



Supreme Court upholds decision to scrap toll collection on DND Flyway

By [Utkarsh Anand](#)

Dec 20, 2024 11:34 AM IST

The SC found that Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL) had already recovered both the cost of constructing the flyway and a reasonable profit since the expressway opened in 2001

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The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a decision barring the collection of toll charges on the Delhi-Noida Direct (DND) flyway, and reprimanded the Noida Authority for enabling a toll company to exploit commuters indefinitely.



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A bench comprising justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan affirmed the 2016 judgment of the Allahabad high court, which directed the Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL) to cease toll collection from vehicles using the DND flyway, which connects Delhi with Noida.

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The Supreme Court found that NTBCL had already recovered both the cost of constructing the flyway and a reasonable profit since the expressway opened in 2001.

Criticising the Noida Authority, the bench noted that the agreement with NTBCL lacked a defined time frame for toll collection, effectively allowing the concessionaire to charge users perpetually.

Also Read: [Firm managing DND Flyway has recovered cost: RWA body says, citing CAG report](#)

“NOIDA overstepped its authority by delegating powers to NTBCL to collect or levy fees, and the arrangement was alien to terms of concessionaire agreement...it has resulted in undue burden on users,” said justice Kant while reading out the operative part of the judgment.



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The bench added that general public has already parted with several hundreds of crores, and that there is no reason for the collection of user or toll fee to continue.

The court also validated the public interest litigation (PIL) filed in 2012 by the Federation of Noida Residents' Welfare Associations, which challenged the "levy and collection of toll in the name of user fee" by NTBCL. The bench concluded that the PIL was legally sound and rightly adjudicated by the high court.

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observed that NTBCL had achieved adequate profit through toll collection, reinforcing the finding that further toll collection was unjustified. Consequently, the Supreme Court dismissed NTBCL's appeal against the high court's judgment.

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The DND flyway, operational since 2001, has significantly reduced travel time between Delhi and Noida, easing traffic congestion in the region. Prior to the high court judgment, commuters were charged ₹28 per trip or ₹56 for a round trip for using the expressway, which was touted as a smoother and faster route within the Delhi-NCR region.

The verdict is expected to benefit daily commuters by eliminating a recurring financial burden while ensuring the principle of fairness in public infrastructure projects.

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By [HT News Desk](#)

Dec 20, 2024 10:06 AM IST

Contesting Navy's claim of "engine failure" in speedboat leading to the crash, the survivor said the vessel's driver was in a playful mood and was showing off.

Driver of the Navy speedboat that collided with a ferry off the [Mumbai coast](#) was "showing off," said a survivor, whose aunt is among the 14 dead in the incident that took place on Wednesday afternoon.

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The Navy craft, undergoing engine trials, lost control and collided with the passenger ferry Neel Kamal near Mumbai's Karanja at around 4 pm on Wednesday. The ferry had been carrying passengers from the Gateway of India to Elephanta Island, a popular tourist destination.

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Gaurav Gupta, a vegetable vendor from Nalasopara in adjoining Palghar district, was on the ill-fated ferry with his aunt and relatives who had travelled to Mumbai to attend his wedding last week, news agency PTI reported.

"I met my aunt after many years. She came for my wedding, and I took her for sightseeing and a ferry ride in the sea. I had no idea it would be the last day of her life," the report quoted Gupta as saying.

Survivor contests Navy's claim

Contesting the Navy's claim of "[engine failure](#)" in the speedboat leading to the crash, Gupta said the vessel's driver was in a playful mood and was "showing off," adding that many passengers, including himself, were busy recording videos of the speedboat as the driver zig-zagged through the waters.

"It felt like a display," Gupta added.



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At the time of the collision, many passengers on the ferry were reportedly not wearing life jackets.

Gupta said he did not initially grasp the gravity of the situation.

"One occupant from the speedboat was thrown onto our ferry. We assumed our ferry was safe and that no damage had occurred. But soon, the ferry began to sink," he said.

Before the collision, the speedboat driver was moving freely, and the passengers on board appeared calm, Gupta said, adding that if there had been a problem with the boat, they would not have been so relaxed.

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Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala passes away in Gurugram

By [HT News Desk](#)

Dec 20, 2024 12:53 PM IST

Om Prakash Chautala died in Haryana's Gurugram after a cardiac arrest, a party spokesperson said.

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala passed away in Gurugram on Friday, December 20, at the age of 89. Om Prakash Chautala died after a cardiac arrest, party spokesperson told news agency PTI.



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Om Prakash Chautala was last seen in public during the voting of the Haryana Assembly election, which took place on October 5 this year. He was seen at a polling booth in Sirsa's Chautala village.

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Om Prakash Chautala, son of former Deputy Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Devi Lal, served as the seventh chief minister of Haryana.

Chautala was awarded a four-year jail term in a 16 years old disproportionate assets case on 27 May 2022 by a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Court and became the oldest prisoner of the Delhi's Tihar jail aged 87. He was released in 2020.

Om Prakash Chautala's wife Sneha Lata died in August 2019. Chautala has three daughters and two sons, including Abhay Singh Chautala and Ajay Singh Chautala.

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Abhay Singh Chautala is a an MLA from from the Ellenabad constituency of Haryana and has

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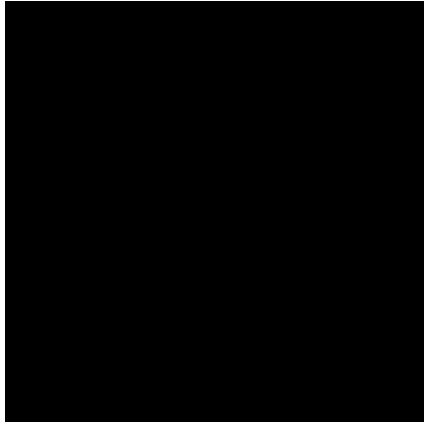
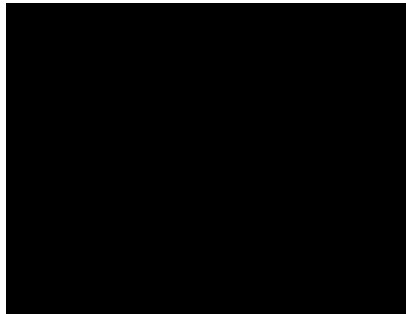
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