

2026 LiveLaw (SC) 75

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
B.V. NAGARATHNA; J., UJJAL BHUYAN; J.
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s). 74139/2025; 19-01-2026
DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY *versus* SHILA & ORS.

Condonation of Delay – Special Leave Petition – Consistent Negligence by Statutory Body – The Supreme Court dismissed a Special Leave Petition filed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) due to an unexplained and "fatal" delay of 235 days - noted a pattern of consistent delay by the DDA, highlighting prior delays of 685 days in filing a Letters Patent Appeal (LPA) and 577 days in filing a review petition before the High Court - clarified that a development authority cannot be granted special indulgence or immunity from limitation periods simply by virtue of its status - The explanation provided for the delay was deemed neither satisfactory nor sufficient in law – Noted that that the DDA should implement a robust litigation policy and screening process for cases before filing them belatedly, noting that such actions contribute to "docket explosion" and the unnecessary consumption of judicial time - The petition was dismissed on the grounds of delay with a cost of Rs. 10,000/- to be paid to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee within six weeks.

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 29-01-2025 in LPA No. 599/2017 passed by the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi]

For Petitioner(s): Ms. Niharika Ahluwalia, AOR Mr. Himagn Jain, Adv.

ORDER

We have heard Ms. Niharika Ahluwalia, learned counsel for the petitioner extensively.

There is a delay of 235 days in filing this special leave petition. The explanation offered for seeking condonation of delay is neither satisfactory nor sufficient in law so as to to condone the same. Hence, the application seeking condonation is dismissed.

Further, we find that the Division Bench of the High Court dismissed LPA as there was delay of 685 days in preferring the same and delay of 577 days in filing the review petition before the learned Single Judge of the High Court.

There is a consistent delay on the part of the petitioner/Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in assailing the orders in this case. We do not think that the petitioner herein could be given any indulgence because it is a development authority.

We find that delay in the instant case is fatal insofar as its contentions are concerned. Hence, the Special Leave Petition is dismissed on the ground of delay with cost of Rs.10,000/- to be paid by the petitioner herein to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, within a period of six weeks from today.

It is expected that the DDA ought to have a litigation policy and screening of cases which have to be agitated before the respective fora before straightway filing such cases belatedly adding to the docket explosion and consumption of judicial time.

Pending application(s) shall stand disposed of.