

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSCIVIL APPEAL NO(S). 8547-8548/2022

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[TO BE TAKEN UP AT 2.00 P.M.]

IA No. 176359/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT

IA No. 61624/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 35064/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 310311/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 188941/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 176361/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 35061/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURESIA No. 188939/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 176358/2022 - STAY APPLICATION

WITH

C.A. No. 8967-8968/2022 (XVII)

IA No. 179810/2022 - EX-PARTE STAY

Date : 21-05-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv. (AMICUS CURIAE)

Ms. Kanti, Adv.

Mr. Adit Garg, Adv.

Mr. N.S. Kaushal, Adv.

Ms. Raji Guroraj, Adv.

Mr. Prasad Hegde, Adv.

Ms. K.N. Vallari, Adv.

For Appellant(s) : Mr. S. V Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Sandeepan Pathak, AOR
Mr. Shaurya Sarin, Adv.
Mr. Hitarth Raja, Adv.
Mr. Shikhar Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Anil Kaushik, A.S.G.
Mr. Rajinder Singh, AOR
Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Rana, Adv.
Mrs. Shashi Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Anju Kaushik, Adv.
Mr. Nischal Tripathi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR
Mr. Sunil J Mathews, Adv.
Ms. Samanwaya Rautre, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Chib, Adv.
Ms. Ashtami, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.
Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR
Ms. Manisha, Adv.
Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Pradeep Misra, AOR
Ms. Indu Misra, Adv.
Mr. Daleep Dhyan, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.

Mr. Tahir Ashraf Siddiqui, AOR
Mr. Kartikey Sahai, Adv.

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Mr. S.D. Sanjay, A.S.G.
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Adv.
Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Rajeshvari Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. C. K. Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR

Mr. Lokesh Sinhal, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Shivansh Pundir, Adv.

Ms. Bhavya Singla, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Khurana, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Rivers are the lifeblood of civilization. They provide fresh drinking water, sustain ecosystems and drive economic growth through agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. It is no coincidence that ancient civilizations flourished along rivers such as the Nile, Indus, and Mississippi.

2. Encroachment on the Yamuna riverbed (particularly in fragile Zone 'O' in Delhi) along with indiscriminate discharge of toxic effluents from illegal industries, untreated sewage from unauthorized colonies and mixing of sewage with rainwater drains has reduced Yamuna to little more than a sewage channel. Multiple agencies working in silos have left drainage, sewage, stormwater, drinking water and effluent treatment systems either non-functional or operating below capacity. Agencies often work at cross purposes, even failing to maintain basic gradients while laying drains within their jurisdiction. Instead of curbing pollution, they are aggravating it. Hard decisions like removal of encroachments, closure of illegal industries and relocation of unauthorized colonies are unavoidable. Such measures can only succeed if the Union of India, States, and Union Territories act in concert.

3. At present, however, no State or Union Territory through which

Yamuna flows has a clear, coordinated plan for its conservation, management, protection, revival and pollution control. There is also no clarity in policy or coordination at the inter-state level.

4. This Court has repeatedly emphasized the absence of a single, comprehensive action plan for rejuvenation of Yamuna. A river is greater than the sum of its parts. Its revival requires a long-term, integrated strategy akin to the *Namami Gange Programme*. The plan must clearly state its objectives, implementation strategy, roles and responsibilities of each agency, budgetary allocations, and timelines. Coordination and monitoring must be entrusted to a single authority.

5. On the previous date of hearing, Mr. K. Parameshwar, learned Senior Advocate, was appointed Amicus Curiae. The Union of India has now proposed that the Union Home Secretary could act as Nodal Officer to coordinate efforts between States, Union Territories, and the Centre. Learned Amicus Curiae has given a comprehensive note containing the following suggestions:

"a. The Union of India - coordinated by Additional Secretary level officers of the Ministry of Home, Ministry of EF&CC and Ministry of Jal Shakti, be directed to urgently call a meeting of the stakeholders from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana.

b. Direct that in the meeting a proposed structure/architecture for a nodal planning and implementing agency (Nodal Agency) be deliberated and a consensus be arrived at. It may be kept in mind that proposed structure must reflect the planning, budgetary, technical and coordination gaps/challenges involved in the cleaning up of Yamuna-qua treating effluents discharged and the treatment of the drains that flow into Yamuna River.

c. It is expected that at least some members/officials must work full time on coordination and implementation in the Nodal Agency.

d. The Nodal Agency is expected to come out with full-fledged action plan, across States for the clean-up of the river Yamuna with timelines and actionable points.

e. The suggested action points on which such action plan could be based on are as follows:

- i. Details of cities and towns which are discharging the effluents in the River Yamuna;*
- ii. Details of industries which are polluting the Yamuna River in all of the three states;*
- iii. GAP Analysis of Industries situated in the entire stretch of Yamuna River;*
- iv. Construction of more STPs and availability of the land for the same;*
- v. All STPs, drains and CETPS on Yamuna River to be geo-tagged and monitored;*
- vi. Details of Gram Panchayat and Revenue Villages on the banks of the Yamuna River;*
- vii. Wet Lands/Water Bodies along the River Yamuna;*
- viii. Management of E-Waste, sewage generated from the cities, Municipal Solid Waste, Bio-medical Waste, Hazardous Waste, E-Waste and the Industrial waste.*
- ix. River Water Quality Data to be uploaded on the website.*
- x. MSW Improvement Action Plan time-line for the Urban Local Bodies of Department of Urban Development in all of the three States.*
- xi. Other relevant information."*

6. Accordingly, this Court constitutes a Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary, comprising Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories through which Yamuna flows including Secretaries/Heads of State Pollution Control Boards and the learned Amicus Curiae. The Committee shall prepare a comprehensive Yamuna Action Plan within eight (08) weeks. The Home Secretary shall be at liberty to co-opt experts or other authorities as required.

7. List on 12th August, 2026. The matter to be treated as part heard.

(KAVITA PAHUJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SAPNA BANSAL)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

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10. At present, however, no State or Union Territory through which Yamuna flows has a clear, coordinated plan for its conservation, management, protection, revival and pollution control. There is also no clarity in policy or coordination at the inter-state level.

11. This Court has repeatedly emphasized the absence of a single, comprehensive action plan for rejuvenation of Yamuna. A river is greater than the sum of its parts. Its revival requires a long-term, integrated strategy akin to the *Namami Gange Programme*. The plan must clearly state its objectives, implementation strategy, roles and responsibilities of each agency, budgetary allocations, and timelines. Coordination and monitoring must be entrusted to a single authority.

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xii. Details of cities and towns which are discharging the effluents in the River Yamuna;

xiii. Details of industries which are polluting the Yamuna River in all of the three states;

xiv. GAP Analysis of Industries situated in the entire stretch of Yamuna River;

xv. Construction of more STPs and availability of the land for the same;

xvi. All STPs, drains and CETPS on Yamuna River to be geo-tagged and monitored;

xvii. Details of Gram Panchayat and Revenue Villages on the banks of the Yamuna River;

xviii. Wet Lands/Water Bodies along the River Yamuna;

xix. Management of E-Waste, sewage generated from the cities, Municipal Solid Waste, Bio-medical Waste, Hazardous Waste, E-Waste and the Industrial waste.

xx. River Water Quality Data to be uploaded on the website.

xxi. MSW Improvement Action Plan time-line for the Urban Local Bodies of Department of Urban Development in all of the three States.

xxii. Other relevant information."

13. Accordingly, this Court constitutes a Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary, comprising Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories through which Yamuna flows including Secretaries/Heads of State Pollution Control Boards and the learned Amicus Curiae. The Committee shall prepare a comprehensive Yamuna Action Plan within eight (08) weeks. The Home Secretary shall be at liberty to co-opt experts or other authorities as required.

14. List on 8th August, 2026. The matter to be treated as part heard.

(KAVITA PAHUJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SAPNA BANSAL)
COURT MASTER (NSH)