VERDICTUM.IN

ITEM NO.301 COURT NO.9 SECTION XVII

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Civil Appeal No(s).8547-8548/2022

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH & ORS. Respondent(s)

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/ANNEXURES
IA No. 188939/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES
IA No. 176358/2022 - STAY APPLICATION
WITH
C.A. No. 8967-8968/2022 (XVII)
FOR
FOR EX-PARTE STAY ON IA 179810/2022
IA No. 179810/2022 - EX-PARTE STAY

Date : 04-11-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANMOHAN

For Appellant(s) : Mr. S V Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Sandeepan Pathak- 3791, AOR
Mr. Hitarth Raja, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kumar Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Anil Kaushik, A.S.G.
Mr. Rajinder Singh- 2825, AOR
Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Rana, Adv.
Ms. Anju Kaushik, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Sunil J Mathews, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti Chib, Adv.

VERDICTUM.IN

Ms. Yashika Singh, Adv.
Mrs. Samanwaya Rautrey, Adv.
Ms. Krishna Priya, Adv.
Mr. Rajeev Singh- 1626, AOR

Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.
Mr. Sudeep Kumar- 2779, AOR
Ms. Manisha, Adv.
Ms. Reya Paul, Adv.

Mr. Pradeep Misra- 510, AOR
Mrs. Indu Misra, Adv.
Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Adv.
Ms. Disha Jham, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dinesh Jindal, Adv.

Mr. Tahir Ashraf Siddiqui- 2624, AOR

Mr. Anil Kaushik, A.S.G.
Mr. Rajinder Singh- 2825, AOR
Mr. Abhishek Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Rana, Adv.
Ms. Anju Kaushik, Adv.

Dr. N. Visakamurthy- 3411, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AOR
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Adv.
Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Rajeshwari Shankar, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Chandra Kant Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Lokesh Sinhal, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Rahul Khurana- 3456, AOR
Mr. Nikunj Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Raj, Adv.
Ms. Bhavya Singla, Adv.
Ms. Kriti, Adv.
Mr. Dipanshu Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Praveen Swarup- 1227, AOR
Mr. Rohit Swarup, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Maurya, Adv.

VERDICTUM.IN

Mr. Ravi Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Ashu Tomar, Adv.
Mr. Praharsh Chaudhary, Adv.
Mr. R. Sugathan, Adv.
Mr. Kamaljit Singh Ranot, Adv.
Mr. Aman, Adv.

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

1. This Court on 21st May 2026 had passed a detailed order. The said order is reproduced hereinbelow:-

> ***"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***

VERDICTUM.IN

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

VERDICTUM.IN

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."

2. In pursuance to the said order, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. **This Court on 22nd September 2026 has passed another order. The said order is reproduced hereinbelow:-**

"1. Pursuant to our order dated 12.08.2026, the Committee has prepared the 'Yamuna Action Plan' and the same has been submitted for our perusal.
2. In the status note appended to the letter which forwarded the action plan to the Amicus, it is mentioned that the 'Yamuna Action Plan' does not have any proposal for removal or relocation of encroachments/unauthorized structures on the riverbeds, floodplains or drains falling within the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
3. At page 112 of the Action Plan, it is mentioned that 1799 unauthorized colonies have been identified for which integrated sewerage system is being developed and the work to the extent of 73% is complete. Rest is at various stages of implementation.
4. We notice that in the Master Plan for Delhi-2047, a special initiative for rejuvenation of river Yamuna and its floodplains is envisaged. However, what is striking is that it dichotomizes floodplains by earmarking active floodplains. On what basis floodplains have been differentiated by treating some as active needs to be explained.
5. Further, how many unauthorized colonies

VERDICTUM.IN

identified are located over the floodplains must be disclosed so that we can assess whether the action plan is one which would be effective in serving the avowed purpose.

6. *Additionally, to have a clear understanding of the action plan and the requisite steps proposed thereunder, we would require a representative from the Ministry of Home Affairs to make a Power Point Presentation on the action plan and the various steps envisaged thereunder. Learned Amicus has suggested that it can be arranged on 07.10.2026 at 4.00 pm. We accept the suggestion. Let necessary arrangements be made for the same on 07.10.2026 at 4.00 pm.*
7. *Besides, we would like clarity on the issue as to whether the Master Plan for Delhi-2047 is in sync with the 'Yamuna Action Plan' which has been placed before us."*

4. **On 7th October 2026, this Court received a detailed presentation of the '*Yamuna Action Plan*'. The '*Recommendations at a Glance*' in the said Plan read as under:-**

"Recommendations at a Glance

15.1 Domestic Sewage Treatment

- *A total of 20 existing STPs will be upgraded to comply with the notified discharge standards. Their cumulative treatment capacity will increase from 867.1 MLD to 1,192.16 MLD. State-wise enhanced capacities are as follows:*
  - *Delhi: from 358.66 MLD to 640.14 MLD*
  - *Haryana: from 284 MLD to 304 MLD*
  - *Uttar Pradesh: from 223 MLD to 245 MLD*
  - *Himachal Pradesh: from 1.44 MLD to 3.02 MLD*
- *A total of 125 new STPs, with a cumulative treatment capacity of 4,401.30 MLD, will be established across the Yamuna basin:*
  - *Delhi: 42 STPs (2,258.65 MLD)*
  - *Uttar Pradesh: 47 STPs (1,490.70 MLD)*
  - *Haryana: 18 STPs (621 MLD)*
  - *Uttarakhand: 18 STPs (30.95 MLD)*

15.2 Drain Interception and Treatment

- *A total of 520 drains, currently discharging approximately 9,666.81 MLD of wastewater into the Yamuna and its tributaries, will be intercepted, diverted and connected to treatment infrastructure to prevent the discharge of untreated wastewater into the river.*

15.3 Industrial Effluents

- ***Twelve existing CETPs located in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh will be upgraded to comply with prescribed standards. Following upgradation, their cumulative treatment capacity will be 82.4 MLD. The reduction from the existing capacity of 160.8 MLD due to low flow in CETPs.***
- ***Twelve new CETPs, with a cumulative treatment capacity of 187.25 MLD, will be established in Haryana to strengthen industrial wastewater management.***

15.4 Municipal Solid Waste

- ***A comprehensive programme for municipal solid waste management will be implemented across the basin, including:***
  - ***Establishment of 10 new MSW processing plants with a cumulative processing capacity exceeding 565 TPD (Capacity of 565 TPD is proposed for 6 SWM plants only);***
  - ***Establishment of two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) at Raya and Dankaur with a combined capacity of 10 TPD;***
  - ***Construction of seven compost pits at Tundla, Auraiya, Jalaun, Deoband, Khair, Mau (Chitrakoot Dham) and Rajpur with a combined capacity of 63 TPD;***
  - ***Development of two legacy waste remediation facilities at Barkot and Vikasnagar; and***
  - ***Establishment of integrated solid waste management systems across 33 urban local bodies in Haryana.***
- ***Additional measures include:***
  - ***Removal of floating waste from drains;***
  - ***Installation of waste collection bins at vulnerable locations;***
  - ***Enforcement actions, including imposition of penalties for violations; and***
  - ***Information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns to promote responsible waste disposal practices.***

15.5 Dairy Waste

- ***A total of 23 biogas plants will be established to process cattle waste:***
  - ***Uttar Pradesh: 12 plants***
  - ***Delhi: 8 plants***
  - ***Haryana: 3 plants***
- ***These facilities will have a cumulative processing capacity of 4,208.5 TPD.***

15.6 Biomedical Waste

- ***Biomedical waste management will be strengthened through expansion of treatment facility coverage,***

regular inspections, improved tracking mechanisms and continued monitoring to ensure safe collection, transportation, treatment and disposal.

15.7 E-Waste

- ***An E-Waste Eco Park with a processing capacity of 51,000 TPA will be established at Holambi Kalan, Delhi, to strengthen scientific recycling and disposal of electronic waste.***

15.8 Hazardous Waste

- ***Hazardous waste management will be strengthened through enhanced awareness programmes and comprehensive tracking through the National Hazardous Waste Tracking System (NHWTS).***

15.9 Restoration of Water Bodies

- ***A total of 270 water bodies, comprising 13 ponds and 257 wetlands and floodplain water bodies, will be conserved, rejuvenated and restored to enhance ecological resilience, groundwater recharge and basin health.***

15.10 Increasing Environmental Flows (E-Flows) in the Yamuna

Key interventions proposed for augmenting environmental flows include:

- ***Time-bound completion and commissioning of the Lakhwar, Renukaji and Kishau dam projects;***
- ***Completion of repair and lining works on the Delhi Sub-Branch Canal; and***
- ***Discharge of treated water from the Yamuna Vihar and Coronation Pillar STPs into the Yamuna at Wazirabad.***
- ***Notify Yamuna e-flows by Dec 2026 and designate CWC for monitoring and compliance.***

15.11 Safe Reuse of Treated Water (SRTW)

Key recommendations include

- ***Aligning all Yamuna Basin states with the National Framework for Safe Reuse of Treated Water (NF-SRTW) and notifying updated reuse policies by December 2026 to institutionalize treated wastewater reuse.***
- ***Mandating the use of treated wastewater by eligible thermal power plants and promoting its use in industry, agriculture, construction, and urban applications to reduce freshwater dependence.***
- ***Achieving NF-SRTW reuse targets by ensuring safe collection, treatment, and reuse of at least 30% of used water by 2030 and 50% by 2035.***

15.12 Online Monitoring of STPs and data Dissemination on Ganga Pulse Public Portal

VERDICTUM.IN

Key recommendations include

- *Equip all STPs above 1 MLD in Yamuna districts with Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) by December 2026.*
- *Integrate OCEMS data from all eligible Yamuna STPs with the Ganga Pulse Portal and respective State Portals by March 2027*
- *Strengthen continuous monitoring of key effluent quality parameters to improve STP efficiency, ensure regulatory compliance, and support river water quality restoration.*

15.13 Governance, Monitoring and Institutional Coordination

Implementation of the Action Plan will be monitored through four institutional mechanisms:

1. *The Union Home Minister;*
2. *The Union Home Secretary;*
3. *The High-Level Committee chaired by the Chief Minister of Delhi; and*
4. *The Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary of Delhi, along with similar monitoring mechanisms established by the other basin states.*

These institutional arrangements will ensure regular review, inter-governmental coordination, timely resolution of implementation bottlenecks and effective monitoring of progress."

5. This Court finds that the Yamuna Action Plan is a significant step forward, inasmuch as it identifies domestic sewage as the single largest source of pollution entering the river Yamuna. The Plan provides for the construction of 125 (One Hundred Twenty-Five) new Sewage Treatment Plants, 12 (Twelve) new Common Effluent Treatment Plants, 10 (Ten) new Municipal Solid Waste Plants and 23 (Twenty-Three) Bio-Gas Plants, besides the upgradation of existing plants of the same kind.

6. During the presentation, the Court pointed out a few

VERDICTUM.IN

contradictions in the draft Yamuna Action Plan submitted to this Court. For instance, the Plan does not propose the removal of encroachments on water bodies and wetlands alongside Zone 'O', on the ground that they are free of encroachments. However, Annexure-9 to the Draft Yamuna Action Plan, prepared by the NCT of Delhi, marks all thirty-five water bodies and wetlands in Zone 'O' as "Yes" for encroachment. Further, although the Plan states that twenty-eight of the thirty-seven existing Sewage Treatment Plants in Delhi meet the standards stipulated by the Central Pollution Control Board in its report at Annexure V, states that none of these Plants meets all the prescribed standards and that only five meet the bacteriological limit.

7. This Court is of the opinion that *'everything that is wrong with civic administration in the towns, cities and villages situated along the banks of the river is reflected in the poor health of the river and in the 520 (five hundred twenty) drains'* that discharge wastewater into the Yamuna. This is why, despite huge sums being spent on cleaning the river, pollution in the Yamuna has only increased.

VERDICTUM.IN

8. This Court is of the view that industrial pollution and untreated sewage must be curtailed, if not stopped altogether, at the source. Where that is not possible, the sewage must first be tapped and then treated. However, tapping will remain a challenge in absence of a robust sewage system and due to joining of storm-water and sewage drains. This Court is further of the opinion that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for civic authorities to tap sewage in most illegal and unauthorised colonies built on encroached land, since they have not been built on a grid layout and have hardly any space for laying a sewage system.

9. This Court is also of the view that unless illegal and unauthorised colonies, JJ clusters on the drains as well as on the river bed are removed after rehabilitating their occupants, their sewage will continue to pollute the river at the source.

10. There are also a large number of illegal and unaccounted-for dairies for instance in Delhi, which would not benefit from the setting up of the proposed Bio-Gas Plants in authorised dairies alone.

VERDICTUM.IN

11. This Court is of the opinion that Zone 'O', as defined in the Delhi Master Plan 2047, should not only be maintained and protected as a '*Green*' Zone but should also be extended upstream and downstream if feasible, that is, from the source of the river Yamuna to its confluence with the river Ganga. No permanent structure, except green parks and essential public infrastructure projects, should be allowed to be constructed in future in the said or extended Zone. Even for recreational and tourism purposes, only semi-permanent structures, such as cycling and walking tracks, should be permitted; permanent structures may be constructed only outside Zone 'O' and that too at a suitable height. Efforts should be made to remove all structures existing in Zone 'O', or in the proposed extended Zone, in accordance with the extant law and after allocating alternative accommodation to the occupants, where they are so entitled. After all, the river Yamuna must have space to meander and change its course, if it so chooses.

12. As pointed out in the order dated 21st May 2026, a '*river is greater than the sum of its parts*'. At this juncture it is important to note that when several States

VERDICTUM.IN

share one river, it is not enough for each State to only look after its own stretch, the river has to be treated as a single, shared resource that all of them are jointly responsible for. At the same time, it would be unfair to hold every State to an identical standard, regardless of how much pollution they actually contribute or how much capacity they have to deal with it. This balance, which is a joint responsibility for the river as a whole, combined with individual obligations calibrated to each State's own contribution and capacity, is what has come to be known internationally as the doctrine of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities ("CBDR"). This principle was articulated in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and has since been carried forward, with the added idea of "respective capabilities," into the UNFCCC (1992), the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015). In essence, it has two parts that must work together: a common part (everyone owes a duty to the shared resource) and a differentiated part (how much each one owes depends on their share of the problem and their ability to fix it).

13. It is important to note that the *'common'* part of

VERDICTUM.IN

this principle is just as important as the "differentiated" part, and that this is how CBDR ought to be applied to the Yamuna. The principle should not be understood as permission to simply divide the river into separate State-wise segments, with each State answerable only for the water within its own borders and indifferent to what happens once it crosses into the next State. The Yamuna, as stated above, is one continuous ecosystem running through several States/UTs, and the "common" part of CBDR requires that it continue to be protected as one single resource instead of a set of disconnected State-wise problems. It is only once this shared responsibility is accepted that the "differentiated" part follows and accordingly, each State's specific obligation can then be calibrated to how much pollution it contributes and what capacity it has to deal with it. For instance, by requiring that the quality of the river water leaving a State cannot be worse than the quality at which it entered. However, no State's responsibility should be treated as limited to, or satisfied merely by, what happens within its own stretch of the river. This responsibility operates in three stages: first, preventing pollution before it occurs; second, if

VERDICTUM.IN

pollution does occur, bearing the cost of cleaning it up; and third, restoring the river ecologically where damage has already been done.

14. This '*common system*' reading finds direct guidance from the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, which, under paragraph 4(i), lays down as the foremost governing principle that '*the River Ganga shall be managed as a single system.*' Since Yamuna is one of the Ganga's principal tributaries, this principle extends with equal force to it as the 2016 Order itself contemplates that a river and its tributaries must be governed as one integrated system. Therefore, any order apportioning liability on the States for pollution of the Yamuna ought to expressly adopt this principle-based, common-system approach, rather than a disaggregated, State-by-State model of responsibility.

15. Consequently, a multi-faceted approach must be adopted if the authorities wish to clean the river Yamuna, rather than an action plan that concentrates only on the construction of additional Sewage Treatment Plants, Decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants and Bio-Gas

VERDICTUM.IN

Plants.

16. **This Court is, however, cognizant of its limitations, as it is neither a city planner nor an expert body. It is for the civic administrators to prepare a plan to clean the river Yamuna. This Court considers it appropriate to give the administrators the power and flexibility to do their jobs, while holding them accountable if they fail to achieve results. To that end, this Court proposes to lay down a broad test and to levy fines on those States/Union Territories that fail in their duty to check pollution of the river Yamuna, whether through inefficiency or for lack of the political will to take hard decisions. This Court is of the view that this approach will put an end to the defence of '*passing the buck*'.**

17. **For this purpose, the Central Pollution Control Board is directed to place before this Court the composition and properties of the water, including its chemical composition and parameters such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Fecal Coliform and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) at the points where the river Yamuna and the major drains (that**

VERDICTUM.IN

ultimately flow into it) enter and exit each State/Union Territory as well as District within the State/Union Territory.

18. This Court is informed that presently, Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring River Yamuna at the points where it enters and exits each State/Union Territory, including the major tributaries flowing into the river, as well as at the entry and exit points of districts within the respective States/Union Territories on a quarterly basis. Further monitoring of major inter-state drains may also be undertaken at an identified frequency. Parallel samples collected at the same time may be analysed simultaneously by established institutes like IIT to ensure independent verification of the results.

19. If the water quality deteriorates on any parameter while flowing through, or exiting a State/Union Territory or a District therein, then that State/Union Territory or District within the State/Union Territory shall be held accountable and penalised. The said compensation/ fine shall be deposited with the Registry of this Court. The Central Pollution Control Board to suggest formula for computation of fine/compensation. The States/Union

VERDICTUM.IN

Territories shall be at liberty to recover such fines, after holding an inquiry, from the polluter as well as officials who were remiss in performing their duties.

20. The Central Pollution Control Board shall also investigate, inquire and submit a detailed report to this Court with respect to any incident of pollution in the river Yamuna like dying of fish or floating of white foam on surface or eutrophication or algal bloom or increase in BOD, COD, TSS levels. The report should specifically mention the cause of such an incident or spike in pollution levels as well remedial measures to be undertaken.

21. To ensure that in the meantime existing STPs and CETPs operate at full capacity, it is directed that every STP, CETP and Government-commissioned biogas plant shall install tamper-proof smart energy meters within one month. Every STP and CETP shall install an inflow meter at the inlet and an outflow meter with continuous sensors at the point of final discharge, whether into the river or into a drain. The sensors shall record the volume discharge and the levels of pH, BOD, COD, TSS and ammoniacal nitrogen, while fecal coliform shall be tested weekly in an accredited laboratory.

VERDICTUM.IN

22. **All readings shall be uploaded live, plant-wise on the websites of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee, so that each plant's hours of operation, power drawn, volume treated and quality of discharge and thereby each operator's performance can be tracked. Biogas plants shall in addition record the waste received and the gas produced. The meters shall be calibrated annually by an accredited laboratory and any break in the data feed exceeding 24 (twenty-four) hours shall be presumed to be non-operation of the plant unless the operator proves otherwise.**

23. This Court is informed that presently, Delhi Pollution Control Committee is in the process of installing Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Stations ('RTWQMS') at identified locations along the River Yamuna and major drains within the Delhi stretch. Similarly, other State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees must also undertake installation of RTWQMS at identified locations along the river and major drains within their respective jurisdictions. It is further directed that the real-time water quality data generated

VERDICTUM.IN

through these stations shall be shared with Central Pollution Control Board through API integration to facilitate centralised data access, analysis and necessary follow-up action.

24. It is further directed that the Central Pollution Control Board shall:-

a) **cause unannounced sampling of every STP, with capacity equal to or more than 5 (five) MLD and CETP at least once a quarter through IITs, NITs or accredited third-party laboratories with results published within 30 (thirty) days alongside the online data for the same period; and**

b) **recover environmental compensation from the operator for each day of non-compliance.**

25. The respective State/Union Territory Urban local bodies (ULBs) shall ensure registration of all septage tankers operating within their jurisdictions and installation of GPS tracking systems in each tanker. Further, a dedicated portal shall be developed to monitor and quantify the septage generated and collected from individual households and its subsequent disposal. The respective ULBs shall provide API-based access along with necessary administrative privileges to the concerned

VERDICTUM.IN

State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees and Central Pollution Control Board to facilitate effective data monitoring, data analysis and regulatory oversight.

26. **In order to ensure that the directions issued hereinabove are carried out in its true letter and spirit, and having regard to the onerous monitoring, investigatory, technical, and regulatory responsibilities entrusted to the Central Pollution Control Board, it is hereby directed that:**

a. **All central and state bodies including ministries, organisations, instrumentalities, authorities and departments shall render all necessary administrative, logistical, technical, operational, and infrastructural assistance and cooperation to the Central Pollution Control Board, its authorized officers, and the expert/academic institutions engaged by it, without demur or delay.**

b. **All public and private entities, concessionaires, operators, and agencies managing, operating, or maintaining wastewater, solid waste, and effluent treatment infrastructure, shall grant immediate,**

VERDICTUM.IN

unhindered, and unconditional access to their premises, installations, and records to the officials of the Central Pollution Control Board and its designated third-party agencies (including IITs, NITs, and accredited laboratories) at all hours, for the purposes of unannounced inspections, surprise sample collection, volumetric audits, sensor verifications, and technical assessments.

c. **All concerned departments, authorities, concessionaires, and plant operators shall extend full technical cooperation and complete, unrestricted data access to the CPCB, ensuring seamless and uninterrupted integration with the centralized monitoring architecture of the CPCB within the timeframes stipulated by this Court.**

d. **The Commissioners of Police, District Magistrates, and Superintendents of Police having territorial jurisdiction over the concerned stretches and installations across the basin States and Union Territories shall, upon a requisition being made by the Central Pollution Control Board, forthwith provide adequate**

VERDICTUM.IN

executive magisterial and armed police assistance to the inspecting teams in discharge of the directions made in this order.

e. The Chief Secretaries of each of the Yamuna Basin States and Union Territories, as well as the Secretaries of the concerned Central Ministries, shall, within two (02) weeks from today, nominate a senior officer not below the rank of Special Secretary to act as the Nodal Officer. The duties of the said Nodal Officer shall include, but shall not be limited to, acting as the single-point liaison for the Central Pollution Control Board, ensuring prompt inter-departmental coordination, removing administrative bottlenecks, securing timely transmission of compliance reports, and guaranteeing prompt adherence to all requisitions made by the Central Pollution Control Board under the mandate of this Court.

27. The officer in charge of each plant and each major drain shall be named on the portal and shall file a monthly compliance affidavit before this Court.

VERDICTUM.IN

28. **List on 13th January 2027 at 2:00 p.m. before this Bench. Registry is directed to forward a copy of this order to all the Standing Counsel for the Respondents or to the Respondents by way of email.**

(CHETAN ARORA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SAPNA BANSAL)
COURT MASTER (NSH)