

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,

EASTERN ZONE BENCH: KOLKATA

Original Application No. 14 /2026/EZ

(Under Section 14 R/W Section 18 (1) & (2) Of The National Green
Tribunal Act, 2010)

In the matter of :

Dillip Kumar Samantaray ...Applicant

-Vrs.-

State of Odisha and Ors. ...Respondents

I N D E X

S.No.	Description of Documents (s)	Page(s)
1	Original Application	1-13
2	Annexure-1 Series : The Photographs and copy of News Clipping of Prameya(Daily Odia News Paper, Bhubaneswar, dt 16.09.2024) and its English Translation is annexed as <i>Annexure -1 Series</i> .	14- 21
3	Annexure-2 : The Inspection report obtained through RTI Act	22-26
4	Annexure-3 : The representation dated 29.11.2025 with postal receipts	27-29
6	VAKALATNAMA	30

CUTTACK

By the Applicant through Counsel

DATE:- 12.1.2025

Akhand

Akhand, Advocate

B.C.E. No.O-269/2023 . Ph:7008816891

Plot No. 6F-1030, CDA, Sector-9,

Cuttack, Odisha – 753014

email : akhand111@gmail.com

SYNOPSIS

The present Original Application is filed under Sections 14 and 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, against M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit), Lanjigarh, for causing grave and continuing environmental damage due to the breach and overflow of its Red Mud Pond / Process Water Lake on 15.09.2024. The incident led to the uncontrolled release of highly alkaline, toxic red mud-laden wastewater into surrounding agricultural lands and ultimately into the Bansadhara River, the primary lifeline for tribal and rural communities in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts. Official inspection by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board confirms the breach of the dyke wall, failure of containment systems and spread of contaminated runoff.

The acts and omissions of the Respondent company constitute multiple statutory violations, including those of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 besides breach of CPCB Guidelines for Handling and Management of Red Mud Generated from Alumina Plants (Clauses 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1 and 6.0). Despite issuance of directions under Section 33A of the Water Act, no environmental compensation has been imposed and collected from the company even after more than one year, rendering the damage continuing in nature, hence the application.

LIST OF DATES

15.09 2024 : The red mud pond maintained by M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit)/Respondent No. 8 near Basantpada area in Lanjigarh has collapsed, which has severely impacted the river water, region's ecology, agriculture, and aquatic life.

15.09 2024 : Inspection done by the SPCB, Odisha and a report was prepared.

29.11.2025 : RTI application was filed to ascertain the status of the case and environmental compensation if any imposed against Company.

29.11.2025 : Applicant Submitted representations to the Government Respondents.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,

EASTERN ZONE BENCH: KOLKATA

Original Application No. /2026/EZ

(Under Section 14 R/W Section 18 (1) & (2) Of The National Green
Tribunal Act, 2010)

In the matter of :

Dillip Kumar Samantaray ...Applicant

-Vrs.-

State of Odisha and Ors. ...Respondents

MEMO OF PARTIES

1. Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray, aged about 36 years, S/o Lingaraj Samantaray, at present residing at C/o Parsuram Maharana, Plot No. 3839/8, Malaya Vihar, G.G.P. Colony, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751025, M-9853632850, email : dillipsamantary476@gmail.com

... Applicant

-Versus-

1. State of Odisha represented by Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Lokseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN- 751001, email : csori@nic.in

2. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, Kharvel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751001, email : fesec.or@nic.in

3. Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi, Collectorate Office, Kalahandi, At/Po Bhawanipatana-766001, email:dm-kalahandi@nic.in
Dist- Kalahandi, Odisha

4. Collector & District Magistrate, Raygada, Collectorate, Raygada, Odisha – 765001, email :rayagada@od.gov.in

5. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, A-118, Unit – VII, Nilakantha Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha Pin- 751012, email : member.secy@ospcbboard.org
6. Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA), Odisha, At – 5RF-2/1, Acharya Vihar, Unit – 9, Bhubaneswar, Odisha – 751002 email : seiaaorissa@gmail.com
7. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, email : mscb.cpcb.nic.in
8. M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit) through its Whole Time Director and Chief Executive Officer, At/Po- Lanjigarh, Via- Viswanathpur, Dist-Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766027, email : headhse.vll@vedanta.co.in

CUTTACK

By the Applicant through Counsel

DATE:- 12.1.2026



Akhand, Advocate

B.C.E. No.O-269/2023 . Ph:7008816891

email : akhand111@gmail.com

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH: KOLKATA**

Original Application No. /2024/EZ

(Under Section 14 R/W Section 18 (1) & (2) Of The National Green
Tribunal Act, 2010)

In the matter of :

Dillip Kumar Samantaray ...Applicant

-Vrs.-

State of Odisha and Ors. ...Respondents

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWEATH :

1. The address of the Counsel of the applicant is as given above, for the service of notices of this application and the addresses of the respondents are as given above for service of notices of the applicant.
2. That the present application is being filed under section 14 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 ('NGT Act, 2010' for short) by the applicant, being interested in the protection of the environment and ecology.
3. That this Hon'ble Tribunal has the jurisdiction to hear the present original application as the present application and the relief sought herein involves a substantial question relating to environment and that such question arises out of the implementation of the enactments specified in 'Schedule I' of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
4. That the applicant is a practicing advocate and environment activist presently residing at Bhubaneswar and have filed many cases before this Hon'ble Tribunal for protection of environment and ecology.

5. That the Applicant filed this Application to give direction to Respondents, more particularly SPCB, Odisha to assessment and imposition of Environmental Compensation upon private Respondent M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit) at Lanjigarh, applying the “Polluter Pays Principle”, for damage to Environment, land, water bodies, ecology and public infrastructure;

6. That the red mud pond maintained by M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit)/Respondent No. 8 near Basantpada area in Lanjigarh in Kalahandi District has collapsed on 15.09.2024, which has severely impacted the river water, region’s ecology, agriculture, and aquatic life. Though more than one year has been passed, no action is being taken against the Polluter Company.

7. That the collapse of the pond has led to the flooding of hundreds of acres of agricultural land in the villages of Bangguda, Turiguda, and Basantpada. The red mud water, rich in toxic chemicals, has destroyed crops, leaving the affected farmers in distress and without a livelihood. The red mud water entered into the Banshdhara river in Kalahandi and Raygada District, resulting in the death of large numbers of fish and other aquatic creatures. The contamination has disrupted the river’s ecosystem and has raised concerns about the safety of the water for human and animal consumption.

8. That as per media reports and local accounts from Muniguda area at the Kalahandi–Rayagada border reveal that, the contaminated red mud water directly entered into the Bansadhara River, which is the principal lifeline of the region. The sudden influx of toxic effluents caused an unprecedented ecological disaster, with thousands of aquatic organisms including fish, crabs, frogs, snakes and other species found floating dead along several stretches of the river.

9. That the contamination severely affected the livelihoods of residents of at least six Gram Panchayats, including villages such as Ranipinda, Ghatguda, Shivpadar, Jagdalpur, Kumudachali, Chandankhunti, Pediguda, Dakdimiri, Chiripada, Padurguda, Bada Pangadi, Tutuguda, Hatipadar and adjoining areas, who are traditionally dependent on the Bansadhara river for fishing, irrigation and daily water needs. That villagers reported skin rashes, itching and irritation after bathing in the river, and abnormal behaviour and illness among livestock consuming river water, indicating acute chemical contamination likely due to caustic soda and other alkaline constituents of red mud effluent. There is serious apprehension of long-term damage to riverbank agricultural land, groundwater and public health. Despite the magnitude of harm and damage to environment, no action has been taken against company/Respondent No.8 for imposing environmental Compensation.

The Photographs and copy of News Clipping of Prameya(Daily Odia News Paper, Bhubaneswar, dt 16.09.2024) and its English Translation is annexed as Annexure -1 Series.

10. That the officials of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) conducted an inspection red mud pond breach of the Company on 15.09.2024 and confirmed that :

- ➔ The breach occurred in the Process Water Lake dyke, which was earlier permitted for dyke raising.
- ➔ The Bansadhara River is located merely 900 meters from the PWL area and water entered into Banshadhara river.
- ➔ Runoff water crossed public road and spread over 20–30 acres of nearby land.
- ➔ Damage included Public road damage, Uprooting of trees, Damage to solar street lights, Agricultural land contamination.

However, the inspection report fails to scientifically assess the Chemical toxicity of released water, Soil contamination, Impact on aquatic ecology of the Bansadhara river, Long-term agricultural unviability and Cumulative environmental impact.

The Inspection report obtained through RTI Act is annexed as Annexure – 2 .

11. That the Applicant submitted a fresh representation to the all Government Respondents on 29.11.2025 and prayed for action against the Respondent No. 8 Company, though more than one month has been passed, there are no action by the state authorities and no communication in this regard is made with the Applicant.

The representation dated 29.11.2025 with postal receipts is annexed as Annexure – 3 .

12. It is humbly prayed and of utmost importance that the present matter be treated with same level of urgency by this Hon'ble Tribunal. The Applicant is filing the present Original Application from amongst the following grounds:

GROUND

A) That the uncontrolled overflow and discharge of red mud-laden and alkaline wastewater from the Process Water Lake/Red Mud Pond of Respondent No.8 into adjoining land and ultimately into the Bansadhara River constitutes a clear violation of Section 24 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which prohibits disposal of polluting matter into any stream or land in a manner likely to cause pollution. Further, the Respondent No.8 has violated Section 25 of the said Act by operating its industrial activity in breach of the conditions of Consent to Operate, which mandates zero discharge and safe containment of industrial effluents. The failure to prevent runoff and breach of containment systems, despite known risks, also amounts

to non-compliance with binding directions issued under Section 33A, thereby attracting statutory liability and penal consequences under the Act.

B) That the acts and omissions of Respondent No.8 in failing to safely handle, store and contain hazardous red mud and contaminated process water amount to a violation of Section 7 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which prohibits discharge of environmental pollutants in excess of prescribed standards. The negligent management of hazardous substances without adequate safeguards further violates Section 8 of the Act. Such contraventions, having resulted in serious environmental degradation, contamination of a major river system, and risk to public health, attract penal liability under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

C) That the overflow and discharge of red mud-laden wastewater from the Respondent No.8's Process Water Lake has also resulted in air pollution due to the emission of pungent and noxious odour arising from the exposed red mud slurry and contaminated stagnant water. Such emission of odour and gaseous pollutants squarely falls within the definition of "air pollutant" under Section 2(a) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and constitutes a clear violation of Sections 21 and 22 thereof.

D) The Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 (HOWM Rules, 2016) has classified Red Mud generated from Alumina plants as 'High Volume Low Effect Waste', which required to be managed in accordance with the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The breach and overflow of the Red Mud Pond/Process Water Lake of the Respondent Company constitute gross violations of Clauses 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1 and 6.0 of the CPCB 'Guidelines for Handling and Management of Red Mud Generated

from Alumina Plants', which mandate zero discharge, dyke safety, storm-water management, protection of water bodies and emergency preparedness.

E) That as per sub-clause (g) of Art. 51-A of the Constitution of India it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. But present case a river is contaminated by the red mud pond water discharged by the Company that hamper ecological imbalance and huge loss to the environment.

F) That the absence of any action by State authorities shows the pathetic red tape attitude of the Government Organization towards the Environment and thus the applicant prays urgent intervention of this Hon'ble Green Tribunal and as such seeks the direction of this Hon'ble Court to the respondents to take action in a time bound manner.

G) That the Respondent Government Organizations would fail to uphold the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in their true letter and spirit.

LIMITATION

That present application is within limitation as the same is preferred before the stipulated time period U/s 14 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 as incident happen on 15.09.2024 and also a continuing cause of action. Thus the cause of action is a continuous one and hence the present application is filed within limitation period.

PRAYER

In the present circumstances and in the interest of justice, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal be pleased to pass an order thereby:

I. Directing to constitute a Joint Expert Committee comprising CPCB, SPCB, Odisha, SEIAA, Odisha and other officers/experts as Hon'ble Tribunal deems fit to Assess river, soil and groundwater contamination, Quantify ecological, environment damages;

II. Impose Environmental Compensation on Respondent No.8, applying appropriate methodology and the Polluter Pays Principle as there is irreparable loss to the environment and ecology;

III. Pass any other order or directions that this Hon'ble Court may deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

CUTTACK

By the Applicant through Counsel

DATE:- 12.1.2026



Akhand, Advocate

B.C.E. No.O-269/2023 . Ph:7008816891

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. /2026/EZ**

IN THE MATTER OF: -

Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray

...Applicant(s)

VERSUS

State Of Odisha & Ors.

...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray, aged about 36 years, S/o Lingaraj Samantaray, at present residing at C/o Parsuram Maharana, Plot No. 3839/8, Malaya Vihar, G.G.P. Colony, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am the Applicant in the above mentioned application and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have read over the contents of the accompanying affidavit and the same are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and is drafted on my instruction.

Dillip Kumar Samantaray
e DEPONENT e

VERIFICATION

Verified on this the 12th day of January 2026 at Cuttack, that the contents of the above counter affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Identified by;



A. K. Samantaray
Advocate

12/1/26

The above named deponent
Solomly affirm on... 12.01.26
.....being identified
by... A. K. Samantaray, Adv.

Dillip Kumar Samantaray
e DEPONENT e



*True copy
attested
Aschard, Adv*











ବଂଶଧାରାରେ ପଶିଲା ରେଡ଼ମଟ୍ ପଶୁ ପାଣି

ମୁନିଗୁଡ଼ା,୧୫୯(ଆପ୍ର): ରାୟଗଡ଼ା ସାମାଜିକ କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଲାଞ୍ଜିଗଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକର ବହୁରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ କମ୍ପାନି ଦେହାନ୍ତ ଆଲୁମିନା କର୍ବ୍‌ପକ୍ସକ ବେପାରୀ ମନୋଜାତ ଓ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱହୀନତା କାରଣରୁ ଅଳ୍ପ ଏକ ଅଭାବନୀୟ ଅଘଟଣ ଘଟିଛି। ପ୍ରବଳ ବର୍ଷାରେ କମ୍ପାନିର ବର୍ଜ୍ୟ ଅଶୋଧିତ ଜଳଭଣ୍ଡର ରେଡ଼ମଟ୍ ପଶୁ(ବନ୍ଧ)ରାଜିପିନରୁ ବିଷାକ୍ତ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟଜଳ ମୁନିଗୁଡ଼ା ବୁକଦେଇ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ବଂଶଧାରା ନଦୀରେ ମିଶି ଉତ୍ପାଦକ ସ୍ଥିତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି। ନଦୀର ହଜାର ବର୍ଷୀକ ଜଳଚର ଜୀବ ମରିଯାଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ଏହା ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର କରୁଥିବା ୬ଟି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ଶତାଧିକ ଲୋକ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ଚାଷବାସ ଓ ମାଛମାରି ଜୀବିକା ନିର୍ବାହ କରୁଥିବା ଅଧିବାସୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଜୀବିକା ମଧ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇଛି। ଏନେଇ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଡାକ୍ତରୀ ଅସହାୟତା ସହ ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଛି।

ପ୍ରକାଶଧାରାକି, ବଂଶଧାରା ନଦୀ ହେଉଛି ମୁନିଗୁଡ଼ା ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଜୀବନରେଖା। ଶନିବାର ରାତିରେ ରେଡ଼ମଟ୍ ପଶୁର ବିଷାକ୍ତ ଲାଲ୍ କାଦୁଅ ପାଣି ଏହି ନଦୀରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବାରୁ ବ୍ଲକର ରାଣିପିଣ୍ଡା, ଘମଟଗୁଡ଼ା, ଶିବପଦର, ଜଗଦଲପୁର, କୁମୁଡ଼ାବାଲି

- ହଜାର ହଜାର ଜଳଚର ଜୀବ ମୃତ
- ୬ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତବାସୀଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଜୀବିକା ପ୍ରଭାବିତ
- କ୍ଷତିପୂରଣ ଦାବି କଲେ ବିଜେପି ନେତା



ଆଦି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତବାସୀ ଅସୁବିଧାର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇଥିବା କହିଛନ୍ତି। ନଦୀତୀର ଗାଁ ଚନ୍ଦନଖୁଣ୍ଟି, ପେଟିଗୁଡ଼ା, ରାଜିପିଣ୍ଡା, ତାକଡ଼ିମିରି, ବିରିପଡ଼ା, ପାଦୁରଗୁଡ଼ା, ବଡ଼ ପାଙ୍ଗଡ଼ି, ସନ ପାଙ୍ଗଡ଼ି, ବଡ଼ ସିରିଙ୍ଗିଲି, ବହୁଗୁଡ଼ା, ଦୁରୁକୁଲିମା, ଶିବପଦର, ହରୀପଦର, ବଡ଼ ଦହିଖାଇ, ଷ୍ଟେସନ ଦହିଖାଇ, ସାମଦଳା, ଲତୁଗୁପା, କଦୁଘାଟି, ଦୁଳସାପଦର, କରାମହଣ, ଚରାପଦର, ଜିନାମ, ସିଙ୍ଗାରି, କୁମୁଡ଼ାବାଲି, କମଳବାଡ଼, ଧୂଆଁପଦର ସମେତ

ଅନ୍ୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟାପକ କ୍ଷତି ହୋଇଛି। ନଦୀରେ ଥିବା ହଜାର ହଜାର ବଂଶଧାରା ଜଳଚରଜୀବ ମାଛ, କଙ୍କଡ଼ା, ସାପ, ବେଙ୍ଗ ଆଦି ମରିଯାଇ ଆଜି ଭାସୁଥିବା ଦେଖି ଲୋକେ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ହାତ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି। ଲାଲ୍ କାଦୁଅ ସହ ବିଷାକ୍ତ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟପାଣି ହଠାତ୍ ନଦୀ ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ମାଡ଼ି ଆସିବାରୁ ପ୍ରଖର ପ୍ରୋଟରେ ଗୋଟେ ଗ୍ରାହକ ଓ ୩ଜଣ ଲୋକ ଅଳ୍ପକେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁମୁଖରୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଥିବା ଚନ୍ଦନଗୁଡ଼ା ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ କହିଛନ୍ତି।

ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ କହିଛନ୍ତି, ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ସୋଡ଼ା ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ କ୍ଷତିକାରକ ରାସାୟନିକ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ମିଶା ବର୍ଜ୍ୟଜଳ ନଦୀରେ ଆସିଯିବାରୁ ଅଳ୍ପ ଗାଧୋଇବା ପରେ ଦେହରେ ଲାଲ୍ ଫୋଟକା ହେବା ସହ କୁଣ୍ଠେଇ ହେଉଛି। ନଦୀ ଜଳ ପିଇଥିବା ଗୁହପାଳିତ ପୁଣୀମାନଙ୍କ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଅସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ କରାଯାଉଛି। ଏଥିସହିତ ନଦୀକୂଳିଆ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଚାଷଜମି ବ୍ୟାପକ କ୍ଷତି ହେବା ଆଶଙ୍କା ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଦେଇଛି। ଜୀବନ ଜୀବିକା ପାଇଁ ନଦୀ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର କରୁଥିବା ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ଆତଙ୍କିତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ରହିଛନ୍ତି। ଏପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କମ୍ପାନି କର୍ବ୍‌ପକ୍ସ ତରଫରୁ କୌଣସି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ। ଫଳରେ ସାଧାରଣରେ ଅସହାୟ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇବା ସହ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି। କମ୍ପାନିର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱହୀନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବିରୋଧରେ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଅଞ୍ଚଳବାସୀ ସଜାଗ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି। ଅପରପକ୍ଷରେ ଦୂରତ କ୍ଷୟକ୍ଷତି ଆକଳନ କରାଯାଇ କ୍ଷତିପୂରଣ ଦେବା ପାଇଁ ବିଷମକଟକ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ମଣ୍ଡଳୀର ବିଜେପି ନେତା ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମୁଣ୍ଡାଙ୍କ ସହ ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ଦାବି କରିଛନ୍ତି।

True copy attested Richard, #1

Red mud pond water enters Bansadhara River

Muniguda, 15/9 (Our Reporter): A tragic incident has taken place today due to the careless attitude and lack of responsibility of the multinational company Vedanta Alumina authorities in Kalahandi district, Rayagada border. Due to the heavy rains, the company's untreated waste water reservoir overflowed, causing a terrible situation in the Bansadhara river flowing through Muniguda. Thousands of aquatic animals in the river have died, while hundreds of people from six panchayats affected. The livelihood of the tribal people who earn their living by farming and fishing has also been affected. Intense dissatisfaction and agitation have been expressed in the area.

- **Thousands of aquatic animals in the river have died.**
- **Livelihood of Hundreds of people from six panchayats affected**
- **Compensation Demanded**

It is reported that the Bansadhara river is the lifeline of the Muniguda area. On Saturday night, toxic red mud water from Rejmajja Pond entered the river, killing thousands of aquatic life in Ranipinda, Ghatguda, Shivpadar, Jagdalpur, Kumudachali blocks. Livelihoods of 06 panchayat residents affected. BJP leaders demand compensation. Residents of Adi panchayats are facing hardship, they said. The riverside villages of Chandankhunti, Pediguda, Ranipinda, Dakdimiri, Chiripada, Padurguda, Bada Pangadi, San Pattati, Bada Siringili, Tutuguda, Turu Kulima, Shivpadar, Hatipadar, Bada Dahikhal, Station Dadhikhal, Samadala, E-Rupa, Kadughati, Tulsipadar, Karamahana, Tavapadar, Jinam, Singari, Kumudabali, Kamanbad, Dhoompadar and other areas have suffered a lot. People are shocked to see thousands of aquatic animals like fish, crabs, snakes, frogs etc. floating dead in the river today. A tractor and three people were rescued from the raging water when red mud and toxic waste water suddenly rushed into the river, said the residents of Chandanguda village.

Villagers said that due to the waste water mixed with caustic soda and other harmful chemicals entering the river, they are getting red rashes and itching after bathing today. Abnormal changes are being observed in the livestock that drink river water. Along with this, there is a possibility of extensive damage to the farmlands in the riverbank area. The villagers who depend on the river for their livelihood are in a state of panic. So far, no action has been taken by the company authorities. As a result, public discontent has been expressed and tension has been created among the affected villagers. The residents of the area are getting ready to protest against the company's work on the day of responsibility. On the other hand, the BJP leader of the Bismakatak constituency, Jagannath Nunduka, has been asked to immediately assess the damage and provide compensation.

**STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA**

[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]

Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit - VIII
Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIA

EPABX : 2561909/2562847

Tel : 2562822/2560955

E-mail: paribesh1@ospcboard.org

Website: www.ospcboard.org

No. 22208 /RTI/Dec/2025Date 16.12.2025
By Speed Post

From

Sri Narottam Behera,
Env. Engineer & PIO

To

Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray,
S/o-Lingaraj Samantaray,
At-Bajrakot, PO-Baunsagarh,
PS-Ranpur, Dist-Nayagarh-752026

Sub: Information under the RTI Act, 2005.

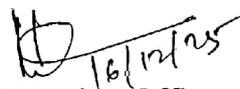
Ref: Your RTI application dtd.29.11.2025 and received by this office under the RTI Act, 2005.

Sir,

Please, find enclosed the copy of the available information/documents (8pgs) under the RTI Act, 2005.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully


Public Information OfficerTrue copy
attested
Achar, Adv

Information on RTI application of Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray relating to M/s
Vedanta Alumina Refinery Company ,Lanjigarh, Dist- Kalahandi.

Sl. No.	Information required	Information provided.
1	Please provide the field inquiry report and action taken report and action taken report on 15 September 2024 regarding the collaps of Red Mud pond of Vedanta Alumina Refinery Company in Lanjigarh, Odisha.	The copy of the inspection report conducted by RO Rayagada dtd.15.09.2025 and copy of the direction issued to the unit vide letter No-14764 dtd.17.09.2024 are attached as Annexure-A.
2	How much amount of compensation has been paid to the farmers by Vedanta Company due to damage to the Agriculture land of local villagers?	Information not available.
3	How much amount of environmental compensation has been penalise and collected from Vedanta Company for damage of Environment and Contamination of Banshadhara River.	Information not available.



138

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA(DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPT., GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit - VIII
Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIANo. 14764 /

Ind-I-Con-5436

Date: 17.09.2024**DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 33A OF THE WATER (PCP) ACT, 1974**

Whereas, you are operating a alumina refinery unit in the name and style of M/s Vedanta Limited (Alumina Refinery Unit), At/PO: Lanjigarh in the district of Kalahandi;

And whereas, Consent to Operate was granted to your unit vide Board's letter No.4404 on 28/03/2024 for production of Calcined Alumina (Calciner-I & II) - 2.0 Million MT/Annum, Thermal Power (Unit-I, II & III)-75 MW (3x25 MW), Vanadium (By-product)-3000 MT/Annum, Calcined Alumina (Calciner-III & IV) - 2.0 Million MT/Annum upto 31/03/2026 and Thermal Power-80 MW (50 MW + 30 MW) upto 31/03/2025 with certain conditions for compliance;

And whereas, you have provided Process Water Lake (PWL) to collect supernatant liquor of the red mud pond and rainwater of the area;

And whereas, you have obtained a permission from Board vide its letter no. 16692 dated 30.10.2021 for raising of 3 m height of the dyke of the PWL from 445m to RL to 448m RL and dyke strengthening, as per the drawing, design, specification and methodology of M/s. Golder Associates Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd and IIT, Bhubaneswar, under their direct supervision;

And whereas, you have submitted vide your Letter No. VLL/HSE/ENV/2022/1422 dated 09.05.2022, the certificate obtained from IIT, Bhubaneswar for strengthening and dyke height raising by 3 m of Process Water Lake (PWL) with additional volume of 10 lakh cum;

And whereas, an incident of breach of Process Water Lake occurred during night hours on 15.09.2024 and the same was informed by you at 8.00 AM on 15.09.2024;

And whereas, consequent upon receipt of above information, the alleged site was visited by the team of Board Officials headed by Regional Officer, Rayagada on 15.09.2024 and following observations were made;

1. A breach of 15m width in the dyke of PWL occurred at 2.00 AM on the night of 15.09.2024,
2. About 4 lakh cum of runoff water was released due to the breach of dyke of Process Water Lake which holds runoff water (caustic water having pH 10 to 12) from Red Mud facility,
3. The released runoff water from Process Water Lake (PWL) due to the dyke breach was spread over to about 20-30 acres of land (mix of barren and agricultural land) and finally falls to river Banshadhara river, which is about 900m away from the PWL,
4. The construction material of dyke i.e. big size stone and stone aggregates are carried away upto 50 m,
5. The blacktopping in some portion of the public road adjacent to PWL was affected.

Now therefore, you are directed under Section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to carry out the following actions and furnish an action taken report by 20.09.2024;

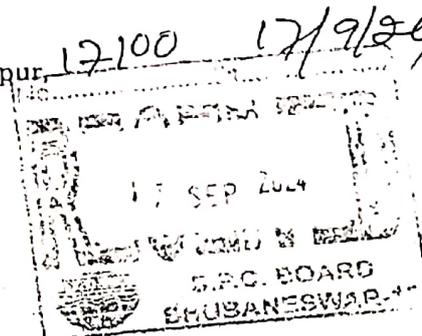
1 of 2

**INSPECTION REPORT ON PROCESS WATER LAKE BREACH OF M/S. VEDANTA LTD.,
AT/PO: LANJIGARH, DIST: KALAHANDI**

Name of the Industry : M/s. Vedanta limited,
At/PO: Lanjigarh, Via: Viswanathpur,
Dist: Kalahandi, Odisha

Date of Inspection : 15.09.2024

Inspected by : Sri A K Bhoi, RO
Er R K Sahu, DEE



EE(BRS)
S. S. Sahu
17/9/2024

ABC

1. Ref
up
17/9

CONSENT STATUS:

1. The industry has valid CTO for a capacity of 4.0 MTPA alumina and 155 MW CPP.
2. Earlier the Industry has obtained permission vide Letter no.16692 / IND-1-CON-5436, Dtd.30.10.2021 for dyke raising of Process Water Lake.

There was a breach of a portion of the dyke wall pertaining to the Process Water Lake (PWL) occurred in night hour at around 2AM on 15th September 2024. The information about the incident was received from the industry at around 8AM. As per instruction from Collectorate, Kalahandi and from HO, SPCB, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, a site visit to the Process Water Lake area was conducted by the undersigned on the same day i.e. 15th September 2024 to verify the environmental damages and losses due to the above incident. Sri Harshvardhan Pande, Head HSE, Sri Ramu Naidu Kolli, Dy. Head Env., Sri Satya Ranjan Sahu, Dy. Manager, Env. and local villagers were present during the visit.

The following information were collected and observations were made during the site visit:

- PWL (i.e. Process Water Lake) holds runoff water (i.e. caustic water of pH within 10 to 12) from red mud facility of the Refinery Plant, which is dry stacked.
- As informed, breach of PWL was occurred in night hour at around 2AM on 15th September 2024.
- The width of the breach of the dyke wall is approximately 15 meters whilst the depth of the PWL area is approximately 7 meters.
- As informed, a total of around 4 Lakh Cum of runoff water from PWL was released

Recommendations:

1. The unit shall carryout restoration work of the breached dyke in consultation with IIT, Bhubaneswar.
2. The damaged road shall be immediately repaired for public.
3. The unit shall take steps for restoration of affected area.
4. The unit shall take steps for plantation in front of PWL.
5. The unit shall ensure that till complete restoration of PWL there shall not be any discharge from RMP area to PWL.

[Signature]
15/09/2014
Dy Env Engineer

[Signature]
15-9-14
Regional Officer

To,

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Lokseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001 email : csori@nic.in
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, Kharvel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751001, email : fsec.or@nic.in
3. Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi, Collectorate Office, Kalahandi, At/Po Bhawanipatana – 766001, email:dm-kalahandi@nic.in
4. Collector & District Magistrate, Raygada, Collectorate, Raygada, Odisha – 765001, email :raygada@od.gov.in
5. Member Secretary, Odisha Pollution Control Board, A-118, Unit – VII, Nilakantha Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha Pin- 751012, email : member.secy@ospcb.org
6. Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA), Odisha, At – 5RF-2/1, Acharya Vihar, Unit – 9, PIN – 751002 email : seiaaorissa@gmail.com
7. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, email : mscb.cpcb.nic.in

Subject: Petition regarding the collapse of Red Mud Pond of Vedanta Company in Lanjigarh, Odisha, causing environmental pollution and violation of guidelines

Respected Sir/Madam,

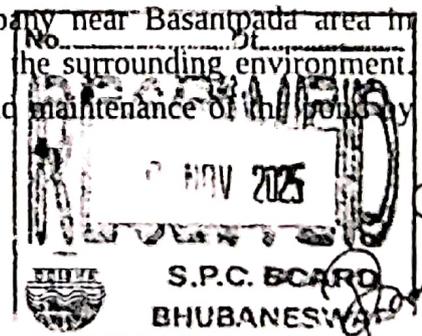
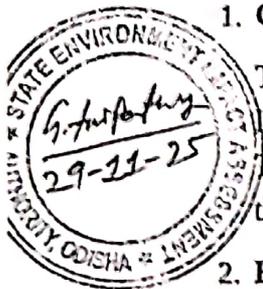
I, **Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray**, Advocate and Environmental Protection Activist, S/o Lingaraj Samantaray, at present residing at C/o Parsuram Maharana, Plot No. 3839/8, Malaya Vihar, G.G.P. Colony, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on behalf of the affected residents of Lanjigarh, Odisha, hereby submit this petition seeking immediate action regarding the collapse of the red mud pond of Vedanta Alumina Refinery, Lanjigarh, Odisha on 15 September 2024 and its consequent environmental pollution, which has severely impacted the region's ecology, agriculture, and aquatic life. Though more than one year has been passed, no action is being taken by your office, so this application is being filed for your intervention.

Facts of the Case:

1. Collapse of Red Mud Pond:

The red mud pond maintained by Vedanta Company near Basantpada area in Lanjigarh has collapsed, causing severe damage to the surrounding environment. This collapse resulted from improper protection and maintenance of the pond by the company.

2. Flooding of Agricultural Land:



*True copy
attested
Aekhand, adv*



The collapse of the pond has led to the flooding of hundreds of acres of agricultural land in the villages of Bangguda, Turiguda, and Basantpada. The red mud water, rich in toxic chemicals, has destroyed crops, leaving the affected farmers in distress and without a livelihood.

3. Contamination of Banshdhara River:

The red mud water entered the Banshdhara river in Kalahandi and Raygada District, resulting in the death of large numbers of fish and other aquatic creatures. The contamination has disrupted the river's ecosystem and has raised concerns about the safety of the water for human and animal consumption.

4. Violation of Environmental Norms:

The collapse highlights the failure of Vedanta Company to adhere to the Central Pollution Control Board's guidelines on the proper disposal and containment of red mud, a hazardous by-product of alumina refining. The company's negligence in monitoring and maintaining the pond has directly led to this disaster.

Legal and Environmental Violations:

This incident is a clear violation of environmental laws, specifically the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. The failure to follow the CPCB guidelines on red mud management, as well as the company's negligence, warrants strict action.

Prayer:

In light of the above, I request the following actions be taken by your good office:

1. **Immediate Investigation:** Conduct a thorough investigation into the collapse of the red mud pond and the environmental damage caused by Vedanta Alumina Refinery.
2. **Adherence to Environmental Guidelines:** Direct Vedanta Alumina Refinery to follow the CPCB's guidelines strictly and implement proper protective measures to prevent future accidents.
3. **Environmental Compensation:** Impose environmental compensation on Vedanta Alumina Refinery for the large-scale ecological damage caused by the collapse. This compensation should account for the destruction of aquatic life, contamination of the Banshdhara river, and long-term damage to the ecosystem.
4. **Compensation for Affected Farmers:** Direct Vedanta Company to provide suitable compensation to the affected farmers whose agricultural lands have been flooded with toxic red mud. The compensation should cover the loss of crops, soil degradation, and any other financial or livelihood-related damages suffered by the farmers.

5. **Penalties for Environmental Violations:** Impose suitable penalties on Vedanta Alumina Refinery for violating environmental norms and failing to comply with the CPCB's red mud guidelines, which led to the collapse of the pond.
6. **Restoration Measures:** Ensure the immediate restoration of the damaged agricultural land and contaminated water bodies. The company must bear the full responsibility and cost for these restoration efforts, including soil treatment, water purification, and re-establishing the agricultural viability of the land.

The environmental damage caused by this incident is a matter of serious concern. It has not only affected the agricultural economy of the region but has also posed a significant risk to the ecological balance and public health. I, therefore, request your good office to take stringent action against the company, impose environmental compensation, and ensure that adequate measures are taken to restore the environment and provide relief to the affected farmers.

Place : Bhubaneswar

Date : 29/11/2025

Thanking you,

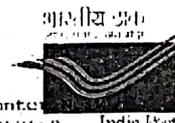
Dilip Kumar Samantary

Dilip Kumar Samantary

Bhubaneswar C.P.O. (751001) Counter
 SP-D EO/6705/7522 IN IVR:697976705/7522
 29-11-2025 12:59:54, 10 (Actual) gms,
 To: THE CHIEF SECY, LOK SEWA BHAWAN
 Bhubaneswar, ODISHA - 751001
 From: DILIP KUMAR SAMANTARY-751010
 (Base:19.00)



Bhubaneswar C.P.O. (751001) Counter
 SP-D EO/6705/7669 IN IVR:697976705/7669
 29-11-2025 12:58:39, 15 (Actual) gms,
 To: THE COLLECTOR & DM, BHAWANIPATANA
 Bhubaneswar, ODISHA - 766001
 From: DILIP KUMAR SAMANTARY-751010
 (Base:47.00)



Bhubaneswar C.P.O. (751001) Counter
 SP-D EO/6705/7536 IN IVR:697976705/7536
 29-11-2025 13:00:55, 20 (Actual) gms,
 To: THE ADDL CHIEF SECY, FOREST AND ENV AND CLIMATE
 Bhubaneswar, ODISHA - 751001
 From: DILIP KUMAR SAMANTARY-751010
 (Base:19.00)



Bhubaneswar C.P.O. (751001) Counter
 SP-D EO/6705/7672 IN IVR:697976705/7672
 29-11-2025 12:59:17, 15 (Actual) gms,
 To: THE COLLECTOR AND DM, RAYAGADA
 Rayagada (K), ODISHA - 765001
 From: DILIP KUMAR SAMANTARY-751010
 (Base:47.00)



Bhubaneswar C.P.O. (751001) Counter
 SP-D EO/6705/7655 IN IVR:697976705/7655
 29-11-2025 12:57:34, 15 (Actual) gms,
 To: THE MEMBER SECY, CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOA
 Shahdara SO, DELHI - 110032
 From: DILIP KUMAR SAMANTARY-751010
 (Base:47.00)



*True copy
 attested
 Ashraf, H/V*

FORM OF VAKALATNAMA**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.

/ 2026 / EZ**BETWEEN**

Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray

... Applicant(s)

-VERSUS-*State of Odisha & Ors*

... Respondents

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that by this VAKALATNAMA I/We

Sri Dillip Kumar Samantaray, aged about 36 years, S/o Lingaraj Samantaray, at present residing at C/o Parsuram Maharana, Plot No. 3839/8, Malaya Vihar, G.G.P. Colony, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
 _Applicants/Appellant(s)/Petitioner(s)/Respondent(s)/Opposite Party(ies) in the aforesaid Revision/petition/Appeal/Case/Suit do hereby appoint and retain

Mr. Akhand,

BCE - O-269-2023

M- 7008816891

Plot No. 6F-1030, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack - 753014

And

Chandranath Dahi

BCE - O - 1061 - 2000

M - 9338865600

Advocate(s) to appear for me/us in the above case and to conduct and prosecute (or defend) the same and all proceedings that may be taken in respect of any application connected with the same or any decree or order passed therein including all applications for return of documents for receipt of any money that may be payable to me/us in the said case and also in applications for leave to appeal to Supreme Court. I/We authorize my/our Advocate(s) to admit any compromise lawfully in the said case.

DATED THE.....*7.01*.....2026

Received from the executants(s)
 satisfied and accepted as I hold
 no brief for the other side

Accepted as above.

Akhand

Advocate

Dillip Kumar Samantaray

SIGNATURE OF EXECUTANTS

Accepted as above
Chandranath Dahi
 Advocate