

File No. 08/03/2015/Judicial/Vol. IV
National Green Tribunal
Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata

Sub: Public Complaint of NGT, EZB, Kolkata – reg.

The following public complaint has been received which is in the form of email/letter and not in conformity with the NGT (Practices & Procedure) Rules, 2011. This may be treated as a public complaint and a public notice may be uploaded on the NGT's website (office order NGT(PB)/Judicial-II/196/70 dated 03.02.2016 relating public complaint) informing the complainant to file a case after complying with NGT rules and procedures or other actions may be taken as per directions. The details are as under:

Sl. No	Date of Letter	Subject Matter	Name & Address of the Complainant
1	12.12.2023 (By hand)	Forcible illegal act with violence and dangerous life threat for encroaching and covering the 17 (seventeen) Cottahs water tank/pond into low land by filling debris, mud, rags etc. for making illegal constructions of unauthorised building at the premises No. 7, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D Tiljala Place not renumbered as 7A, Tiljala Place, PS – Karaya, Kolkata – 700017 by 1. Rehan Javed, 2. Irfan Javed & 3. Javed Akhtar who are violators, developer/promoters linked with antisocial group. All are residing at the premises no. 44D, Shamsul Huda Road, PS-Karaya, Kolkata – 700017. <i>(May be registered as Suo Motu, if approved)</i>	Sh. Humayun Abbas S/o Late Md. Abbas R/o - 7, Tiljala Place, PS – Karaya, Kolkata – 700017
2	Nil (By hand)	A project which is going on to take place on "KAMALAPUR KULKULIA JHEEL" measuring area of 13.64 acres at ward no. 14 of Dum Dum Municipality. Some construction will be done on the said Jheel behind the plot no. 48 to 65, West Kamalpur (8/1, Arabindo Sarani) for a wide Drain as well as a Lane on that drain after putting slabs on it. If any construction carried out on the said Jheel, it will spoil the environment of the area for which a tender has also been initiated. The residents of the locality are praying to stop the construction activities on the said JHEEL to save the environment of the society.	Mass Petition by Resident of West Kamalpur, Arabindo Sarani, P.O. & P.S. - Dum Dum, Kolkata - 700028
3	19.12.2023 (by email)	Request to take urgent action to stop destroying natural forest at Dhakamunda Village under Daleisara Panchayat in Lahunipada block, Dist-Sundargarh, Odisha by unauthorised felling of trees. More than 100 trees have been unlawfully cut down, and thousands more have been marked for further felling. Despite seeking clarification from local authorities, requests of complainants have not been adequately addressed and the felling of trees are continued as date. <i>(May be registered as Suo Motu, if approved)</i>	Pahudi pvtg group Dhakamunda Village under Daleisara Panchayat in Lahunipada block, Sundargarh, Odisha

4	19.12.2023 (By hand)	<p>Illegal destruction of greenery in Newtown. It is reported that large no. of trees (around 50 nos.) which were planted on the roadside besides Kadampukur More and Bhangar More of in jurisdiction of Techno Police Station were found chopped off on 17.12.2023 without the knowledge and permission of NKD and the destruction is massive. Copy forwarded for information to NGT, EZB, Kolkata.</p>	Chief Executive Officer, New Town Kolkata Development Authority, Plot No. DG/13, Premises No. 04-3333 Action Area-ID, New Town, Kolkata - 700156
5	20.12.2023 (by email) & (by post dated nil)	<p>Complaint against Parboiled Rice Mill of Arwal District of Bihar. There are so Many Rice Mill in Arwal District of Bihar violating pollution norms like: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It has not sufficient height of chimney. 2. It has no proper ETP system for treatment of polluted water. 3. It has no proper arrangement for husk. <p>The Parboiled Rice Mill are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jalpura Foods Private Limited, Arwal 2. Janvi Rice Mill, Arwal 3. Baid Rice Mill, Kurtha, Arwal 4. Phuspa Rice Mill Arwal <p>These companies are operating without Pollution control measures and following the guidelines issued by CPCB. These units are using rice husk as fuel for its boilers which are generating -huge amount of ash and smoke. The ash is not being handled, stored and disposed properly and is being dumped in the open or in the nearby water bodies. The complainant has prayed for taking action against these violators.</p>	Sh. Manish Ranjan, Advocate, Patna High Court, Patna
6	20.12.2023 (by email)	<p>Attention invited to the article "Stench from garbage dump at TTS a health hazard: Experts" published in the paper Times of India on 15/12/2023. The article highlighted the menace of likely health hazards to be suffered by Bhubaneswar inhabitant near Sainik School area due to garbage dump at the temporary transit station of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation near Sainik school. The BMC violating the rights of citizens by creating a polluted environment by dumping tons of garbage and prayed for issuing necessary direction against BMC.</p> <p><i>(May be registered as Suo Motu, if approved)</i></p>	Smt. HariPriya Patel, 106, Lumbini Enclave Chandrasekhar pur Near Care Hospital Bhubaneswar-751021 Odisha
7	21.12.2023 (by email)	<p>Continuation of utter violation of law to the detriment of coastal and marine ecology and environment in Digha-Shankarpur coastal area in West Bengal situated in the Ramnagar II Block of the Contai Sub-Division of the District of East-Medinipur. Illegal constructions of hotels, resorts, restaurants is going on in full swing on critically vulnerable 'No Development Zone', in violation of CRZ Notifications. Since its first recognition of coastal area years back around 2005 till 2022 approx 100 units are there but now only within one year more than 100 new illegal units</p>	Sh. Sailendra Chatarjee 120, Manohar Pukur Road, Kolkata WB-700026

Statutory authority are working so need of action

May be taken

Good to take cognizance

May be taken

		<p>have been built without any permission and approval. Also, in the valuable NDZ area several illegal restaurants and civil structures has been build. Therefore, the applicant has prayed to this office to take steps against illegal activities and issue instruction to district administrations to stop all construction activities in the CRZ area immediately.</p> <p>(Ref: Original Application No. 134/2015/EZ (Bishnu Pada Pakhira Vs. Union of India & Ors.)</p> <p>(May be registered as Suo Motu, if approved)</p>	
8	21.12.2023 (by email)	<p>A request letter has been written to The Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Cuttack, Odisha to stop 27 active illegal Brick Kilns functioning in Nilgiri Tehsil of District Balasore, Odisha. Out of these 14 brick kilns are falling within the ECO Sensitive Zone of Koldiha Wild Life Sanctuary area. However, one brick kiln of the complainant situated at Plot No. 391, 391/1159, 382/1237, Khata no. 251/263, Mauza-Sikidia, Tehsil- Nilgiri of District Balasore has been demolished by Tahsildar without following the due procedure of law. He has prayed before the State Government to stop the illegal activities and copy forwarded to NGT.</p> <p>(May be registered as Suo Motu, if approved)</p>	<p>Sh. Harish Chandra Jena, S/o Gobinda Jena R/o Nuapatana, PS - Nilagiri Dist- Balasore, Odisha - 756042</p>
9	26.12.2023 (by email)	<p>M/s Bengal Shrachi Housing Development Company Ltd. is operating a commercial complex in the name of 'SYNTHESIS BUSINESS PARK' at Action Area-II, Plot No. AAI/CBD/I, New Town, Rajarhat, Dist-North 24 Paraganas, Kolkata-700156 since long in violation of the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments i.e. without obtaining necessary Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority & Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from WBPCB</p> <p>(May be forwarded to WBPCB, if approved)</p>	<p>Sh. Atindranath Chatterjee L-65, Sagarbhaga LIG Housing Estate, Post-Sagarbhanga Colony, Durgapur-713211</p>
10	03.01.2024 (by email)	<p>Kapanda Forest - Urgent Appeal to Scrutinize All Illegally and Falsified Data/Documents Submitted by the Project Proponent to Obtain Environmental Clearance for the Establishment of a Highly Polluting Industry, Involving the Demolition of Forest Land in a Tribal Area at Kapanda, Tehsil-Lahunipara, District-Sundergarh, Odisha. Due to illegal permission by governance of DFO Rourkela, the project proponent has already felled more than 10, 000 trees (18 lots) and many of them are uprooted and buried in the soil to destroy the evidence.</p>	<p>Villagers of PattaJharan, Kapanda, Badbahal, Nuangaon and adjoining villages of Bad Purunapani GP Village - Kapanda, Tehsil - Lahunipara, District - Sundergarh, Odisha.</p>
11	03.01.2024, 04.01.2024 (by email)	<p>Unlawful exclusion of two adjacent tribal villages and falsified documentation submitted by KAI International and Visiontek consultancy in obtaining environmental clearance for setting up a</p>	<p>Villagers of Badbahal and Pata Jharan</p>

		highly polluting industry by demolition of Kapanda forest. The project proponent has deliberately omitted the village in various submissions such as PFR, Form 1, TOR application, and all documentation in the PARIBESH website submitted under CAF, Part A, and Part B, all aimed at obtaining environmental clearance (EC). Due to their false submission, The EAC took into consideration KML file on the Google Earth presented by the project proponent along with DSS of the project site shown on PARIVESH and observed that there is a habitation namely Village Daldali Sai at a distance of 0.5 km southwest, due to the false submissions. The three tribal villages, Fatajharan, the hamlets Badbahal and Daldali, within the Kapanda Revenue village, are in close proximity to the project site. They have prayed to take appropriate disciplinary action against Visiontek Consultancy and KAI Industry to safeguard the forest and environment.	
12	04.01.2024 (by email)	An Objection letter to the report submitted by the investigation Committee, as per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's Order in the matter of OA No 94/2021/EZ (Chittaranjan Mahanta & Ors.Vs State of Odisha & Ors. Has also been filed by complainant.	Villagers of PattaJharan, Kapanda, Badbahal, Nuangaon and adjoining villages of Bad Purunapani GP
13	01.01.2024 (by email)	Violations of laws by Opponent Mill . By Release all the workers without issuing any Notice/intimation, without paying Salary, ESIC, EPFO, Bonus, etc As well as No Fire Instruments, Underground department, Extreme Pollution, No Stability Certificate, No Labour License, breach of Labour Laws, Environmental Laws, breaching of Human Rights, Child Labour, Senior Citizen etc. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto criminal offence against all owners. (Forwarded to-NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)	Dakshin Gujarat Kamdar Parishad A.K. road surat
14	25.12.2023 (by email)	For the matter of opponent mill Tarana Prints has made high pollution by producing black polluted fog in open air nearby area i.e. BLOCK NO 505, N H NO 8 PALSANA SURAT-394315 SURAT Surat Gujrat and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler and thereby making huge pollution in nearby air. GPCB is knowing all it but they got bribe from themill owner etc. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto criminal offence against all owners. (Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi).	Azad Hind Mazdoor Sena, A.K. Road Fulpada, Surat, Gujrat
15	26.12.2023 (by email)	For the matter of opponent mill Vikas Trends Private Limited , Block No 505, N.H. NO. 8, Palsana, Surat has made high pollution by producing black polluted fog in open air nearby area and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler and thereby making huge pollution in nearby air. GPCB is knowing all it but	Azad Hind Mazdoor Sena, A.K. Road Fulpada, Surat, Gujrat

(Sl.No. 13-25
from surat, GJ)

		they got bribe from the mill owner etc. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto criminal offence against owner. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i> .	
16	27.12.2023 (by email)	For the matter of opponent mill Manju Dyeing & Printing Mills has made high pollution by producing black polluted fog in open air nearby area and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler and thereby making huge pollution in nearby air. GPCB is knowing all it but they got bribe from the mill owner etc. The union has requested to inspect and close the factory. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC Office: B No. 28, Gurudwara, Rakabganj Road, New Delhi. Branch Office: A.K. Road, Fulpada, Surat.
17	28.12.2023 (by email)	In Collusion of Government Officers-Staff make corruption by Mill Owner of Raghav Fashion Pvt. 83, Bagumara Opp. Jolva Patiya, Kadodara, Surat Bardoli Road, Surat and making not a proper procedure for Labour-workers of Mills of Surat & Gujarat for providing their Government benefits properly and protect them from the harassment and torturing of the mill owners and make proper orders for safety of workers and also gives proper order to demolished damaged condition having mills in SURAT if not given proper order for demolition then possibility of huge accident of collapse industry. The union has requested to inspect and close the factory. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC, Office: B No. 28, Gurudwara, Rakabganj Road, New Delhi. Branch Office: - A.K. Road, Fulpada, Surat.
18	20.12.2023 (by email)	Dhanhar Products LLP , Ward 15 J 167, hing masala factory, fulpada, main road Surat & Dhanhar Vishesh , Manekpor, Navsari, Surat are not implanting proper labor laws. Owners calling labor to start work from early morning at 7 am and gets work up to 7 Pm. Processed fabrics kept in excess of the recorded stock and kacha delivery challans used for it. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto criminal offence against all owners of said opponents. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	South Indian Workers Union, Block No.2, Room No.29 Mithi khadi Surat Anjana "D" Type Behind Textile Market, Kamela Darwaja, Surat
19	02.01.2024 (by email)	Violations of laws by opponent mill Rajni Prints Private Limited at Plot No. 4-5, Block No.42 Katodara, Bardoli Road Na Surat Gujrat creat pollutions by using wooden coal, waste fabric etc unused waste for boiler and for other use therefore mill blows so much pollution through insufficient chimney means chimney of the mill is very little then government norms, also opponent mill release drain water in open and nearby open space. The said mill releases all the workers without issuing any Notice/intimation, without paying Salary, ESIC, EPFO, Bonus, etc As well as No Fire Instruments, Underground department, Extreme Pollution, No Stability Certificate, No Labour License, breach of Labour Laws, Environmental Laws, breaching of Human Rights, Child Labour, Senior Citizen etc. The union	Dakshin Gujarat Kamdar Parishad, A.K. Road, Fulpada, Surat

		has requested to inspect and close the factory. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	
20	09.12.2023 (by email)	Fwd: For the matter of opponentmill PRISM MILLS LIMITED at 175/2 Nr Grid N H No 8, Kabilpore, Navsari, Gujarat, India has made high pollution by producing black polluted fogin open air nearby area and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler and thereby making huge pollution in nearby by area which is located very close to Highway No-8, it emits very horrible black smoke. GPCB is knowing all it but they got bribe from the mill owner etc. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto case against owner of said opponents. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC, Office: B No. 28, Gurudwara, Rakabganj Road, New Delhi. Branch Office: - A.K. Road, Fulpada, Surat.
21	11.12.2023 (by email)	Re: For the matter of opponentmill T M Patel Processing Private Limited Plot No 16 Riddhisiddhi Ind Co Op Soc Ltd Pandesara Surat has made high pollution by producing black polluted fogin open air nearby area and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler and thereby making huge pollution in nearby air. GPCB is knowing all it but they got bribe from the mill owner etc. The union has requested to inspect the factory and register suo moto case against owner of said opponents. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	All India Forward Block Coordinator
22	12.12.2023 (by email)	Arya Processors Pvt Ltd. Block- 279, Baleshwar, Palsana, Baleshwar, Gujarat must be closed on highest pollution making black polluted smoke and make huge pollution by burning Chindi, Plastic Waste Material, also made exploitation of workers therefore make suo moto Case and registered criminal offence against all owners of said opponents. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	Azad Hind Mazdoor Sena, A.K. Road Fulpada, Surat, Gujrat
23	14.12.2023 (by email)	For the matter of opponentmill Bajrang Processors Pvt. Ltd. S. No. 190, Paiki, B/h. J. B. Kharwar Dyg. Solapur Compund, Udhna, Surat, Gujarat has made high pollution by producing black polluted fogin open air nearby area and burn wooden for producing steam for boiler andthereby making huge pollution in nearby air. GPCB is knowing all it but theygot bribe from the mill owner etc. Therefore, prayed to make suo moto Case and registered criminal offence against owner of said opponent. <i>(Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)</i>	South Indian Workers Union, Block No.2, Room No.29 Mithi khadi Surat Anjana "D" Type Behind Textile Market, Kamela Darwaja, Surat
24	03.01.2024 (by email)	For the matter of opponentmill Shivani Processors Pvt Ltd. , Block No. 104, 105, 107, Shree Krishna Ind. Estate, Opp: Secron Chemical, Vill-Tantithiya, Bardoli Road Surat has made high pollution byproducing black polluted fog in open air nearby area and burn wooden forproducing steam for boiler	ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC, Office: B No. 28, Gurudwara, Rakabganj Road, New Delhi. Branch

		and thereby making huge pollution in nearby area and the mill discharges into the opposite canal. GPCB is knowing all but not taking any action, they got bribe from the mill owner etc. Therefore, prayed to registered criminal offence against owner of said opponent. (Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)	Office: - A.K. Road, Fulpada, Surat.
25	06.01.2024 (by email)	For the matter of worker got serious injured in opponent mill Sumati Prints Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 424-25, GIDC, Pandesara, Surat, Gujarat, while doing work in Dying Khata, all Govt. Officer make collusion with each other make conspiracy and make corruption towards victim, and no any remuneration has been given to workers, also grabbed his salary and PF and ESI therefore get justice this complaint made. Therefore, union prayed to get an inquiry and registered criminal offence against said mill. (Forwarded to NGT, WZB, Pune & NGT PB, New Delhi)	South Indian Workers Union, Block No.2, Room No.29 Mithi khadi Surat Anjana "D" Type Behind Textile Market, Kamela Darwaja, Surat

Submitted for kind perusal & appropriate direction/further orders please.

Shah
06/01/2024
Section Officer

Q 06/01/2024
(Hindi Translator)

[Signature]
06.01.24.
Ld. Deputy Registrar

[Signature] 8/1/24
Ld. Registrar

Sr. Nos 01, 05, 06,
07 may be taken
into cognizance -
[Signature]
Hon'ble Expert Member
08/01/24

[Signature]
08.01.2024.
Hon'ble Judicial Member

Fwd: Prayer

From : Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

Wed, Dec 20, 2023 10:38 AM

2 attachments

Subject : Fwd: Prayer

To : Judicial Section <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>

Reply To : Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

From: haripriyapatel@gmail.com

To: "Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar" <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:36:02 AM

Subject: Prayer

To

The Honourable Chairman
National Green Tribunal
Eastern Zone Branch , Kolkata

Honourable Sir,

I would like to bring your kind notice to the article "Stench from garbage dump at TTS a health hazard: Experts" published in the paper times of India on 15/12/2023 (copy enclosed) . The article highlighted the menace of likely health hazards to be suffered by Bhubaneswar inhabitant near Sainik School area due to garbage dump at the temporary transit station of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation near Sainik school. The right to a pollution free environment is basic human rights , the BMC violating the rights of citizens by creating a polluted environment by dumping tons of garbage . I pray to the honourable tribunal to look into the matter and issue necessary directions to BMC in this matter . I am also enclosing the article published in the paper earlier also.

With Regards
Smt Haripriya Patel
106, Lumbini Enclave
Chandrasekharapur
Near Care Hospital
Bhubaneswar-751021
Odisha

Judicial
10/12/24

--

RAJA CHATTERJEE
REGISTRAR,

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Stench from garbage dump at TTS a health hazard: Experts

Dec 15, 2023, 08:44 AM IST

Bhubaneswar: Foul smell from the garbage dump at the temporary transit station of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation that has been reaching far-off localities is not just a nuisance but a potential health hazard, say doctors.

While environmentalists voiced concern on the degradation in the city's air quality because of the smell, health experts said hydrogen sulphide and other toxic gases being generated from the garbage are dangerous for humans.

"Exposure to bad odour for longer time can cause irritation in eyes and nose. In this case, people living in the vicinity of the dumping yard are more vulnerable. It is highly advised to cover the eyes and nose as long as possible," said Dr Subhasish Jamuda, consultant, pulmonology. "They should be given proper protective gear otherwise the odour can turn deadly for them," said medicine specialist Dr P N Sahoo.

Environmentalists said that the foul odour can cause emotional stress among residents. "Bhubaneswar already has a bad air quality because of the increasing vehicular pollution and construction activities. The bad smell of the garbage is further degrading the air quality," said environmentalist Sailabala Padhi. "I feel like vomiting after getting the smell. It is very foul and gives me a headache. I am not being able to concentrate on my studies because of the foul smell," Chinmay Dash, a student, said.

BMC said it is trying to get the situation under control. "Waste processing is creating the smell. We are doing it scientifically while trying to control the odour," said city mayor Sulochana Das.

We also published the following articles recently

Why Supreme Court said Article 370 was a temporary provision Supreme Court delivers historic verdict on the validity of Centre's 2019 decisions, ruling Article 370 as a temporary provision introduced for transitional purposes due to war conditions. The Constitution of India can be fully applied to Jammu and Kashmir, with no retention of sovereignty. The Court upholds the bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories and directs the restoration of statehood in J&K at the earliest. The Election Commission is asked to conduct elections for the J&K assembly by September 30, 2024, in this example of asymmetric federalism.1058933627

Picked up, but dumped again: Why these schools can't escape the stink of garbage MCG teams in Gurgaon picked up waste piles outside two government schools after a TOI report. Garbage was dumped again as these spots are waste collection points, one designated by MCG and the other illegal. Officials are unable to stop it. Students are wearing masks to avoid the stench. MCG will ensure regular garbage collection to prevent inconvenience to schoolchildren. The area near the Government Girls Senior Secondary School is a challenging dump yard due to narrow lanes. Special teams will penalize illegal waste dumpers.105852524

BMC plans to install nets on nullahs to stop garbage dumping, clogging The BMC's storm water drain department plans to install nets along city nullahs to prevent garbage dumping. Nets have been installed on a pilot basis at the P&T nullah in Bandra West. The nets, about six to 10 feet in height, are placed on steel frames on the nullah walls. The aim is to stop people living near the nullahs from throwing waste into them. Depending on the success of the pilot project, the nets may be extended to other nullahs in the city.105946592

Home > States > Odisha

Worrying waste: BMC's garbage hill raises a stink in Bhubaneswar

In the last six months, at least 54,000 tonnes of garbage has been dumped at the temporary transit station near Sainik school, making the lives of residents and schoolchildren miserable

Published: 05th November 2023 10:45 AM | Last Updated: 16th November 2023 03:47 PM  | [A+](#) [A](#) [A-](#)



BMC dumping near Sainik school (Photo | Debadatta Mallick, EPS)

By Sudarsan Maharana

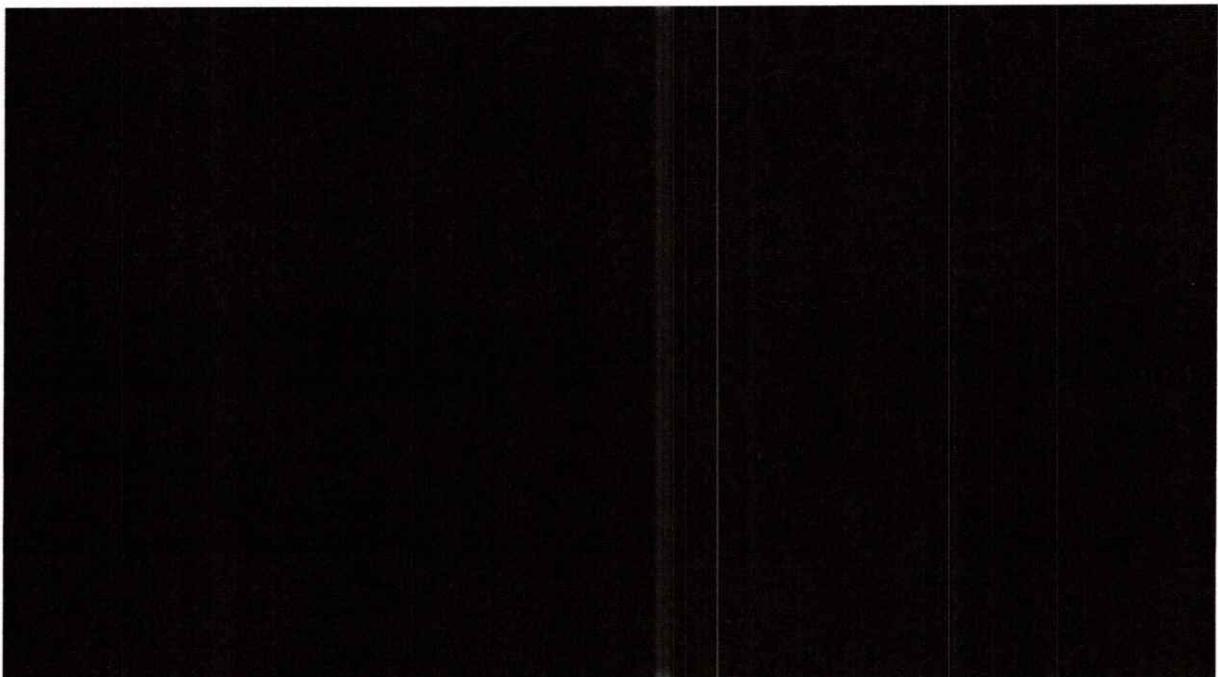
Express News Service

During social events and holidays, Sumant Sahu does not invite guests or relatives to his home for a simple reason. He does not want to be embarrassed by the air that he and his family live and breathe.

Hundreds of families living in VSS Nagar, Gadakana Mouza, and nearby localities of Bhubaneswar share the same fate and sentiment as that of Sahu. The putrid odour that hangs heavy in the air has messed up their social lives too.

On days when the wind is playful, much of Bhubaneswar gets a taste of the stench too. Only that it does not appear to pinch the civic administration, pollution control board, and other agencies that are in charge of the capital city and its environmental health. But there is little the residents can do. Neither can they wish away the stench nor the colossal garbage dump where it emanates from.

Welcome to the temporary transit station (TTS) near Sainik School. Once a pile of waste, it has now grown into a hill and gives a Ghazipur vibe to this part of the capital. To get a perspective, at least 54,000 tonnes of garbage has already been deposited at the place in the last 180 days.



Worrying waste

For a city once conferred the No. 1 Smart City tag in the country, handling 300 tonnes of waste a day should not have been a major headache. What did go wrong? Official sources say the city daily generates about 700 tonne waste which during monsoon crosses the 800 tonne mark, almost double the volume it produced 10 years back.

The entire garbage used to be dumped at Bhuasuni earlier. However, after the establishment of 36 micro composting centers (MCCs) and 22 material recovery facilities (MRF) in recent years, 250 tonne to 300 tonnes of dry and wet waste get processed at the ward level through door-to-door collection for which Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has roped in seven NGOs with a fleet of 400 vehicles. The rest is mixed garbage, mostly dumped by bulk waste generators at random places and collected by private agencies engaged to bring it to the TTS near Sainik School.

The bulk waste generators are mostly hotels, eateries, commercial buildings, industries as well as apartments many of which do not follow BMC's norm of waste segregation and garbage handover process strictly, said an officer working with the sanitation wing of the corporation. "If half of these garbage generators followed the waste handling norms, the dumping crisis could have been handled better," he added.

What has not helped is the low capacity of solid waste management (SWM) plants. It was after the TTS crisis spiraled out of control that BMC realised the need for a mega SWM plant which is being set up now.

Unspeakable Misery

Meanwhile, the stench continued to fill the air and the garbage hill threatened to turn into a health hazard. Residents of Gadakana Mouza, Mancheswar, Dhirikuti slum, VSS Nagar, and Rangamatia would vouch.

"There are people who suffer from respiratory problems as well as skin infections due to the unhygienic atmosphere caused by the dump yard. There are even people who have faced chronic health complications because of the waste," rues Sura Patra, president of Gadakana Grama Unnayan Committee.

The garbage dumping also affects the health and education of children in a number of schools in the vicinity including the Sainik School and Kendriya Vidyalaya. "The foul smell started hampering the morning PET activities of the students. We are often forced to keep the doors and windows of classrooms shut to get rid of the odour that suffocates us," said an official of the Sainik School.

The Windows of its infirmary is also kept closed to protect ailing students as the dumping site is less than 100 metres away. "How can the local administration carry out such an activity right next to a school is a matter of grave concern," he said.

IN FIGURES
The city daily generates about **700** tonne waste which during monsoon season crosses the **800** tonne mark

250 tonne to **300** tonne of dry and wet waste get processed at the ward level, while the rest is brought to the TTS

Residents, especially those in the immediate vicinity of the waste yard, are subjected to an unrelenting assault on their respiratory system

Hiranmaya Pati



The garbage hill next to a temple




Installation of trummels in progress at the TTS near Sainik School at Bhubaneswar | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hiranmaya Pati, a student from the locality, said residents, especially those in the immediate vicinity of the waste yard, are subjected to an unrelenting assault on their respiratory system, with an increased risk of allergies, respiratory diseases, and other related ailments.

“The pervasive stench makes outdoor activities and even the simple act of opening windows in our homes a dreadful experience. The heaps of waste serve as a stark reminder of the city’s inability to manage its waste efficiently, diminishing the overall quality of life for its citizens,” he said.

Genesis of the crisis

It all started 14 years back at a 26-acre patch of land adjacent to Sainik School, one of the 33 premier Sainik Schools in the country. The BMC took possession of the land for transit storage, weighing, and transport of the waste generated in the city.

In the initial years, there were sporadic protests over the conversion of the land into a waste-handling site. But things took a turn for worse when residents of Daruthenga, about 20 km away, stopped the transport of garbage trucks to the nearby Bhuasuni dumping yard from the TTS demanding an immediate stop to the activity near their village.



(Photo | Debadatta Mallick)

As Daruthenga villagers intensified their agitation seeking a complete halt to waste transportation and bio-mining of existing legacy waste, BMC went on a time-buying spree. Last year in August, Mayor Sulochana Das and BMC top brass met agitating residents of Daruthenga and sought time till May to find a solution. Accordingly, BMC worked out plans to process waste right at the TTS and dispose of it from the same place.

It was easier said than done. Handling hundreds of tonnes of garbage at the small place soon proved an uphill battle task for the municipal corporation. Over 300 tons of garbage dumped at the site every day since May turned the place into a hill of filth. With waste processing yet to start in a full-fledged manner, a waste crisis was only a matter of time.

Brewing anger

Prafulla Das, a senior citizen from Gadakana Mouza, said what hurts the most is the garbage hill came up right next to the temple of Dasaraja, the deity revered and worshiped by villagers for centuries.

“Kirtan is organized at the temple during the holy month of Kartika every year and villagers are offered prasad. Consider our plight in the face of such stench and waste pile,” Das rued.

Members of Anchalika Suraksha Manch in Gadakana, a local outfit, have knocked on the doors of the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and other forums seeking a curb on garbage dumping at the site. They allege that despite a court order in 2012 to remove all temporary transit stations in the city, the civic body is running the TTS.

Pollution Control Board's silence!

The growing concern about environmental and health hazards seems to have been overlooked by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). Though thousands of tonnes of garbage have piled up at the site, its environmental impact on soil as well as groundwater is yet to be studied, a member of the Anchalika Suraksha Manch said.

An official of the OSPCB regional office said BMC had not taken permission to carry out waste handling at the site as it was meant only for a small volume. He, however, couldn't specify the volume which would necessitate the board permission at such transit stations. OSPCB regional officer Sohan Giri, however, said a team will visit the site in a couple of days to assess pollution as well as to check measures taken to prevent the same.



(Photo | Debadatta Mallick)

BMC buys more time

With intensifying protests spilling onto the streets and opposition political parties targeting the state government, the BMC has come under scrutiny and sought more time to resolve the crisis.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange told The New Indian Express that it will take another six to seven months to clear the garbage from the TTS site.

The corporation has two challenges at hand - the current garbage generation and the piled-up trash. To tackle the crisis, trommel machines have been installed, while a Terex warrior machine which segregates and processes around 50 tonnes of waste per hour has been put in place. Besides, an integrated MCC and MRF with a capacity to handle 33 tonnes of waste at the TTS near Sainik School will be completed this month.

Similarly, a mega MCC and MRF are coming up at Palasuni. "Completion of these projects will enable us to process hundreds of tonnes of waste every day. We are hopeful this will help clear the accumulated waste from the site within six to seven months," the commissioner said. He said the civic body cannot afford to create another dumping site at a different location as it may lead to a new crisis.

Priorities misplaced

While waste dumping is an issue, environmentalists said much of the problem is caused by an ineffective implementation of the plastic ban. "The root of the problem must be addressed first," says environmentalist Jayakrushna Panigrahi. Though the plastic ban has been in place in Bhubaneswar since 2018, the single-use plastic trade has flourished unabated.

More than half the dry waste comprises single-use plastic, Panigrahi said and added that everyone has conveniently forgotten the ban enforcement. "Both manufacturing of single-use plastic in the state and clandestine supply of such banned items from neighboring states need to be dealt with strongly to deal with the waste menace," he said.

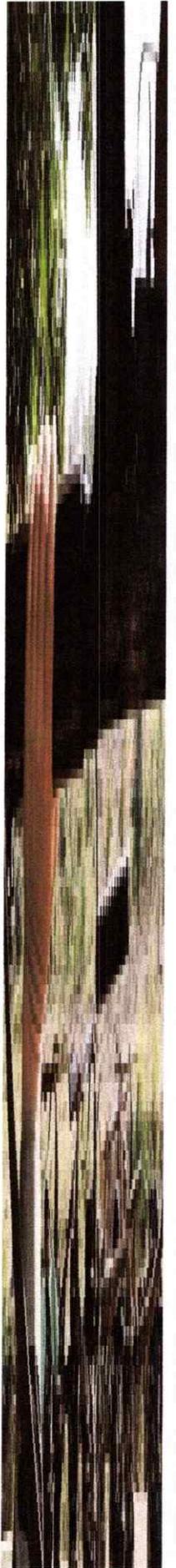
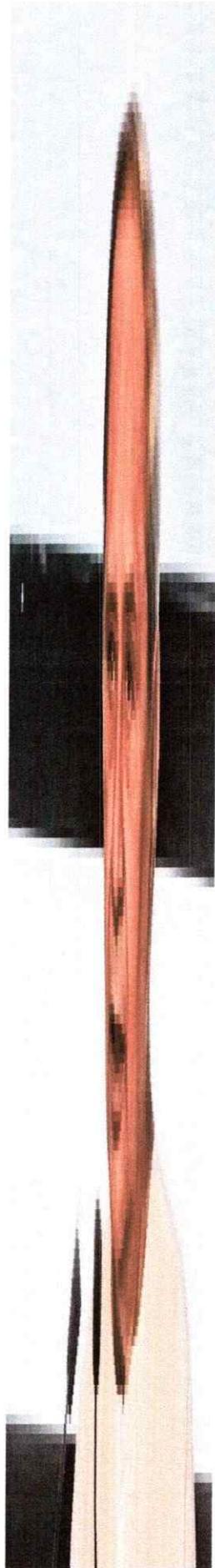
The accumulation of garbage needs to stop but at the same time source segregation of waste, especially by bulk generators, must be prioritised to get rid of the current crisis, he pointed out.

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