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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 30/2025/EZ

IN RE: SINKING B'DESHI VESSEL DUMPS TOXIC FLY ASH IN RIVER
NEAR GHORAMARA, SHOWS VIDEO SHARED BY PANCHAYAT
MEMBER NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES OF INDIA
KOLKATA SECTION DT 17.02. 2025

..... APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

..... RESPONDENT(S)

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.

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Filed by

DIPANJAN GHOSH
ADVOCATE
HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

SL. NO. 16 Dt. 03 APR 2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 30/2025/EZ



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AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.

Most Respectfully Sheweth

I, Sri Subrata Ghosh, son of Shri Biswanath Ghosh, aged about
60 years, by faith-Hindu, Occupation- Service, residing at
Narkelbagan, Gorosthan, Chinsurah, District - Hooghly, do
hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-

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01. That, I am the Officer on Special Duty (OSD), 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. 07, to affirm this Affidavit on its behalf and as such, I am competent to do so.



02. That, this affidavit is being affirmed in pursuant to the order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 19.02.2025.

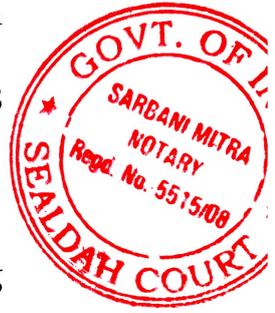
03. That, in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 19.02.2025, the State Board officials conducted an inspection near Kashmira Ghat, under Ghoramara within Ghoramara GP of Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South), on 04.03.2025.

04. That, during inspection the following observations were made by the Inspecting officials of the State Board:

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- (a) It was observed that the Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World has been salvaged and it has been taken to Lot No. 8 of Kakdwip.
- (b) Partially recovered fly ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara under Ghoramara GP under Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South) was shown by Mr. Anol Dey, representative of Indian Agent, M/s. Ajbela Navigation, which has been kept in another Vessel namely MV. Garai near Lot 8 of Kakdwip. Besides, fly ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World (now kept near Lot 8 of Kakdwip) was not fully evacuated. Total fly ash within two vessels would be approx. 550MT to 600MT.
- (c) About 60 bags of fly ash (About 3MT) was kept in Ghoramara island.
- (d) Place of accident was shown by Mr. Sanjib Sagar, from where the said vessel has been taken to Lot 8 of Kakdwip.
- (e) Mr. Sanjib Sagar stated that they have disposed fly ash to river water during salvaging of grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World.

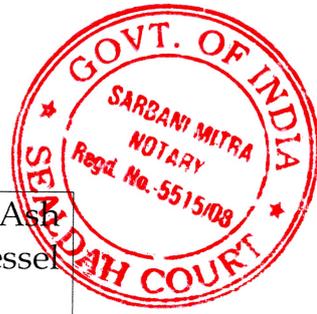


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Transportation of Fly Ash to Bangladesh using this route.

FY	Fly Ash in MT	Number of Voyage	Number of Accidents	Fly Ash in Vessel met accident in MT
2022-2023	4322606.520	4136	01(25.02.2023) at near Nishchintapur, Kulpi	1040
2023-2024	4477853.680	4197	01(10.03.2024) at Pathikhali Shore, Haldia	250
2024- till 25.02.2025	Not yet received	Not yet received	02 (Two) One at Tribeni Hooghly on 08.01.2025 & another one at near Kasimara Ghoramara on 13.02.2025)	800 1190



05. That, the following remarks were made by the Inspecting officials of the State Board from the said inspection:

- (i) For similar case under OA. NO. 64/2020/EZ of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, detailed inspection and sampling has been carried out involving expert committee as formed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench.

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Remarks of the committee was as follows:

“Solidified fly ash nodules and boulders recovered from study sites during previous salvage operation rule out the possibilities of long term or large-scale leaching and contamination from fly ash loads in tidally affected saline water of neutral pH. Any part of the mobile fly ash, however, if spilled in the tidal rivers during the accidents, would have been quickly dispersed and flowed towards the sea. No past facto mitigation measures could be suggested for such cases after the lapse of a year”. Hence, the State Board is not engaging any laboratory for sampling during inspection on 04.03.2025 as the date of accident was 13.02.2025.

- (ii) Letter was issued to the Director, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on 05.03.2025 with a request to direct the concerned shipping agent to dispose the fly ash from both the Vessel in environmentally safe manner (for use of cement and concrete industry, Brick and Black Making Industry, Land filling with proper lining to



03 APR 2025

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prevent leaching) and submit report mentioning exact quantity of Fly Ash safely disposed (with documentary evidence like geo tagged photographs, video, work order).



- (iii) It was found from the reply of the Director, IWAI, total fly ash loaded in grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World was 1190MT from Budge Budge Jetty-4.

Name of Exporter is M/s. IRC Commercials. Recovered fly ash is about 600MT. Another letter was issued to the Director, IWAI on 05.03.2025 with a request to share cause behind disposal of Fly Ash to River water during salvaging of sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World within 10.03.2025.

- (iv) After receiving necessary information from IWAI, further step of verification/inspection will be done by the State Board.

Copy of the inspection report of the State Board is annexed herewith and marked with letter "R".

03 APR 2025



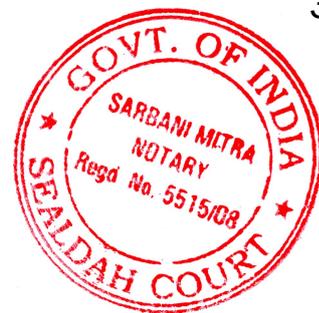
06. It is therefore respectfully prayed that Hon'ble Tribunal may pass such order/orders as it deems fit and proper in the interest of justice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Sarbani Mitra".

DEPONENT

03 APR 2025

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VERIFICATION

I, Sri Subrata Ghosh, son of Shri Biswanath Ghosh, aged about 60 years, by Religion - Hindu, by Occupation- Service, residing at Narkelbagan, Gorosthan, Chinsurah, District-Hooghly, do hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-

1. That, I am the Officer on Special Duty (OSD), 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 5 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.

D. Sujata Ghosh

Identified and corrected by me
Advocate
WBPCB

Sri Subrata Ghosh

DEPONENT

Solemnly Affirmed &
Declared Before Me
On Identification By.....

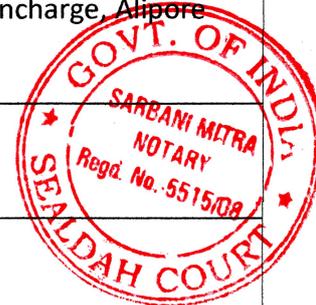
Sarbani Mitra
SARBANI MITRA
NOTARY
Regd. No.- 5515/08

03 APR 2025

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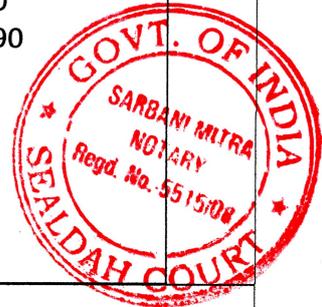
Inspection Report cum Action Taken Report
West Bengal Pollution Control Board
Alipore Regional Office

1.	Ref	:	OA No. 30/2025/EZ of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench
2.	Matter	:	Disposal of Fly Ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World, reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara under Ghoramara GP of Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South).
3.	Date of accident	:	13.02.2025 at 13.30 hrs
4.	Location of Accident	:	Near Kashimara Ghat (Latitude: 21.92412831 ⁰ and Longitude 88.13567163 ⁰) under Ghoramara within Ghoramara GP of Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South).
5.	Letter sent to the Director, IWAI	:	On 24.02.2025 to obtain information regarding detail enquiry report as well as recovery of Fly Ash and HSD/POL from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World
6.	Reply by the Director, IWAI	:	On 28.02.2025 mentioned date of accident with all attachment including their inspection report dated 14.02.2025, their communication with the Indian Shipping Agent M/s. Ajbela Navigation, Photographs and Videography of Ash recovery
7.	Schedule of Inspection with an intimation to IWAI	:	Inspection was carried out on 04.03.2025 by the State Board Official to verify the status recovery of fly ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World
8.	Inspecting officers	:	T.K. Biswas, Senior Environmental Engineer & Incharge, Alipore RO N. Mandal, AEE Alipore RO
9.	Representative of IWAI Present during inspection	:	Mr. Saptarshi Ghorai, Junior Engineer,
10.	Representative of M/s. Ajbela Navigation (Indian Shipping Agent) Present during inspection	:	Mr. Anol Dey
11.	Local People Present during inspection	:	Mr. Sanjib Sagar of Ghoramara Gram Panchayat
12.	Observation:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was observed that the Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World has been salvaged and it has been taken to Lot No. 8 of Kakdwip (Pic-1). 2. Partially recovered fly ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara under Ghoramara GP under Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South) was shown by Mr. Anol Dey,





	<p>representative of Indian Agent, M/s. Ajbela Navigation, which has been kept in another Vessel namely M.V. Garai near Lot 8 of Kakdwip. Besides, fly ash from grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World (now kept near Lot 8 of Kakdwip) was not fully evacuated. (Pic-1&2). Total fly ash within two vessels would be approx. 550MT to 600MT.</p> <p>3. About 60 bags of fly ash (About 3MT) was kept in Ghoramara Island (Pic-4).</p> <p>4. Place of accident was shown by Mr. Sanjib Sagar (Pic-3), from where the said vessel has been taken to Lot 8 of Kakdwip.</p> <p>5. Mr. Sanjib Sagar stated that they have disposed fly ash to River water during salvaging of grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World.</p>				
13.	Transportation of Fly Ash to Bangladesh using this route.				
	FY	Fly Ash in MT	Number of Voyage	Number of Accidents	Fly Ash in Vessel met accident in MT
	2022-2023	4322606.520	4136	01(25.02.2023) at near Nishchintapur, Kulpi	1040
	2023-2024	4477853.680	4197	01(10.03.2024) at Pathikhali Shore, Haldia	250
	2024-till 25.02.2025	Not yet received	Not yet received	02 (Two) One at Tribeni Hooghly on 08.01.2025 & another one at near Kasimara , Ghoramara on 13.02.2025)	800 1190
14.	<p>Remarks:</p> <p>1. For similar case under OA No. 64/2020 (EZ) of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, details inspection and sampling has been carried out involving expert committee as formed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench. Remarks of the committee was as follows</p> <p><i>"Solidified fly ash nodules and boulders recovered from study sites during previous salvage operation rule out the possibilities of long term or large-scale leaching and contamination from fly ash loads in tidally affected saline water of neutral pH. Any part of the mobile fly ash, however, if spilled in the tidal rivers during the accidents, would have been quickly dispersed and flowed towards the sea. No post facto mitigation measures could be suggested for such cases after the lapse of a year". So, we are not engaging any laboratory for sampling during inspection on 04.03.2025 as the date of accident was 13.02.2025.</i></p> <p>2. Letter was issued to the Director, IWAI on 05.03.2025 with a request to direct the concerned shipping agent to dispose the fly ash from both the Vessel in environmentally safe manner (for use of cement and concrete industry, Brick and Block Making Industry, Land filling with proper lining to prevent leaching) and submit report</p>				





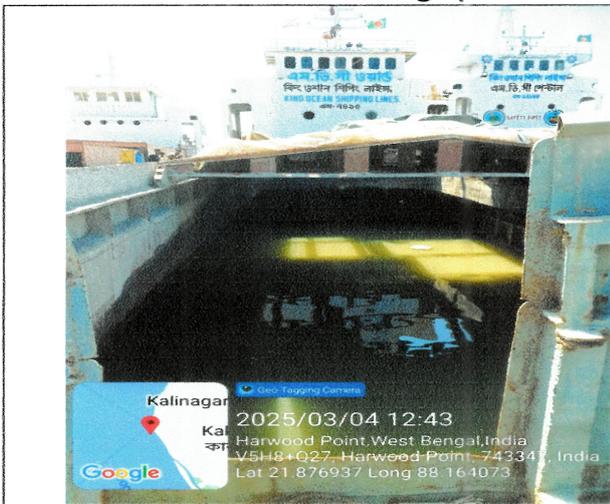
mentioning exact quantity of Fly Ash safely disposed (with documentary evidence like geo tagged photographs, video, work order).

- 3. **It was found from the reply of the Director, IWAI, total fly ash loaded in grounded Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World was 1190MT from Budge Budge Jetty -4. Name of Exporter M/s. IRC Commercial. Recovered fly ash is about 600MT. Another letter was issued to the Director, IWAI on 05.03.2025 with a request to share cause behind disposal of Fly Ash to River water during salvaging of sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World within 10.03.2025.**
- 4. **After receiving necessary information from IWAI, further step of verification /inspection will be done from our end.**

N. Mandal
06/03/2025
N. Mandal, AEE

T.K. Biswas
06/03/2025
T.K. Biswas, SEE

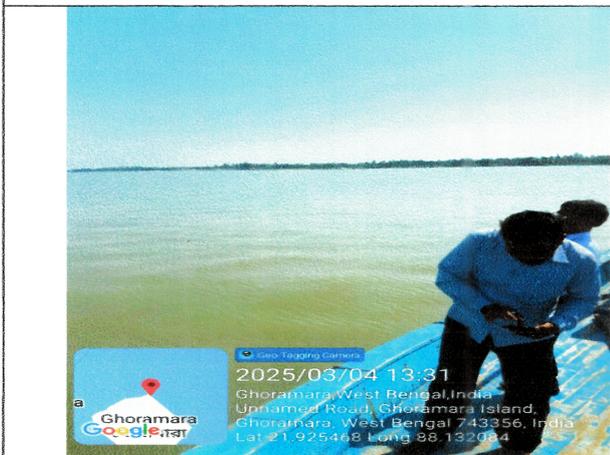
Photographs taken during inspection on 04.03.2025



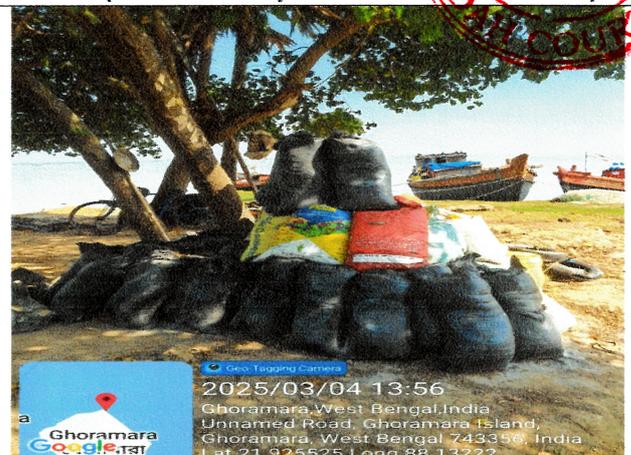
Pic-1(MV Sea World at Lot-8)



Pic-2(Recovered fly ash in vessel MV Garai)



Pic-3(Location of Accident)



Pic-4(Recovered fly ash in , bag at Ghoramara Island)

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LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

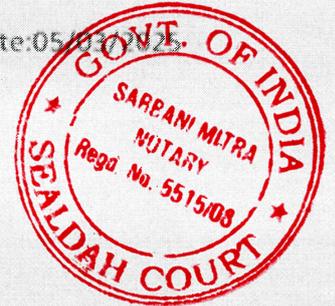
WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)
Alipore Regional Office, 5th Floor, Minority Bhawan
12, Biplabi Kanailal Bhattacharya Sarani, Alipore,
Kolkata-700027, Phone 033-2202-3132

Memo No. 141 / ZII/Gen/08-20

Date: 05/03/2025

To
The Director
Inland Waterways Authority of India
Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India
Regional Office, P -78, Garden Reach Road
Kolkata-700 043



Sub: Safe Disposal of recovered Fly Ash from sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World, reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara Under Ghoramara GP under Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South).

Ref:

1. Inspection of the accident site by WBPCB on 04.03.2025
2. Your letter dated 28.02.2025
3. O.A. No.30/2025/EZ of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench (Date of hearing 07.03.2025)

Sir,

With reference to the above, during inspection on 04.03.2025, partially recovered fly ash from sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara under Ghoramara GP under Sagar Block of 24 Parganas (South) was shown by Mr. Anal Dey, representative of Indian Agent, M/s. Ajbela Navigation, which has been kept in another Vessel namely M.V. Garai near Lot 8 of Kakdwip. Besides, fly ash from sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World (now kept near Lot 8 of Kakdwip) was not fully evacuated.

You are requested to direct the concerned agent to dispose the fly ash from both the Vessel in environmentally safe manner (for use of cement and concrete industry, Brick and Block Making Industry, Land filling with proper lining to prevent leaching) and submit report mentioning quantity of Fly Ash safely disposed (with documentary evidence like geo tagged photographs, video, work order).

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

Senior Environmental Engineer

Alipore Regional Office

Date: 05/03/2025

Memo No. 141 / ZII/Gen/08-20
Copy: The OSD (O&E Cell)-WBPCB for kind information please

Senior Environmental Engineer

Alipore Regional Office

o/c



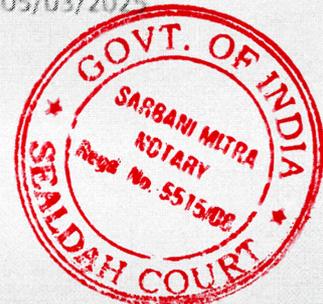
LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)
Alipore Regional Office, 5th Floor, Minority Bhawan
12, Biplabi Kanailal Bhattacharya Sarani, Alipore,
Kolkata-700027, Phone 033-2202-3132

Memo No. 142 / ZII/Gen/08-20

Date: 05/03/2025

To
The Director
Inland Waterways Authority of India
Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India
Regional Office, P -78, Garden Reach Road
Kolkata-700 043



Sub: Request to share cause behind disposal of Fly Ash to River water during salvaging of sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World, reported by Times of India, Kolkata on 17.02.2025 near Ghoramara Under Ghoramara GP under Sagar Block of 24 Paraganas (South).

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1. Inspection of the accident site by WBPCB on 04.03.2025
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It was reported and shared video by Mr. Sanjib Sagar of Ghoramara that they have disposed fly ash to River water during salvaging of sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World.

You are requested to share cause behind disposal of Fly Ash to River water during salvaging of sunken Bangladeshi Flag Vessel MV Sea World within 10.03.2025

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

Senior Environmental Engineer
Alipore Regional Office
Date: 05/03/2025

Memo No. 142 / ZII/Gen/08-20
Copy: The OSD (O&E Cell)-WBPCB for kind information please

Senior Environmental Engineer
Alipore Regional Office

o/c

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