

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 238/2026

News Item Titled "High Lead Contamination near Battery Recycling Units: Study" Appearing in the Hindu Dated 09.04.2026.

Date of hearing: 16.04.2026

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled " High Lead Contamination near Battery Recycling Units: Study" appearing in the Hindu Dated 09.04.2026.

2. As per the news item, a study undertaken by Delhi bases research and group has found high levels of lead contamination in soil near battery recycling units across Delhi-NCR. The report highlights significant gaps in the enforcement of the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 and the Extended Producer Responsibility framework. The study done is based on 23 soil sample in locations near lead acid battery recycling units, including residential and primary schools. The samples showed a contamination of 100 ppm (parts per million) to 43,800 PPM. Higher levels of lead were found at authorized recycling units compound compared to unauthorized units.

3. The news item also highlights that lead contamination is a serious health and environmental risk globally and contributing about 5.4 lakhs deaths. As per WHO lead causes of long-term harm in adults, high BP, Cardiovascular problems and kidney damage. During pregnancy, its harmful to the growth and preterm birth.

4. The above news item indicates violation of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
5. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.
6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.
7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:
 - (1). Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
 - (2). Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 6th Floor, C Wing, Delhi Secretariat, IP Estate, Delhi-110002.
 - (3). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), through Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-11000.
8. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate, then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.
9. List on 31.07.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

April 16, 2026
Original Application No. 238/2026
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