

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF CONSTRUCTION OF BHANDARA-GADCHIROLI ACCESS CONTROLLED SUPER COMMUNICATION EXPRESSWAY UNDER PACKAGE-II STARTS SAWARKHEDA INTERCHANGE OF NAGPUR-GONDIA EXPRESSWAY TO GADEGAON ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NH-53(B) LEADING TO RAIPUR (CH. 0.000 TO CH. 24.706) AND BORGAON INTERCHANGE OF SAWARKHEDA-GADEGAON (CH. 0.000 TO CH. 69.536) LINK TO KINHI VILLAGE ON NH 353D BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S. MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (MSRDC), PATWARDHAN HIGH SCHOOL, SITABURDI, NAGPUR-440001, MAHARASHTRA

Date : 17/06/2025
Time : 11:00 AM
Place : Rajiv Gandhi Sankrutik Sabhagruha, Bramhapuri, Tah. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.

Preamble:-

Project Proponent M/s. Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC), Patwardhan High School, Sitaburdi, Nagpur-440001, Maharashtra has applied to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (MoEF & CC) Govt. of India, (Gol), New Delhi for permission of carrying out the study in the radius of 10 k.m. of project and preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for obtaining Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Project of Construction of Bhandara-Gadchiroli Access Controlled Super Communication Expressway under Package-II starts Sawarkheda Interchange of Nagpur-Gondia Expressway to Gadegaon on National Highway NH-53(B) leading to Raipur (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 24.706) and Borgaon Interchange of Sawarkheda-Gadegaon (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 69.536) link to Kinhi village on NH 353D.

The proposed project has been approved by the MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi and Terms of Reference (ToR) was sanctioned on 27/12/2023 & ammended Terms of Reference (TOR) was sanctioned on 22/10/2024. As per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the environment study should be carried in the radius of 10 km from the project site before environmental public hearing and to include in the final environmental impact assessment report the environmental issues raised by the project affected people about the proposed project. As the proposed project falls under Category A-7 (f), it is mandatory to the Project Proponent to obtain prior Environment Clearance (EC) from MoEF & CC, Gol, New Delhi.

Project Proponent M/s. Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC), Patwardhan High School, Sitaburdi, Nagpur, Maharashtra, has applied Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 01/04/2025

for conducting Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Chandrapur, Maharashtra State, in co-ordination with MPCB Chandrapur Office, approved to hold a public hearing on 17/06/2025.

As per EIA Notification, 2006, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, MPCB Chandrapur in the Local Newspaper in Lokmat, Nagpur Edition for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Times of India for English on 16/05/2025. An appeal is made to residents of the area, environmental organizations, residents to be displaced by the project or residents to be affected by the project in any other way to submit their views, comments, suggestions or objections about the proposed project in writing or by email to the local MPCB Chandrapur office till the date of public hearing.

Also copy of draft EIA report and executive summary in Marathi and English were made available at various notified offices of Government for the observation, study and comments of the local people as under:-

1. Environment Department, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.
2. The Joint Director (WPC), M.P.C. Board, Kalptaru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 022.
3. The Regional Office, New Secretariat Building, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. Opposite VCA Stadium, Civil Lines Nagpur.
4. The Regional Office & Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board, 1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.
5. District Collector Office, Chandrapur.
6. Zilla Parishad, Chandrapur.
7. District Industries Centre, Chandrapur
8. Sub-Divisional Office, Bramhapuri, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
9. Tahsil Office, Bramhapuri, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
10. Municipal Council Bramhapuri, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
11. Gram Panchayat Belgaon (Jani) (Belgaon Jani & Tapal), Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
12. Gram Panchayat Dighori, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
13. Gram Panchayat Nanhori, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
14. Gram Panchayat Nandgaon Jani, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
15. Gram Panchayat Pimpalgaon (Kham Talodhi & Pimpalgaon), Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
16. Gram Panchayat Sondri, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
17. Gram Panchayat Surbodi, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
18. Gram Panchayat Navegaon Makta, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
19. Gram Panchayat Zilbodi, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
20. Gram Panchayat Borgaon, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
21. Gram Panchayat Udupur, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
22. Gram Panchayat Paradgaon, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.

23. Gram Panchayat Betala, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
24. Gram Panchayat Kinhi, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
25. Gram Panchayat Ranmochan, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur.
26. Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board: www.mpcb.gov.in

It is also informed to the notified government departments (Sr.no.05 to 26 as above) about giving wide publicity at their level regarding Environmental Public Hearing.

The public hearing was thus widely publicized following the due procedure as per the Notification, so that it would be convenient for the project affected or concerned persons to register their views, comments, suggestions or objections with the concerned department. As per the directives, the public consultation is arranged on the project site.

As per the EIA Notification as issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi dated 14th September, 2006, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide no.E-345/2025 under letter no.BO/JD(WPC) PH/B-250526-FTS-0076, dated 26/05/2025 as under :-

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

This office is in receipt 01 notices, complaints, statements, objections regarding the above project and the persons / concerned institutions have been informed to attend the public hearing and submit their views, opinion, suggestions or objections if any complaints, statements, objections.

The attendance sheets of the participants during the public hearing as well as the Order of the Environment Public Hearing Committee constituted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board are attached herewith as **Annexure-I & II.**

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing:-

At the beginning of the meeting, Shri Umashankar Bhadule, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Nitin Vyavhare, Additional District Magistrate, Chandrapur and Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Tanaji Yadav, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chandrapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project officials, Journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment and local people who were present in large number and informed all the procedure of the public hearing. He appealed all the participants to raise views, doubts, ideas, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that the public hearing is organized only for the local people and project affected persons, so that the environmental issues and doubts would be resolved.

Convener of the meeting further informed that this meeting is arranged to know the feelings, suggestions or objections of the local people for the proposed project in environmental angle only and this Committee has no right to sanction, reject or recommend the proposed project. The suggestions or objections received during the meeting will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting in Marathi and in English and it will be submitted alongwith Final EIA report, the written suggestions/objections with the approval of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision accordingly.

Convener of the meeting further informed that as per the provisions of the Notification, the meeting is being photographed and video is being shot and after the presentation, the participants can raise their questions, suggestions, thoughts and objections. The Project Environmental Consultant or Project Proponent will answer the same. While asking questions, first inform your full name and residence village.

With the permission of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Convener asked Environment Consultant to give presentation of Environment Management Plan of the proposed project.

Project Consultant informed regarding expansion of the project and Environment Management Plan in local language Marathi. Following points were explained in the meeting:-

Detailed Information of the Project -

- Project Area, Latitude-Longitude, Map, Submerged Area, Beneficiary Area, Forest Area, Project; Features, Project Significance, Consequences, Land Use, Earthquake Stability;
- Project objectives, social status, employment opportunities, development of farmers due to the project;
- Project analysis, summary, findings;
- Analysis of social and economic status
- Information about air, water, land, sound, project affected areas etc.
- Impact and management of air, water, displacement, biodiversity due to planned project
- Information on environmental management after project implementation
- Information on other environmental management

After reading the suggestions given by Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Convener appealed to the participants to raise their environmental suggestions or objections about the proposed project. While raising questions, inform the full name, village. He also informed Project Environment Consultant and Project Proponent to give appropriate answers.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent:-

1) Shri. Deepak Bharatsingh Dixit, President, Prakruti Foundation, Tal. Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The plagiarism check report has not been attached in the EIA report. The consultant should respond on this matter. Are you the direct project consultant or an indirect one? Because the EIA report mentions names of two different environmental consultants. Please clarify if there is any provision under the EIA Notification, 2006, stating that the plagiarism check report	The environmental consultants informed that the Draft EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) report has been submitted for conducting the public hearing. After the public hearing, the plagiarism check report will be submitted to the Environmental Appraisal Committee along with the Final EIA Report.

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is to be submitted only along with the final EIA report. If the public hearing is held for consulting the public, then why was the plagiarism check report not attached to the EIA report? What is the authenticity of this report? It appears that you have copied the EIA report from somewhere and submitted it before the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and the public. If the report is genuine, the plagiarism check report should have been attached. By submitting a false report, the consultant is misleading both the public and the administration. Therefore, submission of the plagiarism check report is requested. The list of expert committee members must also be included in the EIA report with their names, contact numbers, and signatures, as it is mandatory as per the EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments. The geo-tagged photographs of the survey conducted by you should have also been attached. These are essential in the draft EIA report. Hence, this report is fraudulent, and the public hearing based on it is illegal. A criminal case can be registered against the consultant and the project proponent. As per Condition No. 1 of the ToR, the road passes through a flood-prone area. A related notification has been issued by the District Collector's office of Chandrapur. Just two days ago, a bridge collapsed on the Indrayani River in Pune. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that there are

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that your objections and suggestions are being included in the proceedings, and requested that they be submitted in written format.

Shri Nishikant Sukke, Additional District Collector (Retd.), mentioned that objections and suggestions should be presented during the public hearing, and that they will be incorporated in the proceedings and submitted to the Environmental Appraisal Committee as part of the compliance report.

The environmental consultants stated that they have the names and contact numbers of the experts, which will be shared soon. However, these are not included in the EIA report. Geo-tagged photographs are available with them, but they are also not attached to the report.

The Regional Officer, MPCB (Maharashtra Pollution Control Board), Chandrapur, requested the participants to register their objections, which will be included in the public hearing proceedings. The related errors will be corrected by senior authorities.

The environmental consultants clarified that, in the third section of the proposed Super Communication Expressway from Kinhi (Chainage 69+50) to Madhatukum (Chainage 116+000), where the existing HS 353D road is proposed to be widened, adequate

around 500 such flood-prone areas in Maharashtra. This road passes through one of them. In case of a sudden cloudburst while people, students, or farmers are traveling, there is a risk of road collapse. No such risk analysis report has been attached in the EIA. This is a highly serious matter. The Regional Officer of MPCB should have informed senior officers and the Hon'ble Chairman about this risk analysis. The project proponent submitted the report to MPCB three months ago, so why didn't MPCB verify it? A criminal case can be filed against the project proponent and consultant for fraud and submission of a false report. The project proponent has proposed a 2300-meter-long wall on both sides of the 93 km road. In case of rainfall or cloudburst, the movement of wildlife in that 2.5 km stretch will be blocked. No risk analysis has been included regarding this issue. This is illegal development. If the wildlife corridor is blocked, their migratory ability will be endangered. This report is incorrect. There are four types of transportation—air, rail, motor, and human (pedestrian). The safest mode of transport is air, followed by rail, then roads, and finally pedestrian, which is considered most dangerous. Recently, a plane crash occurred in Gujarat due to a 0.001% error. This proves that even the safest mode is not accident-proof. Hence, the project proponent and consultant are risking human and

be provided for wildlife movement. The original proposal extended only up to Gadchiroli. Later, it was extended up to the 79 list, but that extension is not included in this project. The Terms of Reference (ToR) were revised, and now work will be carried out only up to Kinhi, so the extended section will not apply. The total road length will be only 69.5 km. Beyond this, no road construction will be undertaken by MSRDC. Kinhi falls within Chandrapur district. The annexures are not attached to the Draft EIA report, but the consultants have the documents and have also conducted a risk analysis study, the report of which is included in the annexures. The Draft EIA report has been prepared as per the EIA Notification, 2006. All annexures will be submitted to MPCB. The consultants will make the report available to the public, and the objections and suggestions will be included in the proceedings and the Final EIA Report.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that issues related to unavailable reports will be recorded, and requested to proceed to the next question.

The environmental consultants mentioned that the objections and suggestions raised during the public hearing have been included in the proceedings. The currently submitted Draft EIA Report has been submitted to MPCB, and responses to public questions will be addressed in the compliance report as per the guidelines of

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animal lives. No report regarding human-wildlife conflict has been attached. As per Forest Department records, several such incidents have occurred in Chandrapur district, some resulting in civilian deaths. Wildlife does not stay in one place; they are constantly moving. No risk analysis on this is included. What is stated under Condition No. 2 of the TOR? What has the project proponent replied? They have only proposed underpasses up to 69.5 km, but the report is prepared for 93 km, and only two underpasses have been shown. MSRDC has not followed the guidelines for wildlife underpasses. The committee should obtain clarification from the consultant, as wildlife movement is observed in this region. Also, compensation claims related to human-wildlife conflict have been submitted to the administration. No mitigation plan is included in the report. There is also no report related to grass and weeds, which should be submitted for proper discussion. We wish to present our expert opinion, hence all reports should be summoned by MPCB. As per Condition No. 8 of the TOR, a mitigation plan was expected. Although the study area within a 10 km radius is mapped, no mitigation measures related to wells, stepwells, rivers, streams, or watershed development plans are attached. Only ₹37 lakh has been allocated, which is inadequate. The consultant and project

MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) in the Final EIA Report. The 2300-meter-long wall does not fall within the road construction area in Bramhapuri taluka. This wall lies in the area between Savarkheda and Gadegaon (Part-1). It is located in a flood-prone area and is considered a protective engineering structure. For wildlife mitigation measures, MSRDC has taken assistance from the Wildlife Institute of India. All mitigation measures will be included in the Final EIA Report.

proponent are misleading the public. No plan has been mentioned for water storage along the roadside. They have not even listed the departments they coordinated with. We will legally oppose this report. As per Condition No. 9 of the TOR, a traffic study report and road safety report were to be submitted. These have also not been attached. If these reports are missing, we will continue our opposition. As per Condition No. 12 of the TOR, rainwater harvesting pits are to be constructed every 500 meters. However, their design has not been included. A report from the Central Ground Water Authority should be obtained. If these 50 pits fail in the future, the project proponent will have to rebuild them. Only ₹37 lakh has been allocated, which is insufficient. If the wildlife movement point had been highlighted under Condition No. 2, this project would not have received approval. Is the consultant accredited for all domains by NABL? Since they are not accredited in all sectors, the report is fake. A criminal case should be filed against the consultant. On Page 132, the water quality of Telpathari village is mentioned to be purer than Ganga water. How is this possible? In Section 4.8, it is stated that the water is even purer than distilled water. If the report claims this water is purer than government-supplied water, then this must be a copy-paste from another report. This proves the report is fake. In Section

	4.1.2, software permission for climate quality must be submitted. Consult Pro software is not suitable for this area. It cannot represent the complexity of the region. Hence, this report is also inaccurate. This report should be legally redrafted, and a fresh public hearing must be conducted.	
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2) Shri. Satyaprakash Mehra, Environmentalist, Prakruti Foundation, Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I do not have much information about the assessment done by the environmental consultants. I just want to present some facts from the EIA report on behalf of "Prakruti Foundation" which should be taken into consideration. I am not aware of the basis used by the consultant for biodiversity assessment. The wildlife assessment has been done in 2023. But wildlife is not confined to one location—they do not stay in one place. The consultant's assessment has been done without documenting the species of wildlife. The studies conducted are incorrect. We were told to express our difficulties, doubts, suggestions, and objections in very simple language. This is just a formal process that will be completed, but whether it will be included in policy-level reforms, I do not know. The real question is: will these views be considered at all? Will they be reflected in the next	The environmental consultants mentioned that the objections and suggestions raised during the public hearing have been included in the proceedings. The currently submitted Draft EIA Report has been submitted to MPCB, and responses to public questions will be addressed in the compliance report as per the guidelines of MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) in the Final EIA Report. The 2300-meter-long wall does not fall within the road construction area in Bramhapuri taluka. This wall lies in the area between Savarkheda and Gadegaon (Part-1). It is located in a flood-prone area and is considered a protective engineering structure. For wildlife mitigation measures, MSRDC has taken assistance from the Wildlife Institute of India. All mitigation measures will be included in the Final EIA Report.

public hearing? It has been mentioned that there are 100 to 200 species in the road construction area, but no list of flora has been provided. Some species in this area are globally important. It is stated that IRC guidelines are followed for plantation. It has been mentioned that some trees will be planted according to Highway Policy Guidelines, 2015. Some species are commonly found across the region, but the consultant needs to consider whether those species are really suitable for an area like Chandrapur. You are replacing trees that have been there for many years—why are they being destroyed? According to highway guidelines, is there any provision for large-scale tree plantation? If not, then the project proponent should undertake experimental plantation. The six species that are globally significant will be destroyed. A request is being made not to plant Neem and Babul trees because you do not have any carbon credit policy, which the Central Government is encouraging. This is my worst experience of a public hearing, and I will bring it to the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. As an environmentalist, we must view this case as a model. I wish to discuss the species of animals mentioned in the EIA report. I have questions about the biodiversity survey conducted. Several established wild species have not been mentioned by the project proponent. I have photographs of such species.

Still, the project proponent will not include them in the final report. And we will not get access to the report after the public hearing. Some local bird species mentioned in the report fall under the Wildlife Protection Act. But will the trees to be planted be able to maintain the ecological balance of the area? I have seen all the important butterfly species in the area, which are vital to the ecosystem. If I am wrong, the Forest Department supports livelihoods through Tussar silk production, which depends on forest cover. Many species will be lost due to this project. The project proponent has no policy for replanting trees. We have submitted a written representation on this. Mr. Dixit spoke harshly about this matter, but I speak softly. You will have to handle this legally because people today are aware. If the committees, environmental consultants, and project proponents do not consider the issues raised by public representatives, such public hearings should not be held. Local people are often unable to follow up with the district administration, but I can. It is also true that due to your busy schedule, you may not be able to listen to the concerns of locals and ask them to come the next day. That's why all reports and documents should be included during the public hearing. Some of the technical points made by Mr. Dixit are difficult to accept. But that does not mean the EIA report should be rejected. We

	<p>must think over it. Consultants should be strictly instructed to include all types of reports and certificates in their EIA report. The environmental consultant has given a score of 0.8 for biodiversity. The score for biodiversity is given between 0 and 1. Will a score of 0.8 be useful for the project proponents? I am speaking about all types of interdependent species in this public hearing. This hearing is just being held as a formality. I know there are many challenges, but our existence depends on these things. I request the administration to issue strict guidelines so that people like Mr. Dixit speak in support of the projects and suggest improvements in the EIA report and policies. I am ready to cooperate with the consultants and the administration. There are many proposed projects in the Vidarbha region that will affect the biodiversity and ecosystems of the area.</p>	
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3) Shri. Sagar Suresh Amame, Bramhapuri, Tal. Bramhapuri, Dist. Chandrapur:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	<p>My agricultural land falls under Survey Nos. 150 and 151. Survey No. 150 is mentioned in the 7/12 extract, but as per the map, it corresponds to Survey No. 151. After learning about the highway project under the Salokha scheme, I filed an</p>	<p>The environmental consultant stated that your points have been noted.</p>

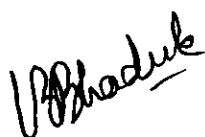
	<p>appeal on 12/10/2023. However, till date, I have not received any written information regarding the compensation rates or other related matters. I have brought the relevant documents to the notice of the committee. I also tried to contact the Collector's office, but due to their busy schedule, I was unable to meet the concerned authorities.</p>	
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The Chairman of the Public Hearing briefed the people present if there are any other question/issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any question. He announced that copy of the proceedings and CD of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in MPCB office at Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, First Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Opposite Bus-Stand, Railway Station Road, Chandrapur.

The Chairman of the Committee while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared that public hearing is ended, and concluded the public hearing with vote of thanks.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed 01 suggestions/objections received by the office.



(Umashankar Bhadule)
Convener, Environment
Public Hearing Committee
& Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chandrapur



(Tanaji Yadav)
Member, Environment
Public Hearing Committee
& Regional Officer, MPCB,
Chandrapur



(Dr. Nitin R. Vyavhare)
Chairman, Environment
Public Hearing Committee
& Additional District
Magistrate, Chandrapur