



\$~SB-1 to 9

\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 8489/2024 & CM APPLs.34941/2024 and 63347/2024**

**KRISHAN KUMAR & ORS.** ..... Petitioners  
Through: Mr.Anand Varma, Advocate with  
Mr.Apoorva Pandey, Advocate.

versus

**DELHI JAL BOARD & ORS.** ..... Respondents  
Through: Mr.Hilal Haider, (GP) Advocate with  
Ms. Amrin Rizvi, Advocate for R-1.  
Mr.Jawahar Raja, ASCC (Civil) for  
R-2 to 4.  
Mr. Peeyoosh Kalra and Mr.  
Yashwant S. Baghel, Advocates for  
R-10

2.

+ **W.P.(C) 7594/2018 & C.M.Nos.30022/2018, 41886/2024, 42188-  
42189/2024, 47142/2024, 48597/2024, 57187/2024, 62545/2024**

**COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION** ..... Petitioner  
Through:

versus

**UNION OF INDIA & ORS.** ..... Respondents  
Through: Mr. Manish Mohan, CGSC with  
Mr.Jatin Teotia, Mr.Samarth Talesara,  
Advocates for UOI.  
Mr.Ripudaman Bhardwaj, CGSC with  
Mr.Kushagra Kumar and Mr.Abhinav  
Bhardwaj, Advocates for UOI.  
Ms.Prabhsahay Kaur, Standing



Counsel with Ms. Ananya Sahu, Advocates for DDA with Mr. Gaurav Meena, AE, Mr. Nipun Kumar, AE and Mr. Sahiram Bishnoi, Asst. Director

Mr. Tushar Sannu, ASC for NDMC. Ms. Sangeeta Bharti, SC with Ms. Malvi Balya and Ms. Vidushi Gupta Advocate for DJB.

Ms. Monika Arora, Mr. Subhrodeep Saha and Ms. Radhika, Adv. for MCD

Mr. Harsh Gattani, Advocate for R-13 & 14 and in CM APPL. 41886/2024

Mr. Sudhanshu Tiwari, Advocate with Ms.Preeti Sirohi, Advocate for Applicants in CM APPL.62545/2024

Mr.Yogesh Mahajan, applicant in C.M.No.48597

Ms. Priyam Mehta, Adv. applicant in CM APPL. 47142/2024

Mr. Ashok Agarwal, Mr. Kumar Utkarsh and Mr. Manoj Kumar, Adv. applicant in CM APPL. 57187/2024

Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, GNCTD with Mr. Siddhant Dutt, Adv. for GNCTD along with Mr. Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, GNCTD with Mr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary, IDMC and other senior officials of GNCTD



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**W.P.(C) 9617/2022**

COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION

..... Petitioner

Through:

versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI &amp; ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, GNCTD with Mr. Siddhant Dutt, Adv. for GNCTD with Mr. Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, GNCTD along with Mr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary, IDMC and other senior officials of GNCTD

Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Standing Counsel with Ms. Ananya Sahu, Advocates for DDA with Mr. Gaurav Meena, AE, Mr. Nipun Kumar, AE and Mr. Sahiram Bishnoi, Asst. Director

Mr. Manish Mohan, Advocate with Mr. Jatin Teotia, Advocate for UOI. ASI Devender Singh, Pairvi Officer Traffic.

Mr. Vikrant N. Goyal, Advocate for UOI.

Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, GNCTD with Mr. Siddhant Dutt, Adv. for GNCTD with Mr. Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, GNCTD with Mr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary, IDMC and other senior officials of GNCTD

Ms. Sangeeta Bharti, SC with Ms. Malvi Balya and Ms. Vidushi Gupta



Advocate for DJB.

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**W.P.(C) 10480/2024 & CM APPL. 43099/2024**

AMITA SACHDEVA & ANR.

..... Petitioners

Through: Ms.Amita Sachdeva, petitioner no.1  
in person.

Ms.Mallika Parmar, Advocate for  
petitioner no.2.

versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Ms. Hetu Arora Sethi, ASC for  
GNCTD with Mr. Arjun Basra,  
Advocate.

Mr. Haruddin Khan, AE/MCD.

Ms. Sangeeta Bharti, SC with Ms.  
Malvi Balya and Ms. Vidushi Gupta  
Advocate for DJB.

Ms. Latika Malhotra, Advocate for  
DDA.

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**W.P.(C) 12626/2024 & CM APPL. 57104/2024**

DR. ARPANA CAUR

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sanjeev Anand, Sr. Adv. with  
Mr. Sameer Sood, Adv. in CM APPL.  
57104/2024

versus

GOVT. OF NCT, DELHI THROUGH CHIEF SECRETARY & ORS.

..... Respondents



Through: Mr.Manu Chaturvedi, Advocate for  
MCD.  
Mr.Shivendra Singh, Advocate with  
Ms.Prakriti Rastogi, Advocate for R-  
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**W.P.(C) 14094/2024 & CM APPLs.58974-58975/2024**

MURUGAN

..... Petitioner

Through:

versus

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD AND ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Anuj Chaturvedi, Ms. Harshit  
Maheshwari and Mr. Pawan Karan,  
Adv. for DUSIB  
Mr. Parvinder Chauhan, Ms. Aakriti  
Garg, Adv. for DUSIB with Mr. P.K.  
Jha (Dy. Director) with Mr. Pranav  
Siroha, LA  
Ms. Avni Singh, Panel Counsel  
GNCTD with Ms Prapti Singh  
Ms.Arati Bansal, Advocate with  
Mr.Kamal Digpaul, Ms.Suviti Singh  
and Ms.Akanksha Kumari, Advocates  
for DDA.  
Ms.Gauri Goburdhun, Sr.Panel  
Counsel for R-8.  
Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Standing  
Counsel with Ms. Ananya Sahu,  
Advocates for DDA with Mr. Gaurav  
Meena, AE, Mr. Nipun Kumar, AE  
and Mr. Sahiram Bishnoi, Asst.  
Director



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**W.P.(C) 8035/2024, REVIEW PET.373/2024, CM APPLs.52659-52660/2024, 52780/2024, 52897/2024, 59162-59163/2024, 59345-59346/2024**

SHABNAM BURNEY

.....Petitioner

Through:

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS

.....Respondents

Through: Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Standing Counsel with Ms. Ananya Sahu, Advocates for DDA with Mr. Gaurav Meena, AE, Mr. Nipun Kumar, AE and Mr. Sahiram Bishnoi, Asst. Director  
Mr. S.D. Windlesh, Advocate for impleader.  
Mr. Parvinder Chauhan, Ms. Aakriti Garg, Adv. for DUSIB with Mr. P.K. Jha (Dy. Director) with Mr. Pranav Siroha, LA  
Ms.Vrinda Grover, Mr.Prasanna S, Mr.Soutik Banarjee, Ms.Devika Tulsi, Advocates

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**W.P.(C) 13190/2024**

**MAHARANI BAGH CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING AND WELFARE SOCIETY LTD., & ANR.** ..... Petitioners

Through: Mr. Udayan Jain, Advocate with Mr. Raj Surana and Mr. Ranjan Mishra, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

..... Respondents



Through: Mr. Amit Gupta, SPC with Mr. Vidur Dwivedi, GP for UOI.  
Mr. Tushar Sannu, Standing Counsel for MCD.  
Ms. Sangeeta Bharti, SC with Ms. Malvi Balya and Ms. Vidushi Gupta Advocate for DJB.

Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC, GNCTD with Mr. Siddhant Dutt, Adv. for GNCTD along with Mr. Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, GNCTD with Mr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary, IDMC and other senior officials of GNCTD

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**W.P.(C) 15399/2024**

SHAILENDRA BHATNAGAR

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Shailendra Bhatnagar, Mr. Maruti Nandan, Ms. Shivani Pal, Advocates

versus

GOVT. OF NCT, DELHI & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Manu Chaturvedi, Advocate for MCD.

Mr. Sahaj Karan Singh, Adv.

Ms. Beenashaw N. Soni, SC for MCD with Ms. Ann Joseph, Advocate for R-2

Mr. Shivendra Singh, Advocate with Ms. Prakriti Rastogi, Advocate for R-4.

Ms. Sangeeta Bharti, SC with Ms. Malvi Balya and Ms. Vidushi Gupta Advocate for DJB.



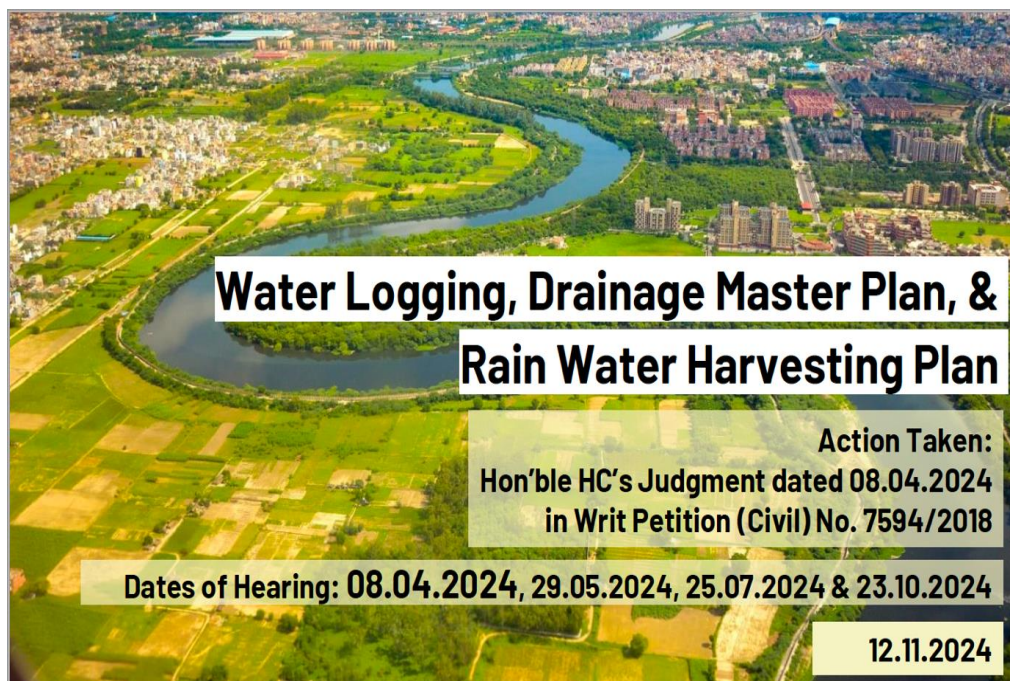
**CORAM:**  
**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MANMEET PRITAM SINGH ARORA**

**ORDER**

% **12.11.2024**

**W.P.(C) 7594/2018**

1. Mr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary, IDMC made a presentation before this Court under the aegis of Mr. Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, GNCTD. The Chief Secretary joined the proceeding through video conferencing link along with the other concerned officials.
2. The Spl. Secretary made the presentation on the action taken by GNCTD to comply with the directions contained in this Court's judgment dated 08<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.
3. The Spl. Secretary outlined the steps taken and furnished the timelines for complying with the directions in a time bound manner. The report furnished and the timelines furnished read as under:







## Outline of 11 issues



1.	Integrated Drainage Management Plans (DMPs) • Finalization of DPRs of Drainage Management Plans (DMPs)
2.	Multiplicity of Authorities for Management of Drainage System • Desiltation of Drainage System
3.	Rejuvenation of Water Bodies
4.	Rain Water Harvesting (RWH)
5.	Restoration and rejuvenation of Yamuna River Flood Plains • Removal of encroachments from Flood Plains • Status of 10 Projects of DDA (Restoration of Flood Plains)

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## Outline of 11 issues

6.	Rejuvenation of River Yamuna • Removal of construction waste / debris • Management of Flood Plains • C&D Waste Management • Diary waste management • Dredging of River Yamuna • 100 Percent Treatment of Sewage • Extending Sewerage Network
7.	Interconnection of storm water drains with sewerage network & vice versa
8.	Industrial Discharges
9.	Water-logging points within City
10.	Usage of Technology for monitoring
11.	Third Party Audit
12.	Drying up of Lake Bhalaswa and threat of encroachment



3



**1. Finalization of DPRs of Drainage Management Plans (DMPs)** Para 7(1)  
**TL: 15.09.24** PWD

Fund issue resolved	Work Started 30.05.2024	Work Started 30.05.2024
Surveys in process		
Inception Report approved	Inception Report Submitted	Inception Report Submitted
Consultant Selected	Consultant Selected	Consultant Selected
Najafgarh Basin	Barapulla Basin	Trans-Yamuna Basin
<b>Fresh Timeline prayed for: 30.06.2025</b>	<b>30.06.2025</b>	<b>30.06.2025</b>

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**2. Multiplicity of Authorities for Management of Drainage System** Para 14(3)  
I&FCD

**IFCD assigned responsibilities**

S.No	Action Points	Action Taken
5(a)	Submission of report including <b>assessment of quantity of silt in twenty-two (22) drains</b> which are out falling in river Yamuna  <b>(TL: 15.05.2024)</b>	Quantity of silt in 21 out of 22 drains have been surveyed but one drain namely Abul Fazal drain belong of UP Govt. and not allowed for any work by Delhi Govt.

5



**2. Multiplicity of Authorities for Management of Drainage System**

Para 14(3)

I&FCD

**5 (b) Submission of action plan for de-silting of 22 drains**

[TL : 31.12.24 for 21 drains  
: 30.06.24 for 1 drain]

Sr. No.	Action	Timeline prayed for
1.	Preparation of scheme/ estimates and issue of A/A & E/S	30.11.2024
2.	Tendering for works and award of works to agency/ contractor	31.12.2024
3.	Start of works	01.01.2025
4.	Completion of desilting	31.05.2025

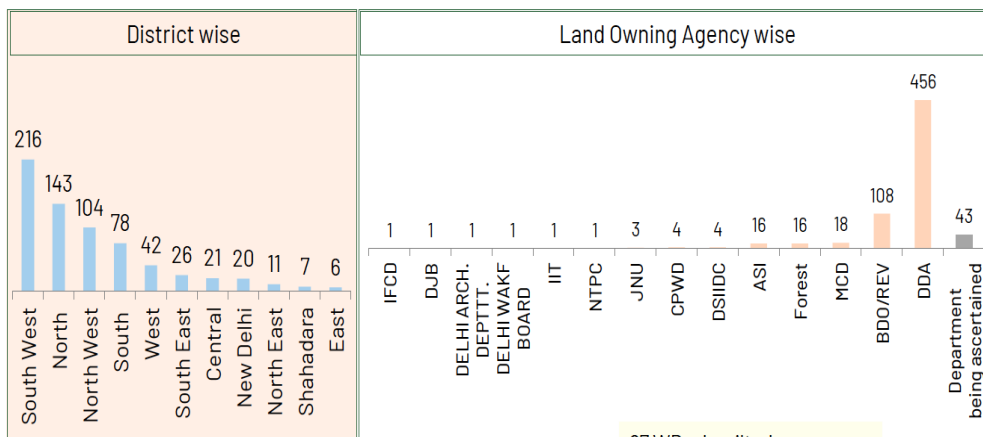
6

**3. Rejuvenation of Water Bodies**

Para 16(1)

Revenue

**All Water Bodies ground truthed. Existing (674)**



**Completion of rejuvenation [ TL:31.12.24 ]**

87 WBs de-silted

7



### 3. Rejuvenation of Water Bodies

Para 16(5)

Revenue

12

Appropriate measures shall be taken for **making entries of waterbodies in revenue records** by **assigning responsibilities of each of such water body to specific officer**, who shall visit such water body every fortnight to ensure its upkeep and proper maintenance.

**Committee responsible for ground truthing and rejuvenation of these water bodies and execution of projects at ground at District Level**

[ Action: Complete ]

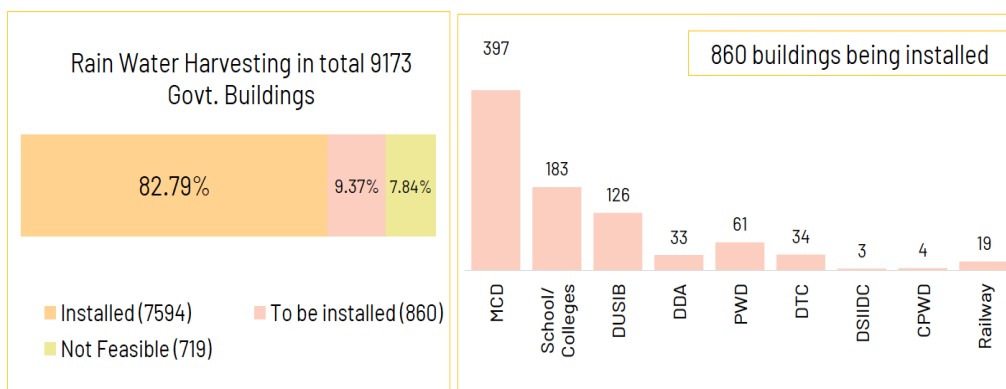


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### 4. Rain Water Harvesting (RWH): in all feasible govt. buildings (TL: 30.09.24)

Para 19(1)

DJB



- 1646 recharge pits have been constructed by various departments so far.
- 33 Recharge pits identified by DJB in low lying areas.
- [TL for submission of report : 06.05.24 TL for creation of RWH systems: 06.07.24]

9



**5. Removal of encroachments from Flood Plains**

Para 20

DDA with  
all concerned agencies

S.No	Action Points	Action Taken
18	Removal of encroachments from Yamuna River Flood Plains. Delhi Police shall provide necessary force to DDA as and when requested	About 1536.22 acres of land is reclaimed since May'2022 to Sep' 2024.
19	Development of ten bio-diversity parks / wetland areas in Yamuna River Flood Plain including an action plan with timelines for completion of pending projects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration works are undertaken in Ten Projects on both western and eastern banks.</li> <li>Timelines for completion of Eleven projects submitted to Hon'ble Court.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 710 ha in 7 projects completed</li> <li>About 885 ha in process</li> <li>55 ha in planning stage</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

10

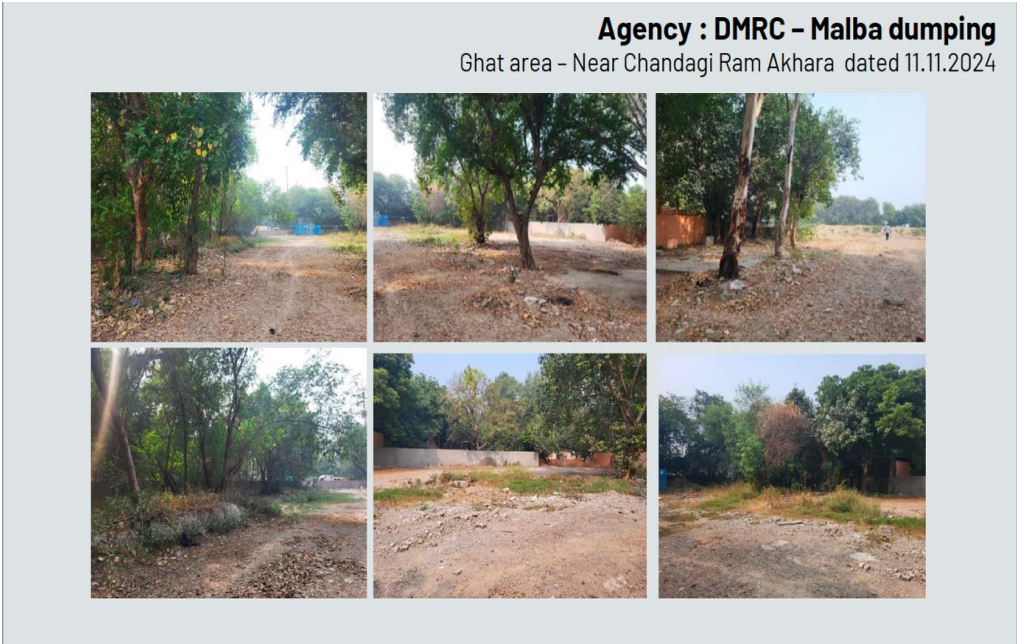
**6. Removal of construction waste / debris from Flood Plains [TL: 30.06.24]**

Para 26

DDA

S.No	Action Taken
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of the agencies have carried out the work in a befitting manner and progress during the site visits were noticeable.</li> <li>Work of some agencies Such as Railways, DMRC and PWD are on-going due to which they are unable to remove the construction materials, Piers etc. which are required for safety of the Bridges as mentioned in their compliance.</li> </ul>

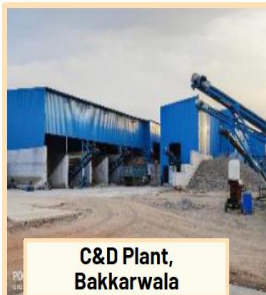
11



**6. 100% Management of C&D Waste** Para 28  
MCD

C&D waste generated in Delhi : Approx. 6000 TPD

S. No.	Operational C&D Plants	Capacity (TPD)	
1	Bakkwarwala	1000	MCD
2	Jahangirpuri (Burari)	2000	
3	Ranikhera	1000	
4	Shastri Park	1000	
5	Ranikhera (Mundka)	150	Metro Plant
<b>Total (TPD)</b>		<b>5150</b>	



New Proposed C & D waste Processing plant at Tehkhand : 1000 TPD.  
**Work is likely to be awarded by Dec, 2024 (Subject to constitution of Standing Committee).**



**6. Installation of biogas plant catering to all dairies (Action Plan)**

Para 29

MCD

Bio Gas Plant in 8 Authorized Dairies				
S. No.	Dairies	Bio Gas Plant	Present Status	Timeline
1.	Nangli	Nangli(NGZ) (215 TPD)	Test Commissioning started	July, 2024 (Progress 94%) (Extended to Nov, 2024)
2.	Kakrola			
3.	Goyala	Goyala(NGZ) (215 TPD)	Under Construction	March, 2025
4.	Ghogha	Ghogha (Narela) (290 TPD)		
5.	Shahbad	Ghogha (Narela) (Compressed BGP) (100 TPD- 25 TPD each from 4 dairies)		
6.	Jharoda			
7.	Bhalaswa			
8.	Gharoli	No cattle		

14

**6. Controlled and Scientific Dredging [ TL: 30.06.25 ]**

Para 31

DDA

S.No	Action Taken
27(a)	<p>Meeting held on 24th April 2024 &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 by VC, DDA :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NMCG informed that there is already a committee constituted under Chairman, CWC looking into dredging of rivers and that studies are being conducted regarding whether dredging of river should be encouraged.</li> <li>▪ NMCG, CWC and I&amp;FC requested by DDA to submit a report with respect to Action Plan for dredging of the river. Report awaited.</li> </ul>
27(b)	

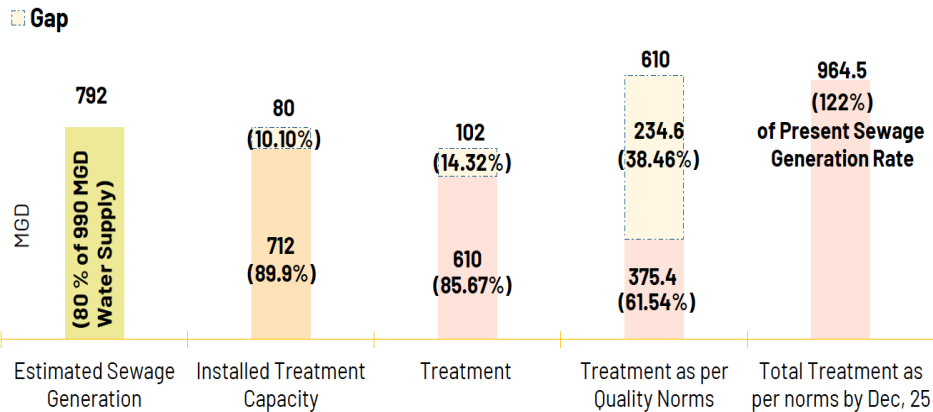
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**6. 100% Treatment of Sewage as per norms [TL: 31.12.25]**

Para 32

DJB



16

**7. Interconnection of storm water drains with sewerage network and vice versa**

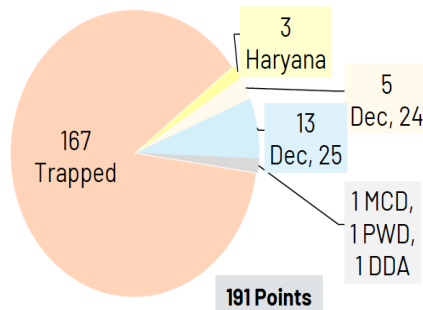
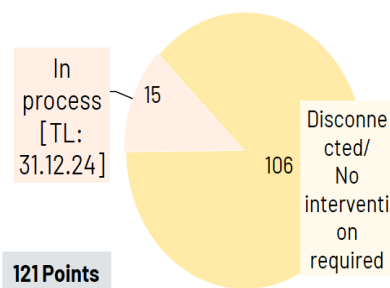
Para 34

DJB

Tapping of interconnection points in regard to

- 121 points where storm water is still entering into sewerage drains,
- and 191 points where sewage is entering into storm water drains.

(TL: 30.06.2024)



17





**8. Unauthorized polluting industries in residential areas**

Para 35(2)

MCD

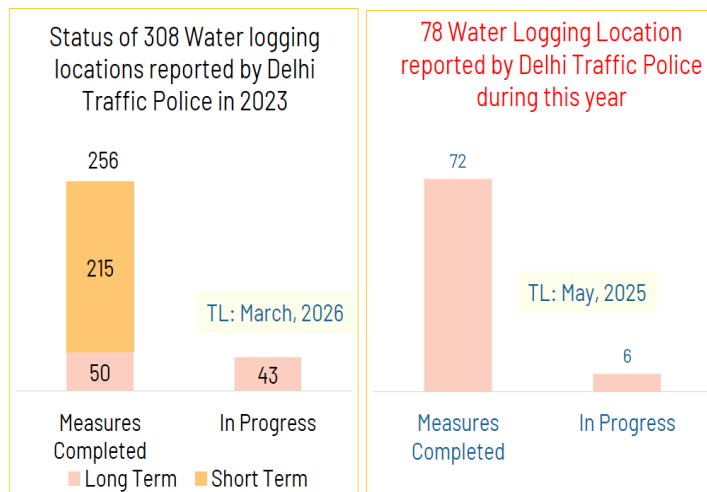
S.No	Action Taken
32 (a)	12 Joint teams including members from MCD, DPCC, BSES, DJB, etc constituted for undertaking surprise checks
32 (b)	<p>Joint ATR on behalf of MCD is being submitted to Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD. Actions are being intensified.</p> <p><u>Action in non-conforming areas for Oct:</u>                      i) No. of units surveyed -182                      ii) No. of units sealed -24</p>

18

**9. Water-logging points**

Para 43(1)

PWD



19



**13. Timelines for complete desilting of sewers and storm-water drains  
(Order dated 25.07.2024)**

1. **Desilting of sewers**
  - Trunk/peripheral Sewer : Approx 200 Km
  - Sewer line below 1000 mm Dia (Approx 529.5 Km)
2. **Desilting of storm-water drains**



20

**13.1 Desilting (Trunk/peripheral Sewer : Approx 200 Km)**

S.No.	Particulars	Total length (Km)	Cumulative Length Desilted (Km) as on 31.10.24	Timelines
<b>I</b>	<b>Desilting of 90.34 Km</b>			<b>Dec. 24</b>
1	Yamuna Vihar STP	7.65	7.65	Completed
2	Rithala-Rohini STP	19.21	19.21	
3	Narela STP & Coronation Pillar STP	8.05	8.05	
4	Keshopur STP	2.84	2.84	
5	Nilothi STP	4.65	1.34	Dec. 2024
6	Kondli STP in east zone	8.76	5.77	Completed
7	Dwarka STP	27.10	22.16	Dec. 2024
8	Okhla STP	11.51	9.50	Completed
9	Desilting of gravity duct no. 1	5.20	5.20	Completed
	Total	94.97	81.72 (86.04%)	
<b>II</b>	<b>Desilting of remaining 110 Km</b>	<b>110 (RL 36 km)</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Dec-25</b>

21



### 13.1 Desilting of sewer line below 1000 mm Dia (Approx 529.5 Km)

S.No	Particulars	Total length (Km)	Cumulative Length Desilted (Km)	Timelines
3.	Desilting of Sewer lines (below 1000 mm Dia)	529.5	380.00 (71.76%)	Dec. 2024

22

### 13.2 Desilting of storm-water drains

Name of the Department	Total length of storm water drains (KM)	Silt assessed to be removed this year (MT)	Desilting done during this year (MT)	Timeline for complete desilting
PWD	2064.08	225000	244149	31.12.2024
MCD	466.517 (having depth 4 ft. & above)	127368.01	83834.56	15.01.2025
	6657 (having depth less than 4 ft.)	82642	82642	Completed
I&FC Deptt.	426.55	1505438	1367617	30.06.2025
NDMC	335.29	2000	2000	Completed
DDA	423.513	45000	44953	Completed
DSIIDC	524.81	80000	80000	Completed
DCB	39	732 Approx.	732 Approx.	Completed
<b>Total</b>	<b>10936.76</b>	<b>2068180.01</b>	<b>1,905,927.56</b>	

23

4. Petitions filed by citizens, who have been adversely affected by the flooding and water logging during the 2024 monsoon are also listed. Learned counsel appearing for the Petitioners as well as the Petitioners in



person state that the submission of the Spl. Secretary pertaining to progress on desilting of sewers and storm water drains is inaccurate and at variance with the ground level realities.

5. They state that unprecedented flooding was experienced by the Petitioners in the areas such as Defence Colony, Malviya Nagar, Green Park Extension, Maharani Bagh and Mundka Village in 2024. They state that the shocking experiences of the Petitioners during the flooding makes it difficult to believe that number of water logging points detected by Delhi Traffic Police for the year 2024 is 78 as compared with the 308 water logging points detected in the year 2023. They state that the ground reality is that the water logging was unparalleled and excessive at several locations in Delhi this year.

6. Mr. Udyan Jain learned counsel appearing in W.P.(C) 13190/2024 relies upon the photographs filed in the writ petition to show that flood waters had entered the houses in the colony of Maharani Bagh and draws our attention to the electric rooms where the water was flowing perilously close to the electric meters. Similarly, Mr. Shailendra Bhatnagar, Petitioner in person in W.P.(C) 15399/2024, having office in Green Park Extension draws our attention to the photographs filed by him to show extensive flooding of the building. In one of the photographs the refrigerator can be seen floating. He states that the water was flowing into his premises from the main road, which itself had become a drain and was carrying water. He states that there is no trace of storm water drains in Green Park. Similarly, Mr. Sanjeev Anand, learned senior counsel appearing in W.P.(C) 12626/2024 for a private Art Gallery located on Siri Fort Institutional Area states that there was unprecedented flooding in the premises of the said



Petitioner. Ms.Amita Sachdeva, a lady lawyer, having her chamber in Malviya Nagar, states that all her equipment, furniture, case files, law books and computers were destroyed during the recent flooding.

7. In response, the Spl. Secretary is unable to confirm if the areas of the Petitioners have been identified by the Traffic Police amongst the 78 water logging locations.

8. Mr. Udayan Jain learned counsel appearing in W.P.(C) 13190/2024 has handed over current photographs taken on 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 and 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 pertaining to the Maharani Bagh drain at Taimur Nagar, which show that the said drain is lying choked with garbage. He also relies upon a Satellite image of the Taimur Nagar drain filed in W.P.(C) 13190/2024 showing that the said drain has been blocked and does not flow into the River. The causes of the obstructions are evident from the pictures. The Satellite image is reproduced hereinbelow:

**ANNEXURE P-10 (colly)**





9. Having heard the Spl. Secretary's presentation and having perused the records of the petitions filed by citizens, who have been affected by the flooding this Court is not satisfied that desilting of the twenty two (22) main drains, sewers and storm water drains has been carried out by the statutory agencies in compliance of the order dated 08<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The endeavour of the Court while passing the said order was to ensure readiness of the sewers and storm water drains to carry the rain water during the 2024 monsoon season to the River Yamuna. The current photographs of Taimur Nagar main drain shown during the hearing further contradicts the report of desilting presented before this Court today.

10. In addition, this Court is of the prima facie view that Sewage Treatment Plants ('STPs') are not functioning as per required norms and are releasing raw sewage in Yamuna river. It is also apparent that polluting industries continue to discharge unchecked waste into the drains, which finds its way to the river. The report in the presentation qua the action taken against unauthorized polluting industries in residential areas requires intensification.

11. Recently, this Court in another PIL petition in **W.P.(C) 15472/2024** titled as '**Purvanchal Nav Nirman Sansthan v. Govt NCT of Delhi**' dated 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 passed orders declining to issue directions to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (East) Shastri Nagar, to permit public to perform Chhath Puja at Geeta Colony Ghat on the Yamuna River bed. In the said proceedings, GNCTD itself apprised this Court that River is highly polluted and it would be injurious to the health of devotees to perform puja. The order reads as under:



“1. Present public interest petition has been filed seeking directions to the Respondent No. 3 – the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Respondent No. 4 – the Sub Divisional Magistrate (East), Shastri Nagar, to allow the public to perform Chhath Puja at Geeta Colony ghat on the Yamuna riverbed, subject to compliance with reasonable guidelines for environmental preservation and public safety.

2. **Learned counsel for GNCTD, who appears on advance notice, states that Yamuna is highly polluted at this juncture and if the devotees are allowed to perform Chhath Puja on the Yamuna River Bank, they are likely to fall sick.** He also states that the GNCTD has earmarked one thousand different spots in Delhi for performance of Chhath Puja. He contends that sufficient arrangements have already been made for performance of Chhath Puja by the residents of Delhi. 3. Recently, this Court in *Shabnam Burney vs. Union of India*, W.P.(C) 8035/2024 had taken judicial notice of the fact that pollution in river Yamuna is at all-time high. In the said order, the Court had referred to a report in a daily newspaper dated 07<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, which in turn was based on a report prepared by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee where it was recorded that the fecal coliform levels were 1,1959 times the permissible limit, 9,800 times the desired limit where the river exits the city. In the said article, it was pointed out that the fecal level was at an all-time high in September, 2024 and one of the main reasons for the same is untreated sewage flowing from unauthorised colonies into river Yamuna. 4. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts as well as the fact that the Chhath Puja festival commences from tomorrow, this Court is of the view that no orders are called for in the present writ petition. 5. Accordingly, the same is dismissed.”

(emphasis supplied)

12. This Court’s attention has also been drawn to a photograph, which appeared in *India Today* on 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 showing a devotee offering Chhath Puja in River Yamuna. The chemical foaming seen in this picture belies the data furnished before this Court in the presentation qua the treatment of sewage as per norms before its discharge in River Yamuna. The picture is reproduced hereinbelow:



### Deep dive into Yamuna's toxic water and how it put Chhath devotees at risk



*A devotee performs rituals on the bank of the Yamuna River as toxic froth floats on the surface of the polluted river at Kalindi Kunj. (PTI photo)*

13. In this background, the presentation by the Spl. Secretary as regards the measures being taken for treatment of sewage before it discharges in the River Yamuna does not appear to be accurate.

14. In fact, confronted with these facts, the Spl. Secretary during the hearing states that the existing thirty seven (37) STPs are not prescribing to safety norms presently and require improvement.

15. Consequently, this Court suggests that tamper proof meters must be installed to record STP operational timing and electricity consumption and this data must be loaded real time on website of CPCB, DJB and Chief Secretary's office. Further, all STP must install sensors at the point of discharge i.e. the point where the STP drain releases the treated water into the Yamua river to record quality and quantity of treated water including details of (Biological O<sub>2</sub> Demand) BOD, (Chemical O<sub>2</sub> Demand) COD, (Total Suspended Solid) TSS, Fecal Coliform and Dissolved Phosphate. This





must be transparently and prominently displayed on boards and a live feed of the same must go to servers of CPCB, DJB and Chief Secretary's office.

16. This Court also takes note that the timelines prescribed in the judgment dated 08<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 have not been adhered to and have been unilaterally extended by GNCTD. The Chief Secretary is directed to examine this issue and fix responsibility on the officials responsible for the non-adherence of the timelines.

17. The Spl. Secretary will place on record the Master plan showing the sewage line network and the storm drain network in the state of Delhi along with the dimensions of the sewer lines and the drains. This direction shall be complied within one week.

18. The Spl. Secretary shall examine the issue of Taimur Nagar drain highlighted in W.P.(C) 13190/2024 so as to ensure that all obstructions and garbage are removed to ensure flow of water into River.

19. The Chief Secretary has assured this Court that he will examine the issues highlighted during the hearing and file an updated report along with intensified action for complying with the directions issued vide judgment dated 08<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

20. List on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024 at 2:30 PM.

**W.P.(C) 8035/2024**

21. Mr. Parvinder Chauhan, learned standing counsel for DUSIB states that he relies upon the minutes of meeting dated 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. He states that the joint survey will begin from 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 and shall be completed by 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. He requests that the matter be taken up on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024 the date already fixed.

22. DUSIB is directed to complete the survey on or before 20<sup>th</sup> November



2024 and have the status report placed on record.

23. List on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024 at 2:30 PM.

**MANMOHAN, CJ**

**MANMEET PRITAM SINGH ARORA, J**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2024**/hp/ms