
Annexures

Timetable of events concerning the East Calcutta wetlands

1985	M.C. Mehta's <i>Ganga Matter</i> is first heard in Supreme Court
1986	The Institute for Wetland Management and Ecological Design (IWMED) of the West Bengal Government is established
1990, August	CDMA document on Calcutta's future stresses importance of wetlands
1990, autumn	State Planning Board Draft Perspective Plan stresses importance of wetlands
1991, August	Bureaucrats mobilize NGOs to save the wetlands
1991, December	Supreme Court demands reports on all industries along the Ganges
1992, January	PUBLIC files writ petition in High Court to save the wetlands

- 1992, August Newspaper reports plan for Calcutta Leather Complex
- 1992, September First High Court judgement protecting Waste Recycling Region is passed
- 1992, November West Bengal government accepts proposal to declare East Calcutta wetlands an area of 'national importance', a plan still not finalized
- 1992, December West Bengal Inland Fisheries Amendment Bill rules out conversion of fish ponds
- 1993, February Supreme Court begins dealing with Calcutta tanneries
- 1994, November Second High Court judgement protecting Waste Recycling Region is passed
- 1995, March Foundation stone is laid for Lions Club Eye Hospital in the wetlands (project was abandoned by late 1997)
- 1995, May Mohit Ray and friends write to Supreme Court asking for intervention in East Calcutta
- 1995, August PUBLIC officially accuses government officers of contempt of court, proceedings were still pending in early 1998
- 1995, December Supreme Court orders High Court to take action concerning Mohit Ray's submissions regarding East Calcutta
- 1996, January West Bengal Government supports proposal to declare East Calcutta wetlands a 'Ramsar site' of 'international importance', a plan still not finalized
- 1996, March Mohit Ray and friends write letter to High Court
- 1996, April Mohit Ray's case is heard, High Court demands detailed report
- 1996, June Mohit Ray's case is transferred to Green Bench
- 1996, December Final Supreme Court judgement orders Calcutta tanneries to relocate at Karaidanga within ten months; deadline was not met, construction work was going on at full swing by end of 1997

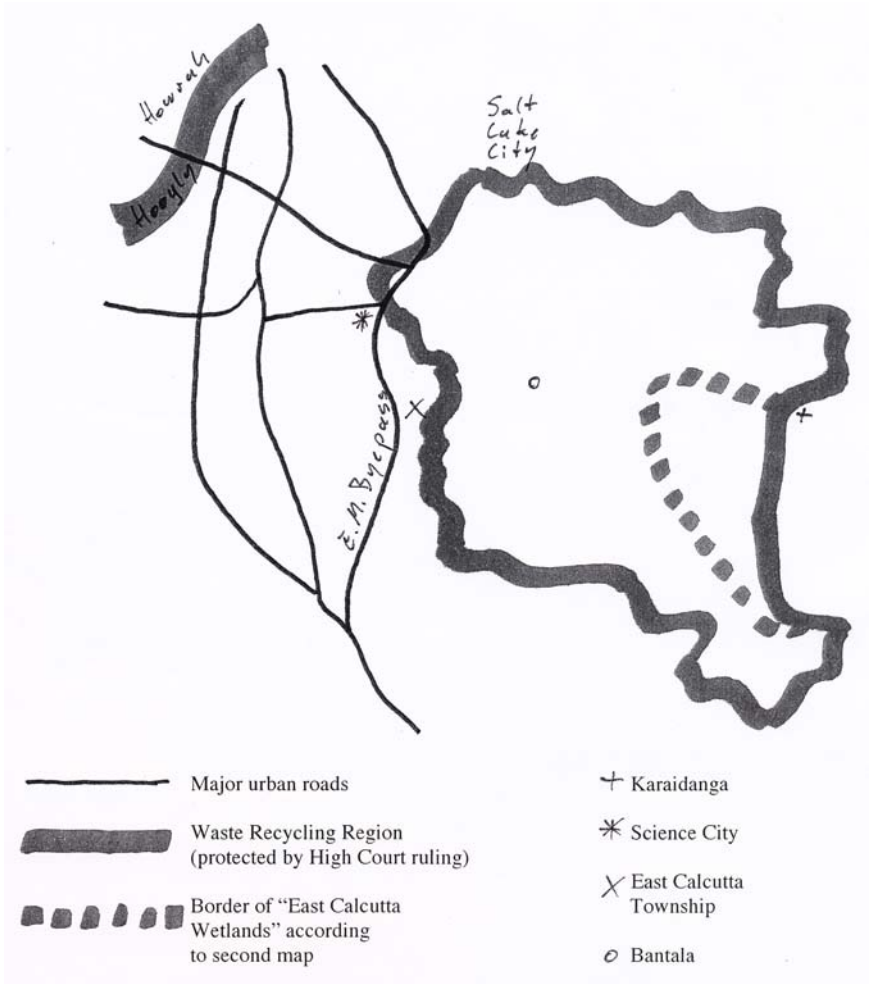
- 1997, March CEMSAP releases *Report and Action Plan* concerning wetlands and canal system
- 1997, November CEMSAP is discontinued

Timetable of events concerning the *Howrah Matter*

- 1977 Howrah Ganatantrik Nagrik Samiti (GNS) initiates its first activities
- 1987, August Writ petition against shopping complex in Bellilious Park leads to injunction and eventually loss of investor interest; park is subsequently neglected and transformed into informal garbage dump
- 1989, January Writ petition is submitted against construction of auditorium on Howrah Maidan
- 1991, March High Court orders removal of Civil Defence Camp from Howrah Maidan as condition for construction of an auditorium, order is not obeyed by authorities
- 1995, January High Court Single Bench finds Howrah officials guilty of contempt of court, Division Bench revised judgement while reinforcing order to relocate Civil Defence Camp; order disregarded by authorities
- 1995, April High Court orders garbage to be removed from Fish Market, order not obeyed
- 1995, April Supreme Court accepts writ petition on the GNS, thus constituting the *Howrah Matter*
- 1996, February Auditorium is inaugurated and immediate injunction is passed by Supreme Court, order is obeyed, work to finish auditorium stops
- 1996, April Supreme Court orders Calcutta High Court to establish a specialized bench (Green Bench) to deal with *Howrah Matter* and other environmental issues
- 1996, June Proceedings before Green Bench begin

- 1996, November Informal garbage dump under Second Hoogly Bridge and closure of Duke Road are brought to the attention of the *Green Bench*
- 1997, January Green Bench orders auditorium to be finalized, Maidan park to be reopened and Civil Defence Camp to be removed; order obeyed as far as auditorium and Civil Defence Camp are concerned
- 1997, January Repeated orders are passed to relocate Fish and Betel Markets, obeyed to considerable extent
- 1997, May Orders are passed concerning improvement of morgue condition
- 1997, August Orders are passed concerning Second Hoogly Bridge area to be converted into park, Duke Road to be opened again; garbage disposal is discontinued, garbage is bulldozed and road is provisionally opened
- 1997, September Orders concerning morgue are repeated but not implemented by November deadline; however, corpses no longer pile up under the open sky, cremations are organized regularly; new building remains inadequate
- 1997, November Central Pollution Control Board calls meeting to draft an action plan for Howrah after the city has been declared 'critically polluted'

Rough sketch of IWMED map



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