no regulation, the tourist will litter the Jora with unabated use of single-use plastics</p>	<p>Stress on the Biota and ecosystem services of the Jora</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Presently, the Jora ecosystem has been facing serious anthropogenic pressures due to the open use of the Jora resources by the local communities. To make the resource users responsible a massive outreach program needs to be implemented to make the local communities aware of the values and functions of the wetlands

IMPROPER PLANNING LEADS TO THE DESTRUCTION

To save the lives and properties of people from the repeated floods in the Sukpaika river (overflowing) and Chitrotpal river (breaches on weak points of the southern side embankment) in the past, the Government constructed embankments on the southern side of the river Sukpaika and also strengthened the southern side embankment of the



river Chitrotpala during 1970 which completely stopped the entry of flood water into the Asrukhal Jora / Wetland preventing natural cleaning leaving the wetland-water stagnated. Thereafter lack of proper maintenance by the Government, the rapid proliferation of an invasive floating weed, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crasipes*), and rooted fern coupled with unethical human activities like encroachments and blockage

of wetland passage, resulted in getting this 63 KM longest Jora / Wetland fragmented into several pieces and started degrading of each part with time threatening the entire eco-system of 63 KM Wetland. As a result, the human utility potential of the wetland was drastically affected and completely disappeared as a single-flow water body which impacted a drastic reduction in water volume in the wetland and is now on the verge of extinction.

IMPEDIMENTS

With rapid coverage of water hyacinth across the surface of the Jora / Wetland for over five decades, there was a serious challenge to the ecological stability of the water bodies in this Jora / wetland which posed a threat to its biodiversity besides suppressing the growth of native plants and negatively affecting the biotic community including precious fishery diversity. Even the migratory, as well as resident birds, were

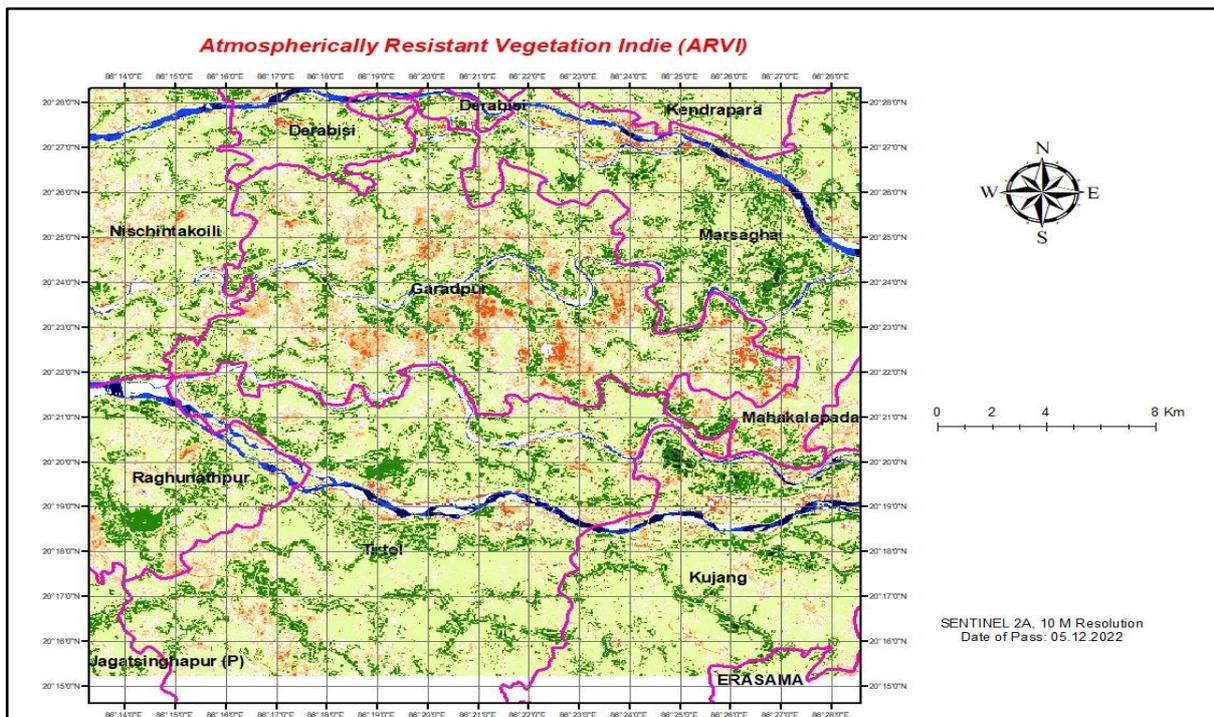


forced to abandon this wetland due to want of food. Therefore, under such a destructive impact on the ecosystem of the Jora / Wetland, the magnitude of degradation was fast and severe resulting in a question mark on its existence. Further, due to the mat-forming nature of this invasive weed, the water-holding efficiency of this Jora / Wetland to serve as a major natural drainage system to dispose of rainwater during monsoon and navigation connectivity is completely stopped. Besides the decomposition of die-off weeds, it also emits a foul smell inducing pollution in the wetland water and surrounding air, endangering public health due to the intensive

breeding of disease-bearing mosquitos besides affecting drastically the groundwater table, subjecting to the drying-up of bore wells, dug-out wells, and ponds even during February. The local people are facing such unfortunate hurdles now only due to inaction on the management of this Jora / Wetland by the district administration ignoring its ecological and environmental values. Presently availability of water is a major issue and is a big challenge for our locality.

REVIVAL HOPE

We learned that to revive, restore and rehabilitate traditional water bodies like Asrukhala Jora / Wetland, the Government of India has launched a Scheme for Repair,



Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies which have multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies to increase water storage capacity, groundwater recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture productivity, environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, community participation for a self-supporting system for sustainable management for each water body and capacity building of communities in better water management and development of tourism, cultural activities to provide food and nutrition security,

job creation, etc. by providing Central Grant to State Governments under the Pilot Scheme directly linked to agriculture promotion for a higher yield for all citizen, etc. So our objective is to emulate a natural, self-regulating system that would be integrated ecologically to provide the basic needs of the common man meeting all such problems.

It is a fact that water bodies are an integral part of freshwater resources. Traditionally, these water bodies for ages have played an important role in the supply of drinking water and domestic needs and providing sustenance to agricultural production and livelihood of people, etc. Therefore, it is important to consider this Asrukhala Jora / Wetland for urgent renovation to maintain a conducive environmental system as well as resources for human utility.

SCOPE FOR REVIVAL

It is therefore urged that the Government of both State and Centre to grant adequate fund to undertake repair, revive and restore of this Asrukhala Jora / Wetland - a traditional water body to benefit half million local people of Kendrapara and Cuttack district employing modern technology to clear weeds completely and then dredge-out at least two to three feet mud to start faster restoration process of this Jora / Wetland under the Government of India Scheme "Repair, Renovation and Restoration" (RRR) with the multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing wetland storage-capacity of water, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture productivity and environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, community participation and self-supporting system for sustainable management for water body, capacity building of communities in better water management and development of tourism, cultural activities, etc. besides ensuring food and nutrition security for local people, food and habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, water quality improvement, control of soil erosion and opportunities for recreation, education, and research. More importantly, this restoration would have the capacity to generate substantial rural livelihoods and reduce human-wildlife conflicts. This Asrukhala Jora / Wetland is such a natural creation on earth it would trigger the attention of thinkers,

poets, writers, and all categories of nature lovers as well as naturalists for research, education, and recreation.

Immediate Intervention;

1. A Pilot Project on the renovation of this natural Wetland Asrukhola Jora under the RRR (Repair, Renovation, and Restoration) scheme of the Government of India/Odisha under the agreement of the Ramsar Convention to renovate and restore the biodiversity of this Wetland.
2. Recognition of this unique ancient and serpentine wetland Asrukhola Jora – as the longest wetland of Odisha and probably India with Geo Tagging and assignment of UID number.
3. Upgradation of this wetland Asrukhola Jora into a BIODIVERSITY PARK and ECO-TOURISM HUB.
4. Rejuvenation of the 11 km long SUKPAIKA (Kaninai) river to feed water to Asrukhola Jora during the flood for its sustainable natural maintenance/Cleaning.

Suggested Activities:

1. Eco-tourism
2. Fisheries
3. Irrigation to Agriculture

. Monitoring and Evaluation plan

Monitoring Strategy

1. Monitoring and Evaluation play a vital role in the success of the plan. The major aims of the monitoring are as follows:
2. Provide timely, accurate, reliable, and relevant information on the progress and performance of watershed developmental activities.

3. Reflect the true picture; emphasize corrective measures/ improvements rather than mere reports Monitoring Strategy.
4. Design, develop and deploy Management Information System.
5. Collect Analyze and Communicate data, avoiding gaps and delays.
6. Disseminate M & E observations and ensure an effective feedback mechanism.
7. Easy data retrieval from data bank through MIS for decision-making/ Corrective measures.
8. Documentation of scenarios and status changes at any point in time would help implement corrective measures to overcome deficiencies and shortfalls.
9. Identify and share the best practices and lessons learned. Provide timely progress.

Setting Management Objectives

Goal and purpose

The major goal and purpose of the integrated management plan is the conservation and restoration of Ashrukhala Jora/Wetland in a participatory approach. The success of this plan will greatly benefit the environment and also the interest of people who are depending on the lake for their livelihood.

Benefits (ecological as well as societal)

The important expected output of the project is to restore the ecosystem of the lake. There are a number of bird species, macrofauna, macroflora, and various types of fish species depending on the lake. More importantly, Ashrukhala Jora/Wetland is a sweet water source, conservation of fresh water is one of the priority objectives in the present-day world. As the conservation approach also includes the catchment area of the Ashrukhala Jora/Wetland, both ecosystems, as well as people in the catchment area, will enjoy direct and indirect benefits. It is also observed that wherever soil moisture conservation activities are undertaken the agricultural lands nearby are getting substantial benefits.

The objective of this plan is not only to conserve the ecosystem but also to protect the interest of local people. Restoration of the Ashrukhala Jora/Wetland will result in increasing fish availability, irrigation water for agriculture, more benefits of

tourism, generation of employment, etc. It is also a learning opportunity for managers as well as local people. With continuous development measures for fishery resources, which would significantly enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

Management objectives

The major management objectives of the project are listed below:

1. Removal of aquatic weeds.
2. Prevention of Soil erosion, saving Jora from siltation and recharging the groundwater table by rainwater harvesting/catchment treatment.
3. Increase the productivity of the land by rainwater harvesting and better management of cultivable land.
4. Upliftment of stakeholders to their Socioeconomic standards. Create employment opportunities for the youth of surrounding villages.
5. Sustainable development of fishery resources and strengthening of fishery cooperative institutions.
6. Conservation of Biodiversity.
7. To create more avenues for ecotourism

Proposed Budget and Scheme for the Development of ASHRUKHOLA JORA (2022-23 to 2026-27)

							(Rs. in Lakhs)
Sl. no.	Activity Description	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
1	De-silting 11,000 m. (@370.52 per Cu.M. & 6.49 per Cu.M. for Consultancy)	830.00	830.00	830.00	830.00	830.00	4150.00
2.	De-weeding (Manual) for 100 ha. @ 64,000/-/ha	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	32.00
3.	Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00
	Sub Total	839.40	839.40	839.40	839.40	839.40	4197.00
4.	Development & Management of the Eco-Park at Ashrukhola Jora Development of an Eco- Park for Eco-tourism development for the economic upliftment of the local SHG	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	250.00
	Sub Total:	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	250.00
5..	Fishery Resources Development						
	7.1 Release of good quality Indian Major carps and Grass carps fingerling to increase the livelihood of fisherman communities as well as weed control.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
	7.2 Awareness program for adjacent fisherman communities and SSG groups regarding conservations and sustainability of Ashrukhola Jora	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
	Sub Total	20.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	60.00
	Grand Total:	909.40	899.40	899.40	899.40	899.40	4507.00

(Rupees forty-five Crore and seven lakhs only)

ASURAKHALA PUNARUDHAR O BIKASH MANCH

*Babujanga, Uttarakul, Manijang, Tyandakuda, Mahamadpur, Bantala and Palasudha
Gramapanchayats*

CUTTACK & KENDRAPADA DISTRICTS

E-mail - asrukhala21@gmail.com

From : PRESIDENT

Dated: 14th Feb. 2022

To

**The Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment and Climate Change
Government of India, New Delhi.**

Sub : Submission of an APPEAL pertaining to renovation and restoration of an important Wetland **ASRUKHALA JORA** - a lengthiest natural water resource / Wetland of Kendrapara and Cuttack district of Odisha , reg:

Sir,

I on behalf of **ASRUKHALA PUNARUDHAR o BIKASH MANCH** a platform constituted by the people of seven panchayats of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts submit herewith an **APPEAL** to renovate the ASRUKHALA JORA a lengthiest Wetland of Odisha on priority basis which is now completely defunct and at the verge of extinction. This Asrukhala Jora was once the life line of half a million people of over fifty panchayats of two districts is now over-choked with an invasive weed 'Water hyacinth' spoiling completely the biodiversity , killing valuable flora and fauna, emitting foul smell of decomposed weed inducing pollution in wetland-water and surrounding air, endangering the public health on account of intensive breeding of disease-bearing mosquitos, affecting drastically on the ground water table subjecting the bore wells, dug-out wells and ponds to dry up to cause acute water scarcity even during February onwards each year. The accumulation of thick mud of about 2 meters in the wetland is adding more severely on the wetland water to deteriorate fast. We have already submitted our anxieties on this matter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, requesting him to take immediate step to renovate this important wetland 'Asrukhala Jora' on priority basis. We also request now your kind intervention on this important matter and help in renovating the wetland under a pilot project under RRR scheme of Government of India and to upgrade it as a biodiversity park and declare it as the Longest Wetland of Odisha/India. We too have brought the notice of Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti , Govt. of India and Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi and Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar for their support and action on this important matter. I, therefore, request you to kindly take suitable action on this matter and support us on our appeal to renovate and upgrade this important wetland to save water to meet the demand of over 50 panchayats of two districts which half a million people are awaiting eagerly the actions to be taken by your Ministry. Kindly favor us with the confirmation on the receipt of this mail. Thanking you.

Dr. A.N.Mohanty,

President.

Contact : Contact details : 8249190500

Enclosed : OUR APPEAL

AN APPEAL

PLACED BEFORE

**THE HON'BLE MINISTER,
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
NEW DELHI**

ON

**RENOVATION & UPGRADATION OF
'ASHRUKHOLA JORA/WETLAND' TO A
BIODIVERSITY PARK**

LOCATED IN

**CUTTACK & KENDRAPARA DISTRICTS
OF ODISHA**

BY

ASHRUKHOLA PUNARUDHAR O BIKASH MANCH
Babujanga, Uttarakul, Manijang, Tyandakuda, Mahamadpur,
Bantala and Palasudha GPs

CUTTACK & KENDRAPADA DISTRICTS, ODISHA
(E-mail - asrukhala21@gmail.com)

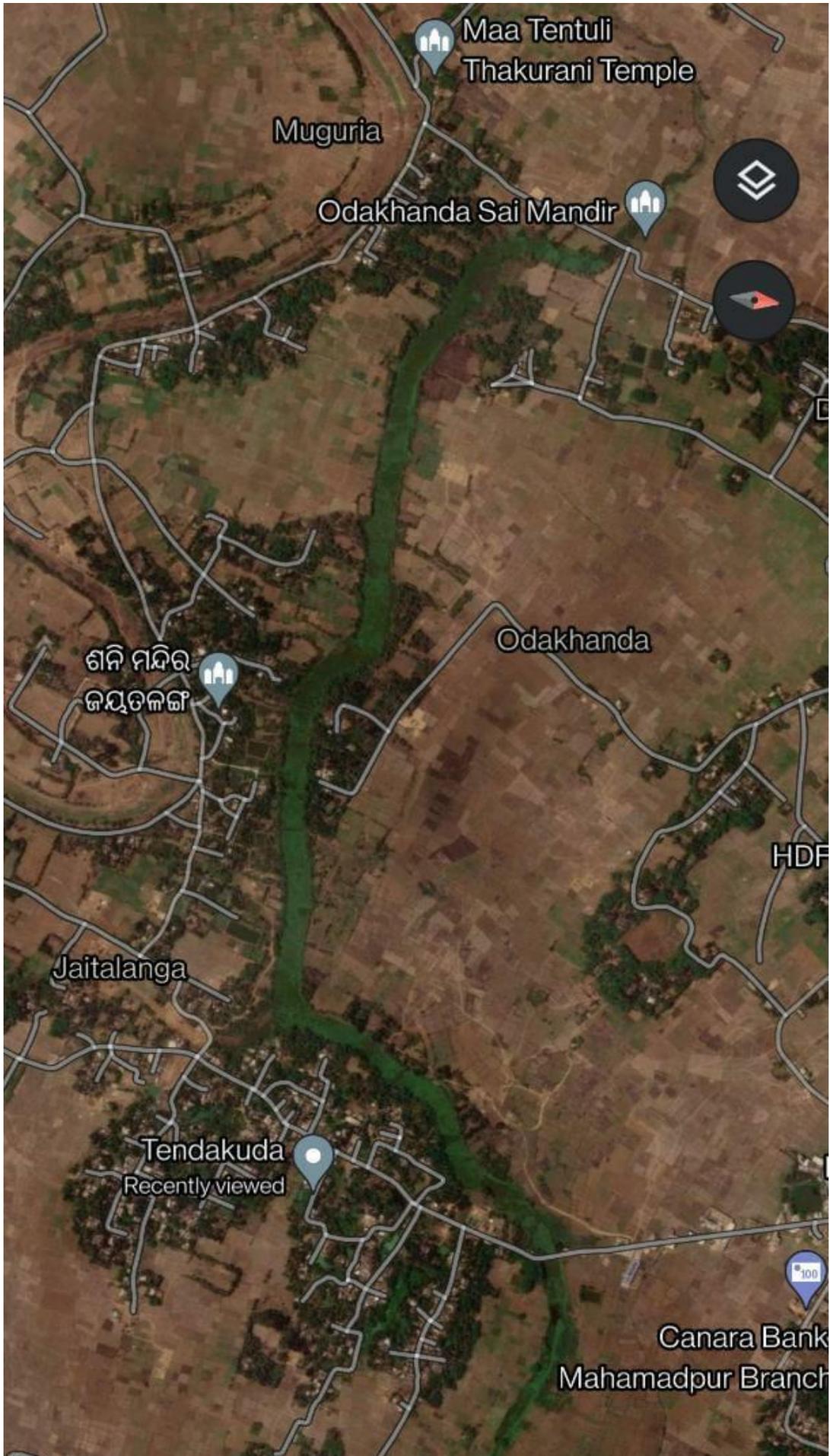
THE FATE OF ASRUKHALA – THE LONGEST WETLAND OF ODISHA

INTRODUCTION

Water is the prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. Its' planning, development and management is therefore considered most important and need to be governed by the national perspective. Under such perception, Asrukhal Jora/Wetland, a perennial water body is one of such unfortunate longest wetland-jewel of Odisha which is now facing the danger of extinction and triggers urgent attention of Government for its repair, renovation and restoration in order to protect this precious water reserve to save the lives of about half a million people living on the either sides of this wetland.

HISTORICAL BACK GROUND

Ashrukhal Jora/Wetland, is an unfortunate longest wetland of Odisha which is now completely defunct. Originally it's total length was approximately 63 Km and breadth 30 to 120 mt. embracing an estimated total area of about 378 ha / 945 acres with adequate cultivable lands and over 50 villages on its bank of both sides. This Jora/Wetland originates from it's Mother river 'Sukapaika' at Saukheta of Babujang Grampanchayat under Nischintakoili block of Cuttack Sadar Constituency and has flown through the Islands of Mahanadi- Chitrotpala- Paika, in Patkura and Mahakalpada Assembly Constituencies upto Tikarpanga village in Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district before draining into Bay of Bengal. The origin of this Grate Asrukhal Jora / wetland is therefore from "Sukapaika" river which is a tributary of *THE MIGHTY MAHANADI*. The length of this wetland is over 63 KM and is probably the longest wetland of the state of Odisha/India. Ashrukhal Jora / Wetland has a mysterious history which is yet to be explored. The geometry of this wetland looks like a SNAKE SHAPED WETLAND. It is believed that during ancient times the business community was using this waterway for travelling to most parts of Southeast Asia along the coast of the Bay of Bengal for trade and was a part of "*Journey to Bali*".



THE BIODIVERSITY

This Ashrukhal Jora / wetland was famous due to its richness in fauna and floral diversity and some resident and migratory avian species (birds) sitting on the vegetation at the banks and swimming on its water. Different species of insects like butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, honeybees, wasps and beetles were multiplying the magnitude of its beauty. The wetland also had varieties of biotic community including minor, major carp species, catfishes and varieties of ornamental fish species in its water which were the real beauty of this wetland.

PAST MEMORIES

This natural Asrukhal Jora / wetland was the life-line of the people living on either side of the wetland in the past and was instrumental in providing livelihood to about 50,000 people living on either side of the wetland at the top 6 KM stretch of fragmented part through mainly fisheries, agriculture, meeting all the human needs of water including drinking water and communication using small wooden boats. That was the main reason of no migration of village people to cities for earnings. Besides this wetland/Jora, was also used for acquiring learning skill on boating and swimming for the local people.

IMPROPER PLANNING LEADING TO DESTRUCTION

To save the lives and properties of people from the repeated floods in Sukpaika river (over flowing) and Chitrotpal river (breaches on weak points of southern side embankment) in the past, the Government constructed embankments on the southern side of the river Sukpaika and also strengthened the southern side embankment of the river Chitrotpala during 1970 which completely stopped the entry of flood water into the Asrukhal Jora / Wetland preventing natural cleaning leaving the wetland-water stagnated. Thereafter lack of proper maintenance by Government, rapid proliferation of an invasive floating weed, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crasipes*) and rooted fern coupled with unethical human activities like encroachments and blockage of wetland passage, resulted in getting this 63 KM longest Jora / Wetland fragmented into several pieces and started degradation of each part with time threatening the entire eco-system of 63 KM Wetland. As a result, the human utility potential of the wetland was drastically affected and was completely disappeared as a single-flow water body which impacted in drastic reduction in water volume in the wetland and is now at the verge of extinction.



IMPEDIMENTS

With rapid coverage of water hyacinth across surface of the Jora / Wetland for over five decades, there was a serious challenge on the ecological stability of the water bodies in this Jora / wetland which posed a threat to its biodiversity besides suppressing the growth of native plants and negatively affecting the biotic community including precious fishery diversity. Even the migratory as well as resident birds were forced to abandon this wetland due to want of food. Therefore, under such destructive impact on the ecosystem of the Jora / Wetland, the magnitude of degradation was fast and severe resulting in a question mark on its existence. Further, due to mat-forming nature of this invasive weed, the water-holding efficiency of this Jora / Wetland to serve as a major natural drainage system to dispose rain water during monsoon and navigation-connectivity are completely stopped. Besides decomposition of die-off weed is also emitting foul smell inducing pollution in the wetland water and surrounding air, endangering the public health due to intensive breeding of disease-bearing mosquitos besides affecting drastically on the ground water table, subjecting to drying-up of bore wells, dug-out wells and ponds even during February. The local people are facing such unfortunate hurdles now only due to inaction on the management of this Jora / Wetland by the district administration ignoring its ecological and environmental values. Presently availability of water is a major issue and is a big challenge for our locality.

REVIVAL HOPE

We learnt that to revive, restore and rehabilitate the traditional water bodies like Asrukhala Jora / Wetland, the Government of India have launched a Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies which have multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies to increase water storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture productivity, environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, community participation for self-supporting system for sustainable management for each water body and capacity building of communities in better water management and development of tourism, cultural activities to provide food and nutrition security, job creation etc. by providing Central Grant to State Governments under the Pilot Scheme directly linked to agriculture promotion for higher yield for all citizen etc. So our objective is to emulate a natural, self-regulating system that would be integrated ecologically to provide the basic needs of common man meeting all such problems.

It is a fact that water bodies are an integral part of fresh water resources. Traditionally, these water bodies for ages have played an important role in supply of drinking water and domestic needs and providing sustenance to agricultural production and livelihood of people etc. Therefore it is important to consider this Asrukhala Jora / Wetland for urgent renovation to maintain a conducive environmental system as well as resources for human utility.

SCOPE FOR REVIVAL

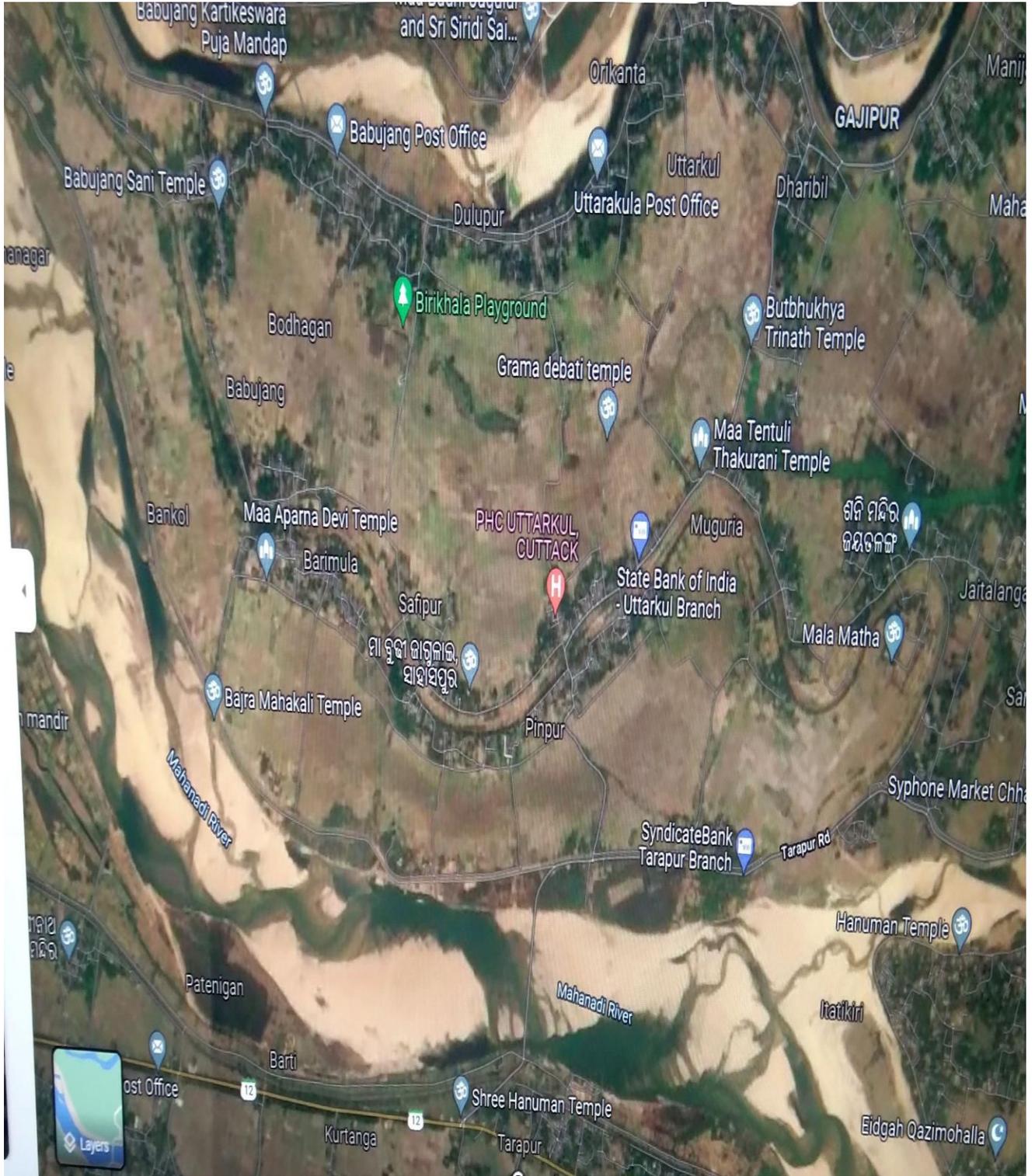
It is therefore urged that the Government of both State and Centre to grant adequate fund to undertake a pilot project on its repair, revive and restore of this Asrukhala Jora / Wetland - a traditional water body to benefit half million local people of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts employing modern technology to clear weeds completely and then dredge-out at least three to four feet mud to start faster restoration process of this Jora / Wetland under the Government of India Scheme “Repair, Renovation and Restoration” (RRR) with the multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing wetland storage-capacity of water, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture productivity and environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, community participation and self-supporting system for sustainable management for water body, capacity building of communities in better water management and development of tourism, cultural activities, etc. besides ensuring food and nutrition security for local people, food and habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, water quality improvement, control of soil erosion and opportunities for recreation, education, and research. More importantly, this restoration would have the capacity to generate substantial rural livelihoods and reduce human-wildlife conflicts. This Asrukhala Jora / Wetland is such a natural creation on earth which would trigger the attention of thinkers, poets, writers and all categories of nature lovers as well as naturalists for research, education and recreation.

PRAAYER

OUR IMMEDIATE PRAYER :

- 1. To grant of a Pilot Project on this natural Wetland Asrukhal Jora under RRR (Repair, Renovation and Restoration) scheme of Government of India or Odisha under the agreement of Ramsar Convention to restore its biodiversity.**
- 2. To declare of this unique natural Wetland 'Asrukhal Jora - a narrow-width-longest wetland as a 'SNAKE SHAPED WETLAND' of Odisha / India.**
- 3. To upgrade this wetland Asrukhal Jora to serve as a BIODIVERSITY PARK.**

"SAVE ASRUKHALA - SAVE THE LIVES OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE"



ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ପୁନଃବୁଝାବ ଓ ବାକାତା ମାସ (11)
 ବାବୁଜଙ୍ଗ, ଭତରଜୁଳ, ମଣିଜଙ୍ଗ, ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ମହମ୍ମଦପୁର, ବନ୍ତଳା, ପଲସୁଆ ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ
 ପୋ:ଅ: - ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୧୩୪

ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ ନାମ ବାବୁଜଙ୍ଗ ଗ୍ରାମର ନାମ

କ୍ର.ସ	ନାମ	ବସ୍ତୁଗତ
	Manoj Kumar Mohanti ଅମିତକାନ୍ତ ମହାନ୍ତି	Manoj Kumar Mohanti ଅମିତକାନ୍ତ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Surentra Nath Khuntia	Surentra Nath Khuntia
	Jambeswar Beura	Jambeswar Beura
	Dhiren Kumar Beura	ଅମିତକାନ୍ତ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Bhikari Chama Beura	Bhikari Chama Beura
	Gourahari Khuntia	ଗୋରୁହାରି ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ
	Prasanta Kumar Khuntia	ପ୍ରମାଣ୍ଡ ଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ
	Nrusingha Chaman Beura	Nrusingha Chaman Beura
	Alok Padhihari Beura	ଆଲୋକ ପାଢ଼ିହାରି
	AGNESH Mishra	Abinash Mishra
	Satyajit Beura	Satyajit Beura
	Pradip Dey	ପ୍ରଦୀପ ଦେବ
	Chandra Dey	ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରା ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରା
	Ananda Setty	Ananda Setty
	Bikesh Setty	Bikesh Setty
	Balochan Setty	Balochan Setty
	Sunakar Setty	Sunakar Setty
		Rabinanan

ଝ ପ ଅଧିବେଶନ (ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ) ବସ୍ତୁଗତ

Narendranath Bisul

Devi Kumar Bisul

Barapani
Uttarakhand Panchayat

ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀମାନଙ୍କୁ

Bibhudatta Das

SEROJ KUMAR SUTER.

AKASH SWAIN

Abhishek Das

Gyana Ranjan Das

Pintu Mallick

Shrawan Das

Lipuni Behera

Ashok Kumar Sahoo

(Gyan) Ac Behan

Nekunja Kumar Rout

ସୁଧାଂଶୁ ମିଶ୍ର

Ashok Sahoo

ବିନୟ ମହାପାତ୍ର,

Prakash Ch Swain

Sauri Prasad Rout

Ashok Kumar Das

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ମହାପାତ୍ର

Pradip Mohan Behera

Sabjit Swain

Kailash Behera

ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

ଉତ୍ତରକଳି, ମଣିକଙ୍ଗ, ଚେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ମହମ୍ମଦପୁର, ବନ୍ତୁଳା ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ

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ଫୋ:ଅ: - ଚେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୧୩୪

ଆୟତ୍ତର ନାମ ମଣିକଙ୍ଗ ଗ୍ରାମର ନାମ

କ୍ର.ସଂ	ନାମ	ଦସ୍ତଖତ
	Shankar Sahoo	ଶିଳ୍ପ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Ranjulata Nayak	Ranjulata Nayak
	Durga Prasad Kar	Durga Prasad Kar
	Hemant Kumar Sahoo	ହେମନ୍ତ କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Padmabati Sahoo	ପଦ୍ମବତୀ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Parbati Sahoo	Parbati Sahoo
	Ranjita Nayak	Ranjita Nayak
	Ambika Behera	Ambika Behera
	Subas Ch Sahoo	Subasa Ch Sahoo
	Paidyadhar Sahoo	Paidyadhar Sahoo
	Kailas Chandra Nayak	କୈଳାସ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Haladhar Sahoo	ହାଲଧର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Tribhuvan Nayak	Tribhuvan Nayak
	Rasmita Nayak	Rasmita Nayak
	Pravakar Nayak	ପ୍ରଭାକର ମହାନ୍ତି
	sk. Gulam Jilani	ଶ. ଗୁଲମ ଜିଲାନୀ
	Kedar Nath Sathy	Kedar Nath Sathy
	Sarat Ch. Behera	Sarat Ch Behera
	Parbati Sahoo	Parbati Sahoo
	Atasi Nayak	ଆତାସୀ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Sukant Kumar Sahoo	ସୁକାନ୍ତ କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Tilottama Sahoo	Tilottama Sahoo
	Bijaya Kumar Nayak	Bijay Kumar Nayak
	Banalata Sahoo	Banalata Sahoo

ଅସ୍ପୁରଖୋଜା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

(A)

ତେଣାକୁଡ଼ା/ମଣିକଙ୍ଗ, ପୋ:ଅ: - ତେଣାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୯୩୪

କ୍ର.ସଂ	ନାମ	ବସତି
	Deendra Nath Mohanty	Deendra Nath Mohanty
	Dipti Kanungo	Dipti Kanungo
	Debabrata Kanungo	Debabrata Kanungo
	Pritom Kanungo	Pritom Kanungo
	Sri Niman Chandra Mohanty	ଶ୍ରୀ ନିମାନ୍ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି
	Sri Rohit Kumar Das	Sri Rohit Kumar Das
	Bansabera Das	Bansabera Das
	Sashikanta Das	Sashikanta Das
	Debaraj Rana	Debaraj Rana
	Radhakrishna Sahoo	Radhakrishna Sahoo
	Ahiron Malik	ଅହିରନ୍ ମାଲିକ
	Rajesh Kumar Hota	Rajesh Kumar Hota
	Dullesh Hota	ଡୁଲେଶ ହୋଟା
	Chandrasekhar Das	Chandrasekhar Das
	Nirmala Sutar	Nirmala Sutar
	Baldev Mohanty	Baldev Mohanty
	Rajit Mohanty	ରାଜିତ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Ahiraudhara Mohanty	ଅହିରାଉଧରା ମହାନ୍ତି
	Durga Prasad Mohanty	ଦୁର୍ଗା ପ୍ରସାଦ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Ahanshyam Das	Ahanshyam Das
	Pratap Kumar Das	Pratap Kumar Das
	Kun Mohanty	କୁନ୍ ମହାନ୍ତି
	Ajina Mohanty	Ajina Mohanty
	Sajeeb Mohanty	Sajeeb Mohanty

ଅସ୍ପୁରଣୋଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

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ଚେଷ୍ଟାକୁଡ଼ା/ମରିଜଙ୍ଗ, ପୋ:ଅ: - ଚେଷ୍ଟାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ- ୭୫୪୧୩୪

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ନାମ ନିର୍ବାହକୀ ଗ୍ରାମର ନାମ

କ୍ର.ସଂ	ନାମ	ବସ୍ତ୍ରଗତ	ବସ୍ତ୍ରଗତ
	Upenetra Nath	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Zependra Nath Dash
	Laxmi Kanta	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Laxmi Kanta Dash
	Sangita	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Sangita Dash
	Mahayeta	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Mahasweta Dash
	Suvamita	ପାନ୍ଦା	Suvasmita Panda
	Bhama Praya	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Bhama Praya Dash
	Sagarika	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Sagarika Dash
	Nirendra	ସୂତା	Nirendra Sutar
	Susil	ସୂତା	Susil Sutar
	Dhirendra	ସୂତା	Dhirendra Sutar
	Sasmita	ସୂତା	Sasmita Sutar
	Surendra	ସୂତା	Surendra Sutar
	Deben dra	ସୂତା	Deben dra Sutar
	Tapan	ସୂତା	Tapan Sutar
	Runubala	ସୂତା	Runubala Sutar
	Sasmita	ସୂତା	Sasmita Sutar
	Bijay Kumar	Mohanty	Bijay Kumar Mohanty
	Dipti	Mohanty	Dipti Mohanty
	Rabintra Nath	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Rabintra Nath Dash
	Swarajita	ଝାଞ୍ଚ	Swarajita Dash
	Anjan	Mohanty	Anjan Mohanty
	Rajib	Mohanty	Rajib Mohanty
	Ayushman	Mohanty	Ayushman Mohanty
	Dipti	Mohanty	Dipti Mohanty
			Ayushman Mohanty

ଅସ୍ପରଶୋଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

(B)

ତେଣାକୁଡ଼ା/ମଣିକନ, ପୋ:ଅ: - ତେଣାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୯୩୪

	ଠିକଣାକୁଡ଼ା	ପିନ୍ କୋଡ଼
କ୍ର.ସଂ	ନାମ	ଉପସ୍ଥାପନ
	Manoj Dash	Manoj Dash
	Rudra Narayan Sahoo	Rudra Narayan Sahoo
	Raj Kumar Sahoo	Raj Kumar Sahoo
	Chinmaya Sahoo	Chinmaya Sahoo
	Nirupama Sahoo	Nirupama Sahoo
	Banita Sahoo	Banita Sahoo
	Mandakini Sahoo	Mandakini Sahoo
	Sasmita Sahoo	Sasmita Sahoo
	Nirupama Dash	Nirupama Dash
	Seetan Das	ଶିଶୁ ଦାସ
	Sebati Das	ସେବିତୀ ଦାସ
	Parthasarathi Das	Parthasarathi Das
	Pramod Das	Pramod Das
	Rakesh Das	Rakesh Das
	Mansi Barik	ମନସି ବାରିକ
	Mandita Das	ମାନ୍ଦିତା ଦାସ
	Banita Das	Banita Das
	Rabindra Das	ରାବିନ୍ଦ୍ର ଦାସ
	Punamprya Rout	Punamprya Rout
	Kunal Patra	Kunal Patra
	Chandan Kumar Sahoo	Chandan Kumar Sahoo
	Sridhar Sahoo	ଶ୍ରୀଧର ସାହୁ
	Sadhya Das	ସାଧ୍ୟା ଦାସ
	Dipak Barik	ଦୀପକ ବାରିକ

ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

ବାବୁଜଙ୍ଗ, ଭତରକୁଳ, ମଣିଜଙ୍ଗ, ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ମହମ୍ମଦପୁର, ବନ୍ତଳା, ପଲସୁଆ ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ

ଫୋ:ଅ: - ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୯୩୪

ନାମ ଚିନ୍ତାମଣି ଗ୍ରାମର ନାମ

1	ନାମ	ଠିକଣା
	ମିଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଶାକର ଅଲି	Mir Shakar Ali
	ମିଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଜମାଲ ଅଜଗର	Mir Jamal Azgar.
	କୃଷି ବିଭାଗ	Kunj Biswal,
	ପ୍ରଭାକର ଜାହିକ	Tallichar Behera
	Chendrakanta Senh.	Senh
	ଅମରତ୍ୟା ପ୍ରମୋଦ ସ୍ୱାଇଁ	Amartya Prasad Swain
	ହାଜିରା କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତି	Prasanna Kumar Barik
	ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମାର ଜାହିକ	Prasanna Kumar Barik
	ଗୋପାଳ ମହାନ୍ତି ଅଲି	Prasanna Kumar Barik
	ମିଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଅକାଶ କୁମାର	Mir Akash Kumar
	ମିଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଅକାଶ କୁମାର	Mir Akash Kumar
	ସୋମନାଥ ମହାନ୍ତି	Somenath Mahapatra
	ଅକାଶ ମହାନ୍ତି	Akash Mahapatra
	ଏ.ଏ.ଏ.ଏ.ଏ.	M.S. Ali
	ହାଜିରା ମହାନ୍ତି	Rakesh Mohanty.
	ସୁଧାକର କୁମାର	Sudhakar Kumar
	ରିଜା ମିର୍ଜା	Rizaz Mirza
	ରାଜକାନ୍ତ କୁମାର	Rajkant Kumar
	ପ୍ରତାପ କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତି	Pratap Kumar Mahanty.
	ମହମ୍ମଦ ରିହାନ ଆଲୀ	MD Rihan Aliam.
	ସୁଧାକର କୁମାର	Sudhakar Kumar
	ମିଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଅକାଶ ଅଲି	Mir Akash Ali
	ଫାହମ୍ ଅଲି କ୍ଲେମ	Fahim Ali Khan.

ଅସୁରଖୋଳା ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ଓ ବିକାଶ ମଞ୍ଚ

ବାବୁଜୀ, ଭତରଜୁଳି, ମଣିଜଙ୍ଗ, ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ମହମ୍ମଦପୁର, ବନ୍ଦୁଳା, ପଲସୁଧା ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ
ପୋ:ସଂ: - ତେଣ୍ଡାକୁଡ଼ା, ପିନ୍- ୭୫୪୧୩୪

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ନାମ ପଲସୁଧା ଗ୍ରାମପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ନାମ

କ୍ର.ସ	ନାମ	ଦସ୍ତଖତ
	Anuja kumar Mohanty	Anuja Kumar Mohanty Sarepach PALASUDHA GP
	Adhir kumar Biswal Sibon Chandra Mohanty Arum kumar Mohanty	ଅଧିର କୁମାର ବିସ୍ୱାଲ ସିବନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତ ଅରୁମ କୁମାର ମହାନ୍ତ
	Sudhansu Sekher Mohanty Sonalika Mohanty	Sudhansu Sekher Mohanty Sonalika Mohanty
	Alok Swain	Alok Swain
	Niranjan Swain Sankara Sethi	Niranjan Swain ସୁନକର ସେଥି
	Jyanti Sethi Rabindra Nath Biswal Kebita Biswal Ranjan Kumar Swain Prasanna Kumar Sethi Mahendra Swain Praveer Sethi Nirmala Chaman Swain Shyam Krishna Mallik Prabira Kumar Swain Pradeep Kumar Sethi	Jyanti Sethi Rasindra Nath Biswal Kebita Biswal Ranjan Kumar Swain Prasanna Kumar Sethi Mahendra Swain ପ୍ରାବିର ସେଥି ନିରମାଳା ଚାମାନ ସୱାଇଁ Shyam Krishna Mallik Prabira Kumar Swain Pradeep Kumar Sethi

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XVII No. 11

Monday, March 14, 2022

Phalguna 23, 1943 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Original Version)

Eighth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVII contains Nos.11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

(xvi) Regarding inclusion of Asrukhal Jora, Cuttack district, Odisha in National Wetland Conservation Programme

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Asrukhal Jora of Cuttack district is a vast wetland. This needs to be included in National Wetland Conservation Programme. This wetland has become defunct because of the closing of the mouth of the river Mahanadi- Suka Paika in the early Sixties. Earlier Suka Paika river was feeding water to the wetland and resultant flow generated the wetland for its self-maintenance. Asrukhal Jora wetland of Odisha is the largest wetland of 63 kms which needs to be included in NWCP by geo-tagging, assigning of UID and granting Bio-diversity Park for its long term management in order to shape it as a Tourist spot. I urge upon the Government to take up this project on urgent basis.

CPB
OFB

106

ANNEXURE-12

F. No. A-14011/2021-WQM-I/

Speed Post/E-mail

29.10.2021

To

The Member Secretary,
Odisha State Pollution Control Board
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118,
Nilakantha Nagar, Unit – VIII,
Bhubaneswar – 751012, Odisha

8456

The Principal Secretary,
Department of Water Resource, Govt of Odisha
Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha 751001

Sub: Appeal received for renovation and restoration of Asrukhala Jora / Wetland in Odisha

Sir,

This has reference to an appeal received from Asrukhala Punarudhar O Bikash Manch, a platform constituted by the people of seven panchayats of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts in Odisha regarding renovation and restoration of Asrukhala Jora/ Wetland in Odisha. A copy of the afore-said complaint is forwarded herewith for record and is self-explanatory.

In view of above, it is requested to please investigate the matter on the issues raised by the complainant, and also to take necessary action or direct concerned department (s) to take necessary action on the matter. Also, it is requested to take necessary action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT orders passed in OA No. 325 of 2015 in the matter of Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors and as per provisions of The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 notified under The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. Action taken report on the afore-said matter may please be arranged to send to the complainant with a copy endorsed to CPCB for record, at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

(J. Chandra Babu)
Sc 'E', WQM-I

Encl: As above

Copy to:

Asrukhala Punarudhar O Bikash Manch,
Kendrapara and Cuttack Districts, Odisha
E-mail- asrukhala21@gmail.com

: For information and this is with
reference to your appeal dated
21.10.2021, please.

Regional Directorate- Kolkata
Central Pollution Control Board,
South end Conclave' Block-502, 5th & 6th Floor,
1582, Razidanga, Main Road, Kolkata- 700107
DH (Law), CPCB
24, WQM-I

: For information and follow-up with
SPCB, Odisha and Department of
Water Resource in Odisha State

: For information and record, pl.
: For information, pl

(J. Chandra Babu)

Pl follow-up

SE

PS/SNF/Ms D. Kumari

2022/10/27

2022/10/27

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH,
KOLKATA**

.....

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 20/2021/EZ
(I.A. No. 17/2021/EZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. **Swarup Kumar Rath,
Aged about 38 years,
Son of Bibhuti Bhusan Rath,
At P.O.– Bodhapur, P.S. – Kissannagar,
Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha**
2. **Sudhir Ranjan Acharya,
Aged about 50 years,
Son of Bichitrananda Acharya,
At Ishani Berhampur, P.O. – Khentalo,
P.S. - Kishannagar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha**
3. **Hrushikesh Jena,
Aged about 62 years,
Son of Banshidhar Jena,
Vill.: Bramhanbada, Damodarpur,
P.O. – Kandarpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha**
4. **Lily Sahoo
Aged about 49 years,
W/o Laxmi Narayan Sahoo,
Vill/P.O. - Sirlo, P.S. - Kishannagar,
Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha**
5. **Abhimanyu Behera,
Aged about 61 years,
S/o Kumar Behera,
Vill./P.O.– Bodhapur, P.S. - Kishannagar,
Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha,**
6. **Bhaskar Chandra Senapati,
Aged about 65 years,
S/o Satyabadi Senapati,**

**Vill.- Nanpur, P.O. – Gadama,
P.S. - Kishannagar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha,**

7. Syed Sajid Ali,

Aged about 48 years,

S/o Syed AbdurRazaque,

At P.O. – Praharajpur, P.S. - Kishannagar,

Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha

....Applicant(s)

Versus

1. Union of India,

Represented through its Secretary

Of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

Jorbagh, Aliganj, New Delhi,

Pin – 110003,

2. State of Odisha,

Represented through its Chief Secretary,

At Lok-Sebha Bhawan, Bhubaneswar,

Dist.: Khurda, Odisha,

3. Secretary to Government,

Water Resources Department,

At Lok-Sebha Bhawan, Bhubaneswar,

Dist.: Khurda, Odisha,

4. The Secretary to Government,

Revenue and Disaster Management Department,

At Lok-Sebha Bhawan, Bhubaneswar,

Dist.: Khurda,

5. Engineer-in-Chief,

Water Resources Department,

At Heads of Department Building,

Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha

6. Chief Engineer Drainage Division, Gandarpur,

Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha,

7. Executive Engineer Drainage Division, Gandarpur,

Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha,

8. The Collector, Cuttack,

At Collectorate Building,

P.O./Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha

9. Tahasildar, Kishore Nagar Tahasil,

At P.O.-Kishore Nagar,

Dist.: Cuttack,

10. Tahasildar, Cuttack Sadar,

At Chandni Chouk, Cuttack, Odisha,

11. State Pollution Control Board,

Represented through its Member Secretary,

Paribesh Bhawan, A-118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-8,

Bhubaneswar – 751 012, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha,

12. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority,

Represented through its Chairman,

At SRF-2/1, Acharya Vihar, Unit IX, OPTCL Colony,

Bhubaneswar – 751 022,

....Respondent(s)

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT:

**Mr. Sisir Das, Sr. Advocate a/w Mr. Prabhu Prasanna Behera,
Advocate,**

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS :

**Mr. Shakti Panda, AGA for R-2 to 7 & 10,
Mr. Janmejaya Katikia, AGA for R-8 & 9,
Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Advocate for R-11,
Mr. Gora Chand Roy Choudhury, Advocate for R-12,**

JUDGMENT**PRESENT:**

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR (JUDICIAL MEMBER)
HON'BLE MR. SAIBAL DASGUPTA (EXPERT MEMBER)

Reserved On:- September 23rd, 2022
Pronounce On:- September 28th, 2022

1. Whether the Judgment is allowed to be published on the net? **Yes**
 2. Whether the Judgment is allowed to be published in the NGT Reporter? **Yes**
-

JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR (JUDICIAL MEMBER)

Heard the learned Counsel for the parties and perused the documents on record.

2. The allegation in this Original Application is that the Respondents have closed the mouth of river Sukapaika (a branch of river Mahanadi) obstructing the free flow of perennial water source of river Sukapaika by creation of a dry island by way of encroachment of the river bed by land grabbers. It is also alleged that sand is being collected illegally by the encroachers and the entire bed has also become a dumping ground for garbage and solid and liquid waste, thereby polluting the entire area.

3. The submission of the learned Counsel for the Applicant is that in this regard the matter had been raised with the Government and a report had also been submitted by the Chief Engineer, Government of Odisha, Department of Water Resources (Project

proposal on Rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel Annexure-5) giving certain recommendations. It is alleged that in spite of the recommendations/report of the Chief Engineer, no action has been taken by the Respondents till date.

4. Notices were issued to the Respondents and responses have been filed.

5. The Chief Engineer, Drainage, Gandarpur, Cuttack, in his affidavit dated 03.08.2021 has stated that the Sukapaika River is a dead river originating from Mahanadi River, having its mouth at Village-Ayatpur at RD 12.50 kilometers. It traverses a length of 27.50 kilometers and then falls at Bankala in the same Mahanadi River at RD 27.50 kilometers in the Mahanadi right embankment. It covers three Blocks, namely, Cuttack Sadar, Raghunathpur and Nichintakoili of Cuttack District, Odisha.

6. It is also stated that the mouth of the river was closed during the year 1950 for development of Taladanda Canal System and for flood protection in the delta of Sukapaika. It is also stated that people have started residing in the nearby areas and encroaching upon the river at many places thereby obstructing storage and free passage of water to its tail end. It is stated that a decision was taken to close the mouth of river Sukapaika as it would not create any water crisis because the area is covered with many water bodies and tanks having sufficient ground water reserve. It is, however, stated that a Joint Inspection comprising of officials from the Water Resources and Revenue Department was made on

18.01.2020 and a public hearing was also held at Kishannagar Tahasil Office and it was decided to take up the matter as a Project. The Project Report has been approved by the 133rd State Technical Advisory Committee of Flood Control Board for Rs. 44.04 crores. The opinion of the people was also taken and a decision was taken to re-open the mouth of Sukapaika River near Village-Ayatpur on Mahanadi right embankment and the Revenue Authorities as well as the Authorities in the Department of Water Resources are also quite active for the said Project and the Detailed Project Report of the said Project has been approved by the 133rd State Technical Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 29.04.2021. It is stated that the detailed survey of the area is under process and following instructions have been given by the Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack, on 02.07.2021 which are as under:-

1. *River bed to be free from encroachment. (Action-Tahasildar Cuttack Sadar & Kishannagar).*
2. *Small ponds are to be created for the management of water course.*
3. *Detailed Project Report to be submitted and a synopsis of the DPR to be made in 'Odia' language to aware public about the work to be under taken for the Rejuvenation of the dead river "Sukapaika". An organization to be given the responsibility for the said purpose. (Action-Superintending Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack/Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Cuttack/Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, Cuttack/Executive engineer, Mahanadi South Division, Cuttack).*

4. Possible impact to be highlighted on DPR by making the Social assessment where human cost to be taken care of.
5. Socio-Economic survey to be conducted and benefits must be highlighted in the DPR.
6. As in the Project, affected people will be displaced, they would be rehabilitated and an agency to be involved to make the cost benefit analysis.
7. Eco-tourism spot to be identified and to be developed for promotion of tourism. **(Action-Superintending engineer, Drainage circle, Cuttack & Asst. Director of Tourist, Cuttack).**
8. As the project would change 50 years history of an area; the following components should be integral part of the project.
 - * Compensation (RR package)
 - * Project evaluation
 - * Cost benefit analysis
 - * Project documentation
 - * Inter-department co-ordination
 - * Checking of water level during lean & non-lean season.

Steps are being taken to carry out the instructions of the Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack regarding Sukapaika Channel.”

7. The Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack, in his affidavit dated 05.08.2021 has stated that since the mouth of the river was closed, the local people started using the dead river area and its bed for cultivation purpose but there was no pucca construction either over the dead river or over the river bed. It is also stated that the mouth of the river was closed as far back as 1951.

8. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change ('MoEF&CC' for short), Respondent No.1, in its affidavit dated 23.09.2021 has only stated that the Government of India has allocated the business relating to conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers to the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

9. The Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack, has filed a further affidavit dated 10.03.2022, stating therein that after approval of the Detailed Project Report for Rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel in the 133rd meeting of the State Technical Advisory Committee held on 29.04.2021, following recommendations have been made:-

- 1) Construction of one sluice on Mahanadi Right Embankment.*
- 2) Construction of Cross Drainage work over distributary No.1 of river Taladanda Canal.*
- 3) Construction of 4 nos. of Village Road Bridge.*
- 4) Renovation of entire Drainage Channel.*
- 5) Land Acquisition”*

10. It is also stated that regarding encroachment, there is no permanent construction within 60 meters of the corridor/passage way as it has been proposed for renovation of the Drainage Channel. It is also stated that the natural flow from Mahanadi River to the Drainage Channel had been stopped long back but to revive the Sukapaika Drainage Channel one sluice kept at river embankment near Ayatpur and one drainage sluice below the Ditsy

No.1 of Talandanda canal for intake of water from the Mahanadi River and rejuvenation of the Drainage Channel has been approved to develop the water table/ground water level of the locality and after completion of the Project, the storage water in this Drainage Channel will be used for drinking purpose and for supply to the rural people.

11. It is also stated that the State Government has approved an amount of Rs. **49.67 crores** for rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel which will be submitted to the Government for budgetary provisions for the year 2022-23.

12. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha, Respondent No.13, in its affidavit dated 17.05.2022 has stated that an affidavit was filed by the SEIAA, Odisha, before the Human Rights Commission, Odisha, in OHRC No. 2147 of 2020, stating therein that the SEIAA, Odisha, has neither granted any Environmental Clearance nor the Project Proponent has submitted any application form for lifting of sand and brick earth from Sukapaika riverbed and the order of the Human Rights Commission has been forwarded to the Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack, vide its letter dated 14.10.2020.

13. The Applicant has filed rejoinder affidavit dated 15.01.2022 stating therein that the local people are adopting large scale aquaculture in the river bed but it is not known whether any lease has been granted for the same in their favour by the Government

Authorities and the River Sukapaika has dried and become dead creating huge scarcity of drinking water in the area.

14. Another rejoinder affidavit dated 23.04.2022 has been filed by the Applicant, stating therein that the mouth of the Sukapaika River was closed during the construction of Right Flood Embankment of Mahanadi River which has caused the river to be silted up and has almost died now. It is also stated that the Government has not given any administrative approval to the Project for rejuvenation of the Sukapaika River and financial sanction has also not been accorded so far. It is also stated that there are encroachments on the river bed which need to be removed since encroachments in the river bed cannot be legalized in the name of encroacher.

15. Additional affidavit dated 21.09.2022 has also been filed by the Appellant wherein it is stated that the budgetary sanction for an amount of Rs. **49.67 crores** for Project Rejuvenation of Sukapaika River Drainage Channel has not yet been submitted to the Government for budgetary allocation for the year 2022-23 and, therefore, the claim of the State Respondents is only an eyewash.

16. The Chief Engineer, Drainage, Gandarpur, Cuttack, in his affidavit dated 26.08.2022 has, however, placed on record the proceedings of the Technical Committee held on 06.06.2022 wherein it has been stated that the rejuvenation proposal has been approved for an estimated cost of Rs. 4967.13 lakhs i.e., Rs. 49.6713 vtptrd in 136th Technical Advisory Committee of State

Flood Control Board held on 14.12.2021. The relevant extract of the proceeding reads as under:-

**“PROCEEDING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 06.06.2022 AT 4:30 PM
REGARDING REJUNVEATION OF SUKAPAIKA
DRAINAGE CHANNEL**

The rejuvenation proposal has been approved for an estimated cost of Rs.4967.13 Lakhs in 136th TAC of State Flood Control Board held on 14.12.2021 with the following scope of work including land acquisition:-

- i. Construction of a Sluice on the right capital embankment at RD 12.00Km of River Mahanadi near village Ayatpur i.e., originating point of Sukapaika Drainage Channel.*
- ii. Construction of a Syphon on existing road from Ayatpur to Kandarpur at RD 1.08 Km of Distributary No.01 of Taladanda System.*
- iii. Renovation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel for a length of 30.850 Km from the originating point at Ayatpur to the outfalling point at Bankal Sluice with a bed width of 20 metre.*
- iv. Construction of 04 nos. of VRBs*

The discussion was held regarding construction of Sluice and Syphon which are the key factor for the success of this rejuvenation proposal. It was intimated to the committee that the site was visited by Director, Canal along with Director, Flood Control & Coastal protection and Additional Director, Flood Control under Chief engineer, Designs on 12.05.2022. As per the suggestion of the Design team and the feasibility study report intimated by Chief Engineer, Planning with the desired Bed Level of 13.50m at proposed sluice at Ayatpur the approximate minimum discharge in

Mahanadi at that point should be 1,14,240 Cusec which will allow flow into Sukapaika.

The Chief Engineer, Drainage suggested that the flow for around one month in monsoon season with design crest level of the sluice at 13.00 m and a Design Discharge of 11.00 Cumecs will solve the purpose looking to the Design Discharge of Bankala Sluice with is 58.52 Cumecs.

Chief Engineer, Designs raised apprehension for success of the rejuvenation proposal due to the expected flow for a less duration in the year. He suggested to lower the crest level to 1.0m to 1.50m above the river bed level for allowing flow in the channel for a longer duration, if feasible.

After debate and discussion among all the members, it was directed by the Engineer-in-Chief, Planning & Design that the sluice is to be designed with the crest level of RL 13.00m which will resolve the purpose of rejuvenation for the larger interest of the villagers of Cuttack Sadar, Kishannagar and Nischintakoili Block of Cuttack District.

In the meeting, the CE Drainage was asked to furnish the levels of the existing structures for fixation of the proposed sluice level. The same was furnished to the EIC, WR under intimation to all concerned vide CE's Letter No. 2978(WE)/ dt. 23.06.2022. Basing on the said letter, the CE Planning vide his Letter No.1184/dt 13.07.2022 recommends to fix the level at RL 13.0M.

The observations at Gauge site on River Mahanadi at Kisan Nagar from the year 2017 and 2021 shows that the flood water level at the site is above 13.00m for 13 to 44 days in a year in the monsoon period. As the proposed sluice site at Ayatpur is situated at 9.00 Km up stream of the gauge site, the

corresponding flood water level at the intake sluice point will be about 14.50 m to 15.0 m during this period. This will facilitate entry of Mahanadi flood water to Suka Paika DC for more no's of days in a year than those observed at Kisan Nagar. This will be helpful for rejuvenation of the dead channel to a greater extent.

Besides rejuvenation, water can also be stored in the channel at the already constructed check dam site and more such structures can be constructed in future for storage of water in the channel at suitable locations which can be utilized for pisciculture, drinking water, ground water recharge and other purposes.

As such, it is approved to take up the design with crest level of the sluice at RL 13.0 m.”

17. It is also stated that the site was visited by the Director, Canal along with Director, Flood Control & Coastal Protection and Additional Director, Flood Control under Chief Engineer, Designs, on 12.05.2022 and it has been proposed that the desired bed level of 13.50m at proposed sluice at Ayatpur and approximate minimum discharge in Mahanadi at that point should be 1,14,240 Cusec which will allow flow into Sukapaika River. It is also stated that the flow for around one month in monsoon season with design crest level of the sluice at 13.00m and a design discharge of 11.00 Cumecs will solve the purpose of Bankala Sluice which is 58.52 Cumecs.

18. It is also stated that the Chief Engineer, Design, suggested to lower the crest level to 1.0m to 1.50m above the river bed for allowing flow in the channel for a longer duration. Finally it was

directed by the Engineer-in-Chief, Planning & Design, that the sluice be designed with the crest level of RL 13.00m which will resolve the purpose of rejuvenation for the larger interest of the villagers of Cuttack Sadar, Kishannagar and Nischintakoili Block of Cuttack District.

19. The Committee also noted that the observations at gauge site on Mahanadi River at Kisan Nagar from the year 2017 and 2021 show that the flood water level at the site is above 13.00m for 13 days to 44 days in a year in the monsoon period. As the proposed sluice site at Ayatpur is situated at 9 kilometers upstream of the gauge site, the corresponding flood water level at the intake sluice point will be about 14.50m to 15.0m during this period. This will facilitate entry of Mahanadi flood water to Sukapaika Drainage Channel for more number of days in a year than those observed at Kisannagar. This will be helpful for rejuvenation of the dead channel to a great extent. The proposal was finally approved to take the design with crest level of the sluice at RL 13.0m.

20. From the facts stated and brought on record by the Respondents, it is found that for purposes of rejuvenation of the Sukapaika River, a Sukapaika Project Report for rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel has been formed which has been approved for a budgetary requirement of Rs. 4967.13 lakhs i.e., Rs. 49.6713 crores on 14.12.2021 and the said proposal needs to be executed in all seriousness and alacrity by the State Respondents in order to ensure rejuvenation of the Sukapaika River to ameliorate

the drinking water crisis of the residents of the area as well as rejuvenation of ground water and other water bodies in the area. No timeline has been mentioned in the affidavits filed by the Chief Engineer, Drainage, Gandarpur, Cuttack, since the proposals were finalized on 14.12.2021 and were supposed to have been placed for budgetary allocation in the financial year 2022-23. The affidavits do not clarify as to whether the budgetary allocation has been granted by the State, however, more than nine months have passed since the rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel Project was approved and financial requirements determined.

21. We are in agreement with the anxiety of Mr. Sisir Das, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Applicants, that the Sukapaika river has been dead for several decades causing grave hardship to the local people who are dependent on the river for drinking water as well as for agricultural purposes and that the said river must be rejuvenated. This will also help in recharging the ground water as well as in maintaining the water level in the natural water bodies around the area.

22. We, therefore, direct the State Respondents that in case the proposed budgetary allocation of Rs. 4967.13 lakhs for rejuvenation of Sukapaika Drainage Channel has not been made by the Government, the same shall be made within a period of one month for which purpose a copy of this judgment shall be placed before the Chief Secretary, State of Odisha for appropriate orders.

23. We also direct the State Respondents to complete the entire Project for rejuvenation of Sukapaika River Drainage Channel by **13.03.2023** and file an affidavit of compliance in this regard.

24. With the aforesaid directions, the Original Application is disposed of.

25. The I.A. No. 17/2021/EZ is also disposed of.

26. There shall be no order as to costs.

.....
B. AMIT STHALEKAR , JM

.....
SAIBAL DASGUPTA, EM

**Kolkata,
September 28th, 2022,
Original Application No.20/2021/EZ
(I.A. No. 17/2021/EZ)
AK**

NGT

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

Appcal/Application No. _____ of 2024

In re:

ASRUKHOLA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

APPLICANT

Versus

STATE OF ODISHA &Ors

...

RESPONDENTS

KNOW ALL to whom these present shall come I, Amarendra Nath Mohanty , S/o Bipra Charan mohanty aged about 76years, At/Po- Parijata Sriramnagar, Uttarasasan, Dist-Puri, 751002 presently serving as the president of the applicant society Asrukhola Development Council in the abovementioned application and authorized to sign this, do hereby appoint (herein after called the advocate/s) to be my/our Advocate in the above noted case authorized him :-**Sankar Prasad Pani**, Advocates, Plot No 2132/4814 B, Nageswartangi, Bhubaneswar, 751002, Mob-no.9437279278, Email- sankarprasadpani@gmail.com Enrollment no. O-785/07 and **Ashutosh Padhy**, Enrollment no. O-1018/23.

To act, appear and plead in the above-noted case in this Court or in any other Court in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the appellate Court including High Court subject to payment of fees separately for each Court by me/ us. To sign, file verify and present pleadings, appeals cross objections or petitions for execution review, revision, withdrawal, compromise or other petitions or affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the prosecution of the said case in all its stages. To file and take back documents to admit and/or deny the documents of opposite party.

To withdraw or compromise the said case or submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case. To take execution proceedings. The deposit, draw and receive money, cheques, cash and grant receipts thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the said case. To appoint and instruct any other Legal Practioner, authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred upon the Advocate whenever he may think it to do so and to sign the Power of Attorney on our behalf.

And I/We the undersigned do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts done by the Advocate or his substitute in the matter as my/our own acts, as if done by me/us to all intents and purposes.

And I/We undertake that I / we or my /our duly authorized agent would appear in the Court on all hearings and will inform the Advocates for appearance when the case is called.

And I /we undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case. The adjournment costs whenever ordered by the Court shall be of the Advocate, which he shall receive and retain himself.

And I /we the undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or part of the fee agreed by me/us to be paid to the Advocate remaining unpaid he shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. The fee settled is only for the above case and above Court. I/We hereby agree that once the fee is paid. I /we will not be entitled for the refund of the same in any case whatsoever. If the case lasts for more than three years, the advocate shall be entitled for additional fee equivalent to half of the agreed fee for every addition three years or part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/We do hereunto set my /our hand to these presents the contents of which have been understood by me/us on this 24th day of May 2024.

Accepted subject to the terms of fees.

Advocate

Client

President
Asrukhola Development Council

ଭୂମିକ ବହି



ସମାପନ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ
୩/୩/୧୮/୨୦୨୪

ଗରିବରେ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ସାଧାରଣ ସଭା ଅଧିବେଶନର ଭୂମିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବିବରଣୀ

- Amiya Khanna Patil
- Hon. Naymode W
- Sanjay Kumar Setty
- Alok Kumar Acharya
- Abhaya Kumar Chaudhary
- Gangadhar Mishra
- Smriti Rangan Bhat
- Modelhalinkha
- Narsingha Prasad Das
- Ashok Kumar Rana
- Kalish Chandra Gouda
- Bishnu Charan
- Pratosh Nayak

ଦିନ ୦୩/୦୩/୧୮/୨୦୨୪ ମି, ^{ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ} ~~ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ~~, ^{ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ} ~~ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ~~, ଉପରାଜ୍ୟ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରେ ଉପକ୍ରମ ପରିଷଦର ପରିଷଦର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ
 ଏକ କୋଠକ କମ୍ପ(ପାଠ୍ୟ) ପ୍ରାୟୋଗିକାଣୀ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଏ ଆହ୍ୱାନର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଏ କୋଠକ କମ୍ପରୁ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ
 ଏକ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ କମ୍ପରୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବନା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ୧. ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସଭାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ୨. ଦୀର୍ଘମିତ୍ର ପରିଷଦର ଦାକ୍ଷିଣ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ପ୍ରକାଶନରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ଏକ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ National Green Tribunal
 ଏକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ୩. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବନା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 ୪. ଦୀର୍ଘମିତ୍ର ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମରୁ ଉପକ୍ରମ

(Signature)
 ୩/୩/୧୮/୨୪
 President
 Ashukhola Development Council

Himalayamohan Mohanty
 ୩୦.୩.୨୦୨୪
 General Secretary
 Ashukhola Development Council

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF MINUTES BOOK DATED 30/04/2024**MINUTES BOOK**

Today on dated 30/04/2024, Tuesday around 4.00 P.M all the members of Asrukholā Development Council management committee were present at Bharati Tower near Bhubaneswar Airport to conduct a meeting.

Before conducting the meeting a notice was circulated.

In this meeting the below mentioned topics were discussed and passed by majority.

1. Last meetings detailed book was passed by majority.
2. As the government is not showing any interest to the demands of the Council, members of the council decided to file a petition before the National Green Tribunal.
3. To consult and appoint an advocate, president of the council is nominated and authorized to file this petition.
4. It was requested to all the members to increase the number of life time members of the council.