

The Times of India

Title : Road, building on E Kolkata Wetlands face NGT axe

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Location :

Kolkata:

Article Date : 10/26/2017

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** The National Green Tribunal's Eastern Zone bench has asked the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) to demolish a three-storey building constructed on the Ramsar site, and restore the site. It has also given the same directive on a road that Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority (NDITA) had constructed around Munshir Bheri and sought a compliance report from EKWMA within three months.

This is the first time the agency entrusted with safeguarding the wetlands has come under pressure from the NGT to carry out demoli-



**RESTORING GREEN:** The east Kolkata wetlands

tion and restoration, as required by the Act under which the authority was set up.

The EKWMA had earlier served a notice regarding the to the trust that had constructed the building and then lodged an FIR.

When the project was

completed, NGO 'Public' petitioned the NGT in May 2016.

'Public' in its petition stated the authorities responsible for protecting the EKW were being negligent. The NGO claimed that neither the trust, nor NDITA, had obtained permission to carry out construction. A representative of the trust, however, said: "There are hundreds of buildings around. We have been singled out and have to move the higher court."

Siddharth Mitra, senior counsel appearing for Public, argued that even if EKWMA had granted permission for change in land use, constructions would still have been in violation because of the Central Wetlands Rules, which have come into play from 2010.