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\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 4534/2015

ARPIT BHARGAVA AND ANR.

... Petitioners

Through: Petitioner No.1 in person.

versus

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
AND ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Ajay Arora, Advocate for  
respondents No.1 to 3/ for all the  
three Municipal Corporations of  
Delhi.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi, ASC for  
respondent No.4/ GNCTD.

Mr. B.S. Shukla, Advocate for  
respondent No.5/ UOI.

Mr. Anil Grover, Standing Counsel  
with Mr. Tushar Sannu, ASC and  
Ms.Noopur Singhal & Ms.Misha Vij,  
Advocates for respondent No.6/  
NDMC.

Mr. Tarveen Singh Nanda and  
Mr.Ankur Mishra, Advocates for  
respondent No.7/ Delhi Cantonment  
Board.

Mr. Arjun Pant, Advocate for  
respondent No.8/ DDA.

**CORAM**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPIN SANGHI**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJNISH BHATNAGAR**

**ORDER**

**09.06.2020**

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**CM APPL. 12121/2020**

1. Issue notice. Notice is accepted by learned counsels for the respondents. Mr. Tripathi – who appears for respondent No.4/ GNCTD, submits that the initial notification was issued on 24.04.2019, to which the corrigendum was issued on 10.02.2020.
2. Mr. Arora – who appears for all the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi, submits that it was informed to the Court on 03.03.2020 that the action plan for making buildings in Delhi seismic compliant had been notified. We direct that the said notification and the amendment thereof be brought on record. Learned counsels submit that the same has been filed on record, but we do not find the same on record. Steps be taken by learned counsels to bring the same on record.
3. Mr. Arora further submits that the three Municipal Corporations are conscious of the seismic activity in Delhi and that they are working out a plan to implement the action plan.
4. We direct all the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi to file their respective affidavits explaining as to what the Plan of Implementation is, and how it is proposed to be implemented on an urgent basis. The affidavits be filed within a week. The Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board shall also file a similar affidavit during the same period. The affidavits be filed by the respective Commissioner of the three Municipal Corporations; by the Chief Secretary on behalf of the GNCTD; by the Vice-Chairman, DDA; by the Chairperson, New Delhi Municipal Council; and by the Chairman of the Delhi Cantonment Board.

5. It goes without saying that mere paperwork and consultations would not solve the eminent threat that the citizens of NCT of Delhi faces due to heightened seismic activity and that it is only actual work on ground which would come to rescue of the citizens. We hope the respondents are conscious of the same, and some real work on the ground is undertaken to save the citizens from a possible catastrophe.

6. The petitioner No.1 has brought to our notice the direction issued by this Court on 01.05.2019. The Court had directed the respondent Department of Urban Development and Local Bodies of the GNCTD to give out a detailed action plan, outlining the responsibilities of the concerned Corporations, and areas which are at high risk. The petitioner No.1 points out that the detailed action plan in the aforesaid terms has not been publicised, and the citizens of NCT of Delhi are not aware as to what steps they need to take to save themselves from a major earthquake.

7. We direct the GNCTD to take steps to sensitize not only other Government functionaries, but also the public at large in this regard. The affidavit to be filed by the GNCTD should also state as to what steps it had taken in this regard and what further steps it proposes to take, and within how much time.

8. List on 18.06.2020.

**VIPIN SANGHI, J**

**RAJNISH BHATNAGAR, J**

**JUNE 09, 2020**

*B.S. Rohella*