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Title: Need to desilt Matla river-bed in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Matla river forms a wide estuary in and around the Sundarbans in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The main stream of the Matla river is divided into two parts, one passes through Kultali, Goranbose to Sundarbans and the other Stream passes through Basanti, Pathankhali, Mosjidbati and then meets Bidyadhari river. Lateral connections of the Matla system of the West are Belladonna river and Kultali river. On the Eastern side, the main connections with the Gosaba and Raimangal systems are more intricate. About 10 lakh pilgrims take a dip at the confluence of the Adiganga and Matla rivers at South Bishnupur village on Makarsankranti day.

During the Monsoon, the Matla becomes so turbulent that it becomes impossible to ferry people by boats. At the same time, Matla has become so silted that during the dry season boats cannot come near the jetties. Long stretches of Matla embankments protect villages in the surrounding areas from flooding. Lakhs of families are dependent on the Matla river for their livelihood. Immediate desiltation through dredging is an urgent necessity, otherwise a climatic imbalance as well as financial imbalance will cause disturbance to human life. On the other hand one of our natural wonder is the Sundarban National Park which is the only mangroves forest in the world, inhabited by the tiger and it will also be effected by the low tide.

According to environmentalists, if Matla river is not made to survive the entire city of Kolkata will be submerged under water.

Hence, the Government should take immediate steps to desilt the Matla river-bed through dredging and save the nature as well as humans