

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

I.A. No. 656 of 2025

IN

O.A. No. 198 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Published in Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 2022,
titled “Bhagalpur: 14 dead in firecracker unit blast”

INDEX

S. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Reply to the Interlocutory Application for Correction of Details of Respondent Nos. 11 and 20 on behalf of the State of Bihar, along with supporting Affidavit.	1 - 11
2.	<u>Annexure R-1:</u> Amended Memo of Parties in O.A. No. 198 of 2022.	12 - 13

State of Bihar

Through its Counsel

(Azmat H. Amanullah)

Additional Standing Counsel for the State of Bihar
A-320, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024
+91-9810612316

Email: azmat.amanullah@gmail.com

New Delhi

Dated: 09.03.2026

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

I.A. No. 656 of 2025

IN

O.A. No. 198 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Published in Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 2022,
titled “Bhagalpur: 14 dead in firecracker unit blast”

**REPLY TO THE INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION FOR
CORRECTION OF DETAILS OF RESPONDENT NOS. 11
AND 20 ON BEHALF OF STATE OF BIHAR**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The present reply is being filed on behalf of the State of Bihar to the present Interlocutory Application filed by Respondent Nos. 11 and 20 vide which the Applicants are seeking correction of their details pursuant to Order dated 14.05.2025, vide which this Hon’ble Tribunal had impleaded the Applicants in the present Original Application as legal representatives/next of kin of a few deceased victims of the blast.
2. To briefly highlight the factual matrix that led to the present Application, it is stated that vide its Final Order dated

05.03.2025 passed in *The State of Bihar vs. Central Pollution Control Board & Anr.*¹, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had remanded the present Original Application back to this Hon'ble Tribunal to hear all concerned persons related to the subject matter. Furthermore, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had also directed the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur to give addresses of all injured persons and next of kin of the deceased victims so that appropriate notices could be issued to all such persons and they could be impleaded for the proper adjudication of the present Original Application.

3. In pursuance of the aforesaid directions, when the matter came to be listed before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 28.03.2025, the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur had undertaken to furnish the requisite details, such as the addresses of the injured persons, the names and addresses of the legal representatives/next of kin of the deceased, the name and address of the legal representatives of Lilavati Devi and Mahendra Mandal, and the names and addresses of any other persons found responsible for the blast.

¹ Civil Appeal No. 9250/2022

4. Consequently, the requisite details came to be filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 03.05.2025, wherein the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur had submitted a pointwise and tabulated chart of all such persons who were required to be impleaded in the present matter. The said report and descriptions of all persons therein was based on the records maintained by the State viz. the pending FIR that had been filed qua the incident.
5. After considering the aforesaid report, vide Order dated 14.05.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to take the aforesaid report on record and accordingly impleaded Respondent Nos. 1 to 27 in the present Original Application. This Hon'ble Tribunal had further issued notice to the aforesaid Respondents and directed both the Registry and the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur to serve the same.
6. In compliance of the said Order, an appropriate Affidavit of Service dated 17.09.2025 was filed by the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur, wherein it was verily stated that service was effected on all the above Respondents as the notices issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal were either received by the Respondents or their family members. Thereafter, when the matter came to be listed before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 18.09.2025, it was

observed that only the Respondent Nos. 11, 20, and 21 had entered appearance through their Counsels. The matter was therefore adjourned for awaiting appearance on behalf of the other Respondents.

7. Thereafter, on the last date of hearing, i.e. 16.12.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to take on record the present Interlocutory Application filed by the Applicants (Respondent Nos. 11 and 20) seeking correction of their description, and the State of Bihar was directed to verify the disclosures made in the present application and file an appropriate response in this regard.
8. It is submitted that in compliance of the aforesaid direction, the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur had deployed officers to verify the details of the Applicants. The said officers thereafter went to the houses of the Applicants to verify their details; however, it was found that the Applicants were not present at their given address. Accordingly, the officers made inquiries with locals and neighbors and verified the said information.
9. It is humbly submitted that after conclusion of the aforementioned enquiries, it was indeed found that certain erroneous information with respect to the particulars of

Respondent Nos. 10, 11, 15 and 20 had inadvertently been submitted earlier by the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur vide report dated 03.05.2025 which had been occasioned owing to the information being available on the record at that time. As such, upon verification, the correct description of these Respondents is sought to be placed on record which is as follows:

- i. Respondent No. 11, Deepak Mandal, was indeed the husband of the deceased Pinki Devi and father of another deceased victim, Priyanshu Kumar. It is submitted that Respondent No. 10, namely Dilip Mandal, who was arraigned as a Respondent for being the husband of deceased Pinki Devi, was found to be an alias of Deepak Mandal (Respondent No. 11/Applicant No. 1) himself. To succinctly state, both Respondent Nos. 10 and 11 are different aliases of the same person, with Dilip Mandal being the alias name and Deepak Mandal being his official name. Thus, the name of Respondent No. 10 ought to be deleted from the memo of parties, and Respondent No. 11 ought to be considered as the legal representative of both the deceased victims, Pinki Devi and Priyanshu Kumar, by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

- ii. The correct name of the deceased victim, namely Priyanshu Kumar, is indeed Priyanshu Raj and Priyanshu Kumar was his alias name. The said victim is duly represented by Respondent No. 11, who is his father.
- iii. The legal name of Respondent No. 20, namely Manoj Mandal (legal representative of the deceased victim, Moon @ Mun Kumar), is indeed Manish Kumar and Manoj Mandal is his alias name. Thus, the name of Respondent No. 20 ought to be changed to his official name, i.e., Manish Kumar.
- iv. As regards Respondent No. 15, namely Mahendra Mandal, who is arraigned as a Respondent for being the legal representative/father of the deceased victim, Nandani Devi, it has been verified that he had also died during the blast and therefore, was wrongly and inadvertently impleaded as a Respondent in the present Original Application. Thus, the name of Respondent No. 15 ought to be deleted from the memo of parties.
- v. It is further submitted that upon re-verification of facts, it was found that Respondent No. 20, namely Manoj Mandal (correct name being Manish Kumar as stated in Point (iii)

above), is the husband of the deceased victim Nandani Devi, and thus the son-in-law of the deceased victim/Respondent No. 15, Mahendra Mandal. To summarily state, Respondent No. 20 is the legal representative of both the deceased victims Moon @ Mun Kumar and Nandani Devi.

- vi. It was also found that the complete address of Respondent No. 20 is Basgadha, Sherpur, Post: Basudeopur, Munger, Bihar-811202 and the address submitted in the report dated 03.05.2025 (being Basgadha, District -Munger) was incomplete.
- vii. Finally, on perusal of the Order dated 14.05.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, it has come to light that there was a typographical error in recording the name of Respondent No. 14, as the same has been recorded as Avin Mandal instead of Navin Mandal, who is the legal representative of the deceased victim Sheela Devi and the correct details of the said Respondent were submitted with the report dated 03.05.2025. Thus, the name of Respondent No. 14 ought to be read as Navin Mandal and not Avin Mandal.

10. It is humbly submitted that the erroneous information submitted vide report dated 03.05.2025 is therefore being corrected and clarified in terms of the aforesaid. The same was inadvertent and the answering Respondent apologizes for the inconvenience caused owing to the same. It is further submitted that owing to a large number of people being concerned with the blast who were required to be arraigned as Respondents in the present Original Application, alongwith the multiplicity of official names and alias names of the same persons, such errors went unnoticed until the filing of the present Application under reply. It is humbly submitted that such errors were bonafide and are deeply regretted.
11. Furthermore, after conducting a thorough reverification exercise with regards to the averments in the present Application, the State deemed it appropriate to submit the correct description of Respondent Nos. 10, 11, 14, 15 and 20 vide the present Reply. For the convenience of this Hon'ble Tribunal and as to clarify the position and description of these Respondents, an Amended Memo of Parties is also sought to be placed on record. A true copy of the Amended Memo of Parties is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-1**.

12. The Answering Respondent also undertakes to further investigate and reverify the details of all other Respondents on an immediate basis, and a report in this regard will be submitted within 4 weeks and if any other errors are found during the course of further investigation and reverification, the State undertakes to file a second Amended Memo of Parties if required.

13. In light of the aforesaid, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the correct descriptions of Respondent Nos. 10, 11, 14, 15 and 20 as stated hereinabove and take on record the Amended Memo of Parties being filed with the present Reply.

State of Bihar

Through its Counsel

(Azmat H. Amanullah)

Additional Standing Counsel for the State of Bihar
A-320, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024
+91-9810612316

Email: azmat.amanullah@gmail.com

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 09.03.2026

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

I.A. No. 656 of 2025

IN

O.A. No. 198 of 2022

Serial No. 16 dated 09.12.20

IN THE MATTER OF:

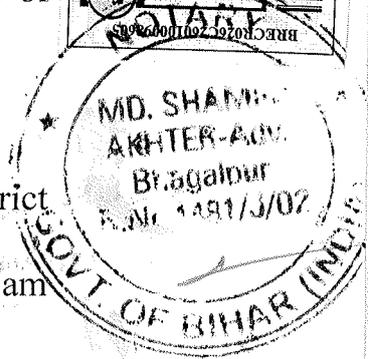
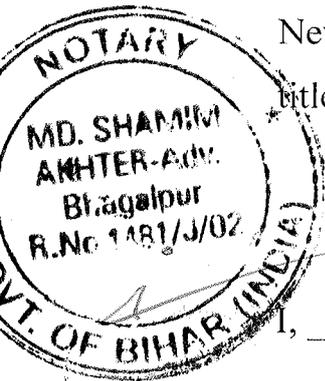
News Item Published in Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 2022,
titled "Bhagalpur: 14 dead in firecracker unit blast"

AFFIDAVIT

I, RAKESH KUMAR, son of LATE B.N. MANDAL,

aged about 59 years, presently working as Senior Deputy
Collector, District General Section, Bhagalpur, Government of
Bihar, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am working as Senior Deputy Collector, District
General Section, Bhagalpur, Government of Bihar, and am
duly authorized and competent to swear this affidavit on
behalf of the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur, State of Bihar. I
am well conversant with the facts and records of the present
case on the basis of records, and hence competent to depose
this affidavit.
2. That the accompanying Reply to the Interlocutory Application
has been drafted by the learned counsel for the State of Bihar
under instructions. The contents of the said reply are true and



correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, derived from official records. Legal submissions contained therein are based on legal advice received and believed to be true.

- 3. Documents filed with the reply are true copies / true translated and typed copies, of their respective originals.

Identified by
 Bijay Kumar Mishra
 Adv

Rakesh kumar
 09.03.26

DEPONENT

E.No - 4206/25
 VERIFICATION 9-3-26

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 3 of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Bhagalpur on this 9th day of March, 2026.

Identified by
 Bijay Kumar Mishra
 Adv

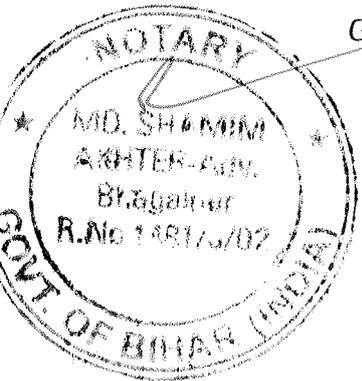
Rakesh kumar
 09.03.26
DEPONENT

9-3-26

E.No - 4206/25

deponent..... Rakesh Kumar
 Who is identified by..... Adv, Mishra
 solemnly affirm and declare
 before me

Md. Shamim Akhter
 Notary, Bhagalpur



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 198 OF 2022**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item published in Hindustan Times dated 5th March 2022 titled "Bhagalpur: 14 dead in firecracker unit blast "

AMENDED MEMO OF PARTIES

News Item published in Hindustan Times dated 5th March 2022 titled "Bhagalpur: 14 dead in firecracker unit blast "

VERSUS

- 1. Navin Mandal,
s/o Lt. Mahendra Mandal Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No. 1
- 2. Sheela Devi,
w/o Om Prakash Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.2
- 3. Vaishnavi,
s/o Amit Kumar, Kajwalichak,
PS Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.3
- 4. Jaya,
s/o Om Prakash Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.4
- 5. Shrawan Kumar,
s/o Lt. Kailash Prasad Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.5
- 6. Rinku Kumar Sah,
s/o Om Prakash Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.6
- 7. Rakhi Kumar,
s/o Nirmal Kumar Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.7
- 8. Soni Kumari,
w/o Amit Kumar, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.8
- 9. Lilawati Devi,
w/o Lt. Shankar Mandal, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.9
- 10. Deepak Mandal,
legal representative of Priyanshu Raj and Pinki Devi, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.10
- 11. Santosh Kumar,
legal representative of Ayansh Kumar, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002**Respondent No.11

12. Navin Mandal,
legal representative of Mahendra Mandal, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.12
13. Navin Mandal,
legal representative of Sheela Devi, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.13
14. Phulo Devi,
legal representative of Sunil@ Gore Mandal, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.14
15. Sharvan Kumar,
legal representative of Raj Kumar Sah, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.15
16. Santosh Kumar,
legal representative of Rahul Kumar @ Rohit, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.16
17. Santosh Kumar,
legal representative of Aarti Devi, Noorpur,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.17
18. Manish Kumar,
legal representative of Mun Kumar @ Mun, Basgadha,
Basgadha, Sherpur, Post: Basudeopur, Munger, Bihar-811202Respondent No.18
19. Putul Devi, legal representative of Ganesh Singh, Purab Tola Sheetala
Asthan,
PS- Kahalgaon, Dist Bhagalpur-813204Respondent No.19
20. Baijnath Sah,
Vina Devi, Rina Devi and Renna Devi, legal representatives of Urmila Devi,
Purab Tola Sheetala Asthan, PS- Kahalgaon,
Dist- Bhagalpur Kahalgaon, Dist Bhagalpur ..Respondent No.20
21. Md. Mansur,
legal representative of Aaysha Mansur, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No. 21
22. Md. Azad,
s/o-Lt. Shami Alam Chamelichak,
PS- Habibpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No.22
23. Ashish Kumar Gupta,
s/o Ram Kumar Gupta, Hussainabad,
PS- Babargani, Dist- Bhagalpur-811211Respondent No. 23
24. Ashok Mandal @ Guddu Mandal,
s/o Gyanand Mandal, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No. 24
25. Dhananjay Mandal,
s/o lt. Kamleshwari Mandal, Kajwalichak,
PS-Tatarpur, Dist-Bhagalpur-812002Respondent No. 25