

NEW LINK TO MEDIA # 3

EKAMRA KANAN SAMBAD

https://www.sambadepaper.com/imageview_194287_25056670_4_71_18-11-2020_4_i_1_sf.html

The newspaper clipping features a large headline 'ଅଟକିଲା ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା' (Handover process stalled) and a sub-headline 'ପୂର୍ବ ଭଳି ହେବ ପାର୍ଶର ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ' (Work will be done as before to preserve the surroundings). The article discusses the stalled handover of the Ekarma Kanan botanical park. Another article on the right is titled 'ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରୁ ବାଘ ଛାଲ ଜବତ' (Tiger caught from Bhubaneswar), accompanied by an image of a tiger.

COMPLAINT REGARDING EKAMRA KANAN BHUBANESWAR ODISHA



jayanti das <jayantidasorissa2012@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 30, 2020, 12:31 AM

to csori, gadmin.ori, govodisha, secy.president, connect

To

Chief Secretary Odisha

Secretary GAD Odisha

Sir

It is pertinent to mention that your department has decided to turn approx 20 acres of Ekarma kanan botanical park of Bhubaneswar into a concrete jungle of commercial complexes as per media report and the related documents available with the media house at the cost of damage to the environment and climate change.

You have already damaged the Mahanadi River –the lifeline of Cuttack and Odisha as a whole by illegal sandfilling without any legal clearances.

Bhubaneswar has already become hottest city and at par with New Delhi in air pollution.

The commercial project should not be carried out at the cost of age old trees that are oxygen supplier and a check on air pollution.

The government is violating Human Rights of residents of Bhubaneswar who are deeply involved with the same botanical garden generation after generation for pure air, morning walk and beautiful natural scenery both for better physical and mental health and they are going to be deprived of the same.

The age old trees also shelter many birds and small animals which preserves the eco-system of Bhubaneswar.

Government should act in the interest of public in a democratic system not at the cost of public interest.

Government should venture its dream concrete projects in useless and infertile land to get revenue and it should be strictly not at the cost of any damage to human beings, animals, birds, rivers, air, etc which are precious and god gifted and should not be exploited for any monetary benefits.

Request

- 1. Please provide the blueprint of the project.**
- 2. Provide the minutes of the meeting which approved such a dangerous project which will have radical effects on the residents of Bhubaneswar.**
- 3. Provide the NOC/approvals of the competent authorities to cut the age old trees and destroy approx 20 acres of botanical park which is a product of efforts of so many people over so many years on which the tax payer's money is spent.**
- 4. Provide the copy of cost benefit analysis of this project.**
- 5. Provide the reasons and grounds on which this particular botanical garden/park has been selected for sacrifice.**
- 6. Provide the list of drawbacks of this botanical garden to justify that it needs to be eliminated in the interest of public and simultaneously justify that it was a hindrance to the development of Bhubaneswar city.**

Due to COVID 19 and as per government rule I am registering my complaint against the said demolition/cutting of trees and plants of Ekarma kanan botanical park in the interest of public of Bhubaneswar city and outsiders who visit the same through E MAIL.

It is also pertinent to mention that urban land comes under concurrent list and the central government has a say on this and you are requested to provide me the consent from central government to go ahead with the project.

Kindly treat this as urgent and you are requested not proceed further in this project as a judicial intervention is necessary and this email should be treated as a primary notice under PIL guidelines.

I may approach Hon'ble Chairperson OHRC for his kind intervention as it violates the human rights to live in a dignified manner in a better environment for the residents of Bhubaneswar and it is applicable anywhere in the state.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully
Jayanti Das

----- Forwarded message -----

From: jayanti das <jayantidasorissa2012@gmail.com>

To: secy-moef@nic.in, mohua@gov.in, dm-khurda@nic.in, commissioner@bmc.gov.in

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2020 00:42:56 +0530

PIL SEEKS EKAMRA KANAN STATUS QUO

webpioneerarticles@gmail.com



Friday, 06 November 2020

The pioneer

PIL seeks Ekamra Kanan status quo

Friday, 06 November 2020 | PNS | CUTTACK

Even as the State Government has clarified that no land under the Horticulture Department in the Ekamra Kanan in Bhubaneswar has been transferred to the General Administration Department and the farmland with rich biodiversity spread over 25 acres will be maintained as a public place of importance, a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition was filed in the Orissa High Court on Thursday seeking judicial intervention to maintain status quo of farmland. Sixty-year-old social activist Jayanti Das of Cuttack has approached the High Court alleging that Government is contemplating converting about 20 acres of the farmland into a commercial hub.

NO PLAN FOR OVER TAKING LAND BELONGING TO EKAMRA KANAN: ODISHA GOVT

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:

The State government today refuted media reports of GA&PG department of over taking the land belonging to Ekamra Kanan.

"Such news is not based on fact. No part of Ekamra Kanana is being taken back by Government. Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has said that Ekamra Kanana is a place of pride for Bhubaneswar, and, Government is committed to improve it further. Government attaches the highest importance to the regional plant resources centre functioning in the Ekamra Kanan with its wide ranging activities in biotechnological research. The place will be kept up and maintained as a public place of prominence," read a release by the office of Chief Secretary.

Sources said that the department of Horticulture is surrendering some of its unutilized land lying vacant for five decades in mouza Jayadev Vihar and Paika Nagar. The land will be put to more productive use and is not related to Ekamra Kanana land.

Earlier in the day, Congress MLA Suresh Routray has accused the state government of trying to divert the land filled with thousands of trees. The MLA has also threatened to stage protest in this connection.

Dailyhunt

Disclaimer: This story is auto-aggregated by a computer program and has not been created or edited by Dailyhunt. Publisher: Prameya English

Tuesday, 03 Nov, 8.42 pm Orissa POST

Odisha Congress warns of stir over Ekamra Kanan land alienation

Bhubaneswar: The state unit of Congress, Tuesday, threatened to launch an agitation in the days to come if the government attempts to interfere with Ekamra Kanan farmland and change its original usage pattern.

Party leader Suresh Routray, Tuesday, accused the state government of trying to divert the valuable land, filled with several thousands of trees of different species for some other works. This comes after the state government transferred the ownership of the land from the state Horticulture department to the General Administration (GA) department.

Orissa POST has also highlighted the state government's plan to sell out Ekamra Kanan land for construction of high-rise building by destroying the green cover there.

'Ekamra Kanan is spread over 32 acres of land. There are around 30,000 trees. If the trees are cut and sold in the market it may fetch upto Rs 40 crore. The site is known for varied medicinal plants and home to several birds. Mango, banana and several other species of plants are there. An orchard is there adding to the virtue,' Routray said.

He also added, 'The flowers there are virgin and of high quality. They are also sold in the market. The government has now decided to hand over the land from the Horticulture department to the GA department. We strongly oppose the move. The Congress party is totally against the trade of the land with rich biodiversity.'

Routray said, 'If the government plans anything to attack the plants and diversity there, we as members of the party would gherao the houses of the Chief Minister and the officials involved in this.' 'This government sometimes tries to do business with Bagala Dharmasala and want to lease out many other properties of the state. The government has in the past compromised on many such properties in the state,' he said.

He also said that the government had been roping in several government units to capture the land and do business of the areas by playing with the actual nature of such properties. 'We plan to launch massive protest against the decision of the government to interfere with the land,' he said.

TRANSFER OF EKAMRAKANAN LAND IN BHUBANESWAR PUT ON HOLD AMID PROTESTS

CITYBHUBANESWAR



By OB Bureau Last updated Nov 18, 2020

Bhubaneswar: The decision of the Odisha government to hand over 20 acres of land of the Ekamrakanan farm to the General Administration (GA) Department has been put on hold.

The Directorate of Horticulture in a letter has directed the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Ekamrakanan, to maintain the status quo of the Ekamrakanan land.

Protesting against the decision of the government to hand over the land to the GA Department, the BJP had staged a demonstration at the Ekamrakanan on November 4.

BJP state spokesperson Dilip Mohanty said when the world is deeply concerned over the acute environmental pollution, a group of bureaucrats with vested interests is plotting to destroy the rich biodiversity of Ekamrakanan situated in the heart of the city by cutting thousands of trees that are more than 40 years and sell them to private parties. "We will stage Satyagraha in front of the Naveen Nivas if an attempt is made to cut even a single tree inside Ekamrakanan," he maintained.

Mohanty urged the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary to urgently intervene in the matter and initiate stern action against these tainted officials.

Expressing resentment, Congress MLA Sura Routray said that his party will not let the government succeed in its 'conspiracy' to destroy the park. Alleging that the government has not taken any step to develop the farm in the last 20 years, he demanded that the decision to hand over over Ekamrakanan land to GA department must be withdrawn.

He further said that the government should carry out beautification works in the park instead of building a commercial establishment by destroying the green cover.

CONCRETE JUNGLE PLAN AT EKAMRA KANAN FLAYED

Wednesday, 28 Oct, 8.00 am Orissa POST

Bhubaneswar: A recent decision of the General Administration (GA) department to take over 20 acres of Ekamra Kanan land has raised eyebrows among the environmentalists and activists.

The farmland spread over 25 acres have 20 acres of nursery beds, diverse species of several trees and the remaining five acres have some buildings. The green activists have alleged that the government has planned the alienation of the land for construction of high-rise building by destroying the green cover there, an allegation yet to be confirmed by the government.

An official communication (No 8336) from the GA department to Horticulture department said, 'This is to intimate that decision has been taken by the government to surrender 20.192 acres from Ekamra Kanan Farm to GA and PG department excepting an area of 5.775 acre where there are buildings.'

The nursery at Ekamra Kanan in Bhubaneswar

A representation from the green activists has also been sent to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Housing and Urban Development department seeking their intervention. It is said that the Ekamra Kanan Farm (Orchard) was established in 1975 and in 1985 it was divided into two parts as-Regional Plant Research Centre under the forest department and Ekamra Kanan farm orchard under the horticulture department.

'Around 3,500 fruit and medicinal big green trees are there in the entire area on the mentioned plots.

The farm supplies various fruit plants and medicinal plants to six different districts of Odisha. But a civil construction/high rise building construction inside the farm will bring an end to such beneficial

activities forever,' the letter from environmentalists-Banibrata Tripathy, Sushanta Kumar Jena and Ashwini Kumar Mohapatra said.

'Latest statistics claim that Khurda district is still short of 14 per cent of recommended green cover as per the National Forest Policy. Any threat to the existing green cover in the district especially in regions like Bhubaneswar is likely to harm the local ecology,' Shankar Prasad Pani, lawyer with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) said.

According to government records, the site is home to different species of mangoes with some standing for more than 75 years. Other species like guava, amla, cashew, coconut, litchi, pine apple and others also exist. The department is also said to have collected Rs 35 lakh as revenues from them as per the latest figures. Plant research works are also taken on the site.

When contacted for response, GA department Principal Secretary Sanjeev Chopra didn't respond to the queries.

Manish Kumar, OP

DECISION TO SURRENDER LAND OF EKAMRA KANAN FARM IN BHUBANESWAR TO GA DEPARTMENT PUT ON HOLD

OdishaRay

Bhubaneswar (18/11/2020): The decision to surrender the land of Ekamra Kanan Farm in Bhubaneswar to the General Administration (GA) department has been put on hold. The status quo of the farm would be maintained as it was before. Political parties including BJP, Congress, environmentalists and locals had opposed the decision to hand over 20 acres of Ekamra Kanan land from Horticulture department to GA department for creation of concrete forest. The farmland spread over 25 acres have 20 acres of nursery beds, diverse species of several trees and the remaining five acres have buildings..

EKAMRA KANAN TAKEOVER REPORTS NOT BASED ON FACTS

Says Odisha Chief Secretary; BJP Threatens Satyagraha

CITYBHUBANESWAR



By OB Bureau Last updated Nov 4, 2020

Bhubaneswar: Amid protests by opposition Congress and BJP against the alleged takeover of Ekamra Kanan by the Horticulture Department, the Odisha government has clarified that the news published in some section of the media is not based on facts.

In a release, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said that the Ekamra Kanan is a place of pride in Bhubaneswar and the government is committed to improve it further. “The government attaches the highest importance to the Regional Plant Resources Centre (RPRC) functioning in the Ekamra Kanan with its wide-ranging activities in biotechnological research. The place will be kept up and maintained as a public place of importance,” he added.

He also said that the Horticulture Department has surrendered some of its unused land lying vacant for the five decades in Jayadev Vihar and Paika Nagar mouzas for more productive use. The surrendered land is in no way related to the Ekamra Kanan land.

Meanwhile, the BJP activists staged a demonstration in front of the main gate of Ekamra Kanan on Wednesday.

Talking to mediapersons, BJP state spokesperson Dilip Mohanty said that when the world is deeply concerned over the acute environmental pollution, a group of bureaucrats with vested interests has planned to destroy the rich biodiversity of Ekamra Kanan situated in the heart of the city by cutting thousands of trees that are more than 40 years and sell them to private parties. “We will stage Satyagraha in front of the Naveen Nivas if an attempt is made to cut any one tree inside Ekamra Kanan,” he maintained.

Condemning the move, Mohanty urged the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary to urgently intervene in the matter and initiate stern action against these tainted officials and arrest them forthwith.