**NGT takes note of**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance of a report published in The Hindu highlighting that the demarcation of the Yamuna floodplains in Delhi — a basic step to help identify and protect its sensitive ecosystem from encroachment — remains incomplete nine years after it had ordered the authorities to carry out the task.

The next hearing in the matter has been fixed for August 7.

“The news item indicates the violation of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, and the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms,” the NGT Bench headed by its chairperson, Prakash Shrivastava, noted on May 21.

The NGT said the report states that nine years after it had ordered the identification of encroachments, the process was not initiated even after the 2023 floods. “The article states as per the latest satellite images, illegal permanent constructions have only increased since the NGT’s landmark judgment in 2015,” the Bench said.

The report was part of a five-part series published by The Hindu on different aspects of what plagues the floodplains and why Delhi continues to face floods. Published in April, it highlighted that nine months after Delhi witnessed the worst flood in its history, forcing over 25,000 people to live in relief camps, nothing much has changed on the ground.