MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED 6-LANE ACCESS CONTROLLED SECTION OF NH-348 B (GREENFIELD) FROM PAGOTE (Km 0.100) TO CHOWK (Km 29.318) DISTRICT-RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S NATIONAL HIGH WAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (NHAI), MINISTRY OF ROAD, TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, GOVT. OF INDIA -

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The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed 6-lane Acess-Controlled Section of NH-348 B (Greenfield) from Pagote (km 0.100) to Chowk (km 29.319) District- Raigad, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent M/s National High Way Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Govt. of India was held on Monday, the 16th February, 2026 at 03.00 pm at Adya Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke Auditorium, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chowk, Panvel – 410 206, District-Raigad.

Shri Prashant Bhosale, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and sought permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee to start the proceedings. He said that the next proceedings will be carried by his colleague, Shri Yogesh Gore, Field Officer.

Shri Yogesh Gore, Representative of Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Representative of 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 of the proposed project.

He informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 13.10.2025 from Project Proponent M/s National High Way Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Govt. of India to conduct an Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed 6-lane Acess-Controlled Section of NH-348 B (Greenfield) from Pagote (km 0.100) to Chowk (km 29.319) District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 and Amended Notification, the proposed activities fall under Category "A" which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 13.01.2025 to obtain preliminary approval - Terms of Reference (ToR) and

to prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi and it is approved online on dated 15.05.2025.

Accordingly, Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who has obtained NABET Approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried from October, 2024 to December, 2024 (three months). A draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the project site and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was prepared to study the possible impacts/impacts on the environment due to the proposed setting up of the project and it was submitted to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 13.10.2025.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter number MPCB / JD / (WPC) / ENV- PH / B – 251008 – FTS - 0077, dated 08.10.2025, directed the Sub-Regional Office, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai to implement the process of conducting Environment Public Hearing.

Sub-Regional Office, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai requested District Collector, Raigad vide letter dated 29.10.2025 to allow to conduct environmental public hearing regarding the proposed project.

Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibag vide letter dated 11-12-2025 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the

30th January, 2026 at 01.00 noon. at Adya Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke Auditorium, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chowk, Panvel – 410 206, District-Raigad.

After getting sanction from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification S.O. 3067 (E) Dated 01-12-2009 as issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 05 of 2026 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-260108- FTS- 029 dated 08-01-2026 as under: -

1)	District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag or his representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate	**Chairman**
2)	Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai - Regional Officer – Raigad Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614	**Member**
3)	Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, C.B.D. Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614	**Convener**

As per Notification, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai published 30 days' advance public notice in the local newspaper in Daily Lokmat and Daily Krushival for Marathi and Indian Express in English on

24th December, 2025. Public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under: -

1)	Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001
2)	Hon'ble District Collector, Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag;
3)	General Manager, District Industries Centre, Raigad, Alibag;
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Raigad, Alibag;
5)	Sub Divisional Officer, Sub Divisional Office, Taluka-Panvel, District-Raigad;
6)	Sub Divisional Officer, Sub Divisional Office, Taluka-Uran, District-Raigad;
7)	Sub Divisional Officer, Sub Divisional Office, Taluka-Khalapur, District-Raigad;
8)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Taluka-Panvel, District- Raigad;
9)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Taluka-Khalapur, District- Raigad;
10)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Taluka-Panvel, District-Raigad;
11)	Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032;
12)	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, 3rd Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 022;
13)	Regional Officer, Raigad, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614;
14)	Sub Regional Officer, Raigad -I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614;
15)	Grampanchayat Offices-Group Grampanchayat Jui;Kalambusare, Chirner, Karnala, Apta, Chachane, Jambhivali,Vashivali, Esambe, Tembari, Tupgaon, Chowk;
16)	Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board - Executive Summary in Marathi and in English is made available.

However, since the general election program of the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti of Raigad district has been announced and the code of conduct was in force, and the said meeting venue also was not available, Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibaug has cancelled the said public hearing meeting dated 30.01.2026.

Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibag as per his letter dated 23.01.2025, has given permission to hold a environment public hearing on the environmental aspects of the proposed project on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 3.00 PM at Aadya Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke Natyagruh, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Road, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chowk, Panvel – 410 206, District-Raigad.

As per the relevant order, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad- 1, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Navi Mumbai, through a corrigendum, published a public hearing notice regarding the proposed project in the local newspapers Dainik Lokmat and Krishival in Marathi and in the national newspaper Indian Express in English on Saturday, 24-01- 2026 to inform all the public.

Till date, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-I, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai has received no any suggestions/objections regarding the above project.

Convener further informed that all the participants have an opportunity to raise their environmental objections, suggestions regarding proposed projects and they can submit it in writing or orally also.

Convener asserted that this Environment Public Hearing Committee is only to register public opinions, suggestions, objections on the environment and this Committee does not have the power to approve,

reject or recommend projects. The suggestions/objections raised by the local people in the environment public hearing will be noted in the minutes of the meeting and the minutes of the meeting will be prepared in Marathi and English. Similarly, video recordings of the meetings, videos, revised EIA report by Project Proponent taking note of the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting, will be submitted along with minutes of the meeting after getting approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decisions in this regard. Convener requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to direct Project Proponent to start the presentation.

As per the orders of the Hon. Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, Environmental Consultant of the project welcomed all the participants and gave information about the project through a presentation.

Environment Consultant while giving Presentation informed that Project Proponent M/s National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Govt. of India planned to built proposed 6-lane Acess-Controlled Section of NH-348 B (Greenfield) from Pagote (km 0.100) to Chowk (km 29.318) District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

This road will enhance connectivity with important cities like Uran, Panvel and Khalapur. Similarly, the proposed greenfield route will provide direct connectivity to JNPT port for traffic coming from NH-48.

Proposed project will improve connectivity to the Patalganga industrial area as well as the surrounding villages. The project will create new employment opportunities. It will also increase road safety by reducing the risk of accidents.

The project is expected to cost ₹ 3,653.09 crore. Project Environmental Consultant presented the complete details of the environmental management to be undertaken during the construction phase of the project.

He said that during the construction phase, regular water spraying will be done to avoid soil disturbance to the local people. Also, construction work will be avoided at night near forests and sensitive areas.

Project Environmental Consultant said that the proposed project is in the interest of the local Panvel Taluka, the state of Maharashtra and the country.

After the presentation, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed all the audience that Project promoters have provided detailed information about the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) to be implemented for pollution control during the construction phase and after completion of the project.

However, participants are advised to raise environmental issues regarding the proposed project. Suggestions and objections made by you will be recorded and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. While registering the suggestions and objections, the name and place of residence/village should be mentioned first.

Everyone's suggestions and objections will be recorded. Similarly, those who want to submit a written suggestions/objections should submit it. Project promoters are instructed to respond in writing and it will be

submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting.

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

1) **Shri Vijay Ramdas Mhatre, Residnece- Chirner Road, Taluka-Panvel, Dist. Raigad.**

A presentation of the proposed project is shown here. It is towards development, which is good. But for the farmers through whose agriculture fields the proposed road will pass, not a single point is mentioned in the presentation for affected farmers. They have not been taken into confidence. It's our ancestral land. There are trees planted by our ancestors. They are now going to be demolished for development. Now Panvel-Navi Mumbai has a new international airport. Project Affected Persons (PAPs) have been rehabilitated. But all the brothers are scattered. I wonder if that will happen to us. That is, the proposed road was planned without considering our ancestral lands. When we ask Gram Panchayat repeatedly, the Gram Panchayat office says that we do not know anything, only a notice is given.

Shri Vijay Mhatre objected that we have been farmers by profession for generations. You are going to snatch our daily bread. Our entire livelihood depends on agriculture.

However, not a single issue about farmers has been mentioned in the presentation. New trees will probably be planted again. But the farmer is going to lose his grasp, there is no answer in the presentation. For this, I went to the Uran Metro office repeatedly. Officials were requested to arrange meetings. Hence, our request should be brought notice to the Government.

Also, due to this project, farmers who owns agriculture fields, local people/sons of the soil will become PAPs (Project Affected Persons). There is no provision which job opportunity will be given to those affected people. My own one-and-a-half acres of land will be acquired. There is no mention in the presentation about what kind of job opportunities will be given to PAPs. There is no clarity on whether the project affected persons (PAPs) will be given job opportunities in Category-4 or Category-3.

Our ancestral land was my grandfather's land, handed over to my father and father's land is handed over to me. The agriculture farm has fed countless generations. However, only one generation of project affected people will be employed in the project. So there is no planning for our future generations. Also, if the project affected person is given employment, his/her heir should also be given employment opportunity according to his/her educational qualification. However, the project should be implemented only after taking the affected farmers into confidence.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that Shri Vijay Mhatre has raised the right points. However, this is a public hearing on the environment. The land acquisition for the proposed project will be done under the Land Acquisition Act. There are two methods of land acquisition. One is the Land Acquisition Act and the other is the Rehabilitation Act. In the Land Acquisition Act, the benefit of a project is for a particular area. For example, if land has to be acquired for a dam, then a slab is placed on the land of the farmers in the beneficiary area and a part of their agricultural land is taken and plots are provided to the project affected farmers. It comes under the Rehabilitation Act.

The Land Acquisition Act that now exists does not involve rehabilitation, but rather provides a large amount of compensation. Compensation is provided as per the procedure laid down in the Act. Land Acquisition officers are present here. They are available after this meeting and can have a preliminary discussion about the proposed meeting with the concerned project affected people. This meeting is about the environment and Environmental Consultant of the Project Proponent were giving information about the pollution control measures to be taken while developing the project.

The points raised by Shri Vijay Mhatre are correct. They live on agriculture for generations. But this is a matter of land acquisition.

Here Shri Vijay Mhatre again raised the objection that we have repeatedly requested Administration. Objections have been raised about how the farmers affected by this project will be compensated and what kind of employment will be provided. As we have got a platform, objections have been informed to Administration.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Land Acquisition Officer will hold preliminary discussions for the proposed meeting followed after this meeting.

2) Shri Krishna Anand Mhatre, Residence- Chirner, Taluka-Panvel, District-Raigad:-

I am a farmer from Chirner village. It should be clarified who will be paid for the agricultural land on which the proposed road goes, whether it will be given to the farmers working in the fields or to the farmers who are inherited. We starved and worked hard to manage the agriculture fields. Whom you are going to pay for it?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that there will be no answer on the issue of land acquisition and compensation. This is a public hearing on the environment. This will be followed by a preliminary discussion of the proposed meeting with Land Acquisition Officer.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee has appealed all participants to raise only views, suggestions or objections in respect of the proposed project in environmental angle only. While constructing the road, there will be dust pollution, hence sprinkling of water on road, also clarifications on environment management plan shown in the Presentation should be sought.

3) **Shri Santosh Thakur, Residence- Chirner, Taluka- Panvel, District-Raigad:-**

Chirner village is a village of martyrs. In the meeting, it has been suggested that only environmental suggestions and objections should be registered about the proposed project.

Trees will be cut for the proposed project. Numbers have also been given on those trees. Whether the numbers on the trees are either put up by Forest Department or by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board?

Also information about the trees which will be cut down is mentioned. However, there is no information as to which contractor the work worth of ₹ 3,658/- Crore was awarded.

You are going to plant trees on 29.0 kilometre. Will the tree plantation drive work of the respective village will be awarded to project affected farmers of the respective village as Environment Work.

This is also an environmental issue. Our wells have been affected. Also, 81 kalame/cuttings (small trees) of my relatives have been affected. Our agriculture here gives crops for two seasons/ double crop. Crops like black eyed bean, Lupin bean, Double Bean are grown here. So, will the affected farmers of the villages here will be awarded environmental work/contracts of saplings?

Project Proponent replied that the contract for widening the road from Pagote to Chowk in the proposed project is not allotted in parts and pieces. Filling the soil in the project, cutting and plantation of trees, construction of bridges cannot be done separately. So all these things are involved in a single contract work. Therefore, according to the guidelines passed by the respective Organization, this contract will be awarded. He will have to do that too.

Here, **Shri Santosh Thakur, Residence-Chirner, Taluka-Panvel, District-Raigad** objected that how the work on the Mumbai-Goa highway was given only to the Sarpanch and Contractors who were allotted before. Why are the local affected farmers not given the task of planting trees? It should be given to the local affected farmers only.

Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that suggestion/objection raised are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise any suggestions/objection in respect of the proposed project.

4) **Shri Atul Dattatray Malkar, Residence- Talwadi Village, Chowk Area, Taluka-Khalapur, District- Raigad:-**

Project is good, we are not against the development. Proposed project is happening in our Chowk-Khalapur area, on our Patalganga river. Good fish found in the Patalganga river, while there are trees and shrubs in the area along the river. Will the sewage generated by the proposed project pollute the Patalganga river area? The proposed measures should be clarified.

Project Proponent replied that while granting Environment Clerance (EC) to the proposed project, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi prescribes to take measures to ensure that proposed project does not affect the Patalganga river and its springs/sources of water. Therefore, there will be no impact on the natural habitat here.

Member, Environment Public appealed all participants to raise any environmental suggestions or objections in respect of proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all participants for their co-operation in carrying out the legal process and announced that Environment Public Hearing is concluded.

Chairman of the Committee suggested that those who have issues with land acquisition to wait in the hall and others may go.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

No objections/ suggestions are received.

(Prashant Bhosale)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Raigad-I,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan,
CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai

(Sanjay Bhosale)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer-Raigad
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
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(Sandesh Shirke)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
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