

News

Delhi High Court seeks action plan to stem untreated sewage flow into Yamuna



The High Court ordered MCD, DJB, DPCC and DSIIDC to hold a meeting with the special committee created pursuant to court orders.

Yamuna river

The Delhi High Court has directed the local authorities in the national capital to hold a meeting with the special committee created on its orders and address the reasons behind the flow of untreated sewage into the Yamuna River [Court on its own Motion Vs Union of India & Ors].

A Division Bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora remarked that report supplied by committee revealed numerous inadequacies which must be remedied to ensure that only treated water is dumped into the river.

Therefore, it added that the officials of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development (DSIIDC) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) must remain present for the meeting on August 7.

"After the said meeting, the officials may agree to hold further meetings in this regard, if necessary and finally, the DJB and MCD shall file their joint report and the action plan for addressing various shortcomings, deficiencies and improvements as pointed out by the Special Committee," the Court said in the July 28 order.

The subject will be heard next on September 11.

Justice Prathiba M Singh and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora

The Court was hearing a suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) initiated against the contamination of the river.

After environmental activist Pankaj Kumar stated that a large amount of untreated water is being discharged into Yamuna through sewage treatment facilities (STPs), the Court had formed a special committee to conduct an on-site inspection.

On July 28, the committee filed a report after inspecting all 37 STPs. It underlined that a lot of work needed to be done to stop untreated sewage from pouring into the river.

After studying the report, the High Court ruled that the same should be sent to DJB, MCD, DSIIDC and DPCC.

The Court ordered a meeting between the members of the special committee and civil authorities to understand the procedures needed to remedy the matter.

Central Government Standing Counsel Manish Mohan and Ripudaman Bhardwaj alongside attorneys Jatin Teotia, Aishani Mohan, Abhay Bansal, Kushagra Kumar and Amit Kumar Rana appeared for the Union of India.

Standing Counsel Beenashaw Soni, Puja S Kalra with attorneys Mansi Jain, Virendra Singh and Ann Joseph appeared for MCD.

Advocates Dhruv Rohatgi, Chandrika Sachdev and Dhruv Kumar represented the Delhi government.

Standing Counsel Deeksha L Kakkar and Prabhsahay Kaur together with attorneys Rashneet Singh, Sana Parveen, Aditya Verma and Kavya Shukla appeared for Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

Advocate Priyam Mehta appeared for the application.

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