

# Experts: Howrah dumpyard cannot take any more waste

Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay & Rupak Banerjee | TNN

TOI

## 'WORK TO RAISE SITE STARTS TODAY'



A team of scientists has recently visited the site

- > Belgachhia Trenching Ground, Howrah
- > **Size** | Originally 90 acres, now reduced to 50 acres due to encroachment
- > **Waste accumulation** | 1 million tonnes of legacy waste, reaching 150+ feet in height

### Hazards

- > Methane accumulation
- > Risk of sudden landfill collapse within a radius of 1 to 1.5 km
- > Severe air pollution
- > Soil instability due to water seepage from Ganga

Kolkata: A team of experts who visited the Belgachhia Trenching Ground on Sunday issued a warning about an impending disaster at the landfill site if urgent measures are not implemented. The mountain of garbage, towering over 150 feet, far exceeds the soil's load-bearing capacity, creating an unstable and hazardous environment. Scientists highlighted that trapped methane gas within the landfill is continuously self-igniting, leading to the formation of dangerous voids inside the mound, heightening the risk of sudden collapses.

KMDA will start work on raising the site with sturdy poles and conduct bio-mining from Monday, Howrah DM P Deepapriya said. The DM said four scientists from JU visited the landfill and recommended using bio-mining to quickly extract biogas. Also, they collected soil samples. Based on the analysis, they will determine how many people need to be relocated and what further measures should be taken. The DM said based on their advice, KMDA will commence work on Monday. An alternative site for the landfill will also be sought, he added.

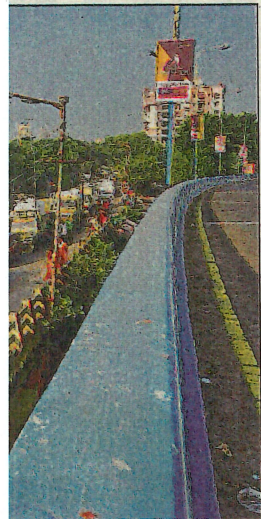
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Leading the team of scientists from the International Society of Waste Management, Air, and Water, professor Sadhan Kumar Ghosh warned of catastrophic consequences if immediate action is not taken. Speaking to

TOI, he outlined four urgent measures — recommended to Sujoy Chakraborty, chairman of Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) — to avert a potential tragedy.

These include immediate closure of the landfill, controlled access to the site, rehabilitation of affected residents and restoration of PachaKhal — this crucial canal, which once drained wastewater into the Ganges, is now choked with debris after a partial landfill collapse.

# a More ramp Chitpore ROB



Bagbazar and



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The over 70-year-old Chitpore ROB, connecting Bagbazar and Cossipore in north Kolkata, has been an important link. Some years ago, KMDA's bridge advisory committee recommended dismantling of the Chitpore ROB and its reconstruction after conducting structural health tests. The bridge was found to be beyond long-term repairs. "The ROB has been severely damaged due to heavy corrosion. The reinforcements below the deck slab have been exposed. Rust has accumulated on the iron reinforcements.

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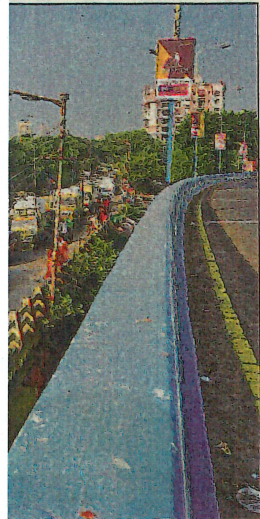
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