

LEGAL AWARENESS IN JAYANTIDAS.COM AUGUST 2019

CREMATION GHATS ON THE BANK OF RIVER MAHANADI

Complaint was filed through email to Collector Cuttack, IIC Cantonment PS Cuttack and commissioner CMC on 16/03/2019 regarding several cremation ghats operational on the bank of river Mahanadi from chahata ghat to gadgadia ghat and surprisingly in front of Cantonment PS and several times PCR and Motorcycle PCR persons are seen regularly in that area while the last rites are performed on the public road.

The IIC Cantonment PS replied under that no such cremation ghats are found but mentioned one ghat in operation near sea shore without giving the full details like exact location, license no from CMC etc

The river bank of Mahanadi has become the cremation ground run by half a dozen unauthorized temples built on the government land by forceful encroachment and the last rites are performed by the slum dwellers who reside by the side of the cremation grounds and protection from questioning of the public is given by the slum dwellers who keep a vigilant eye on any legal threat from outside.

These encroached illegal temples on the bank of river Mahanadi have become hub for last rite rituals and feasts served on the occasion of death and hundreds of vehicles are parked on the public road every alternative day and NOT a single traffic constable is visible for public convenience.

There is a serious violation of NGT guidelines about the dumping of garbage on river bank as the district administration dumps tractor load of garbage on the bank of river Mahanadi.

Mafias and anti-socials are involved in this racket of encroachment into bank of Mahanadi which is government property by building cremation ghats and temples.

Although 6 months have passed not a single action has been taken in the above matter.

The CMC Commissioner, Collector Cuttack, DCP Cuttack, DGP Odisha have been well informed through letters by speed-post and emails regarding the above matter.

Even today the cremation goes on without any restriction and police report says it is not taking place.

An independent and trustworthy authority only can take action in the above matter impartially.

I have approached the Chairman National Green Tribunal (NGT) New Delhi by letter dated 13/06/2019 vide RO930840272IN to take appropriate action and enquire by a central team of officers of NGT to make ground survey and take satellite photograph of the river bank for saving the RIVER MAHANADI which is lifeline of Cuttack city.

I have also informed the editor Times of India Group Bhubaneswar about the above matter but till date no communication being the fourth pillar of democracy the media should also show some accountability.

Received reply under RTI from NGT(PB/CPIO/RTI/2019/205/2034 dated 24/07/2019 that the matter is under process.