

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

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.

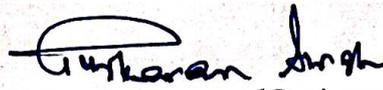
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Date: 6/3/2026

Place Patiala



(Gurkaran Singh)

Environmental Engineer/Incharge Water Laboratory
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board)

Respondent No.8

Email:service@diwanadvocates.com /

8

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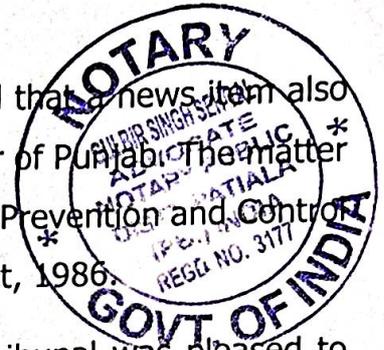
I the above-named deponent, do hereby, solemnly affirm and state as under:

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 1) That the above-mentioned Original Application has been registered by this Hon'ble Tribunal in exercise of Suo-Motu powers on the basis of the news item titled "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) That 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.

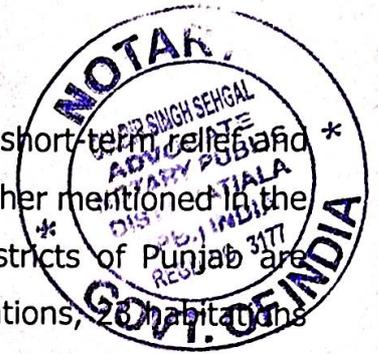
This Document has been registered
at Serial No. 06 MAR 2026
this day of 20

- 3) That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has observed that a news item also appeared indicating 62.5 % of Uranium in ground water of Punjab. The matter indicates violation of the Biodiversity Act, 2002; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 4) That after consideration of the matter, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 03.12.2025 thereby impleading the Central and the State authorities namely the Central Ground Water Commission; Ministry of Jal Shakti; Bhabha Atomic Research Centre; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Central Pollution Control Board; AIIMS; Punjab State Pollution Control Board and Bihar State Pollution Control Board as respondents in the case. Notice was issued vide the said order dated 03.12.2025 to the respondents with direction to file their response / reply by way of affidavit.
- 5) That the deponent namely Gurkaran Singh is working as Environmental Engineer in the service of Punjab Pollution Control Board and is having the charge of Water Laboratory of the Board at Patiala. The deponent is well conversant with the facts of the case and is competent and authorized to swear and file the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of the Chairman, Punjab State Pollution Control Board, Patiala i.e. respondent no. 8.
- 6) That the present short reply mentioning the relevant facts is being filed by the deponent by way of affidavit on behalf of respondent no.8 in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025. The relevant facts may kindly be read in the following paragraphs.
- 7) That it is relevant to mention here that this Hon'ble Tribunal has already taken cognizance of the similar issue by exercising Suo-moto powers on the basis of a news item titled "Radioactive contamination affects habitations in Punjab parliamentary panel urges urgent action" appearing in The Times of India dated 14.08.2025. The case was registered as Original Application no.439 of 2025.
- 8) That in the said news item published in the Times of India on 14.08.2025 it was mentioned that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources raised concern over the continued presence of uranium contamination in

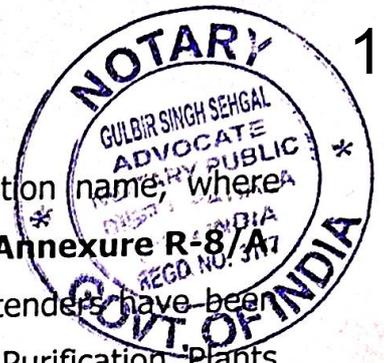


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drinking water resources in Punjab and called for urgent short-term relief and long-term solutions to safeguard public health. It was further mentioned in the news item that as many as 32 habitations across 9 districts of Punjab are affected by uranium contamination. Out of the 32 habitations, 26 habitations have been provided with short term measures such as Community Water Purification Plants (CWPP) and Individuals Household Purifiers (IHP) according to the report of the committee. The committee has urged the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Punjab to ensure that the remaining 10 habitations are covered at the earliest.



- 9) That after consideration of the matter in Original Application no. 439 of 2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 01.09.2025 thereby impleading the Punjab Pollution Control Board; Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Punjab; Department of Health and Family Welfare Punjab and Central Pollution Control Board as respondents in the case with direction to file reply. In compliance, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed reply dated 13.10.2025 in Original Application no. 439 of 2025 by mentioning the following facts.
- a) That the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to make reference of order dated 20.01.2025 passed in O.A no. 10 of 2025 (in the order dated 01.09.2025 passed in the above-mentioned case in O.A. no. 439 of 2025) to the effect that major chemical contaminants affecting ground water quality are fluoride and chromium, and Rajasthan and Punjab have reported the highest number of samples with Uranium concentration affecting 100 parts per billion. Anything over 30 ppb of Uranium is considered unsafe.
 - b) That the drinking water supply arrangements in the State of Punjab are being regulated and monitored by the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has gathered information in this regard from the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation and it is informed that as on 25.09.2025, 32 habitations in the State are affected with uranium contamination. Short terms measures in the form of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) and Individual Household Purifiers (IHPs) have been provided at 23 sites. The list of 23



locations with Village name, District name, Habitation name, where CWPPs and IHPs have been provided is enclosed as **Annexure R-8/A**. At the remaining 09 uranium affected habitations, tenders have been allotted for the installation of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPP) by the State and the work is under progress. The list of 09 locations with Village name, District name, Habitation name, where the work for installation of CWPPs is under progress is enclosed as **Annexure R-8/B**.

- c) That the matter has been examined by the Board and it is observed that the 32 uranium affected habitations are located in the villages of the districts of Ferozepur, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur, Moga, Barnala, Malerkotla, Sangrur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib of the State of Punjab.
 - d) The said habitations are not affected by the industrial pollution as no such industry is located in the State of Punjab which may cause radioactive contamination in ground water.
 - e) That the Department of Water Supply & Sanitation, Punjab has also referred to the Minutes of Meeting dated 22-5-2023 issued by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, National Jal Jivan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India wherein, the State has been advised to setup community based uranium remediation plants where the value of uranium is found to be more than 60 ppb, as "The BARC team has informed that the current limit of 30 ppb for Uranium in water is rather ambitious and they advised the State team to set up Community based Uranium remediation plants where more than 60 ppb Uranium has been detected in the ground water samples".
- 10) That in the facts and circumstances of the case, no violation of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 has been found to be involved.
 - 11) That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of respondent no.8 Punjab State Pollution

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Control Board in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025 for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.



Deponent

Gurkaran Singh

(Gurkaran Singh)

Environmental Engineer/Incharge Water Laboratory
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board)
Respondent No.8

Date: 6/3/26
Place Patiala

The Contents of this affidavit document have been read over to the deponent He/She accepted the true & correct.

Verification

Verified that the contents of para no.1 to 10 of the above reply by way of affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. Para no.11 is prayer. No part of the above reply is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.

Deponent

Gurkaran Singh

(Gurkaran Singh)

Environmental Engineer/Incharge Water Laboratory
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board)
Respondent No.8

Date: 6/3/26
Place Patiala

Attested As Identified
NOTARY PUBLIC
PATIALA INDIA

06 MAR 2026

This Documents has been registred
at Serial No. 96
this day of 20
06 MAR 2026

Annexure A

Information available on GoI website <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/> under "Water Quality Progress":
 Format C.17 A- List of 32 Quality affected Uranium Habitatlons (as on 24/09/2025) as per GoI Website

S. No	StateName	District Name	Village Name	Habitaton Name	Short Term Measures
1	Punjab	Fazilka	Ganjuana	Shamshabad	IHP
2	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	Dholla	Dholla	IHP
3	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	Badla	Saunspur Pattl	IHP
4	Punjab	Barnala	Pattl Sohlan	Pattl Sohlan	CWPP
5	Punjab	Barnala	Dhilwan Pattlala	Dhilwan Pattlala	CWPP
6	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	Chehlan	Chehlan	CWPP
7	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	Dharamgarh	Dharamgarh	CWPP
8	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	Lakha Singh Wala	Lakha Singh Wala	CWPP
9	Punjab	Fazilka	Mumbe Ke	Nawan Mumbke	CWPP
10	Punjab	Fazilka	Lallo Wall	Turkan Wall	CWPP
11	Punjab	Fazilka	Chak Lakhowall	Chak Lakho Wall	CWPP
12	Punjab	Fazilka	Bahinani Wala	Simre Wala	CWPP
13	Punjab	Ferozepur	Rukna Mungla	Rukna Mungla	CWPP
14	Punjab	Ferozepur	Haraj	Haraj	CWPP
15	Punjab	Ferozepur	Jhanjian	Jhanjian	CWPP
16	Punjab	Ferozepur	Kahansinghwala	Kahan Singh Wala	CWPP
17	Punjab	Ferozepur	Bahawalpur	Bahawal Pur	CWPP
18	Punjab	Ferozepur	Berl Qadarabad	Berl Kadra Bad	CWPP
19	Punjab	Ferozepur	Maloke	Mallo Ke	CWPP
20	Punjab	Malerkotla	DULWAN	DULWAN	CWPP
21	Punjab	Moga	Sosan	Sosan	CWPP
22	Punjab	Sangrur	Ravldaspura Tibbl	Singhpura	CWPP
23	Punjab	Sangrur	Ugrahan	Ugrahan	CWPP

Annexure B

Information available on GoI website <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/> under "Water Quality Progress": Format C17 A

Status of 9 remaining Uranium Affected Habitations as freezeed on GoI Website

S. No	StateName	District Name	Village Name	Habitation Name	Short Term Measures	Status of Mitigation Measure
1	Punjab	Fazilka	Mohammad Amlra	Mohamad Amlra	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
2	Punjab	Fazilka	Noor Mohammad	Noor Mohamad	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
3	Punjab	Fazilka	Salem Shah	New Salem Shah	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
4	Punjab	Fazilka	Chak Sotrian	Bastl Bawrian	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
5	Punjab	Fazilka	Chak Sotrian	Dhanl Chowdhri Chhanga Ram	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
6	Punjab	Ferozepur	Nau Baramad Sher Singhwala	Jhugge Mansa Singh	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
7	Punjab	Ferozepur	Boorwala	Jhugge Tallan Wale	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
8	Punjab	Moga	Pathangarh	Pathan Garh	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress
9	Punjab	Patlala	Birdhano	Birdhano	CWPP - Uranium (Tender already Allotted)	Work Under Progress

VAKALATNAMA

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

O.A.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 AND ANR VS

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

...RESPONDENTS

Punjab Pollution Control Board

KNOWN ALL to whom these present shall come that I, Punjab Pollution Control Board
The above-named Punjab Pollution Control Board..... do hereby
appoint

DIWAN ADVOCATES

B-2, Defence Colony,
New Delhi-110024

Email: service@diwanadvocates.com

Tel No.+91 11 41046363 / 62

Mob8076293778

(herein after called the advocate/s) to be my/our Advocate in the above noted case authorize him:
To act, appear and plead in the above-noted case in this court or in any other court in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the appellate court, including High Court subject to payment of fee separately for each court by me/us.

To sign, file, verify and present pleadings, appeals, cross objections or petition for executions review, revision, withdrawal, compromise or other petitions or affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the prosecution of the said case in all its stages subject to payment of Fee for each stages.

To file and take back documents, to admit and/or deny the documents of opposite party.

To withdraw or compromise the said case or submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case. To take execution proceedings.

To deposit, draw and receive money, cheques, cash and grant receipt thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the said case.

To appoint or instruct any other legal practitioner authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred on the Advocate whenever he may think fit to do so and to sign the power of attorney on our behalf.

And I/we the undersigned do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts done by the Advocate or his substitutes in the matter as my/our own acts, as if done by me/us to all intents and purposes.

And I/we undertake that I/we or my/our duly authorized agent would appear in court on all hearings and will inform the Advocate for appearance when the case is called.

And I/We undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the Advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case. The adjournment costs whenever ordered by the court shall be of the Advocate which he shall receive and retain for himself.

And I/We undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or part of the fee agreed by me/us to be paid to the advocate remains unpaid he shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. The Fee settled is only for the above case and above court. I/We hereby agree that once the fee is paid, I/We will not be entitled for the return of the same in any case whatsoever and if the case prolongs for more than three years the original fee shall be paid again by me/us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/We do hereunto set my/our hands to these presents the contents of which have been understood by me/us on this 26th day of March, 2026

Accepted subjects to the terms of the fees.

ADVOCATE'S

I.H. JAFRI - D/96/83

DR. FARRUKH KHAN- D/616/07

DEEPMALA CHAUHAN -D/124/2013

ANKIT CHOUDHARI-D/2317/2015

SHAMSHAD SIDDIQUI-UP/24164/23

SIGNATURE'S

[Signature] 2/96/83

[Signature] deepmala

[Signature] Ankit

[Signature] Shamsheed

[Signature]
Environmental Engineer
(Incharge Water Lab)
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Head Office, Patiala

Head Office, Patiala

