

# Odisha: NGT scanner on proposed waste plant on forest land

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CUTTACK: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the state and central governments on a petition seeking intervention against the establishment of a common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility for eight districts spread across 27 acres at Patarapada under Parjang tehsil in Dhenkanal district.

Prakash Chandra Nayak and five other residents of the locality filed the petition alleging that the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) was facilitating the project for a Bhubaneswar-based company by illegally diverting forest land.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioners before NGT's east zone bench in Kolkata on April 12, advocate Sankar Prasad Pani wants the

state authorities and the IDCO be restrained from accessing and using the forest land for industrial activity until approval of central government is obtained under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Pani also urged the tribunal to declare illegal and void the lease granted in favour of IDCO and subsequent transfer to the private party for want of forest clearance.

Taking note of it, the bench of Justice B Amit Sthalekar and Afroz Ahmad said, "In our opinion, the matter requires consideration and issuing of notices to the respondents." Accordingly, notices were issued to the authorities concerned.

According to the petition, the project envisages collection of hazardous waste from eight western districts - Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Balangir, Sambalpur, Angul, Keonjhar and Deogarh - and dumping at the site.

The unit will process and landfill the waste with a capacity of 20,000 metric tonnes per annum. The unit will continue to landfill at the site for 25 years and the total of 5 lakh MT of hazardous waste will be landfilled/buried at the site.

The elephant pathway crosses through the project site and thereby, will obstruct the movement of the animals. This will lead to more man-elephant conflicts, the petition stated.



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