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OA-163/2025/EZ

6/6/25

To
The Chief Engineer
Water Resources Department
Government of Bihar
Patna, Bihar – 800015

Subject: Urgent Request to Take Suo Motu Action Against the Illegal Encroachment and Waste Mismanagement on JP Ganga Path Causing Dangerous Siltation in the Holy River Ganges

Respected Sir,

I write to you as a concerned citizen of Patna to bring to your urgent attention the grave issue of unchecked and unlawful encroachment along the JP Ganga Path—commonly referred to as the Marine Drive of Patna—by over 100 unlicensed food vendors. This illegal occupation of flanks, sidewalks, and dividers has not only disrupted public order and urban management but has also led to serious ecological and hydrological consequences, most notably the alarming siltation of the holy River Ganges.

1. Environmental Degradation and Siltation of River Ganga

The illegal activities of these food vendors—who operate without any licenses, health clearances, or municipal permissions—have resulted in large-scale waste mismanagement. Organic and inorganic waste is being indiscriminately dumped near the riverbanks, which gets washed into the river during rains and high tides, accelerating silt deposition. This has led to:

- **Reduction in the carrying capacity** of the Ganga, increasing the risk of urban and rural flooding.
- **Alteration of the river's natural course** due to uneven silt deposition, causing erosion and damage to embankments.
- Decreased **water storage capacity in downstream dams and reservoirs**, which affects irrigation, water supply, and hydroelectric generation.
- **Degradation of water quality** due to increased suspended sediment concentration, harming aquatic biodiversity and disrupting ecological balance.

2. Violation of Laws, Environmental Norms, and Fundamental Rights

The presence and operation of these vendors violate several legal and constitutional provisions:

NGT, EZB, KOLKATA

Receipt No. NGT/EZB/Kol/266

Date. 06/06/2025

- **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014** – Clearly stipulates that vending is permitted only in designated zones with valid licenses. The present activities are in direct breach of this law.
- **Article 21 of the Constitution of India** – Guarantees the Right to Life, which includes the right to a clean and safe environment as held in *Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar* (AIR 1991 SC 420).
- In *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*, (2004) 12 SCC 118, the Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasized the State's duty to protect and preserve the Ganga from pollution, declaring it a matter of national ecological importance.

The illegal dumping of waste by these unlicensed vendors directly violates these judicially recognized duties and severely undermines the ongoing efforts to rejuvenate the Ganga under various state and national missions.

3. Call for Immediate Administrative and Legal Intervention

In light of the above, it is most respectfully submitted that your esteemed office:

- Initiate suo motu action** against the unauthorized and environmentally hazardous occupation along JP Ganga Path under your department's jurisdiction concerning river protection and flood management.
- Coordinate with relevant municipal and environmental authorities to **immediately clear all illegal encroachments** along the river-adjacent road.
- Assess the extent of siltation caused by this unlawful activity**, and publish a report detailing the environmental impact and risk to the river's course and flow dynamics.
- Hold accountable the officials of Patna Municipal Corporation and others** for dereliction of duty or collusion that has allowed this ecological degradation to continue unchecked.
- Launch public awareness campaigns** and install appropriate infrastructure to prevent further waste disposal along the riverbanks.

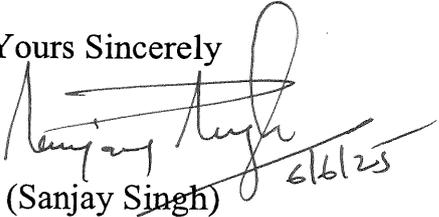
4. Time-bound Response Requested

In view of the urgent and irreversible harm being inflicted upon our national river, I respectfully request that your office initiate immediate action and respond to this representation within **15 days of receipt**. Failing this, I reserve the right to approach the Hon'ble Courts or National Green Tribunal (NGT) for appropriate legal intervention in public interest.

The River Ganga is not only the lifeline of Bihar but also a sacred symbol of our civilizational heritage. It is our collective constitutional, environmental, and

moral duty to protect it from avoidable degradation. Your decisive intervention will help restore both legal order and ecological balance to this vital urban and national resource.

Yours Sincerely



(Sanjay Singh)

Advocate

Patna High Court

Singh & Associate,

Ground Floor, South Block

Biscomaun Bhawan, Patna - 800001

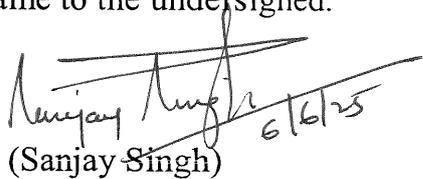
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E.mail: advsanjaysingh31@gmail.com

Copy for immediate action from your end:

1. District Magistrate, Patna
2. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar
3. Chief Minister Office, Govt. of Bihar
4. Registrar, National Green Tribunal (Eastern Zone Bench), Kolkata
5. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India
6. Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Govt. of India
7. Secretary, Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Bihar.

Further you are requested to inform about the same to the undersigned.



(Sanjay Singh)

Advocate

Patna High Court

Singh & Associate,

Ground Floor, South Block

Biscomaun Bhawan, Patna - 800001

M.No.9835233383

E.mail: advsanjaysingh31@gmail.com