

Fwd: Complaint regarding encroachment and pollution of Saraswati River in Hooghly District, West Bengal

1 message

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To: pgngtkolkata <pgngtkolkata@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:37 AM

==== Forwarded message =====

From: peoplesparticipation participation <peoplesparticipation@gmail.com>

To: <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

Date: Thu, 30 Oct 2025 21:04:15 +0530

Subject: Complaint regarding encroachment and pollution of Saraswati River in Hooghly District, West Bengal

==== Forwarded message =====

To

The Hon'ble Chairperson,

The National Green Tribunal,

Eastern Zone Bench (NGT Eastern Zone Bench),

Finance Centre, 3rd Floor, Block -III B,

Action Area II, New Town, Kolkata – 700 157,

Subject: Complaint regarding encroachment and pollution of Saraswati River in Hooghly District, West Bengal

Respected Sir/Madam,

We, People's Participation, a small voluntary and rights-based non-governmental organization working in West Bengal for environmental protection, community development, and social justice, respectfully submit this complaint under the provisions of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 regarding serious environmental degradation of the Saraswati River in Hooghly District, West Bengal.

Facts of the Complaint:

1. The Saraswati River, a historically important and ecologically significant river in Hooghly District, has been subjected to severe encroachment along its riverbed and banks.
2. Illegal constructions, solid waste dumping, and landfilling activities have drastically reduced the river's natural flow, leading to waterlogging, flooding, and pollution during monsoon seasons.
3. Local residents and community groups have made several representations and complaints to the concerned authorities. However, no effective or visible action has been taken, and the encroachments continue unabated.
4. The encroachment and pollution are in clear violation of various environmental laws, including:
 - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 - Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017
 - West Bengal Inland Fisheries Act, 1984 (as amended in 1993), which prohibits filling up and destruction of water bodies.
5. The continuing degradation of the Saraswati River has resulted in loss of ecological balance, destruction of aquatic and fish habitats, and violation of citizens' fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Additional Submission: We further submit that People's Participation is a small voluntary organization working with limited financial resources. Owing to a severe fund shortage and financial crisis, we do not draw any financial or material benefit from this complaint.

Regards,

Dipankar Mitra

Secretary, People's Participation

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