

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.149/2024/EZ  
(Earlier O.A. No.318/2024/PB)

Hemant Kumar

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Bihar & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 17.02.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Mr. Hemant Kumar, in person (in Virtual Mode)

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Amrita Pandey, Adv. for R-1 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Surendra Kumar, Adv. for R-2, 4 & 6,  
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Adv. for R-3 & 7,  
Mr. D. N. Ray, Sr. Adv. a/w  
Mr. Sourav Halder, Adv. for R-5 (in Virtual Mode)

**ORDER**

1. Mr. Hemant Kumar, the Applicant is present in person (in Virtual Mode).
2. Affidavit dated 02.01.2025 has been filed on behalf of the Respondent No.2, District Magistrate, Bhagalpur; the same is taken on record. Along with this affidavit, an Inspection Report of a field visit carried out on 11.12.2024 has been filed wherein it is stated that there is no short-term impact of under construction bridge collapse on the dolphin population. The question is not only with regard to threat to the dolphin but also with regard to the removal of the debris which has admittedly fallen into the river as a result of collapse of a bridge. The Inspection Report is absolutely silent with regard to removal of debris or even quantification of the amount of debris that has gone into the river. The quantification of amount of debris is not difficult and the Pollution Control Board and the State

Government can always obtain Report from the Engineering Department of Bihar State Bridge Corporation.

3. The Inspection Report further mentions that the survey conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) after the collapse of the under-construction bridge observed dolphin sightings within 200-500 meters of the collapse site during July 2024. It is also mentioned that although their presence indicates some resilience, but their behavior and movement patterns may have been affected by the debris and construction activities.
4. The Bihar State Pollution Control Board is therefore directed to file Action Taken Report in this regard within four weeks.
5. **List on 02.05.2025.**

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**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

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**Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM**

February 17, 2025,  
Original Application No.149/2024/EZ  
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