

Shashi Shekhar's letter on the AOL event

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सत्यमेव जयते

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श्रम शक्ति भवन,
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT &
GANGA REJUVENATION
SHRAM SHAKTI BHAWAN,
RAFI MARG, NEW DELHI-110 001
<http://www.wrmin.nic.in>
3rd March 2016

D.O. No. S(MR; RD & GR)/MISC./2016

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Respected Sir,

Sub: Destruction of Yamuna floodplain by Art of Living (AOL) – Permission by DDA – Report of Committee set up by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal – Regarding.

This is regarding the report submitted by the Committee consisting of 3 experts with the undersigned as the Chairman to visit Yamuna floodplain and report to the NGT regarding the allegation of destruction of Yamuna floodplain by AOL for their World Culture Festival. The Committee submitted its report to the NGT on 22.2.2016.

One of the suggestions by the Committee that inadvertently got recommended was regarding penalty of Rs.120 crores on AOL for restoring the Yamuna floodplain destroyed for their function. This inadvertent mistake was largely due to the fact that I was running high fever and I could not see the entire report prepared by the experts. Though I do not deny that this issue was not discussed, in fact, it was discussed to impose a penalty of Rs.120 crore for restoration of Yamuna floodplain. I had not endorsed that view and instead suggested that after the festival is over, the organizer must restore the Yamuna floodplain, the cost of which to be scientifically assessed by the experts and the restoration should take place under the supervision by the Committee as constituted by the Hon'ble NGT. Rs.120 crore as assessed by the experts was tentative and the figure emerged as spontaneous suggestion. It was not based on any scientific assessment.

The entire idea was to ensure that the Yamuna floodplain is restored to the original condition and the organizer must bear the cost which should be assessed by the experts.

May I request that the NGT may consider this view as the recommendation rather than as an adhoc figure of Rs.120 crore as cost of restoration which did not have any scientific basis.

Warm Regards,

Yours sincerely

Shashi Shekhar
(Shashi Shekhar)



Hon'ble Justice Swatanter Kumar
Chairperson
National Green Tribunal
Faridkot House
New Delhi

*Put up
Judicial file*



3/4/16

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