

17 July 2025

Context: Citizens organized a creative protest in Akurdi (Pune) against the ₹1,500-crore Pavana River Rejuvenation Project, which was recently approved by the PCMC, citing concerns regarding threats to biodiversity and the natural ecology.



About Pavana River:

- **Location:** Pune district, Maharashtra.
- **Origin:** Begins 6 km south of Lonavala in the Western Ghats.
- **Course:** Flows eastward, then shifts south; traverses through Dehu, Chinchwad, Pimpri, Dapodi, and converges with the Mula River near Pune.

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Confluence Chain:

- Pavana → Mula → Mula-Mutha → Bhima → Krishna River.

Tributaries of Pavana:

- Pavana does not have significant left or right-bank tributaries, but it gathers rain-fed seasonal streams from the hilly terrain along its path.

Environmental Concerns Raised by Citizens:

- **Ecological Degradation:** More than 80% of the funds are allocated to construction (walls, walkways), posing a risk to native species such as birds, turtles, and reptiles.
- **Cultural Erosion:** The riverbanks associated with Chinchwad's heritage are under threat, with sacred trees and local rituals potentially being displaced.
- **Cosmetic Urbanisation:** The project emphasizes beautification over the health of the river, concealing ecological damage under the guise of "rejuvenation."
- **Pollution & Water Misuse:** Silt and industrial waste contaminate the river. The Bombay High Court highlighted the illegal diversion of river water for the maintenance of a cricket stadium in 2018.