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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
Original Application No. 624 of 2025

In the matter of:

News Item Titled "Uranium detected in breast milk across 6 districts of Bihar: Study" appearing in The Times of India (New Delhi) dated 23.11.2025

Index

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Reply on behalf of respondent no. 6 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in compliance of orders dated 03.12.2025 in OA No. 624/2025.	
2.	Annexure- I A Copy of Hon'ble NGT Order dated 03.12.2025.	

Srinivas Vishvan

**Filed by Adv. Srinivas Vishvan
(On behalf on Central Pollution Control Board)**

Place: Delhi

Dated: 25.02.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

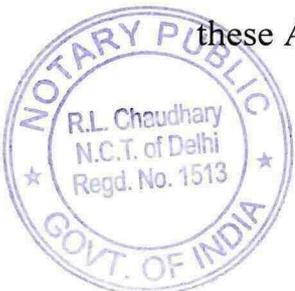
Original Application No. 624 of 2025

In the matter of:

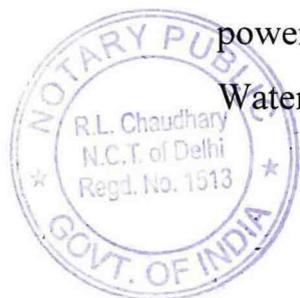
News Item Titled "Uranium detected in breast milk across 6 districts of Bihar: Study" appearing in The Times of India (New Delhi) dated 23.11.2025

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 6 CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 03.12.2025 has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs. The Copy of the Order dated 03.12.2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-I**.
2. That, CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 (hereinafter referred as Water Act), The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred as Air Act) and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. That, it is humbly submitted that the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred as SPCBs/PCCs) have been constituted in States/Union Territories under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 are empowered to perform the functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of their territorial Jurisdiction.



4. That, the present matter is related to the news item related to a study highlighting Uranium being detected in breast milk across 6 districts of **Bihar**. Further a new item was also appeared, indicating 62.5% of uranium in groundwater of Punjab. The article highlights that groundwater may likely be the source of contamination. In order dated 03.12.2025 Para 9 in the present matter, the Hon'ble NGT has also taken into consideration another news item highlighting uranium in 62.5% of **Punjab** groundwater referring CGWB's annual report.
5. That, CGWB monitors ground water quality comprehensively. CGWB carried out groundwater monitoring at **15,259** nationwide in year 2023 and presented the compiled data in Report on Groundwater Quality of Shallow Aquifers in India 2024.
6. That, Answering Respondent herein i.e. CPCB in association with the SPCBs/PCCs monitors water quality of aquatic resources in the country at 4,922 locations which includes 2,265 locations on Rivers, 587 on Lakes, 143 on Ponds, 102 on Tanks, **1,271** on Ground Water and 554 on other water bodies under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Under NWMP, Bihar State Pollution Control Board (**BSPCB**) monitors ground water quality at **70** locations and Punjab Pollution Control Board (**PPCB**) monitors ground water quality at **46** locations. However, the ground water quality is not tested for Uranium under NWMP.
7. That it is respectfully submitted that, vide Notification S.O. 38(E) dated 14.01.1997, issued by the Central Government in exercise of powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been constituted as an Authority for regulation and



control, management and development of groundwater in the country, including issuance of necessary regulatory directions for the said purposes.

8. The answering respondent No. 6 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
9. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering respondent i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble tribunal in the instant OA and render justice.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Nazimmudin".

(Nazimmudin)

Scientist- 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board

25.02.2026

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
Original Application No. 624 of 2025

In the matter of:

News Item Titled "Uranium detected in breast milk across 6 districts of Bihar: Study" appearing in The Times of India (New Delhi) dated 23.11.2025

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin**, working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 6 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under: -

1. That I, the deponent herein is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



Log

DEPONENT
नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Mo Environment, Forest And Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 25 FEB 2026 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

**DEPONENT**

नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

ATTESTED


NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

25 FEB 2026

Item No. 08

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 624/2025

News Item titled "Uranium detected in breast milk across 6 districts of Bihar: Study" appearing in The Times of India (New Delhi) dated 23.11.2025.

Date of hearing: 03.12.2025

**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 "Uranium detected in breast milk across 6 districts of Bihar: Study" appearing in The Times of India (New Delhi) dated 23.11.2025.

2. As per the news item, a Nature study has found uranium in the breast milk of every lactating mother tested across six districts of Bihar: The findings suggest that the toxic element long present in the state's aquifers is making its way directly into newborns' bodies through their first and most vital source of nutrition. The study was carried out by Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Patna in collaboration with AIIMS, New Delhi from the department of biochemistry. The study conducted between October 2021 to July 2024 and the research analysed breast milk from 40 mothers aged 17-35 in Bhojpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Katihar and Nalanda. Uranium (U238) was detected in all samples, with concentrations ranging from 0 to 5.25 µg/l.

3. There is no permissible limit for uranium in breast milk. Khagaria recorded the highest average contamination, Nalanda the lowest, while Katihar showed the single-highest reading. Nearly 70% of infants faced exposure levels associated with potential non-carcinogenic health risks. As per AIIMS, source of contamination remains unclear. The Geological Survey of India is trying to find out the source of the uranium. Unfortunately, uranium comes into the food chain and causes cancer, neurological disorders and affects the growth of children which is very serious concern. Bihar's environmental conditions have compounded the issue.

4. The State has high dependence on ground-water for drinking and irrigation, discharge of untreated industrial effluents and long-term use of chemical, fertilisers and pesticides which are already contaminated with arsenic, lead and mercury in biological samples.

5. The detection of uranium in breast milk signals the contamination has reached the most vulnerable population which are infants. The matter is serious as infants are especially vulnerable to uranium because their organs are still developing, they absorb toxic metals more readily and their low body weight amplifies exposure. Uranium cause kidney damage, neurological impairment, cognitive delays and increase the risk of cancer later in life.

6. News item states that globally elevated uranium in groundwater has been reported in Canada, the US, Finland, Sweden, etc.

7. News item further states that the presence of uranium in breast milk in Bihar is a new level of problem. The study indicates that urgent biomonitoring, rigorous water quality testing and immediate public health intervention is required. Considering the threat to the most vulnerable individuals of the society. We may take up the matter Suo Motu

8. Further a new item was also appeared, indicating 62.5% of uranium in groundwater of Punjab.

9. The above matters raise serious concern with regard to the health issues which are faced in the State of Bihar and Punjab. This may also be prevalent in other States as well.

10. The above matter indicates violation of the Biodiversity Act, 2002; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

11. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

12. The 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.

13. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

1. Central Ground Water Commission (CGWC), Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016.
2. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001.
3. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085 India
4. MoEF&CC through Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
5. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011.
6. Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032, INDIA.

7. Director, AIIMS, Ansari Nagar East, New Delhi – 110029.
 8. Chairman, Punjab State Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001.
 9. Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, Plot No. NS-B/2, Patliputra Industrial Area, Patliputra, Patna (Bihar) - 800 010.
14. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit 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
15. List on 10.03.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

December 03, 2025
Original Application No. 624/2025
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