

HC not protecting city ponds as it is 'beneficiary': PIL

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New Delhi: Two petitioners have moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of a public interest litigation (PIL) from Allahabad high court to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and the question the duo is asking is: Can the HC set right an environmental problem to which it allegedly contributes?

Moving the SC for transfer of their PIL to the NGT, they said, "Since a portion of the HC building in Lucknow is situated over a pond and since the issue involved directly relates to the Lucknow bench of the HC, which is a beneficiary of the al-

lotment of pond land, it would not be appropriate for the HC to decide it."

After the SC declared in 2009 that protection and preservation of ponds would substantially mitigate the drinking water problem, two petitioners — Ashok Shankaram and Neeraj Pandey — moved the Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC in 2013 with data about land mafia allegedly destroying ponds systematically in collusion with Lucknow Development Authority (LDA).

The high court issued notice to the LDA on October 8, 2013 but it did not respond for three years.



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