

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED
77 NOS OF SAND BELTS DREDGING IN GADCHIROLI DISTRICT OF
PROJECT PROPONENT DISTRICT MINING OFFICER, DISTRICT
COLLECTOR OFFICE, TALUKA & DISTRICT-GADCHIROLI,
MAHARASHTRA**

The Environment Public Hearing for proposed 77 nos. of Sand Belts Dredging in Gadchiroli District of Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector Office, Taluka & District - Gadchiroli, Maharashtra was conducted on Tuesday, the 31st January, 2023 on 11.30AM at Niyojan Bhavan, District Collector Office, Gadchiroli. The 77 nos. of sand belts are as follows:-

Gadchiroli Taluka, Lanzeda (1.00 Ha.), Kaneri (4.00 Ha.), Pardi (2.00 Ha.), Pulkhal (2.30 Ha.), Sakhra (2.10 Ha.), Nagri (4.50 Ha.), Katli (3.60 Ha.), Adapalli-I (1.75 Ha.), Bodlimal (1.80 Ha.), Bamhani (1.80 Ha.), Gai ghat (1.05 Ha.), Ram Mandir Ghat (1.20 Ha.), Rajgatamal (1.00 Ha.), Dibhana Ghat (1.00 Ha.), Khursa Ghat (1.20 Ha.), Kurkheda Ghat (1.50 Ha.), **at Dhanora Taluka**, Chicholi (1.20 Ha.), Dudhmala Ghat (1.10 Ha.), Rajoli Ghat (1.10 Ha.), Bandhona (1.04 Ha.). **At Chamorshi Taluka**, Amgaon Ma.(1.10 Ha.), Usegaon Ghat (2.10 Ha.), Jibgaon (2.05 Ha.), Dotkuli (2.15 Ha.), Wagholi (2.25 Ha.), Ganpur Rai. (1.20 Ha.). **At Armori Taluka**, Arsoda Ghat (4.05 Ha.), Waghala Ghat (4.28 Ha.), Shivni Buj-1 (3.50 Ha.), Shivni Buj-2 (3.52 Ha.), Saigaon (1.53 Ha.), Thotebodi (1.20 Ha.), Vairagad (1.00 Ha.), Paraswadi (1.11 Ha.), Vankhi (2.00 Ha.), Deulgaon-2 (2.03 Ha.), Deulgaon-1 (2.50 Ha.), Dongarsaongi (3.00 Ha.), Kitali (1.00 Ha.). **At Desaiganj Taluka**, Sawangi (4.00 Ha.), Kurud (Bodegaon Ghat) (1.00 Ha.), Kurud (Juni Wadsa) (1.00 Ha.), Kondhala (Mendha Ghat) (4.18 Ha.), Kondhala (Sindrai Ghat) (1.36 Ha.), Chop-2 (1.02 Ha.). **At Sironcha Taluka**, Medaram Nala (1.00 Ha.), Chipurdubba Rai.-1 (1.00 Ha.), Chipurdubba Rai.-2 (1.00 Ha.), Nagaram-1 (2.30 Ha.), Nagaram-2 (1.50 Ha.), Maddhikuntha (2.50 Ha.), Aardamal (2.50 Ha.), Ankisamal-1 (2.50 Ha.), Ankisamal-2 (2.00 Ha.), Chintarvela Ghat-1 (2.00 Ha.), Chintarvela-2 (2.50 Ha.), Mukadigutta Rai.1 (2.00 Ha.), Mukadigutta Rai.2 (2.20 Ha.), Tekdamotla-1 (2.30), Tekdamotl-2 (2.00 Ha.), Patagudum (2.42 Ha.), Raigudum (2.42 Ha.). **At Kurkheda Taluka**, Kurkheda (1.00 Ha.), Kumbhitola (1.00 Ha.), Nanhi (1.80 Ha.), Chichtola (1.00 Ha.), Moushi (1.00 Ha.), Andhali (1.00 Ha.), Saitola (1.00 Ha.), Ghati (1.20 Ha.). **At Aheri Taluka**, Mahagaon Bu. (2.25 Ha.), Chichgundi (1.50 Ha.), Modumtura (1.05 Ha.), Indaram (1.05 Ha.), Damrancha (1.02 Ha.), Bori (1.12 Ha.). **At Mulchera Taluka**, Yela (1.00 Ha.)

District Collector, Gadchiroli has sanctioned to conduct Environment Public Hearing physically as well as by online on Tuesday, 31st January, 2023 on 11.30 AM at Niyojan Bhavan, District Collector Office, Gadchiroli and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and

subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E- 03of 2023 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-230104-FTS-0178, dated 04/01/2023 as under:-

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| 1) District Magistrate, Gadchiroli
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board -
Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur | Member |
| 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Chandrapur | Convener |

Shri Atul Saffale, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Dhanaji Patil, Additional District Magistrate, Gadchiroli and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri A. M. Kare, Regional Officer, MPCB, Chandrapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and informed the proceedings of the public hearing.

Convener said that as per Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Notification no. 1533, dated 14th September, 2006 and as amended dated 1st December, 2009 and as well as directives from Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai, Secondary/Minor Mineral (sand group) is included in B-1 category on 03-12-2019. Hence, for such projects, it is mandatory to get Environmental permission from the Government of Maharashtra, for which it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation on environmental issues.

Shri Saffale, Convener informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of an application from the Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector's Office, Taluka and District Gadchiroli, Maharashtra to hold an Environmental Public Hearing on the proposed dredging of 77 number of sand belt in Gadchiroli District vide their letter dtd. 22/12/2022.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they

should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project.

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Chandrapur in the local newspaper in Daily Navrashtra for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Times of India for English on 31/12/2022. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various notified offices of Government as under:-

- 1) Joint Director (WPC), M.P.C. Board, Kalptaru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-22.
- 2) Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, 1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
- 3) District Collector, Gadchiroli.
- 4) District Mining Office, Gadchiroli.
- 5) Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli.
- 6) District Industries Centre, Gadchiroli.
- 7) All the concerned Sub-Divisional Offices, Tahsil Offices & concerned 77 Gram Panchayat Offices, Dist. Gadchiroli.
- 8) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

Convener informed all the participants that they have been given an opportunity to raise any environmental objections, suggestions regarding the proposed project and they can raise it after the presentation in written or oral form.

Environmental Consultant of the Project Proponent while giving information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) said that the concerned Gram Panchayat offices have already issued "No Objection Certificate" for the excavation of the said 77 sand ghats and the excavation will be done only for the period decided by the State Environment Committee.

Similarly, during the monsoon period i.e. from 10th June to 30th September, excavation will not be carried out. The mining plan for the said project has been approved by the Directorate of Geology & Mines, Govt. of India, Nagpur.

After the Presentation, Convener of Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to raise their objections, suggestions, if any. While asking question, instructed to state full name and address.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to raise their objections, suggestions, if any.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to Government officials also to raise their views, suggestions or objections. There was not response from the participants.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed all the participants to raise their views, suggestions and objections if any regarding the proposed project.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here said that though the participants have not raised any objections regarding the proposed project, but if anybody desires to submit any suggestions, objections in writing. Only 01 objection was received during Public Hearing.

Following are the questions, comments, objections, suggestions and answers / assurances given by the project holder during the public hearing by online mode and in person:

1. Shri. Hemant Dorlikar, Gadchiroli, Tal. Dist. Gadchiroli:-

Sr. No.	Objections/ Suggestions/ Questions	Answers / Promises Given by the project proponent
1	Copy of EIA/EMP report of 77 Sand Ghats shall be provided for further study.	The project proponent said that copies of Environmental Management Plans for 77 Reti Ghat projects have been given to all Gram Panchayats.
2	Due to heavy transportation the condition of road from sand ghats to main road is dilapidated. Roads are not of sufficient capacity. Provision shall be made regarding repairing of roads, construction of sufficient capacity roads in EIA report?	The project proponent said that the money is deposited in the form of bank guarantee for the environment management plan from the Reti Ghat auctioneer. Accordingly, the said amount is included for road maintenance.

2. Shri. Ramdas Pandurang Jarate, Pulkhal, Tal. Dist. Gadchiroli:-

Sr. No.	Objections/ Suggestions/ Questions	Answers / Promises Given by the project proponent
1	We have objection on proposed sand ghat at sr. no. 4 of Pulkhal Village. Grampanchayat Pulkhal	The project proponent said that copies of Environmental Management Plans for 77 Reti

<p>has passed a resolution during Gram Sabha held on 23/08/2022 regarding not to auction sand ghat of Pulkhal Village. Afterwards, Sub-Divisional Officer has passed an order on 19/10/2022 regarding verification of resolution passed by Pulkhal Gram Panchayat. Due to this order, rights of Gram Panchayat under PESA region are getting affected. We have filed a Writ Petition at Hon'ble High Court, Nagpur Bench, Nagpur against the order issued by Sub-Divisional Officer & auction of Pulkhal Sand Ghat. The matter is sub-judice & decision regarding the same is pending. Hence, I request you to not take any decision on auction of Pulkhal sand ghat during Public Hearing. Pulkhal sand ghat was auction in the year 2021-22 without obtaining any permission from Gram Panchayat. Also, sand excavation is done beyond capacity. Sand excavation is not done from existing ghat & done from artificial sand ghat. Due to which village is suffering. Big stone mount was excavated by JCB & due to transportation loss of around Rs. 60 lakhs of Pulkhal-Durja road occurred. The road going to river is also damaged. Gram Panchayat has not given permission this year also for auction of proposed sand ghat. The Public hearing has to be conducted in Pulkhal village, due to which limited persons are attending the said public hearing.</p>	<p>Ghat projects have been given to all gram panchayats. Project Proponent also stated that, decision regarding auction of Pulkhal sand ghat will only be taken after judgement of Hon'ble High Court, Nagpur Bench, Nagpur.</p>
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	As per Article 9 of the Constitution of India, in PESA region, PESA act supersedes other acts for effective implementation. As per section 4 of PESA Act & rule 32 of Govt. of Maharashtra issued in 2014, the said Public Hearing shall be conducted in Pulkhal Village only. Hence, we raise our objection for this Public Hearing & request you to not give permission for proposed sand ghat. We have also submitted our objection in writing.	
2	Earlier, due to sand excavation from Pulkhal sand ghat flow of Wainganga River is diverted on opposite direction. Flow of river is also diverted on the upper side of the ghat due to which the ground water level of village found affected. Due to illegal sand mining, flow of river is diverted & groundwater of village is also affected, hence, illegal sand excavation shall be stopped.	The project proponent of the project said that vigilance will be taken in the said matters.

3. Shri. Amol Marakwar, Tal. Dist. Gadchiroli:-

Sr. No.	Objections/ Suggestions/ Questions	Answers / Promises Given by the project proponent
1	Tree plantation was assured during Public Hearing of sand ghats conducted in the year 2021-22. Accordingly, how much trees are planted along the sand ghats & what action is initiated on sand contractors who have not planted trees around sand ghats.	Project Proponent informed that, Bank Guarantee is taken from Sand ghat contractors & contractor has to submit compliance report. After examination of compliance report, if any non-compliances are observed then Bank guarantee is forfeited. If compliances are found then Bank Guarantee is returned back to the sand contractor.

2	Local birds & migrated birds are coming near Waghala Ghat in large quantity. The said ghat is a tourist place. Due to auction of sand ghat these birds can get affected. In this regard, measures can be taken by getting opinion of bird expert.	Project Proponent informed that, measures will be taken by getting opinion of bird expert.
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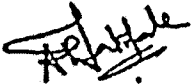
4. Shri. Tukaram Gedam, Gram Panchayat Member, Pulkhal, Tal. Dist. Gadchiroli:-

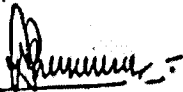
Sr. No.	Objections/ Suggestions/ Questions	Answers / Promises Given by the project proponent
1	Due to Pulkhal Sand Ghat, the road going to crematorium is dilapidated. Who will pay compensation? Compensation shall be recovered from the defaulter contractor and the said contractor shall be black listed.	It has been decided to take 10 percent of the amount of ownership money deposited by the auction holders to the government as contribution for the District Mineral Foundation. Funds are payable for roads, health, etc. in Gram Panchayat area from the said fund.

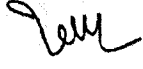
Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the minutes of the meeting will be prepared and submitted along with Final EIA to Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take further decision.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of the Chairman declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.


(Atul Salfale)
Convener, Environment
Public Hearing Committee
& Sub-Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur


(A. M. Kare)
Member, Environment
Public Hearing Committee
& Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur


(Dhanaji Patil)
Chairman, Environment
Public Hearing
Committee & Additional
District Magistrate,
Gadchiroli