

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 52/2026

News Item Titled "Noida CEO Removed CM orders SIT probe into techie's Drowning" appearing in The Times of India dated 20.01.2026

Date of hearing: 22.01.2026

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Noida CEO Removed CM orders SIT probe into techie's Drowning" appearing in The Times of India dated 20.01.2026.

2. The news item relates to the drowning of a software engineer Sh. Yuvraj Mehta in a waterlogged trench at a commercial site in Sector 150 Nodia. As per the news item, Sh. Mehta took a sharp right-angle turn and due to fog conditions, fell into the trench. The said land in Sector 150 where the person died was initially allotted for a private mall project, but had turned into pond as rainwater and wastewater discharged from nearby housing societies was allowed to accumulate in it for a decade. The storm water management plan that was chalked out by the Irrigation Department in 2015 remained on papers despite multiple rounds of surveys and site inspections. The documents assessed showed that the Irrigation Department in 2015 proposed a head regulator to divert water flow into the Hindon. In 2016, it received Rs. 13.05 Lakh from Noida Authority to undertake a survey and prepare a design of the proposed regulator. As per the news item, the said storm water received from existing drains potentially increasing discharge and suggested that hydraulic or pneumatic gates to be used instead of mechanical ones. The

delay in taking up remedial measures saw severe water logging. The basement of several housing societies in nearby areas were flooded as rains could not be discharged in the Hindon in the absence of a regulator. Without a controlled outlet, water stagnated and risked backflow into the river that swelled. Residents alleged inaction by the Noida Authority due to water logging. The news item indicates laps by the Noida Authority in taking up remedial measures which resulted in the death of the person.

3. The above matter indicates violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

4. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- (1). Noida Authority, Administrative Complex Sector 6, Noida - 201301, District. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- (2). Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Building. No. TC-12V, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226010.
- (3). Irrigation Department, Government of UP, 589kha/616, VIP Rd Awadh Nagar, Dwaraka Puri, VIP Rd, Awadh Nagar, Dwaraka Puri, Telibagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226002.
- (4). Principal Secretary, Environment, Government of U.P., Room No. 601, Bapu Bhawan, Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow – 226001.

(5). District Magistrate, G.B. Nagar (UP), Plot Number G 28, Near Kailash Hospital, Tulsi Marg, Sector 27, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate, then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

8. List on 10.04.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

January 22, 2026
Original Application No. 52/2026
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