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SL NO.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 33/2024/EZ

SUBHAS DATTA

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

.....RESPONDENT(S)

REPORT ON AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD.

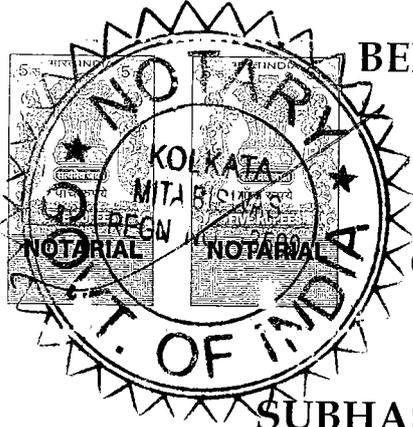
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Filed by
Dipanj Ghosh
DIPANJAN GHOSH
Advocate
Calcutta High Court

02 AUG 2024



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POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.

Most Respectfully Sheweth

I, Sri Ramkrishna Saha, son of Late Gopal Gobindo Saha, aged about 55 years, by faith-Hindu, Occupation- Service, working at West Bengal Pollution Control Board office at 10A, Block-LA, Sector-III. Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700108, do hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-



01. That, I am the Chief Scientist, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter will be referred to as the 'State Board') and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case. I have been duly authorized by the Respondent No. 6, to affirm this Affidavit on its behalf and as such, I am competent to do so.

02. That this additional affidavit is being affirmed in pursuant to the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 22.02.2024.

03. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 22.02.2024 constituted a Committee comprising of the following members:

- (i) Sr. Scientist, West Bengal Pollution Control Board;
- (ii) Sr. Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board;
- (iii) Sr. Scientist, National Mission for Clean Ganga Authority;
- (iv) Officer of Senior Rank, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal;



- (v) Officer of Senior Rank, Howrah Municipal Corporation; and
(vi) Officer of Senior Rank, Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

04. That, the 1st meeting of the Joint Committee took place on 2nd May 2024, at the Additional District Magistrate office, Howrah. Following this meeting, the Committee conducted a field visit to the alleged site in Howrah, namely Topiwala Ghat, Shibpur Bichali Ghat and Second Hoogly Bridge towards Shibpur on the same day i.e., 2nd May 2024. Subsequently, on 10th May 2024, the Committee visited the Historic ghats named Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat towards the Kolkata side.

05. That, the following observations were made by the Committee members:



Bichali Ghat

Averment: *“That several small-scale units at Shibpur Bichali Ghat on Ganga towards Howrah side are processing wastes collected from goldsmith shops and discharging their waste water, fully contaminated and containing acid, into the river”.*

Observations:

Gold Dust Collection: Gold dust particles collection from sand/soil was observed taking place in the area. The practice involves extracting gold particles from sediment collected from goldsmith shops in Bara bazar, Kolkata. The gold dust extraction process appears to be carried out using informal and unscientific methods, lacking proper techniques for efficient and environmentally friendly extraction. As informed by one of the workers, the locals from the area are involved in collecting gold dust to earn a living and its an old-age practice in their community. Gold dust extraction is the primary source of income for some families in the area.





Gold Dust extraction process as observed during the visit:

- i. **Collection of Soil:** Soil collected from goldsmith shops likely contains fine particles of gold that are being discarded or washed away during jewellery making processes.
- ii. **Sluicing:** Slanting wooden boards, often arranged at an angle, are placed in a water channel. The sediment mixture is poured onto these boards.
- iii. **Separation:** As water flows down the slanting boards, it carries away lighter materials like sand and gravel while the heavier gold particles settle into the grooves and crevices of the boards.
- iv. **Collection:** The flow of the water is stop periodically and the accumulated concentration is removed from the board. This concentrate contains the gold particles.
- v. **Further Processing:** The collected concentrate is then further processed through techniques like panning and amalgamation.



Other Observations:

- i. Huge amount of solid waste dumping was observed in an around the Bichali Ghat.
- ii. Open defecation and presence of cattle sheds were observed in an around the vicinity of the Bichali ghat.
- iii. A public toilet situated on the bank of river Ganga near the Bichali ghat was found to discharge directly into the river.

Second Hoogly Bridge towards Shibpur

Averment: *"That huge number of concrete pillars are there in the river Ganga under the 2nd Hoogly Bridge towards the Shibpur side which obstruct the smooth flow of the river, both during high tide as well as low tide period".*

Observations:

During the inspection by the committee at the alleged site, it was observed that there were no obstructive pillar constructions. Most of the pillars were located on the riverbank, and only two were



constructed within the river to support the bridge, causing no obstruction to the river's flow.

Topiwala Ghat

Averment: *"That at the Shibpur side of Howrah at Topiwala Ghat laundry being run to wash the clothes and linens of the Railway is discharging waste water into the river and fume is coming out from the outlet points of such laundry".*

Observations:

A Laundry facility engaged in washing clothes and linen from Eastern Railways, discharging waste water into the river Ganga without any prior treatment was observed. The laundry is operating without obtaining Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from concerned authorities was observed during inspection which the unit could not produce at the time of inspection. However, on 09.04.2024 they were called for hearing and they submitted consent to establish from DIC , Howrah dated 17.05.2018. As reported by the plant manager, there are two (2) 60kg washing units and five (5) 150



kg washing units installed in the facility. Approximately 40000 nos. of clothes/linen are washed every day at the plant. The plant utilises water from a borewell for washing purposes, with a softener unit employed to reduce Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) before washing. However, records pertaining to water consumption per day are unavailable. Wastewater generated during the washing process is discharged into the foreshore road drain, which finally empties into the river Ganga.

Thereafter, State Board issued a closure order vide Memo dated 13.05.2024 to the laundry (M/s. Band Box) located at Topiwala Ghat for violation of environmental norms. On finding , the unit operating despite closure order of the State Board an order for disconnection of electricity was issued to the unit vide memo Dated 24.07.2024.

Copy of directions of the State Board as annexed as Annexure **R/1**.



Ghats towards Kolkata side

Averment: *“That the reputed and historic ghats of the city named Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat etc. have been found littered with garbage”.*

Rani Rashmoni Ghat: Rani Rashmoni Ghat holds significant religious importance, and several religious activities were ongoing during the visit. Multiple bins are installed in the vicinity of the ghat for waste disposal. However, a large amount of floatable solid/plastic wastes, disposed of by pilgrims, was observed in the river.

Mullick Ghat: Mullick ghat holds significant historical importance. During the Committee several concerning issues was observed. Extensive dumping of solid waste, instances of open defecation, and the discharge of a substantial amount of faecal waste from open public toilets directly into the river Ganga was observed. Additionally, the river was heavily polluted with plastic/solid wastes, with bathing activities occurring amidst the pollution. Further, the Mullick Ghat



hosts Asia's largest flower market, which exacerbates the pollution issues. The market's activities contribute significantly to the pollution of the river and ghat. Additionally, huge amount of solid waste accumulation was observed piled up in vicinity of the ghat.

Bagbazar Ghat: The Bagbazar ghat holds great religious significance attracting a large number of pilgrims. During the Committee visit, dumping of solid waste was observed. Furthermore, waste generated from religious activities was also disposed of directly into the river. Several bins are installed in vicinity of the area however their effectiveness in mitigating the waste pollution is concerning.

Shovabazar Ghat: Bathing activities observed in the Ghat. The ghat was found clean during the visit. Several bins are installed by KMC for mitigating the solid waste dumping issues in vicinity of the ghat.

Kashimitra Ghat: Bathing activities observed in the ghat. The ghat was found clean during the visit. Several bins are installed by KMC for mitigating the solid waste dumping issues in vicinity of the ghat.



Nimtala Ghat: During the visit, no solid waste dumping was observed at the Nimtala Ghat area, also multiply bins for waste disposal have been installed in the area. Additionally, due to the presence of several temples in the vicinity, two large waste containers have been placed to specifically collect flowers and other organic wastes from these temples. KMC officials, present during the inspection, reported that the collected waste is transported to Dhapa. where they are planning to utilize the same for making agarbathi/dhoop. Regular cleaning of the ghat is conducted by the KMC, according to the officials. However, one major issue encountered in maintaining the cleanliness of the ghat is the problem of bin theft.

06. That, again Joint inspection in the vessel was undertaken on 26.06.2024 to view in detail the different outfall namely from Topiwala ghat, Shibpur Bichali ghat, Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick ghat, Bagbazar ghat, Shovabazar ghat, Kashimitra ghat and Nimtala ghat

and detail of the 2nd Hugli Bridge.



Detail of the cruise view:

- A detail drive of cleaning activity of the ghat is depicted in the figure.
- However, cleaning of Mullick ghat needs more attention. Management of the flower waste needs to be more improvised by the Municipal Corporation and KOPT. Transportation of waste and its transformation to organic manure needs to be done by expert agency.
- Laundry activity in the Topiwala ghat needs liquid waste treatment facility.
- Laundry in the Topiwala ghat still noticed draining liquid waste in the River. However, WBPCB has served the closure notice to the said unit dated 13.05.2024 and disconnection of electricity on 24.07.2024.
- Interception & diversion of the drain discharging waste water is readily viewed from an outfall at Shovabazar ghat and its



adjoining areas like Dhonia and Dilarganj ghat. Dumping of solid waste is also reflected in these ghats.

- Presence of Cow shed on the bank of Bichali ghat is found. Relocation of the shed in the nearby location is advised to avoid the riparian run-off to the Ganga River.
- Gold and Silver dust extraction is observed and is situated on the bank of River Ganga near Bichali Ghat. These unit generate huge acidic & alkaline waste water from more than 500 small units. These units should be immediately relocated with in period of three months.
- Public Toilet situated on the bank of the river in different ghats should be replaced by Bio-toilet.

07. That, during the visit to different ghats samples were collected and the different chemical attributes are depicted in the table below:



Table: I

Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Water (Water used for organised outdoor bathing) Gazette Notification Published by: New Delhi, September 25, 2000/ASVINA 3,1922	
Parameter	Criteria
1. Fecal Coliform MPN/100 ml	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)
2. Fecal Streptococci MPN/100 ml:	100 (desirable) 500 (Maximum Permissible)
3. pH	Between 6.5 -8.5
4. Dissolved Oxygen:	5 mg/1 or more
5. Biochemical Oxygen demand 3 day,27°C:	3 mg/1 or less

Physico-Chemical Analysis of River Water of Different Ghat in Ganga								
Parameter	Rani Rashmoni Ghat	Bagbazar Ghat	Kashimira Ghat	Shovabazar Ghat	Nimtala Ghat	Mallick Ghat	Bichali Ghat	Topiwala Ghat
pH	7.58	7.60	7.43	7.55	7.60	7.58	7.65	7.88
DO (mg/l)	5.43	5.33	5.52	5.24	5.14	5.24	3.40	2.82
BOD (mg/l)	2.50	2.60	2.44	2.81	2.91	2.86	16.79	16.21
Total Coliform (MPN/100ml)	70×10^3	170×10^3	350×10^4	43×10^3	49×10^3	130×10^3	350×10^3	240×10^5
Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)	47×10^3	31×10^3	220×10^4	26×10^3	33×10^3	70×10^3	70×10^3	540×10^4
Fecal Streptococci (MPN/100ml)	280×10	170×10	350×10	540×10	350×10	350×10	70×10^2	350×10^3



08. That, the detail chemical attributes of different ghats depicted in the table :

- River water collected from different ghats like Rani Rashmoni, Bagbazar, Kashimitra, Shovabazar, Nimtala, Topiwala and Bichali Ghat.
- Data in the table -I, reveals that pH, DO & BOD is not as per the stipulated standard of MoEF Gazette Notification Published by: New Delhi, September 25, 2000/ASVINA 3,1922. However, Topiwala and Bichali ghat reflects there is a gross violation of DO and BOD. DO i.e., 3.40 mg/l and BOD is 16.79 mg/l in Bichali Ghat. This violation may be due to the surface run-off from the cattle shed and unorganised urinals on the bank as given in the picture.
- Similarly, Topiwala Ghat also reflects BOD is violating the stipulated norms of primary water quality of CPCB. This violation may be due to the activity of the gold and silver extraction in the unorganised sector and the discharge of laundry drain identified during the visit.



- Apart from DO, BOD, TC and FC are violating the stipulated Standard of CPCB as mentioned above.

Action to be taken

Sl. No.	Problem vis-viz action proposed	Responsibility
1.0	Management of flower waste in Mullick ghat	Municipal Corporation & Kolkata Post Trust
2.0	Laundry Activity in Topiwala ghat needs Re-location (Band Box)	DM-Howrah
3.0	Outfall at Shovabazar ghat and its adjoining areas like Dhonia & Dilarganj	KMDA, Kolkata Post Trust
4.0	Cow-shed in the bank of Bichali Ghat needs re-location in a stipulated time period of three months.	DM-Howrah
5.0	Re-location of Public Toilet in the bank in all the ghats	DM-Howrah & Kolkata Municipal Corporation
6.0	Gold & Silver extraction from un-organised Sector located near Bichali Ghat	DM-Howrah
7.0	Most of the pillars were located on the river bank only two were constructed within the river	Roads & Highway

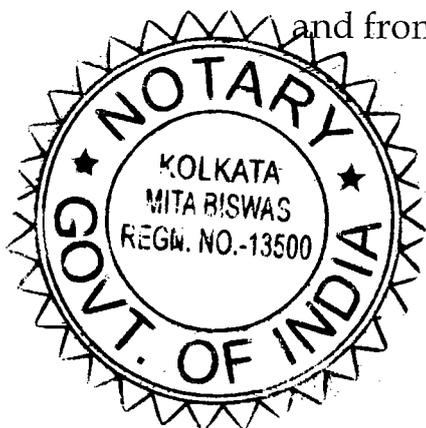


Copy of the Committee report along with pictographical presentation of historical ghats is annexed herewith and marked as R/2.

09. Howrah Municipal Corporation has further submitted a re-joinder to the Original Committee Report which is stated as follows:

Bicahli Ghat:

- i. Bichali Ghat is located on the land owned by the Shyama Prasad Mookherjee Port Trust, Kolkata (formerly KoPT).
- ii. The unorganized goldsmith shops located there are at under the administrative jurisdiction of KoPT. The matter has properly been reflected in the closure order issued by the WBPCB dated 13/05/2024. As directed there is no Certificate of Enlistments (Trade licence) have been issued by the HMC to the unorganized sectors.
- iii. The issue of pollution of the river Ganga in the area due to direct discharge of cow dung from an unauthorized khatal (cowshed) and from open defecation by the dwellers of a large slum from the



adjacent locality of Ramkrishnapur Choura Bustee both located on the port own land, were duly reported to the Chairman, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust dated 19/06/2024 and 26/07/2024 respectively in connection with another O.A.40/2024/EZ of similar nature with respect for immediate effective redressal of the issues of which is still awaiting.

- iv. The existence of public toilet on the bank of river Ganga at the Bichali Ghat as mentioned in the original committee report has not been either constructed or maintained by the HMC. The official public toilet developed and maintained by the HMC in that area is located approximately 150 mtrs. away and is situated on the road and not at the embankment.
- v. In fact, to stop open defecation, a proposal has been placed before the Chairman, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust for issuing NOC in favour of HMC for constructing community toilets for the dwellers of the slum located on the port land.



Topiwala Ghat :

- i. The laundry of M/s Band Box which is the source of water pollution in that area is located on the port own land which has been clearly mentioned in the closure order issued by WBPCB dated 13/05/2024.
- ii. HMC has taken note of closure order of M/s. Band Box as ordered for non-issuance / non-renewal of Certificate of Enlistment (Trade licence).

Copy of the rejoinder of Howrah Municipal Corporation is annexed as Annexure R/3.

10. It is therefore respectfully prayed that Hon'ble Tribunal may pass such order/orders as it deems fit and proper in the interest of justice.

*Identified by me
Dipankar Ghosh.*

Dhanprishna Ghosh
DEPONENT



Solemnly Affirmed & Declared Before
me on Identification of Ld. Advocate

Mita Biswas

MITA BISWAS NOTARY
Govt. of India, Regd. No -13500

02 AUG 2024

VERIFICATION

I, Sri Ramkrishna Saha, son of Late Gopal Gobindo Saha, aged about 55 years, by faith-Hindu, Occupation- Service, working at West Bengal Pollution Control Board office at 10A, Block-LA, Sector-III. Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700108, do hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-

1. That, I am the Chief Scientist, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the instant Original Application.
2. That, the statements made in paragraph 1 of this affidavit is true to my knowledge and belief.
3. That, the statements made in paragraphs 2 to 9 of this affidavit are my information derived from the records available in the office of the State Board which I verily believe to be true and the rest are my respectful submission before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Dipankar Ghosh

Identified and corrected by me

Advocate

WBPCB

Ramkrishna Saha

DÉPONENT





LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)
Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block - LA, Sector III, Bidhannagar
Kolkata - 700 106, Ph. No.: 2202-3097/3096
Website: www.wbpcb.gov.in, Email: net.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in

Memo No.

-1M-11/2009(Part-IX)

Date: /05/2024

CLOSURE ORDER

WHEREAS, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as the State Board) officials inspected the area of Bichali Ghat, Topiwala Ghat and its adjoining areas near Santragachi Station on 14/03/2024 in connection with a public complaint received by the State Board regarding water pollution of river Ganga due to discharge of waste water from nearby factories located near Topiwala Ghat and Bichali Ghat near Santragachi Station, Howrah. During inspection M/s. Band Box (hereinafter referred to as the unit) located at Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102 just adjoining the bank of river Hooghly was identified. The unit is engaged in washing, ironing and packing of bed linen and towels which are used by passengers of Eastern Railway. The unit uses detergent, bleaching powder, laundry softener for its washing. The waste water after fabric washing is directly discharged into river Ganga via unit's drain without any treatment.

AND WHEREAS, the unit has 12 nos. washing machines, 06 nos. hydro extractors, 03 nos. calendaring machines and 03 nos. driers. The unit has also 02 nos. HSD fired baby boilers of 600 kg/hr. and 800 kg/hr. connected to individual stack of height about 10m from G.L. During inspection one boiler (800 kg/hr.) was under maintenance, while the other was in operation. No significant stack emission was observed from the stack of the said boiler during inspection.

AND WHEREAS, during inspection the unit representative of M/s. Band Box could not show Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate of the State Board. The unit is operating without Consent to Operate of the State Board and without installing any effluent treatment facility to treat its waste water.

AND WHEREAS, during inspection Bichali Ghat and its adjoining area was also visited, however, no industry could be located in the nearby areas. Close to the river bank, a cluster of tiny unorganized units carrying out extraction of gold, silver and other valuable metals from dust collected from jewellery shops were observed. However, workers refused to disclose details of manufacturing process chemicals used. No effluent treatment system was observed, final disposal of wastewater generated from the process could not be ascertained.

AND WHEREAS, M/s. Band Box was called for a hearing on 09.04.2024 at the Head office of the Board for violation of environmental norms. Shri Rohan Bahri, partner on behalf of M/s. Band Box appeared in the hearing and submitted that they obtained Consent to Establish from the DIC, Howrah on 17.05.2018, but they have not obtained Consent to Operate from the State Board. A copy of CTE certificate has been submitted by him during hearing. He mentioned that they would immediately apply for Consent to Operate and install an ETP to treat its waste water.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the gross violation of environmental norms as recorded above, M/s. Band Box located at Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102 is hereby closed by the State Board with immediate effect.

The Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust) is being kept informed about the unauthorized activities regarding extraction of gold, silver and other valuable metals from dust collected from jewellery shops using acid chemicals at Bichali Ghat and its adjoining area near Santragachi Station, Howrah causing water pollution of river Ganga due to direct discharge of untreated effluent by the said unauthorized units. The Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust) is requested to take action against such units who are carrying out unauthorized activities at the river bank and polluting the river Ganga and submit a report in this regard to the State Board. It is to be mentioned here that the Member Secretary, WBPCB had issued earlier a letter vide Memo No. 39-IM-11/2009 (part-V) dated 13.01.2023 to the Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust) regarding unauthorized industrial activities within warehouse premises of Kolkata Port Trust at Mollick Ghat Road, P.O.& P.S.-Howrah, Pin-711101 and such industries are polluting the river Ganga. But, till date no reply has been received from their end.

The Commissioner, Howrah Municipal Corporation, Howrah is requested not to issue any trade license to such unauthorized units who are engaged in extraction of gold, silver and other valuable metals from dust collected from jewellery shops close to river bank at Bichali Ghat and its adjoining area near Santragachi Station, Howrah and polluting the river Ganga.

The closure order will take immediate effect and the Officer-in-Charge, Shibpur Police Station is directed to execute the closure order against M/s. Band Box, Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102 and submit the compliance report to the State Board within seven (07) days from the receipt of this Memo.

This direction has been issued to the Officer-in-Charge, Shibpur Police Station in conformity with the order of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta dated 21/08/1998.

The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Howrah Regional Office, WBPCB is requested to take necessary steps for proper execution of the closure order against M/s. Band Box and also visit the unit involving the local police station and the Nodal Police Officer.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the provision of Section 33A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Section 31A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made there under after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-
Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Memor No. 5042 (8) -1M-11/2009(Part-IX)

Date: 13 /05/2024

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. M/s. Band Box, Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102
2. P.S. to the Hon'ble MIC, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of W.B. Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
3. P.S. to the Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of W.B., Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
4. The Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust), 15/1, Strand Road, Fairley Place, B.B.D. Bag, Kolkata - 700 001
5. The Commissioner of Police, Howrah Police Commissionerate, 28 No., Nityadhan Mukherjee Road, Howrah, Pin- 711101
6. The Commissioner, Howrah Municipal Corporation, 4, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Howrah - 711101
7. The Chief Engineer, Planning & EIM Cell, WBPCB
8. The Chief Scientist, WBPCB
9. The Senior Law Officer, WBPCB
10. Smt. Paushali Mukherjee (Pahari), Sr. Law Officer, WBPCB
11. The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Howrah Regional Office, WBPCB
12. T.A. to the Member Secretary, WBPCB
13. P.A. to the Chairman, WBPCB
14. The Officer-in-Charge, Shibpur Police Station, 161, Grand Trunk Road, Naora, Shibpur, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711102
15. Technical Cell, WBPCB for updating the website
16. Environment Officer- Communication, WBPCB - for circulation through float file
17. Guard file of O & E Cell


Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board



LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)
Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block - LA, Sector III, Bidhannagar
Kolkata - 700 106, Ph. No.: 2202-3097/3096
Website: www.wbpcb.gov.in, Email: net.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in

Memo No.

-1M-11/2009(Part-X)

Date: /07/2024

ORDER FOR DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY

WHEREAS, M/s. Band Box (hereinafter referred to as the unit) located at **Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102** is engaged in washing, ironing and packing of bed linen and towels which are used by passengers of Eastern Railway.

AND WHEREAS, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as the State Board) issued **Closure Order** against the unit vide Memo No. 5042-1M-11/2009(Part-IX) dated 13.05.2024 as the unit was operating without Consent to Operate of the State Board and without installing any effluent treatment facility to treat its waste water.

AND WHEREAS, the unit was inspected by the Board official on 18.07.2024 and it appears from the inspection report that the unit was in operation violating the Closure order of the State Board dated 13.05.2024 and untreated effluent was being discharged to the drain leading to the river Hooghly. However, installation of ETP was found in progress and the proprietor of the unit informed that the ETP installation work will be completed shortly.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the above, Order for disconnection of electricity is being issued by the State Board against **M/s. Band Box** located at Topiwala Ghat, P.S.- Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102 with immediate effect.

The electricity connection of the unit is ordered to be disconnected forthwith.

The Vice President (Distribution and Service), CESC Ltd. is requested to take necessary steps for disconnection of electricity of the above-mentioned unit immediately.

This direction has been issued to the Vice President (Distribution and Service), CESC Ltd. in conformity with the order of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta dated 28/04/1999.

The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Howrah Regional Office, WBPCB is requested to take necessary steps for proper execution of the disconnection of electricity order against the unit and also visit the unit involving the local police station and the Nodal Police Officer.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the provision of Section 33A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Section 31A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-

**Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board**

Memo No. 8033 (7) -1M-11/2009(Part-X)

Date: 24/07/2024

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. M/s. Band Box, Topiwala Ghat, P.S.-,Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711 102
2. P.S. to the Hon'ble MIC, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of W.B. Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
3. P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of W.B., Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
4. The Commissioner of Police, Howrah Police Commissionerate, 28 No., Nityadhan Mukherjee Road, Howrah, Pin- 711101
5. The Vice President (Distribution and Service), CESC Ltd., CESC House, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata-700001
6. The Chief Engineer, Planning & EIM Cell, WBPCB
- ✓ 7. The Chief Scientist, WBPCB
8. The Senior Law Officer, WBPCB
9. Smt. Paushali Mukherjee (Pahari), Sr. Law Officer, WBPCB
10. The Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Howrah Regional Office, WBPCB
11. T.A. to the Member Secretary, WBPCB
12. P.A. to the Chairman, WBPCB
13. The Officer-in-Charge, Shibpur Police Station, 161, Grand Trunk Road, Naora, Shibpur, Dist.-Howrah, Pin-711102
14. Technical Cell, WBPCB for updating the website
15. Environment Officer- Communication, WBPCB – for circulation through float file
16. Guard file of O & E Cell


Officer-on-Special Duty
(Operation & Execution)
West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Joint Committee report submitted to the Hon'ble NGT (EZ), Kolkata

in OA 33 of 2024 (EZ) in the matter Subhas Dutta Versus State of West Bengal & Ors

1. Background

The Original Application 33 of 2024 was registered at the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Bench, Kolkata based on the petition received through post from Sri. Subhas Dutta, resident of 216/I, Panchanantala Road, Howrah-711101, West Bengal.

In the petition, it is enumerated that at Topiwala Ghat Laundry (Shibpur side of Howrah), wastes of clothes and linen of Railways, is being dumped into the river. Additionally, fumes are being discharged from the outlet point of the laundry discharge. Historic ghats in the city, such as Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat are allegedly littered with garbage. Further, it is alleged that waste is being discharged from goldsmith shops and contaminated water containing acid into the Ganga River from various small-scale industries at Shibpur Bichali Ghat on the Howrah side. It is also alleged that substantial concrete pillars have been erected in the Ganga River at the second Hooghly Bridge towards the Shibpur side, causing obstruction to the river's smooth flow.

The Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench heard the case on 20/02/2024 and directed the following:

“Considering the allegations made, we deem it appropriate to constitute a Committee comprising of the following Members: (i) Sr. Scientist, West Bengal Pollution Control Board; (ii) Sr. Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board; (iii) Sr. Scientist, National Mission for Clean Ganga Authority; (iv) Officer of Senior Rank, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal; (v) Officer of Senior Rank, Howrah Municipal Corporation; and (vi) Officer of Senior Rank, Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The Committee shall visit the site in question and after inspection, with regard to the allegations made in the Original Application, submit its report within two months.”. Copy of order attached as Annexure-I.

2. Formation of the Joint Committee

In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT directions, the Joint Committee was constituted. Following Officials visited the alleged sites:

Sl	Name	Department	Designation
1.		Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal	Joint Director
2.	Dr. Ram Krishna Saha	West Bengal Pollution Control Board	Chief Scientist
3.	Sri. Sunil Kumar Shaha	Kolkata Municipal Corporation	Dy.Chief Engineer (SWM-I)
4.	Sri. Manas Das	Howrah Municipal Corporation	Secretary
5.	Sri. Shiv Pratap Raghuvanshi	National Mission for Clean Ganga Authority	Scientist 'D'
6.	Sri Sandeep Roy	Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Kolkata	Scientist 'D'
7.	Dr Sangeeta Sunar		Research Associate-I

3. Joint Committee Meeting and Site Inspection

The 1st meeting of the Joint Committee took place on 2nd May 2024, at the Addl. District Magistrate office, Howrah. Following this meeting, the Committee conducted a field visit to the alleged site in Howrah side, namely Topiwala Ghat, Shibpur Bichali Ghat and 2nd Hoogly Bridge towards Shibpur on the same day i.e., 2nd May 2024. Subsequently, on 10th May 2024, the Committee visited the alleged Historic ghats named Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat towards the Kolkata side.

4. Observation of the Committee during the Inspection

The alleged site of Bichali Ghat, 2nd Hoogly Bridge towards the Shibpur side and Topiwala Ghat towards Howrah side were visited by the Committee on 2nd May 2024 and the Historic Ghat namely Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat towards the Kolkata side were visited on the 10th May 2024. The observations from the field visit highlight several concerning practices and their implications:

4.1 Bichali Ghat

Averment: *“That several small-scale units at Shibpur Bichali Ghat on Ganga towards Howrah side are processing wastes collected from goldsmith shops and discharging their waste water, fully contaminated and containing acid, into the river”.*

Observations:

Gold Dust Collection: Gold dust particles collection from sand/soil was observed taking place in the area. The practice involves extracting gold particles from sediment collected from goldsmith shops in Bara bazar, Kolkata. The gold dust extraction process appears to be carried out using informal and unscientific methods, lacking proper techniques for efficient and environmentally friendly extraction. As informed by one of the workers, the locals from the area are involved in collecting gold dust to earn a living and its an old-age practice in their community. Gold dust extraction is the primary source of income for some families in the area.

Gold Dust extraction process as observed during the visit:

- i. **Collection of Soil:** Soil collected from goldsmith shops likely contains fine particles of gold that are being discarded or washed away during jewellery making processes.
- ii. **Sluicing:** Slanting wooden boards, often arranged at an angle, are placed in a water channel. The sediment mixture is poured onto these boards.
- iii. **Separation:** As water flows down the slanting boards, it carries away lighter materials like sand and gravel while the heavier gold particles settle into the grooves and crevices of the boards.
- iv. **Collection:** The flow of the water is stop periodically and the accumulated concentration is removed from the board. This concentrate contains the gold particles.
- v. **Further Processing:** The collected concentrate is then further processed through techniques like panning and amalgamation.

Other Observations:

- i. Huge amount of solid waste dumping was observed in an around the Bichali Ghat.
- ii. Open defecation and presence of cattle sheds were observed in an around the vicinity of the Bichali ghat.
- iii. A public toilet situated on the bank of river Ganga near the Bichali ghat was found to discharge directly into the river. Detail photographic evidence given in the Fig.1 to Fig.5.

4.2 Second Hoogly Bridge towards Shibpur

Averment: *“That huge number of concrete pillars are there in the river Ganga under the 2nd Hoogly Bridge towards the Shibpur side which obstruct the smooth flow of the river, both during high tide as well as low tide period”.*

Observations:

During the inspection by the committee at the alleged site, it was observed that there were no obstructive pillar constructions. Most of the pillars were located on the riverbank, and only two were constructed within the river to support the bridge, causing no obstruction to the river's flow. Detail is enumerated in the Fig. 6.

4.3 Topiwala Ghat

Averment: *“That at the Shibpur side of Howrah at Topiwala Ghat laundry being run to wash the clothes and linens of the Railway is discharging waste water into the river and fume is coming out from the outlet points of such laundry”.*

Observations:

A Laundry facility engaged in washing clothes and linen from Eastern Railways, discharging waste water into the river Ganga without any prior treatment was observed. The Laundry is operating without obtaining Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from concerned authorities was observed during inspection which the unit could not produce at the time of inspection. However, 09.04.2024 they were called for hearing and during the time of hearing they submitted consent to establish from the DIC, Howrah on 17.05.2018. As reported by the plant manager, there are two (2) 60kg washing units and five (5) 150 kg washing units installed in the facility. Approximately 40000 nos. of clothes/linen are washed every day at the plant. The plant utilises water from a borewell for washing purposes, with a softener unit employed to reduce Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) before washing. However, records pertaining to water consumption per day are unavailable. Wastewater generated during the washing process is discharged into the foreshore road drain, which finally empties into the river Ganga. Detail is enumerated in the Fig. 7.

4.4 Ghats towards Kolkata side

Averment: *“That the reputed and historic ghats of the city named Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Kashimitra Ghat and Nimtala Ghat etc have been found littered with garbage”.*

- 4.1 1 **Rani Rashmoni Ghat:** Rani Rashmoni Ghat holds significant religious importance, and several religious activities were ongoing during the visit. Multiple bins are installed in the vicinity of the ghat for waste disposal. However, a large amount of floatable solid/plastic wastes, disposed of by pilgrims, was observed in the river. Detail is enumerated in the Fig-8.
- 4.1 2 **Mullick Ghat:** Mullick ghat holds significant historical importance. During the Committee several concerning issues was observed. Extensive dumping of solid waste, instances of open defecation, and the discharge of a substantial amount of faecal waste from open public toilets directly into the river Ganga was observed. Additionally, the river was heavily polluted with plastic/solid wastes, with bathing activities occurring amidst the pollution. Further, the Mullick Ghat hosts Asia’s largest flower market, which exacerbates the pollution issues. The market’s activities contribute significantly to the pollution of the river and ghat. Additionally, huge amount of solid waste accumulation was observed piled up in vicinity of the ghat. Detail is enumerated in the Fig-9.
- 4.1 3 **Bagbazar Ghat:** The Bagbazar ghat holds great religious significance attracting a large number of pilgrims. During the Committee visit, dumping of solid waste was observed. Furthermore, waste generated from religious activities was also disposed of directly into the river. Several bins are installed in vicinity of the area however their effectiveness in mitigating the waste pollution is concerning. Detail is enumerated in the Fig-10.
- 4.1 4 **Shovabazar Ghat:** Bathing activities observed in the Ghat. The ghat was found clean during the visit. Several bins are installed by KMC for mitigating the solid waste dumping issues in vicinity of the ghat.
Detail is illustrated in the Fig. 11.

4.1 5 **Kashimitra Ghat:** Bathing activities observed in the Ghat. The ghat was found clean during the visit. Several bins are installed by KMC for mitigating the solid waste dumping issues in vicinity of the ghat. Detail is enumerated in the Fig-12.

4.1 6 **Nimtala Ghat:** During the visit, no solid waste dumping was observed at the Nimtala Ghat area, also multiply bins for waste disposal have been installed in the area. Additionally, due to the presence of several temples in the vicinity, two large waste containers have been placed to specifically collect flowers and other organic wastes from these temples. KMC officials, present during the inspection, reported that the collected waste is transported to Dhapa, where they are utilized for making agarbathi/dhoop. Regular cleaning of the ghat is conducted by the KMC, according to the officials. However, one major issue encountered in maintaining the cleanliness of the ghat is the problem of bin theft. Detail is enumerated in the Fig-13.

Again Joint inspection in the vessel was undertaken on 26.06.2024 to view in detail the different outfall namely from Topiwala ghat, Shibpur Bichali ghat, Rani Rashmoni Ghat, Mullick ghat, Bagbazar ghat, Shovabazar ghat, Kashimitra ghat and Nimtala ghat and detail of the 2nd Hugli Bridge.

Detail of the cruise view:

- A detail drive of cleaning activity of the ghat is depicted in the figure.
- However, cleaning of Mullick ghat needs more attention. Management of the flower waste needs to be more improvised by the Municipal corporation and KOPT. Transportation of waste and its transformation to organic manure needs to be done by expert agency.
- Laundry Activity in the Topiwala ghat needs liquid waste treatment facility.
- Laundry in the Topiwala ghat still noticed draining liquid waste in the River. However, WBPCB has served the closure notice to the said unit dated 13.05.2024 Letter annexed as a ready reference.
- Interception & diversion of the drain discharging waste water is readily viewed from an outfall at Shovabazar ghat and its adjoining areas like Dhonia and Dilarganj ghat. Dumping of solid waste is also reflected in these ghats.

- Presence of Cow shed on the bank of Bichali ghat is reflected in the fig. 6. Re-location of the shed in the nearby location is advised. To avoid the riparian run-off to the Ganga River.
- Gold and Silver dust extraction is observed and is situated on the bank of River Ganga near Bichali Ghat. These unit generate huge acidic & alkaline waste water from more than 500 small units. These units should be immediately relocated with in period of three months.
- Public Toilet situated on the bank of the river in different ghats should be replaced by Bio-toilet.

During the visit to different ghats samples were collected and the different chemical attributes are depicted in the table below:

Table: I

Physico-Chemical Analysis of River Water of Different Ghat in Ganga								
Parameter	Rani Rashmoni Ghat	Bagbazar Ghat	Kashimira Ghat	Shovabazar Ghat	Nimtala Ghat	Mallick Ghat	Bichali Ghat	Topiwala Ghat
pH	7.58	7.60	7.43	7.55	7.60	7.58	7.65	7.88
DO (mg/l)	5.43	5.33	5.52	5.24	5.14	5.24	3.40	2.82
BOD (mg/l)	2.50	2.60	2.44	2.81	2.91	2.86	16.79	16.21
Total Coliform (MPN/100ml)	70×10^3	170×10^3	350×10^4	43×10^3	49×10^3	130×10^3	350×10^3	240×10^5
Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)	47×10^3	31×10^3	220×10^4	26×10^3	33×10^3	70×10^3	70×10^3	540×10^4
Fecal Streptococci (MPN/100ml)	280×10	170×10	350×10	540×10	350×10	350×10	70×10^2	350×10^3

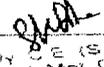
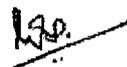
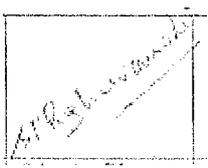
Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Water (Water used for organised outdoor bathing) Gazette Notification Published by: New Delhi, September 25, 2000/ASVINA 3,1922	
Parameter	Criteria
1. Fecal Coliform MPN/100 ml	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)
2. Fecal Streptococci MPN/100 ml:	100 (desirable) 500 (Maximum Permissible)
3. pH	Between 6.5 -8.5
4. Dissolved Oxygen:	5 mg/1 or more
5. Biochemical Oxygen demand 3 day,27°C:	3 mg/1 or less

Detail Chemical Characteristics of the different Ghats as in the Table I, II,

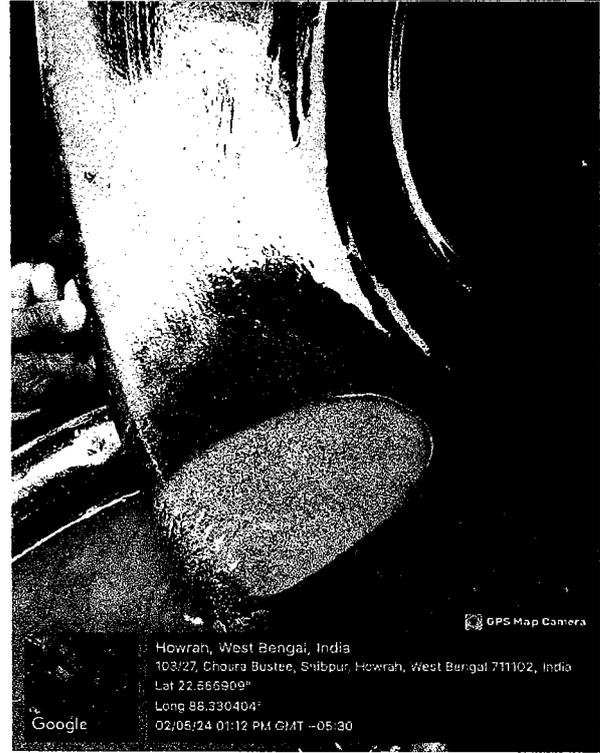
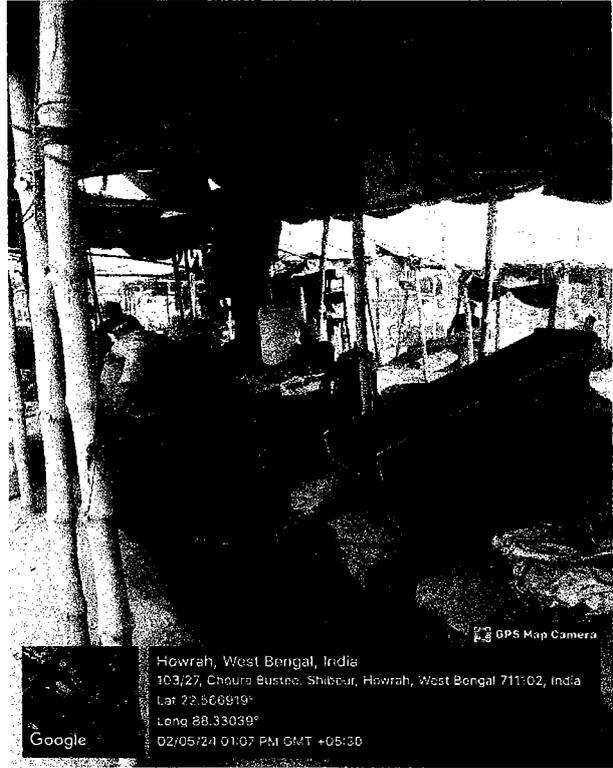
- River water collected from different ghats like Rani Rashmoni, Bagbazar, Kashimitra, Shovabazar, Nimtala, Topiwala and Bichali Ghat.
- Data in the table -I, reveals that pH, DO & BOD is not as per the stipulated standard of MoEF Gazette Notification Published by: New Delhi, September 25, 2000/ASVINA 3,1922. However, Topiwala and Bichali ghat reflects there is a gross violation of DO and BOD. DO i.e., 3.40 mg/l and BOD is 16.79 mg/l in Bichali Ghat. This violation may be due to the surface run-off from the cattle shed and unorganised urinals on the bank as given in the fig.
- Similarly, Topiwala Ghat also reflects BOD is violating the stipulated norms of primary water quality of CPCB. This violation may be due to the activity of the gold and silver extraction in the unorganised sector and the discharge of laundry drain identified during the visit.
- Apart from DO, BOD, TC and FC are violating the stipulated Standard of CPCB as mentioned above.

Action to be taken

Sl. No.	Problem vis-viz action proposed	Responsibility
1.0	Management of flower waste in Mullick ghat	Municipal Corporation & Kolkata Post Trust
2.0	Laundry Activity in Topiwala ghat needs Re-location (Band Box)	DM-Howrah
3.0	Outfall at Shovabazar ghat and its adjoining areas like Dhonia & Dilarganj	KMDA, Kolkata Post Trust
4.0	Cow-shed in the bank of Bichali Ghat needs re-location in a stipulated time period of three months.	DM-Howrah
5.0	Re-location of Public Toilet in the bank in all the ghats	DM-Howrah & Kolkata Municipal Corporation
6.0	Gold & Silver extraction from un-organised Sector located near Bichali Ghat	DM-Howrah
7.0	Most of the pillars were located on the river bank only two were constructed within the river	Roads & Highway

		 Dy. Chief Engineer (SWM-I) KMC	 Secretary, Howrah Municipal Corporation	 Scientist 'D', NMCG	 Scientist 'D', CPCB, Regional Directorate, Kolkata
Joint Director, Dept. of UD & MA, Govt. of W.B.	Chief Scientist, WBPCB	Dy. Chief Engineer (SWM-I) KMC	Secretary, Howrah Municipal Corporation	Scientist 'D', NMCG	Scientist 'D', CPCB, Regional Directorate, Kolkata

PHOTOGRAPHS



Bichali Ghat

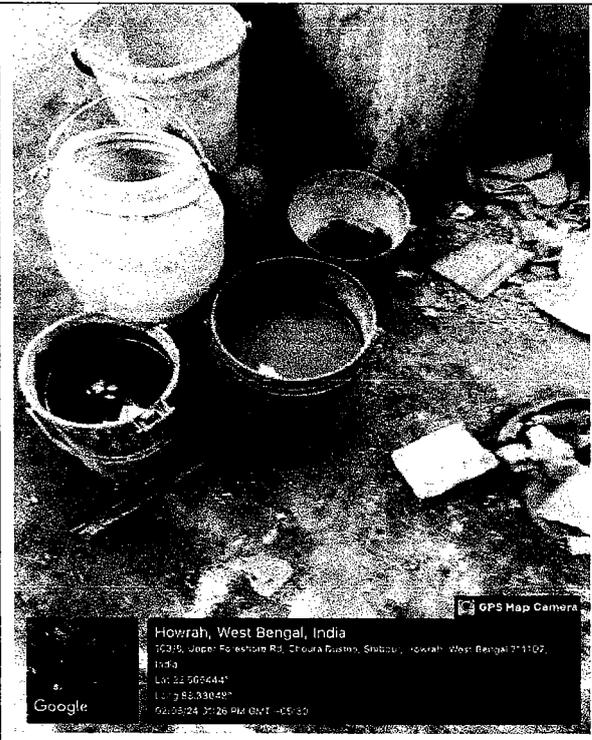
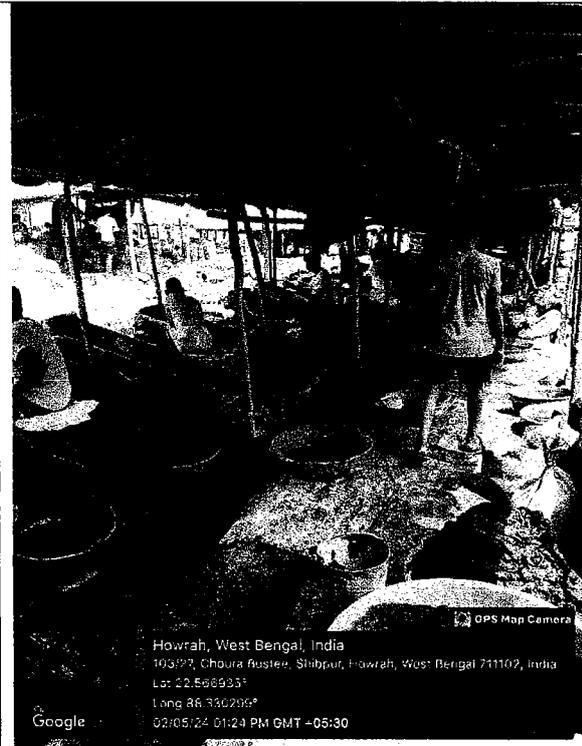
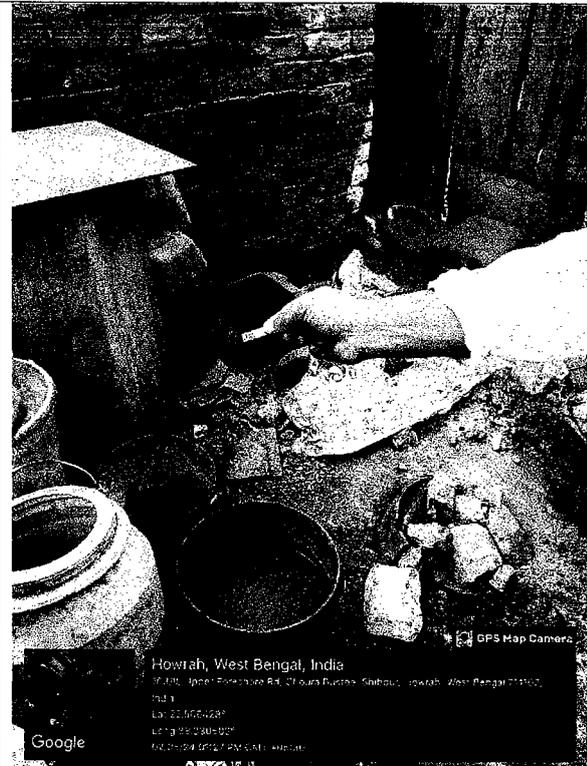
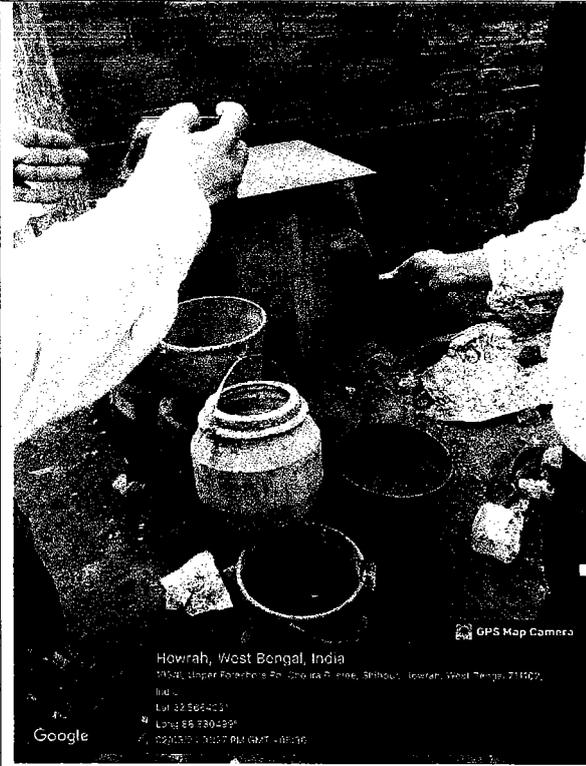
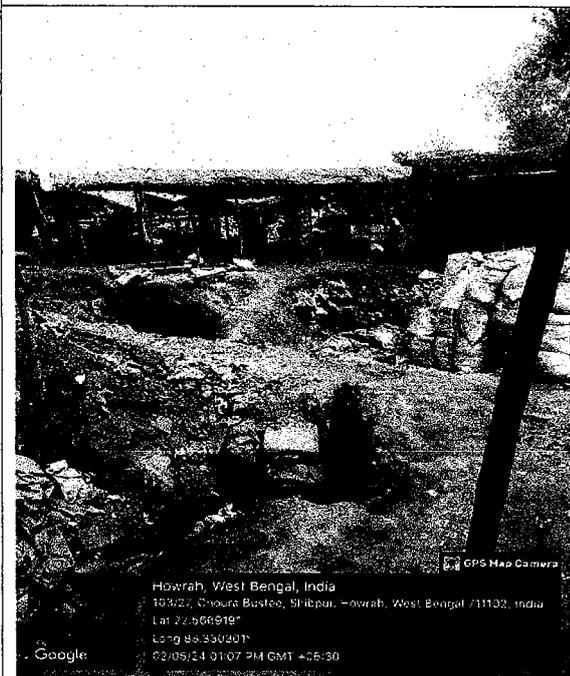


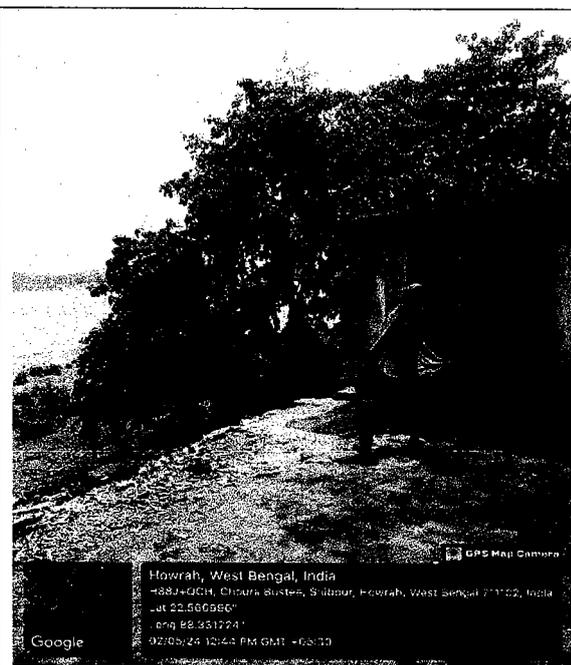
Fig:1 Gold dust Collection & Extraction



Bichali Ghat

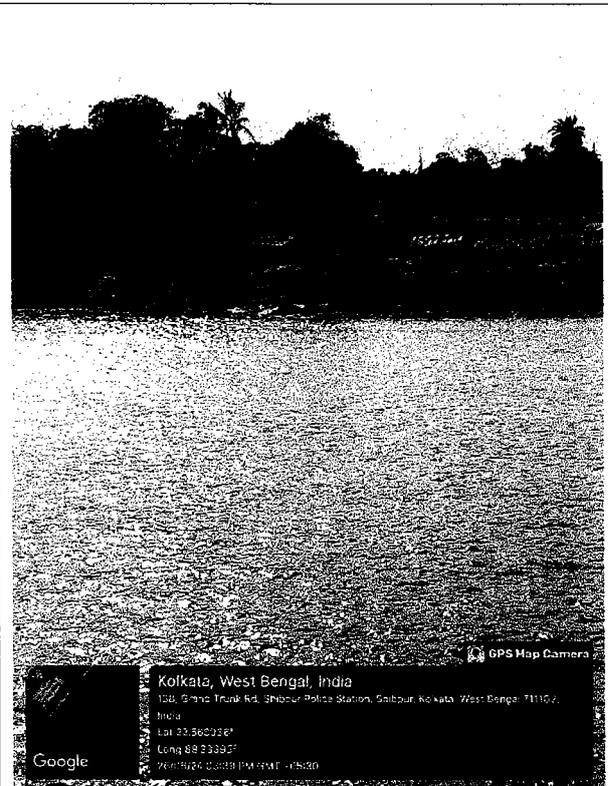
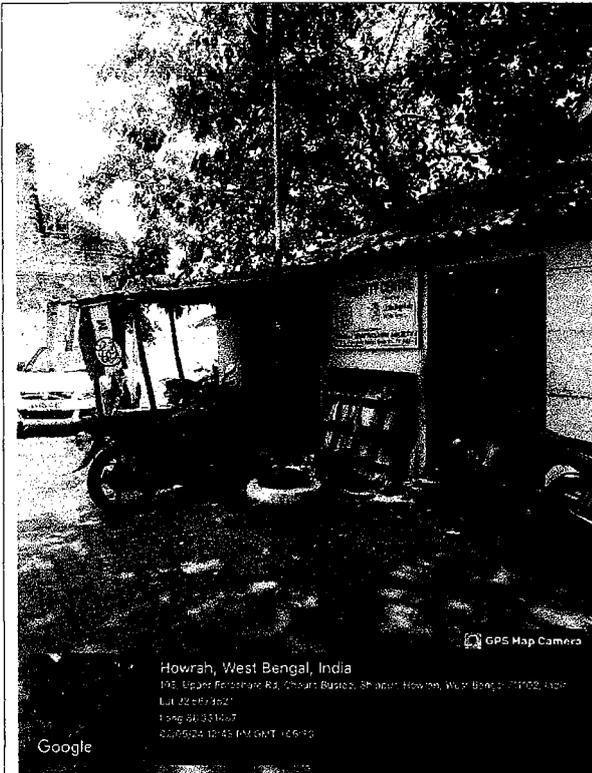


Gold dust Collection & Extraction



Presence of urinals near Cow-sheds near bank of the river

Fig -2



Bichali Ghat

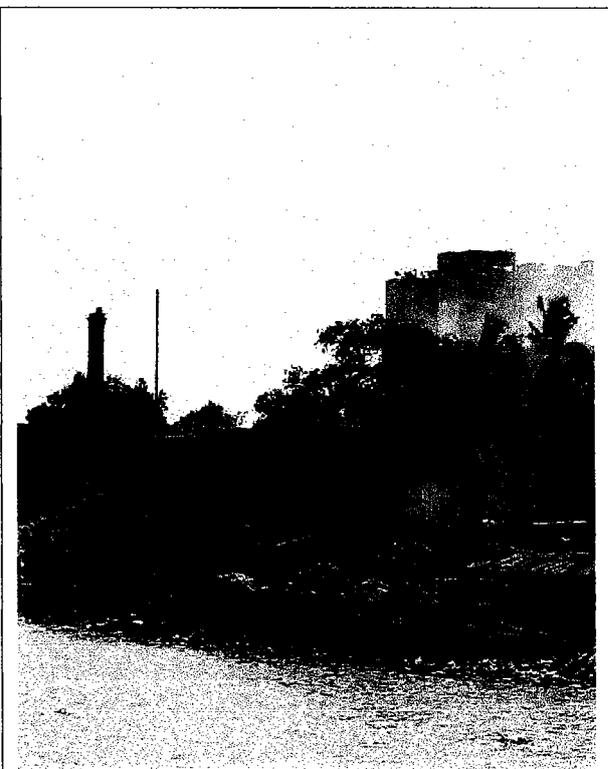
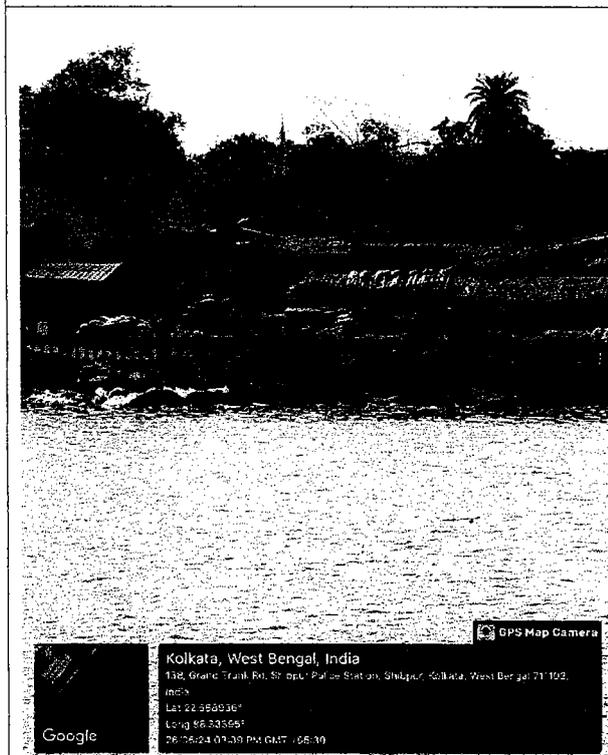
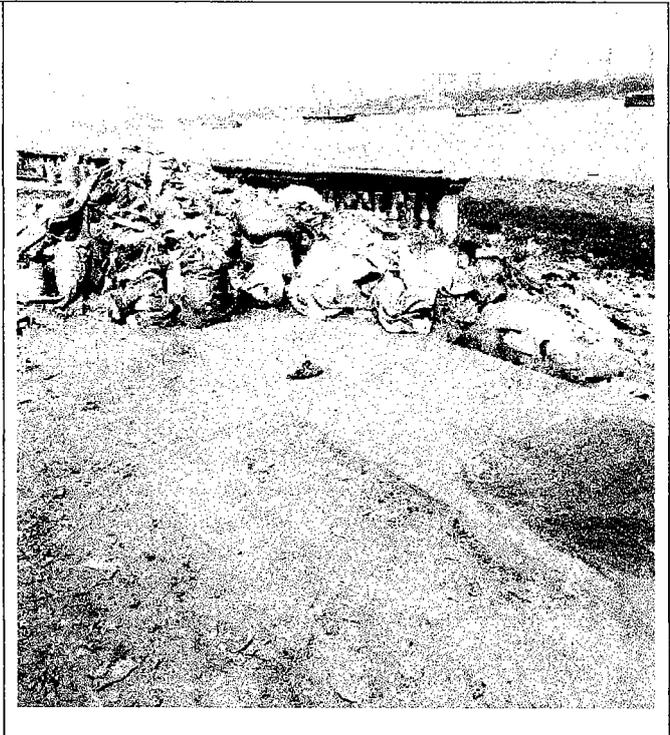
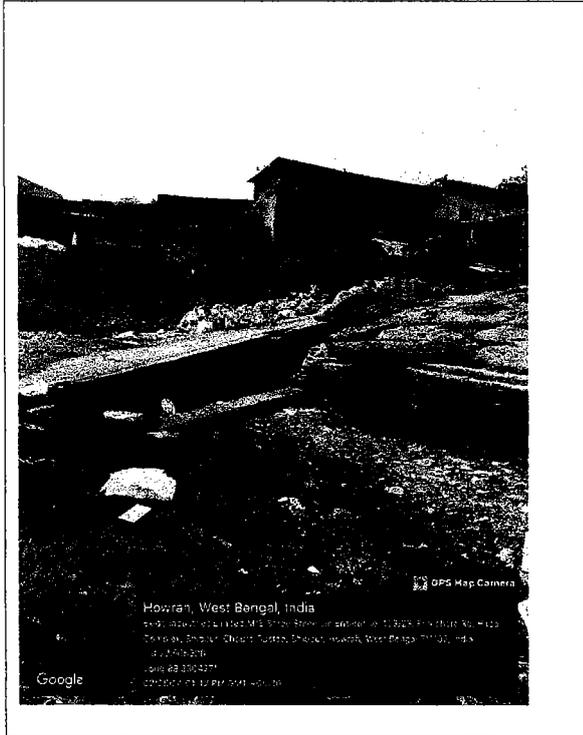
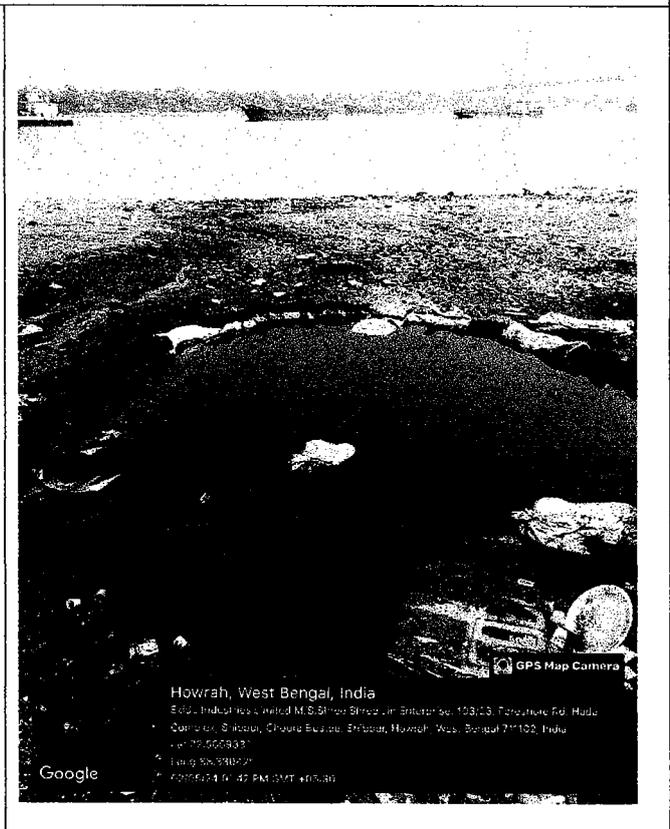
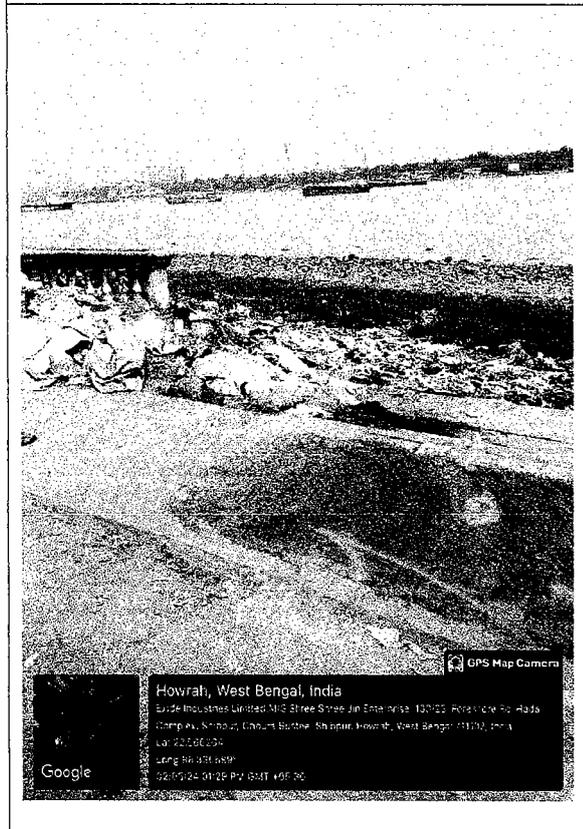


Fig: 3 Gold dust purification activity after extraction



Bichali Ghat Waste water of gold extraction discharged to river water



Bichali Ghat Solid waste

Bichali ghat Sump to Ganga

Fig: 4 Solid waste dumped near Ganga at Gold & Silver extraction

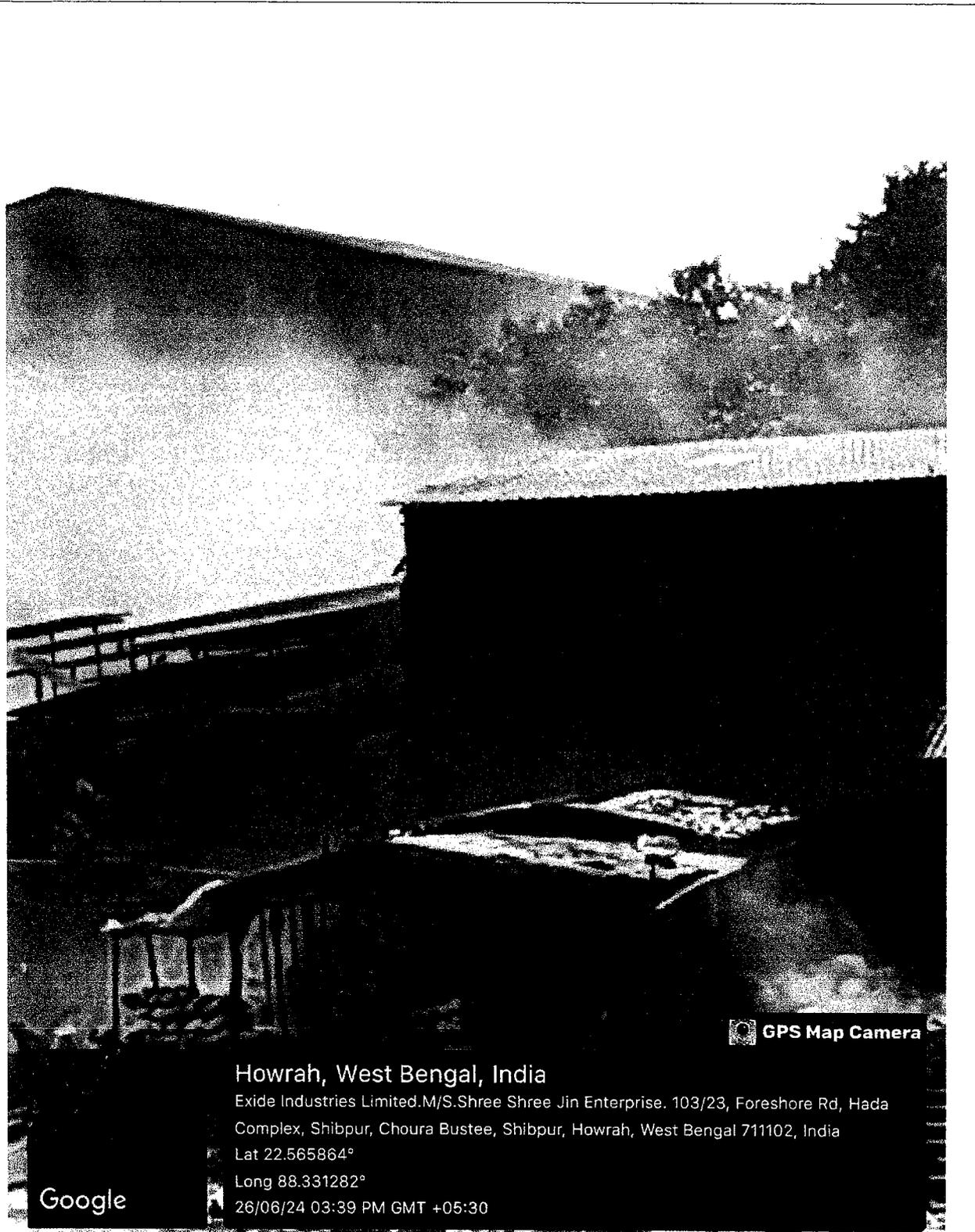
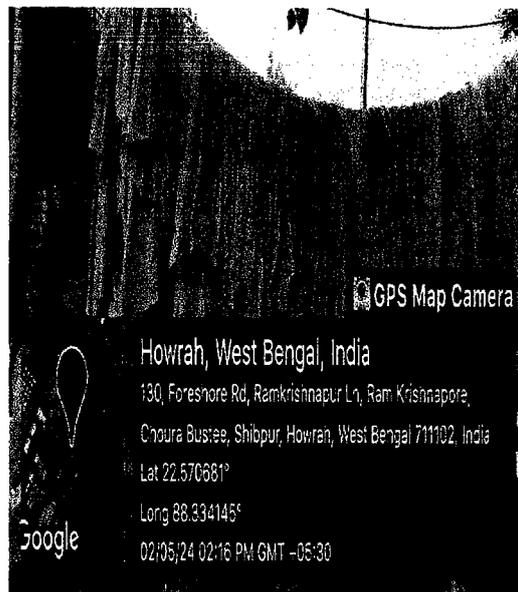


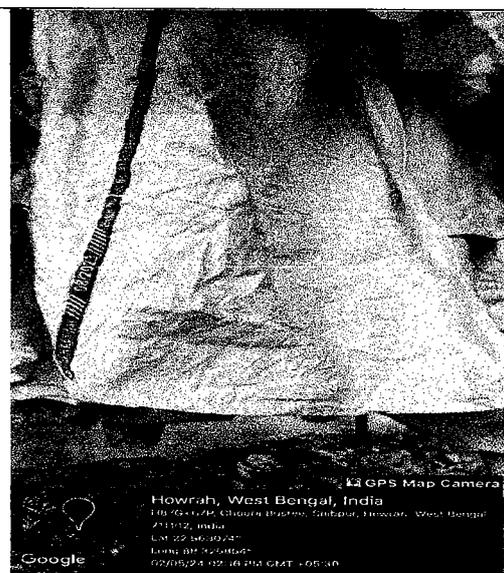
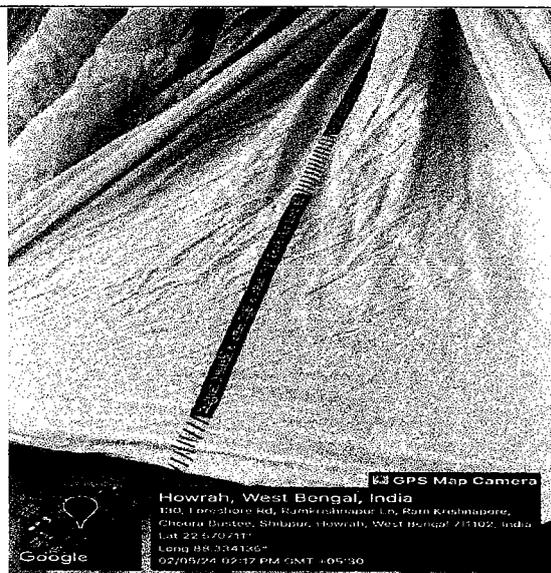
Fig: 5
Air Pollution due to Gold and Silver extraction



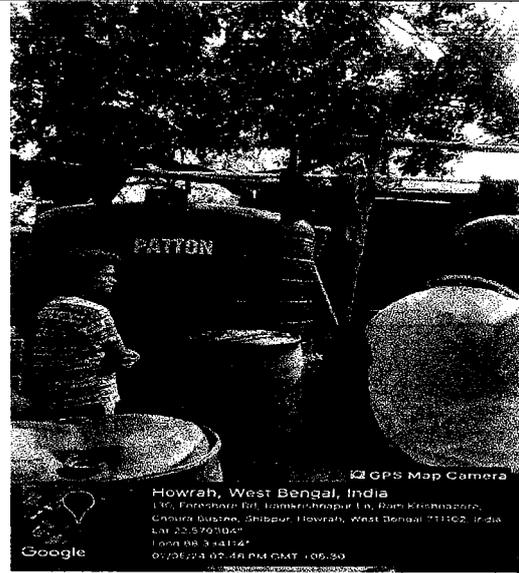
Fig: 6 Flow of the river is obstructed due to Pillar Construction



Laundry at Topiwala Ghat, Howrah



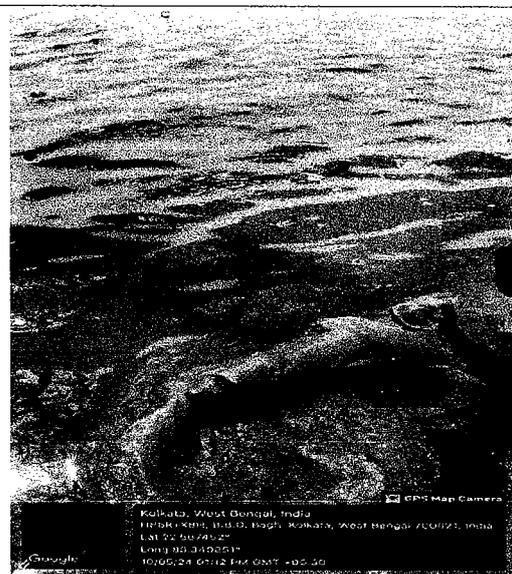
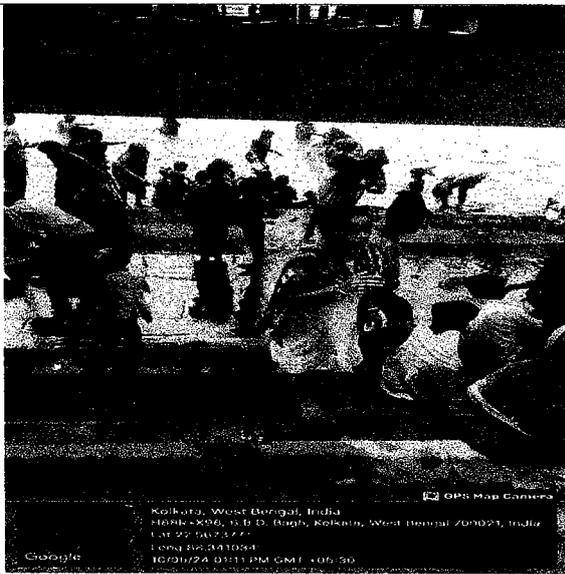
Clothes/Linen from Eastern Railways washed and dried in the laundry unit



Waste water discharging to drain which is flowing to river Ganga

Water Storage Tank

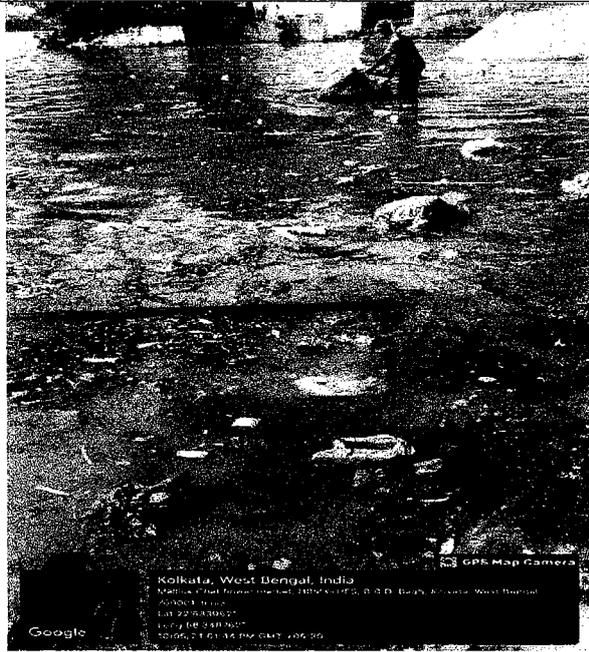
Fig-7



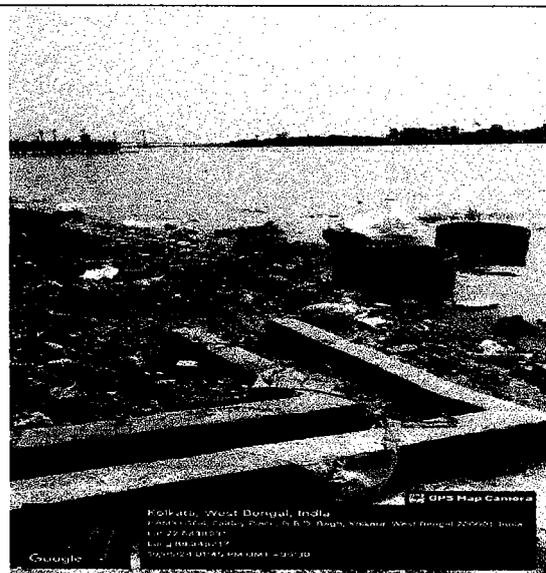
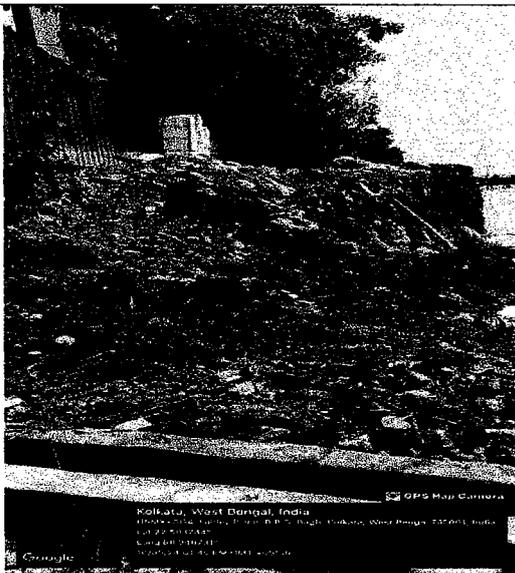
Pilgrims performing religious activities in the Rani Rashmoni Ghat

Floatable solids in the river Ganga at Rani Rashmoni Ghat

Fig: 8 Detail Enumeration of activities in the Rashmoni Ghat

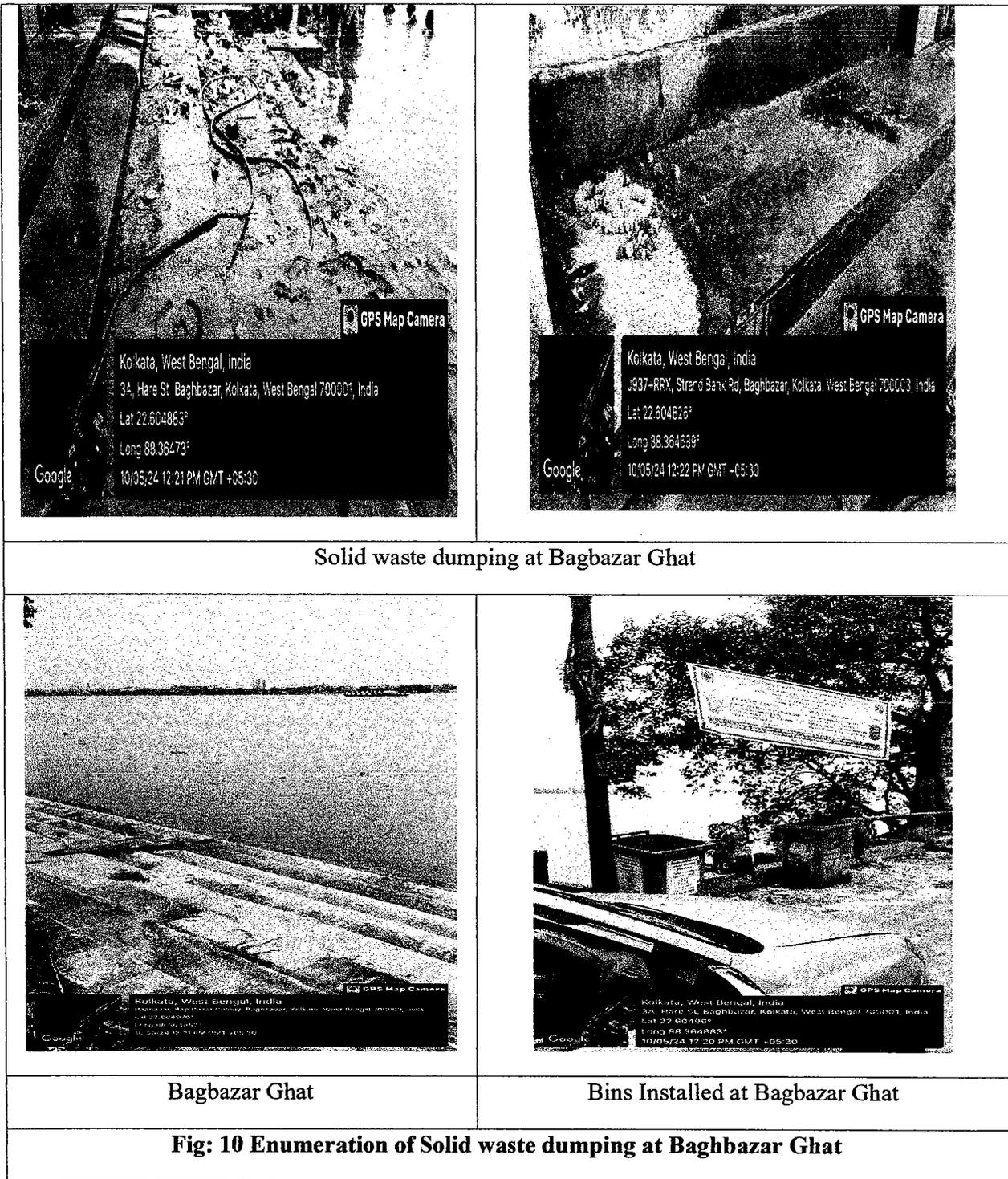


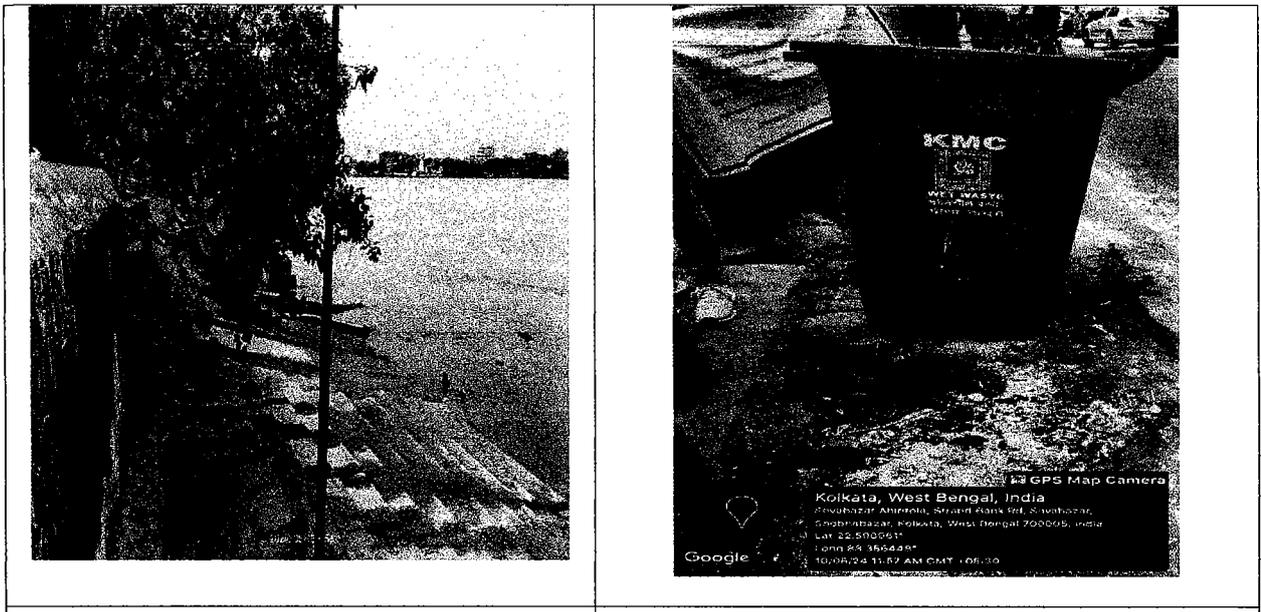
Solid waste dumping at Mullick Ghat, Kolkata



Public toilet discharging faecal matter directly into river Ganga at Mullick Ghat

Fig:9 Enumeration of Solid waste and open defecation in the Mullick Ghat

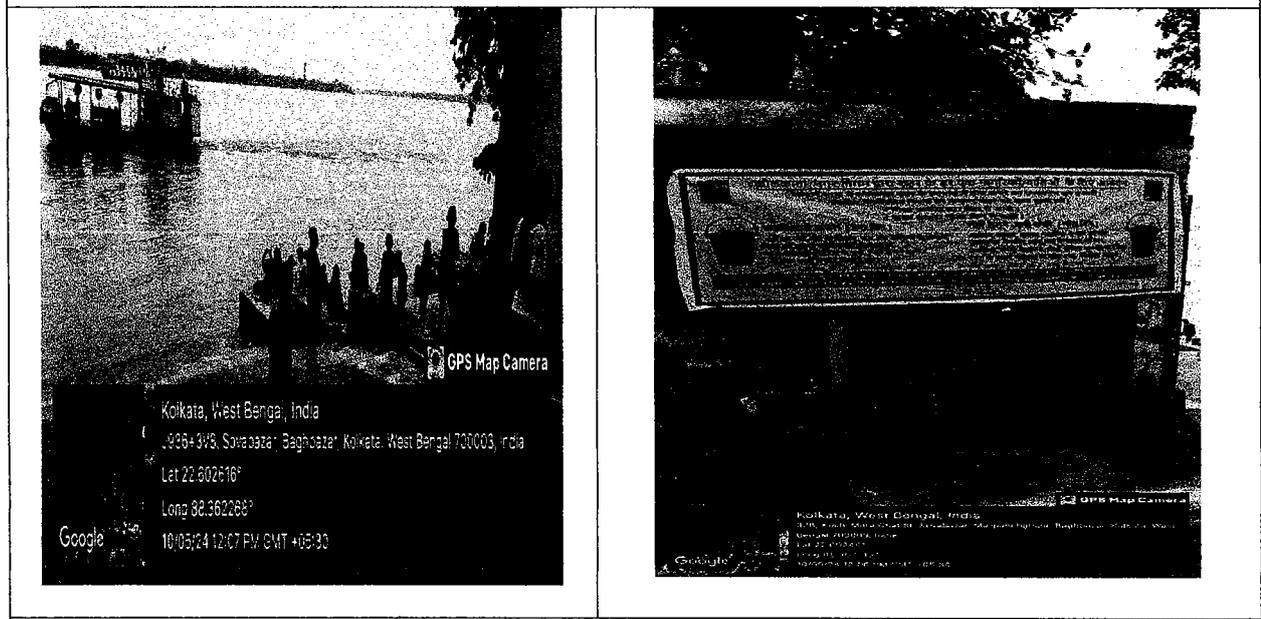




Shovabazar Ghat

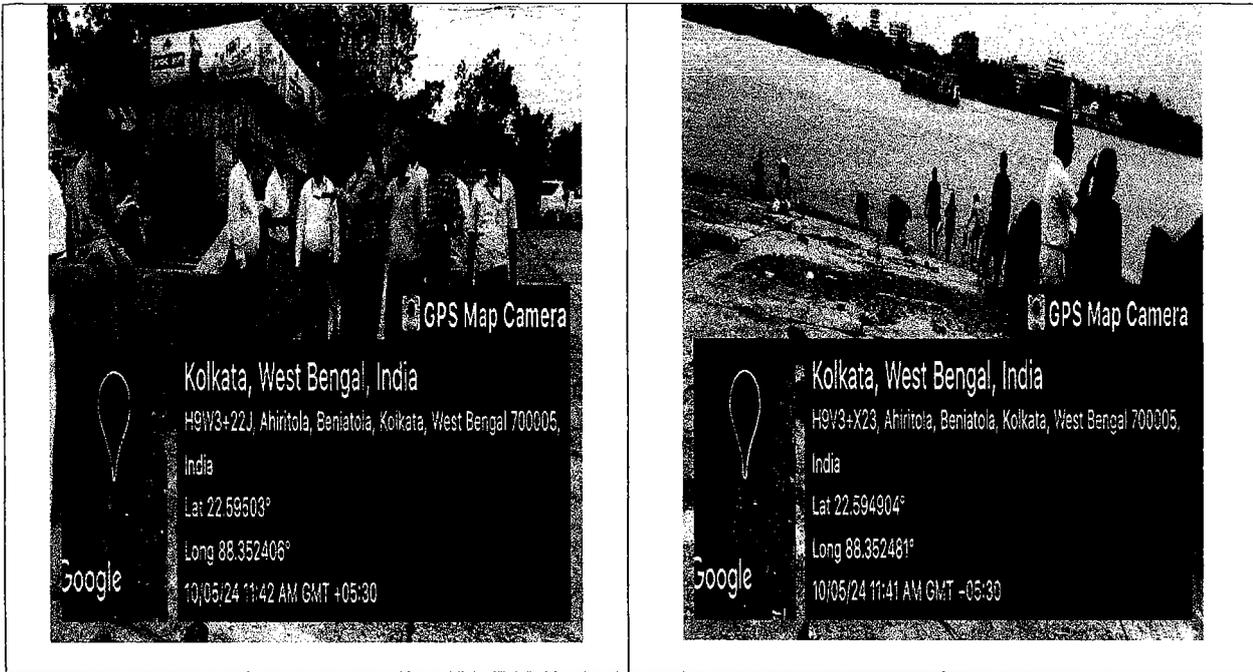
Waste Bins installed at Shovabazar Ghat

Fig: 11

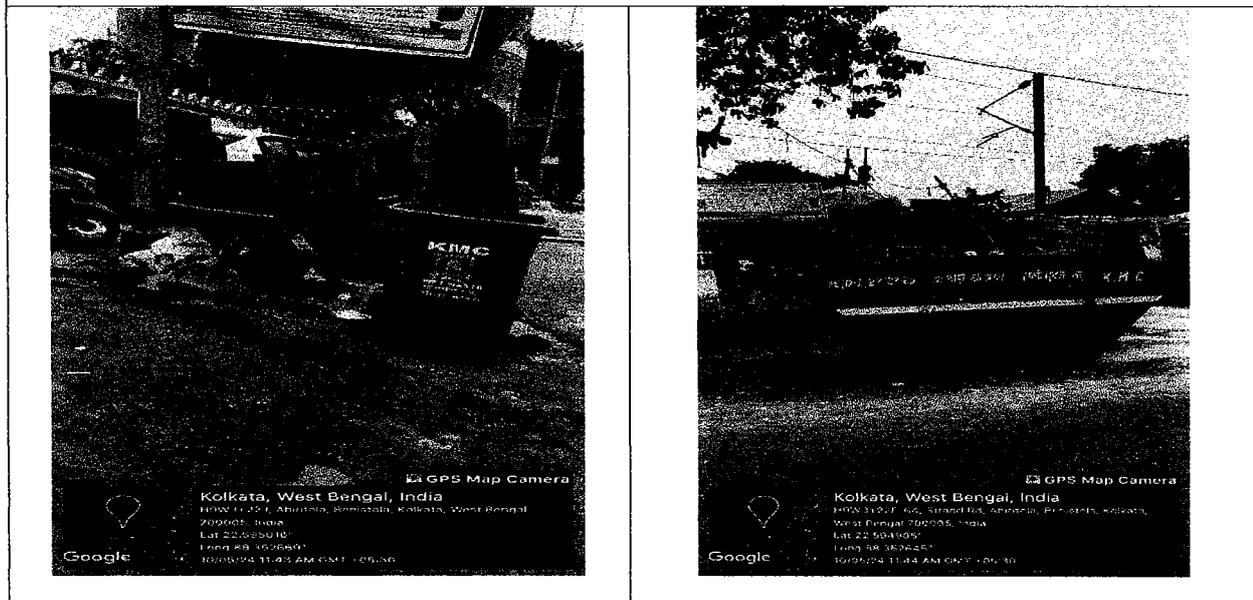


Kashimira Ghat

Fig: 12 Detail Enumeration of cleanliness of the ghat



Nimtala Ghat



Waste bins Installed at Nimtala Ghat

Fig: 13 Detail Enumeration of cleanliness of the ghat

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Tel: (01-33) 2638 3211-13, 2641-5218, Fax: (+91-33) 2641 5846/2214

Website: myhmc.in

Annexure-V**Rejoinder of the Howrah Municipal Corporation on the original
Committee Report:****4.1 Bichali Ghat**

Views of HMC:

- i) Bichali Ghat is located on the land owned by the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust, Kolkata (formerly KoPT).
- ii) The unorganised goldsmith shops located there-at are under the administrative jurisdiction of the KoPT. The matter has -properly been reflected in the closer order issued by the WBPCB Authority communicated vide Memo no: 5042-1M-11/2009(part-IX), dated 13.05.2024. As directed there-in no Certificate of Enlistments (Trade licence) have been issued by the HMC to these unorganised sectors.
- iii) The issue of pollution of the river Ganga in that area due to direct discharge of cow dung from an unauthorized Khatal(Cowshed) & from open defecation by the dwellers of a large slum from the adjacent locality of Ramkrishnapur Choura Busiec. both located on the Port own land, were duly reported to the Chairman, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust, Kolkata (formerly KoPT) by the HMC vide letter Nos.- 016&033/Gen(SC.Cell)/Commr./2024-25 dated 19.06.2024 and 26.07.2024 respectively in connection with another OA of similar nature being no-40/2024/EZ with request for immediate effective redressal of the issues reply of which is still awaiting. copies are enclosed for kind perusal and ready reference please.
- iv) The existence of public toilet on the bank of river Ganga at the Bichali Ghat as mentioned in the original Committee Report has not been either constructed or maintained by the HMC. The official public toilet developed and maintained by the HMC in that area is located approximately 150mtrs. away and is situated on the road and not at the embankment, pictures of the same are enclosed for kind perusal and ready reference please.
- v) In-fact, to stop open defecation, a proposal has been placed before the Chairman, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust, Kolkata (formerly KoPT) for issuing "NOC" in favour of HMC for constructing Community Toilets for the dwellers of the slum located on the Port land mentioned above.

4.3 Topiwala Ghat

Views of HMC:

- i) The laundry M/s Band Box which is the source of water pollution in that area is also located on the Port own land which has been clearly mentioned in the closer order issued by the WBPCB vide Memo no: 5042-1M-11/2009(part-IX), dated 13.05.2024.
- ii) HMC has taken note of closer of M/s Band Box as ordered ibid for non-issuance/nonrenewal of Certificate of Enlistment (Trade License).

[Signature]
31/07/24
Secretary
Howrah Municipal Corporation



HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

LEKHAJAMA GAUDHIPURZI, HOWRAH - 711 001
 Tel: 033 261 511 11, 261 51218, Fax: 033 261 51202/214

No. 016 /Gen (S.C. Cell)/Comm./2024-25

Dated: June 19, 2024

To:

The Chairman
 Shivama Prasad Mukherjee, Port Trust (Formerly EoPT)
 15, Strand Road,
 Kolkata - 700001

Sub: O.A. No. 10/2024/OZ - Ankur Sharma vs. State of West Bengal & Ors. - Existence of an authorized Cow Shed (Khatal) at the river bank of Hooghly near Chintamani Day Bathing Ghat, Howrah - Reg. No.

This is further to our letter communicated vide Memo No. 01/18/Gen (S.C. Cell)/Comm./2024-25, dated 09.01.2024 and reply sent by the Estate Manager (EM) of your concerned organization dated 23.01.2024 on the captioned subject.

The latest picture enclosed herewith with exact Latitude & Longitude indicating the existence of a Khatal in the Rankrishnapur area on the land of the Port Trust which may kindly be taken into consideration for removal of the same from that area at the earliest convenience to stop the menace of direct discharge of effluent to the river Hooghly from there at. Moreover, the report of the 3 Member Committee appointed by the Hon'ble NCT in the instant O.A. inter-alia mentioned existence of open defecation in the Rankrishnapur Ghat area. The matter has since been enquired into by the concerned department of HMC in right earnest as Howrah has already been declared an ODF city. In this context, our observation is that there is an existence of a big 'slum' with around 500 dwellers in that locality of Rankrishnapur Choura Busstop on the Port owned land with no facility of Community Toilet which might be the cause of such act of open defecation, copy of the pictures of the slum with exact Latitude & Longitude are enclosed for ready reference please. The Public Toilet developed by the HMC in that area is around 150 mtrs away. It is, therefore, requested to kindly take note of this for effective redressal of the issue. In case "NCT" is moved to the HMC, steps will be taken at this end for construction of Community Toilet there at. As desired, we further enclose a copy of the solemn order of the Hon'ble NCT, JZ, dated 22.02.2024 for reference please. A compliance report in this regard may kindly be sent to the District Magistrate, Howrah with a copy to the undersigned for placing the same before the Hon'ble NCT for their cognizance.

A line in confirmation is solicited.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Commissioner
 Howrah Municipal Corporation
 Encls: as stated above.
 Dated: June 19, 2024.

Encl. No. 016 /118/Gen (S.C. Cell)/Comm./2024-25

Copy forwarded for favour of information to:

- 1) The Member Secretary, WBPCB, Paribesh Bhavan, Building 10A, Block LA, Sector III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700106.
- 2) The Sr. Special Secretary, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Dept, Govt. of West Bengal "NAGARAYAN", DF - 8, Sector - I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700064
- 3) The Director, SIDA, "H.C. S BHAVAN", HF Block, Sector - II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700106.
- 4) The District Magistrate, Howrah.
- 5) The Secretary, HMC.
- 6) The Exec. Engineer (Slum Dev.) HMC. With request to co-ordinate with the concerned authority of the KPT.
- 7) The O.A. (Law) HMC with request to keep apprize the Ld Council of the HMC in the instant O.A.
- 8) Dept. Guard File.

Commissioner
 Howrah Municipal Corporation

HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

4, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, HOWRAH - 711 101
Tel: (+91-33) 2638-3211-13, 2641-5218; Fax: (+91-33) 2641-5218/2214

19 /Gen (S.C. Cell)/Commr./2024-25

Dated : July 26, 2024.

The Chairman,
Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust (Formerly KoPT)
15, Strand Road,
Kolkata - 700001.

Sub : O.A. No. 40/2024/EZ — Ankur Sharma vs. State of West Bengal & Ors. — Existence of un-authorized Cow Shed (Khatal) at the river bank of Hooghly near Chintamony Dey Bathing Ghat, Howrah - Reg.

Sir,
This is further to our letter communicated vide Memo No 016/Gen.(S.C. Cell)/ Commr./2024-25, dated 19.06.2024 on the captioned subject.

The latest up-date with pictures etc with regard to the pollution of the river Hooghly in the Ramkrishnapur Ghat area of the Howrah due to direct discharge of cow-dung from an un-authorized Khatal (Cow Shed) and from open defecation by the dwellers of a large slum from the adjacent locality of Ramkrishnapur Choura Bustee, both located on the Port owned land, was reported to your good-office vide our letter ibid with request for further necessary action taken in compliance of the solemn order of the Hon'ble NGT, EZ, dated 22.02.2024 passed in the instant O.A. please. As we are yet to receive any correspondence in this regard, it is once again requested to furnish compliance at the earliest convenience please for placing the same before the Hon'ble NGT for their cognizance.

A line in confirmation is solicited.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


Commissioner
Howrah Municipal Corporation

Dated : July 26, 2024.

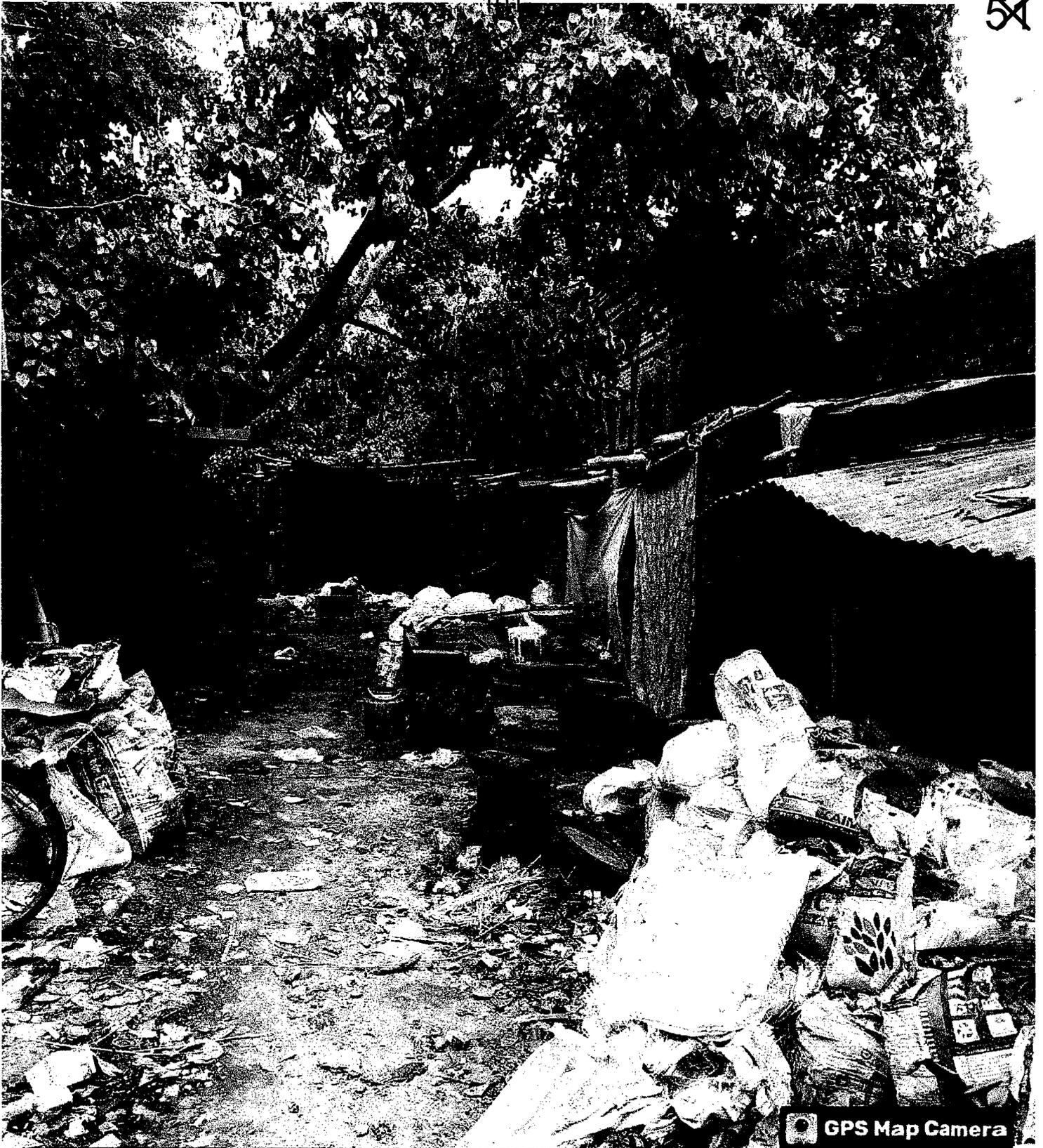
Endt. No. /1(8)/Gen (S.C. Cell)/Commr./2024-25

Copy forwarded for favour of information to :

- 1) The Member Secretary, WBFCB, Paribesh Bhavan, Building 10A, Block LA, Sector III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700106;
- 2) The Sr. Special Secretary, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Dept, Govt. of West Bengal, "NAGARAYAN", DF - 8, Sector - I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700064.
- 3) The Director, SUDA, "ILGUS BHAVAN", HC Block, Sector - II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700106;
- 4) The District Magistrate, Howrah;
- 5) The Secretary, HMC;
- 6) The Exe. Engineer (Slum Dev), HMC - With request to co-ordinate with the concerned authority of the KoPT;
- 7) The OSD (Law), HMC - with request to keep apprise the Ld Counsel of the HMC in the instant OA.
- 8) Dept. Guard File.

Commissioner
Howrah Municipal Corporation

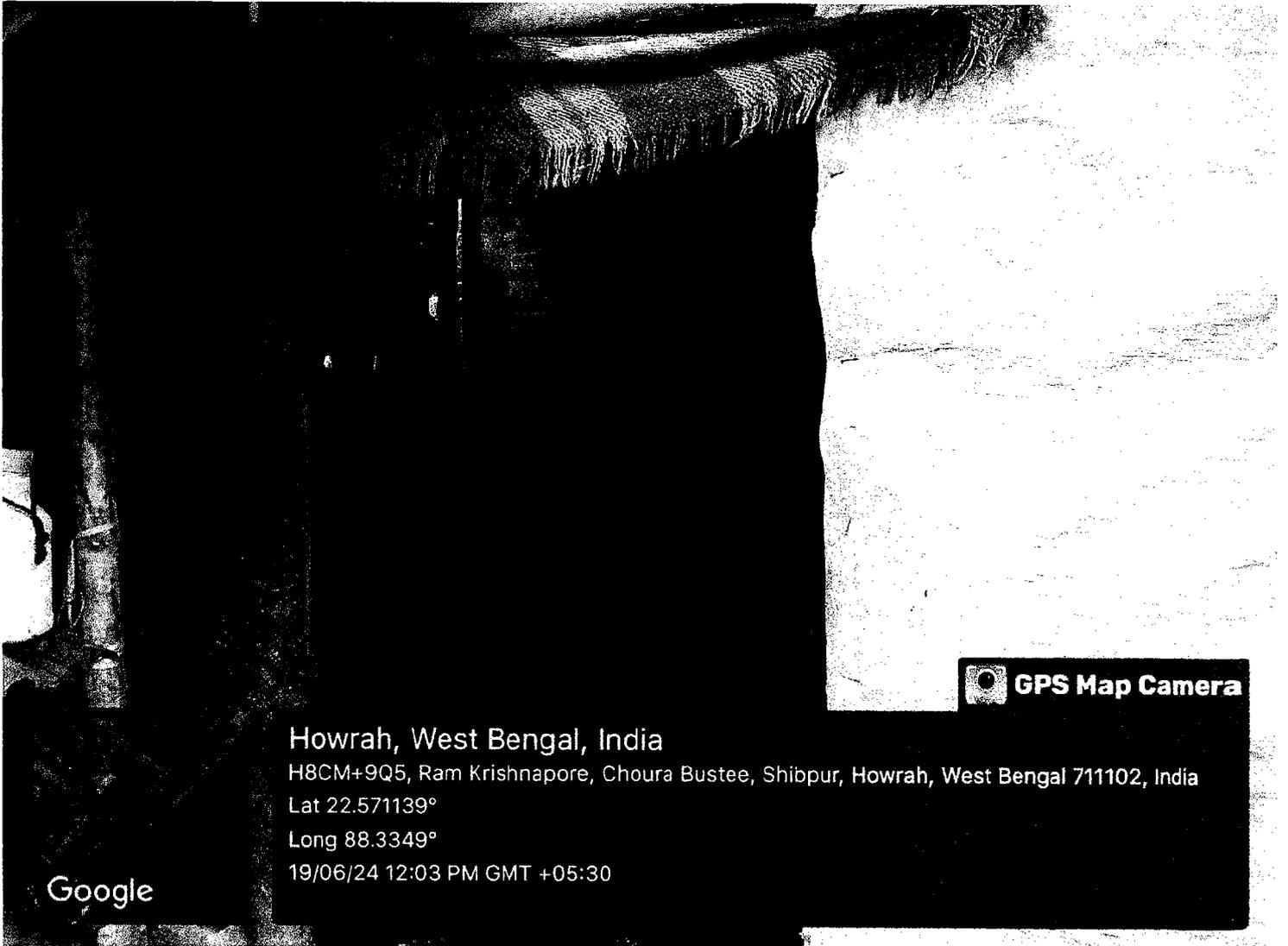




GPS Map Camera



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 India
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 Long 88.33505°
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 **GPS Map Camera**

Howrah, West Bengal, India

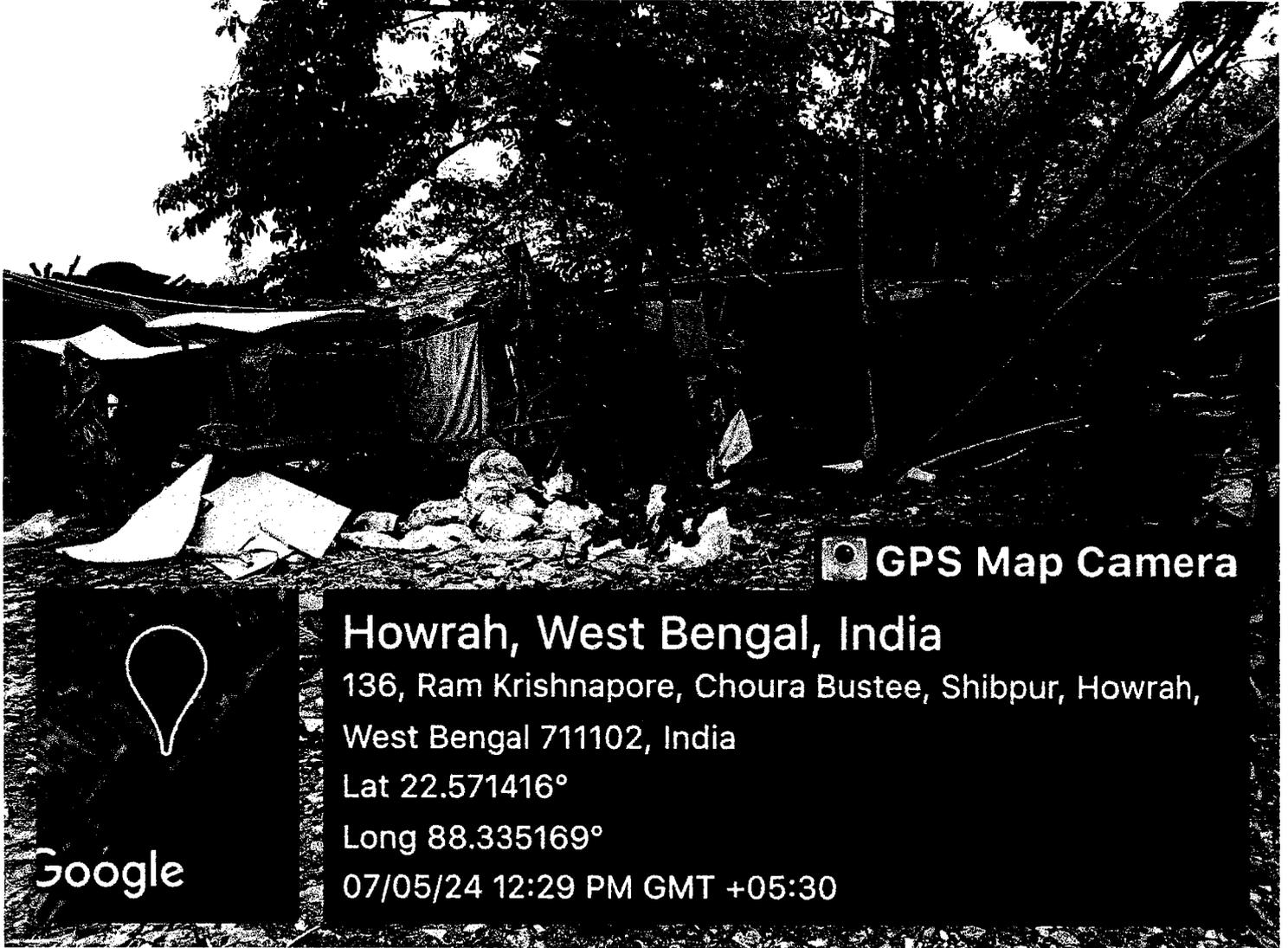
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Google



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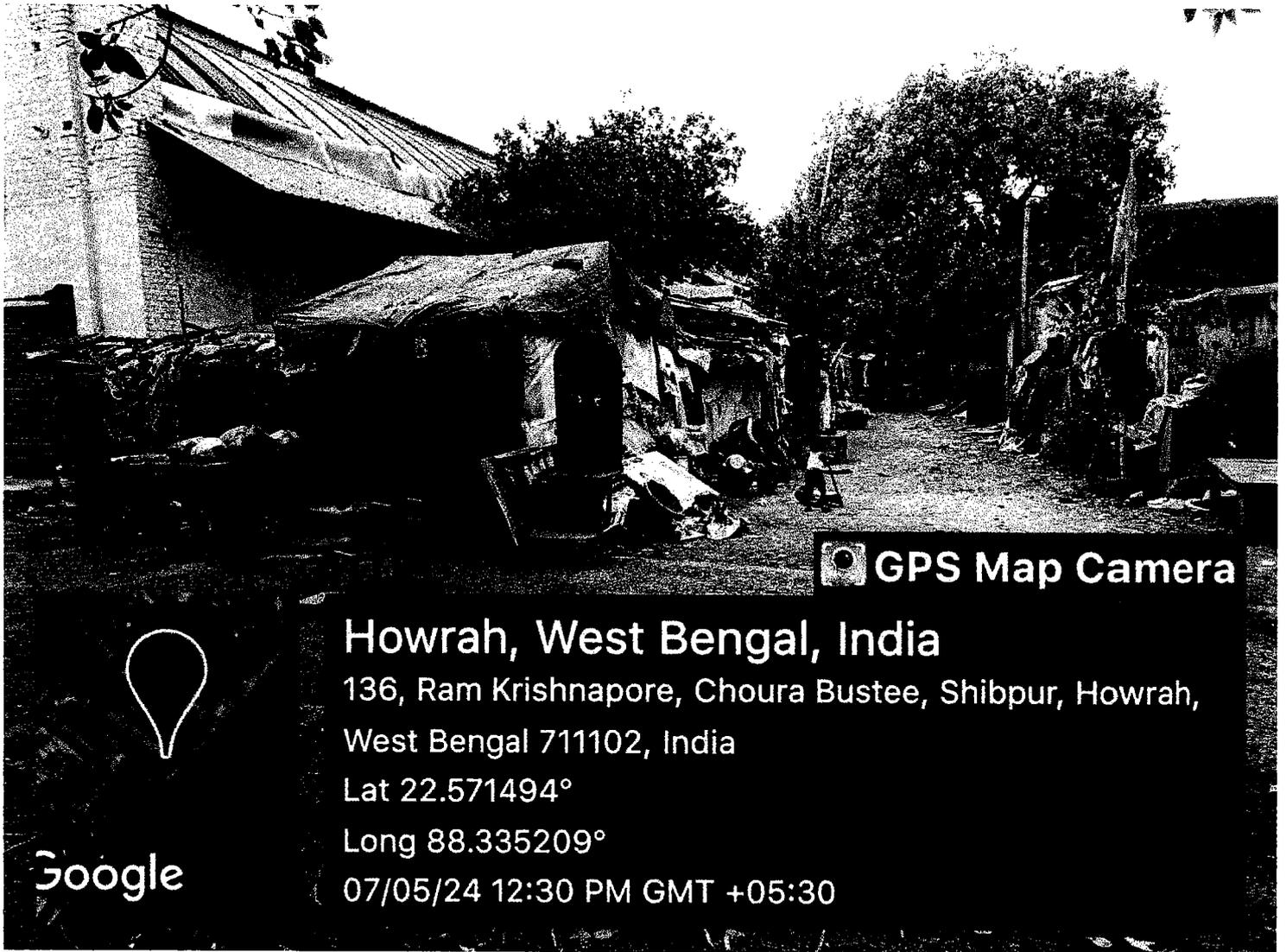
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Google



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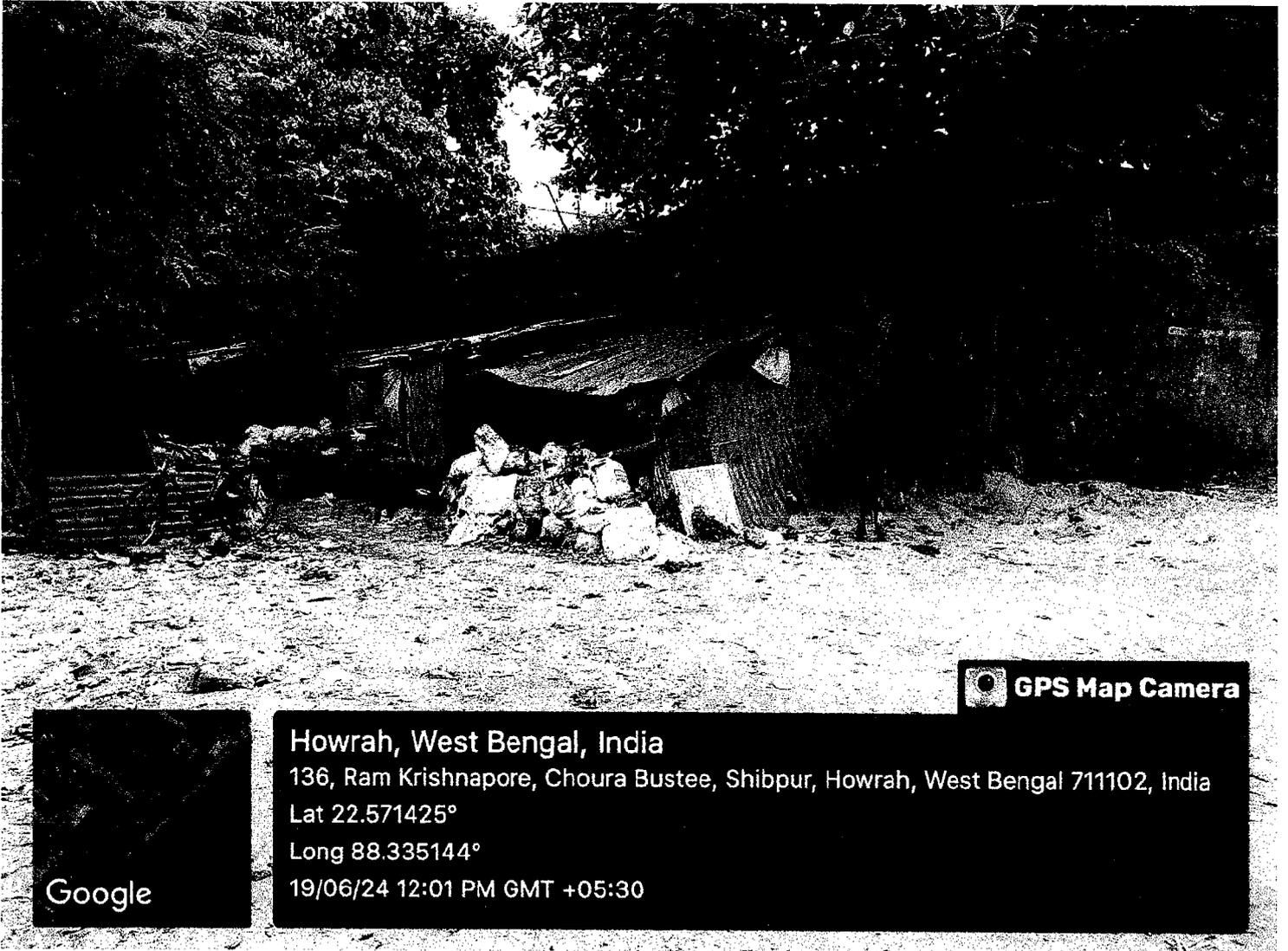
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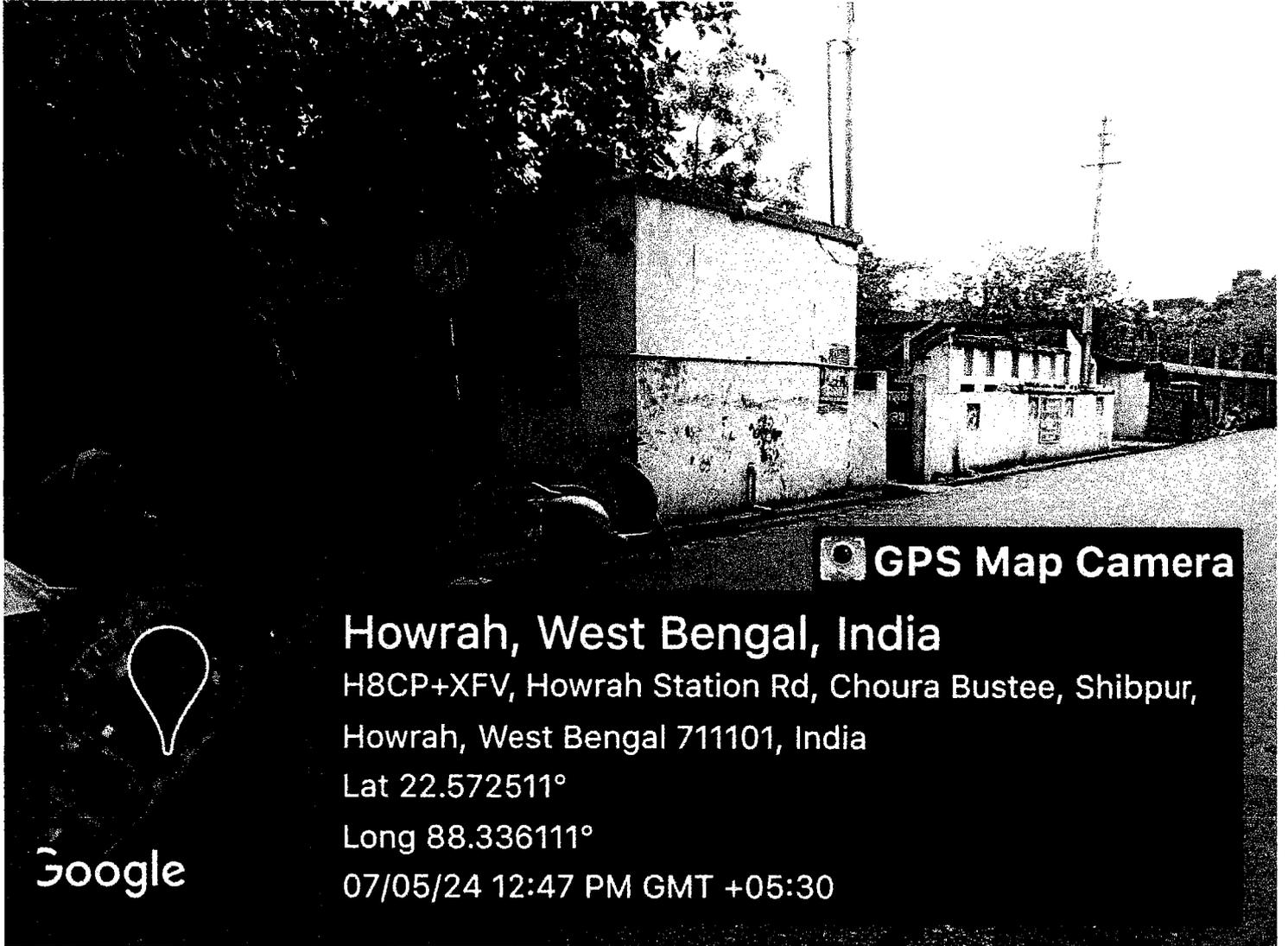
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H8CP+XFV, Howrah Station Rd, Choura Bustee, Shibpur,
Howrah, West Bengal 711101, India

Lat 22.572511°

Long 88.336111°

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Howrah, West Bengal, India

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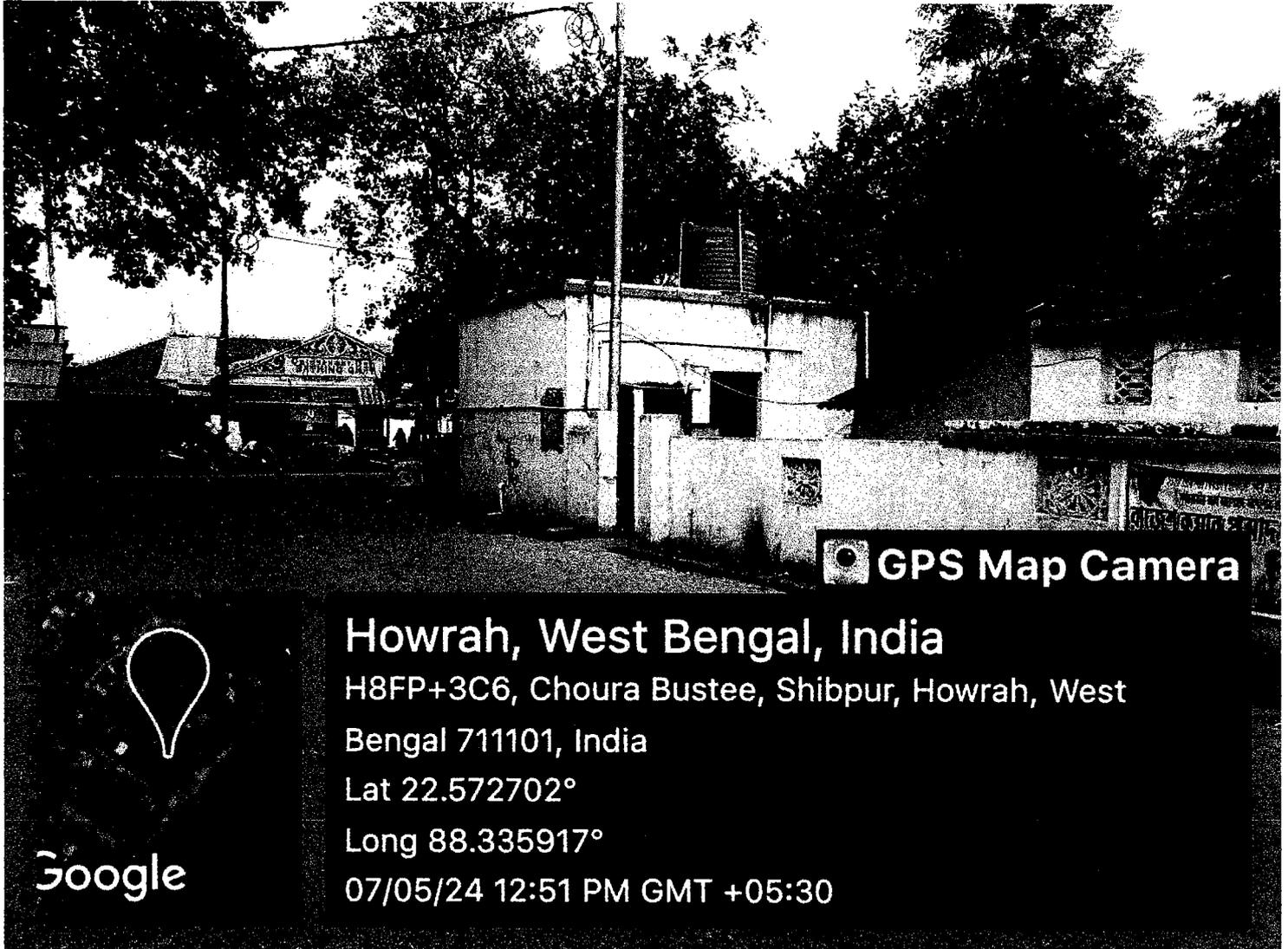
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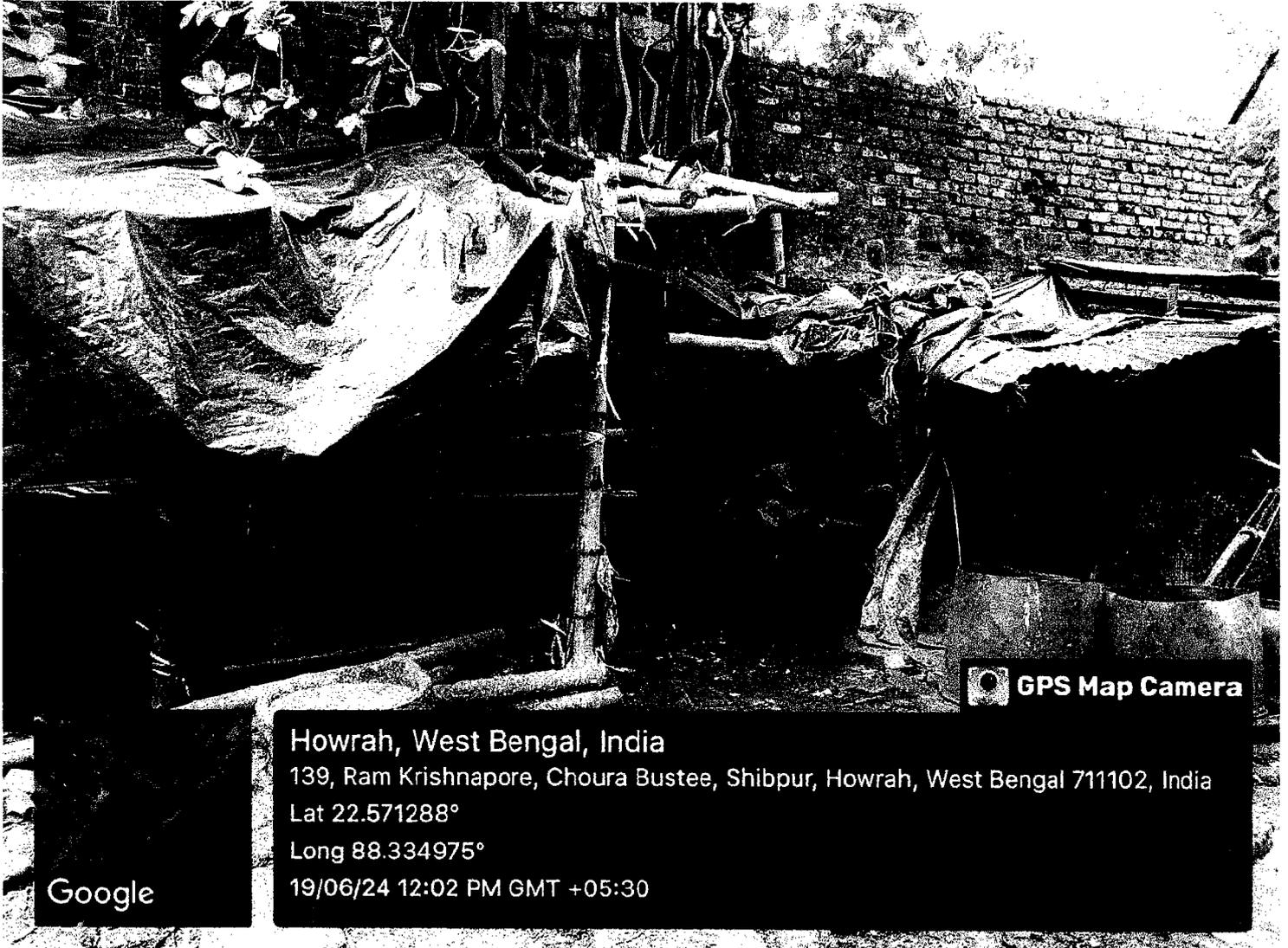
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GPS Map Camera

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Howrah, West Bengal, India

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18/08/2010 11:00 AM GMT +05:30

Google



GPS: Web Camera

Howrah, West Bengal, India

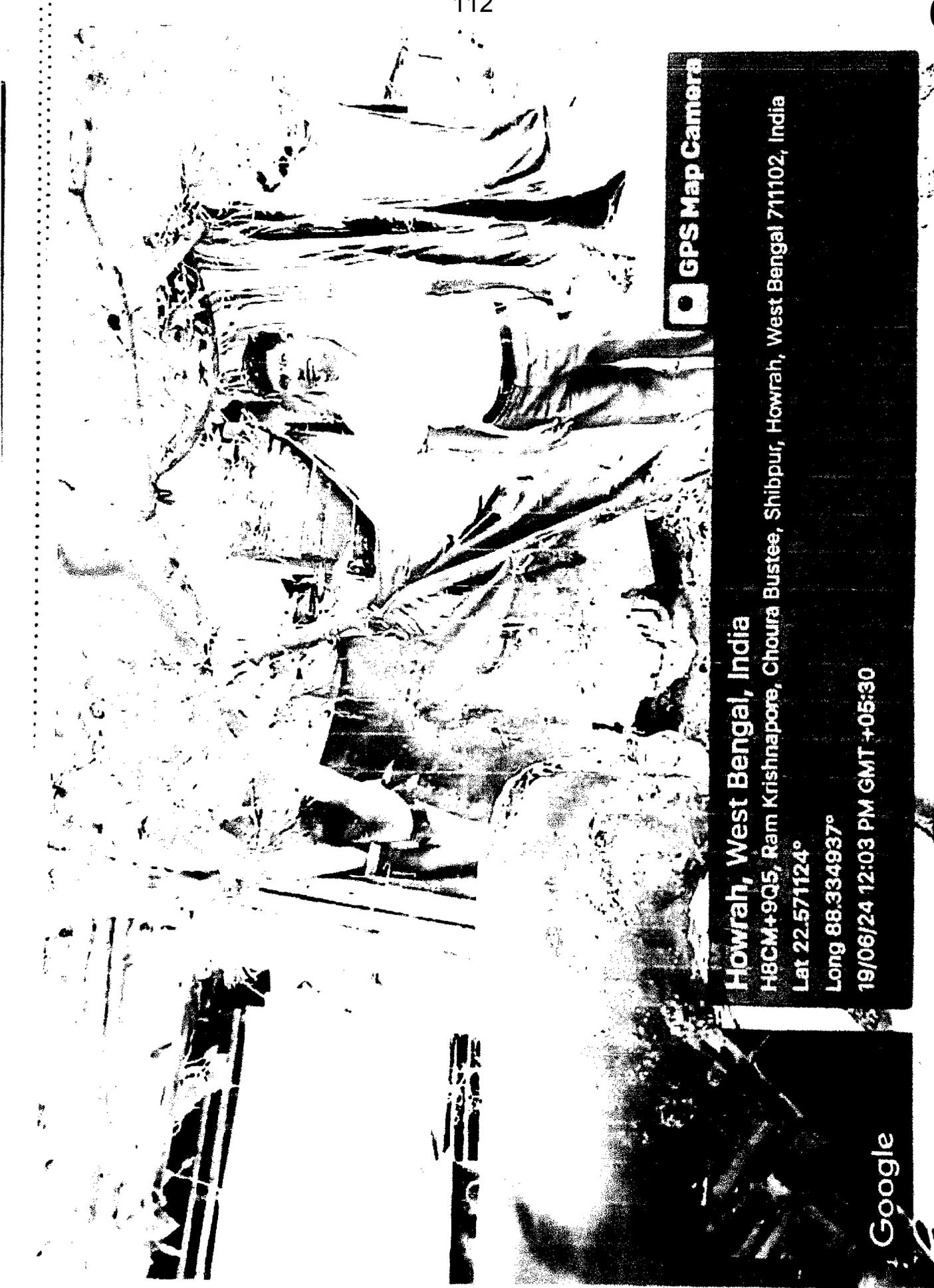
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Long 88.334937°

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Google



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Google



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Long 88.33505°

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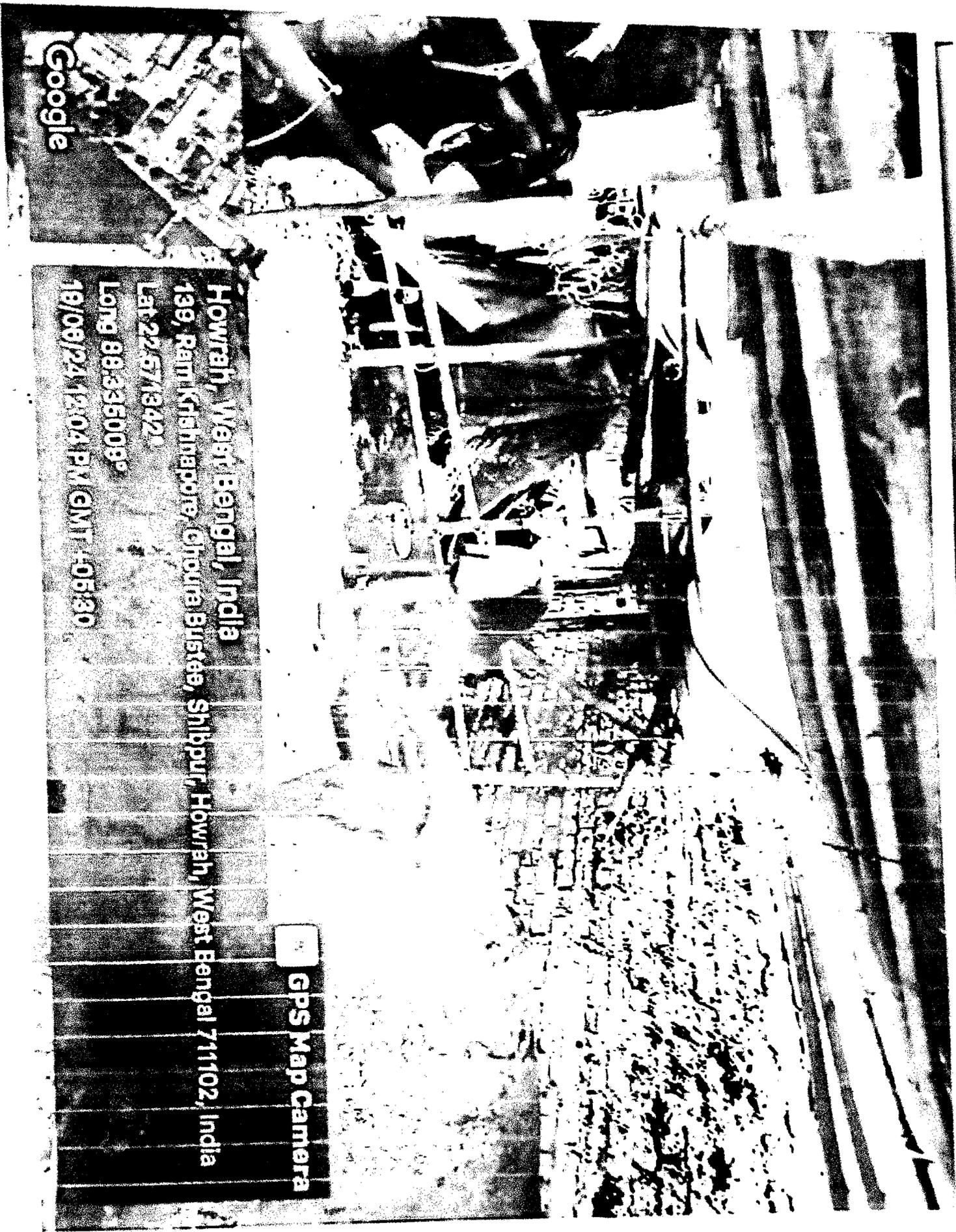
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Long 88.335046°

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 33/2024/EZ

SUBHAS DATTA

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

.....RESPONDENT(S)

**REPORT ON AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE WEST BENGAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

Filed by

DIPANJAN GHOSH
Advocate