

Minutes of the Public Hearing of proposed project by M/s. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (J.N.P.A.) in connection with Vadhavan Port for their proposed Stone Quarry Project "Gargaon Stone Quarry having Lease Area of 24.94 Ha. Gat No. 82 (Part), Mouje Gargaon, Taluka Palghar, District Palghar.

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED PROJECT By

M/s. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (J.N.P.A.) in connection with Vadhavan Port for their proposed Stone Quarry Project "Gargaon Stone Quarry having Lease Area of 24.94 Ha. Gat No. 82 (Part), Mouje Gargaon, Taluka Palghar, District Palghar for Mining area 24.94 Ha., Mining Quantity 4010035 Tons/year"

Date : 02.08.2026

Time : 10:00 AM

Venue : Open playground of the aided Primary and Secondary School of Jeevan Shikshan Sanstha, Shigaon (Khutad), Boisar-Shigaon Road, Taluka & District Palghar.

Preamble: -

M/s. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) is developing Port at Vadhvan, in the District Palghar of Maharashtra in collaboration with the M/s. Maharashtra Maritime Board. JNPA has applied for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to Environment, Forest & Climate Change department, Government of Maharashtra for their proposed project "Gargaon Stone Quarry having Lease Area of 24.94 Ha. Gat No. 82 (Part), Mouje Gargaon, Taluka Palghar, District Palghar for Mining area 24.94 Ha., Mining Quantity 4010035 Tons/year". Accordingly, the State Level Expert Appraisal Panel (SEAC-1) constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, for the State of Maharashtra, approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) vide No. TO26B0108MH5581103N, dated 25.04.2026. copy of TOR is enclosed herewith and marked as annexure – I. It has been mentioned in the said TOR, that issues raised in public hearing, and commitments made by the project proponent on the same shall be included separately in EIA/EMP report.

The project proponent has submitted an application to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) for conducting Public Hearing as per the provisions of EIA Notification -2006 & amendment thereof and TOR issued by SEAC-1 constituted by Govt. of India. Pursuant to this, and in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14.09.2006 & amendment thereof the M.P.C. Board has decided to conduct public hearing in respect of the said project in consultation with District Collector, Palghar. A public notice for conducting Environmental Public Hearing on 02.08.2026 was published one month in advance, on 01.07.2026 in English daily Indian Express and Marathi daily Dainik Lokmat, Punyanagari & Sakal at Open playground of the aided Primary and Secondary School of Jeevan Shikshan Sanstha, Shigaon (Khutad), Boisar-Shigaon Road, Taluka & District Palghar. Copy of the public notice is enclosed herewith and marked as annexure – II. Additionally, copies of the Executive Summary containing information regarding the said project were published on the website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) at www.mpcb.gov.in. In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, through advertisements of the public notice published in newspapers, all concerned persons were invited to submit

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their suggestions, comments, views, objections, etc. regarding the said project to the concerned regulatory authority.

The copy of draft E.I.A. report along with executive summary in respect of the said project were also made available in English & Marathi in the following offices to apprise the public.

1. District Collector Palghar, Palghar Boisar Road, Kolagaon, Tal & Dist -Palghar
2. Office of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar, Tal & Dist -Palghar
3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretary Building, Civil Line, Nagpur-440001
4. The Director, Environment & Climate Control Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra, New Administrative Bldg., 15th Floor, Opp. Mantralaya, Mumbai -400 032.
5. Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai-400022
6. Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Thane, 5th Floor, Office Complex Building, Near Mulund Check Naka, Wagale Estate, Thane-400 604
7. Office of Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kolagaon, Tal & Dist -Palghar
8. General Manager, District Industries Center, Tal & Dist.-Palghar.
9. Regional Officer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, 3rd Floor, Office Complex Building, Wagale Estate, Thane-400 604
10. Tahsildar, Tehsil Office, Panchayat Samiti, Tal. & Dist. Palghar.
11. Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Tal. & Dist. Palghar
12. Village Development Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Gargaon- Khanivade, Tal & Dist- Palghar
13. Village Development Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Ravate, Tal & Dist- Palghar
14. Village Development Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Shigaon- Sumdi, Tal & Dist- Palghar
15. Village Development Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Mahagaon- Walve,, Tal & Dist- Palghar
16. Village Development Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Chinchare, Tal & Dist- Palghar

It was informed that, the report of the said proposed project should be displayed in a prominent place in their offices for public information, and wide publicity regarding the public hearing should also be given through their office. In this manner, wide publicity was given by adopting the procedure mentioned in the notification regarding the public hearing, so that it would be convenient for the project-affected or concerned persons to register their objections, comments, views, or suggestions with the regulatory authority concerned. It was informed to make such arrangements.

The venue for the said public hearing was decided at Open playground of the aided Primary and Secondary School of Jeevan Shikshan Sanstha, Shigaon (Khutad), Boisar- Shigaon Road, Taluka & District Palghar. The said venue was finalized due to its

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proximity to the project site and its convenience for the people concerned because this location is near the project.

M/s. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), in coordination with the MPCB, made arrangements of transport facilities for all project-affected citizens to attend this public hearing and to return to their respective villages after the hearing concluded.

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006 and the amended notification dated 01.12.2009 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, New Delhi, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board constituted the following panel to conduct the said public hearing vide order dtd. 05.07.2026 .

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|--|---|----------|
| 1. Shri. Tejas Chavan | - | Chairman |
| Dy Collector and District Magistrate Palghar | | |
| 2. Shri Kiran Hasabnis | - | Member |
| Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane | | |
| 3. Shri. Raju Vasave, | - | Convener |
| Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Tarapur-2 | | |

The complaints, objections, representations received regarding the said project, along with the attendance register of all those present during the public hearing, and the order constituting the panel formed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for conducting the said public hearing, are enclosed as Annexures 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING: -

The public hearing was organized by the MPCB by erecting a pavilion at the open ground of Jivan Shikshan Sanstha's Aided Primary and Secondary School, Shigaon (Khutad), Boisar-Shigaon Road, Tal. & Dist. Palghar. From a security perspective, security checks were conducted. Citizens entering the meeting pavilion signed the attendance register. Arrangements were made for them to seat in the seating area provided inside the pavilion. Accordingly, before the scheduled time, a total of 88 concerned citizens signed the attendance register and took their seats in the pavilion.

Before the commencement of the public hearing proceedings, certain members of the public present raised an objection that their respective Gram Panchayats had not received copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in English and Marathi, along with the Executive Summary in both English and Marathi, at least 30 days prior to the date of the public hearing, as required. They demanded that this public hearing be postponed further. They stated that they had submitted written representations in this regard to the office of the Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Tarapur-2. They requested that the proceedings of the public hearing should not begin until such time as more people are on the way to attend the said public hearing. They also raised the point that due to excessive rainfall, damage had occurred to their farmland crops, the work of paddy (rice) cultivation is going on. Raising questions such as "Whom is

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this hearing for, if this is the situation" they raised strong objections and prevented the commencement of the public hearing proceedings, and following sloganeering, some of the citizens who were seated in the pavilion walked out of the public hearing pavilion. The citizens who left the pavilion, along with the crowd gathered outside the entrance of the pavilion, attempted to raise slogans demanding that the public hearing to be postpone/cancel.

The Convener of the Public Hearing Panel, Shri. Raju Vasave, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Tarapur-2, also stepped down from the dais and appealed to the assembled public to take their seats inside the pavilion and present all their concerns and points, so that the Project Proponent could provide satisfactory responses and appropriate assurances. He repeatedly requested that, as per the rules of the Government of India applicable, this hearing is meant for the discussion between the project proponent and the affected persons. Which will be incorporated in the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report prepared by the project proponent. Again, and again requested to submit their objections, comments, opinions, or suggestions, and representations. However, the crowd gathered outside the pavilion did not enter the pavilion and instead created an atmosphere of sloganeering and disturbance outside the pavilion.

Since 10 AM the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Panel, also repeatedly called out from the dais, appealing to the crowd gathered outside the pavilion to come inside the pavilion and to place whatever they wished to say on record in an orderly manner. However, the crowd gathered outside the pavilion did not enter the pavilion and instead continued the atmosphere of slogans outside the pavilion.

The Public Hearing panel, after due deliberation/discussion, commenced the proceedings of the proposed public hearing at 12:35 p.m. which had been scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

At the outset, of the proceedings, the convener of the public hearing panel, Shri. Raju Vasave, Sub-Regional Officer Tarapur-2, MPCB welcomed all those present and commenced the public hearing. He apprised the people with the introductory information about the purpose of the public hearing and appealed to them to come forward with suggestions, complaints, objections & comments, if any, about the environmental aspects of the proposed project. He thereafter requested to the Chairman of the public hearing panel to commence the public hearing procedure.

The Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel briefed the participants on the concept and objective of the Public Hearing. He appealed to all participants to maintain peace and decorum throughout the hearing and to present their views, suggestions, and objections pertaining to the environmental aspects of the proposed project.

The Chairman informed the participants that videography of the Public Hearing was being carried out by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006 &

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amendment thereof. He further informed the participants that the Project Proponent would first make a presentation covering the proposed project and its salient features. Thereafter, the participants would be given an opportunity to raise their questions, suggestions, and objections regarding the environmental aspects of the project. The Chairman requested all participants to state their name and address before presenting their views, queries, or objections, so that the name and address of each participant, along with their views, could be duly recorded in the proceedings of the Public Hearing.

After that, Smt. Mansi Mahabal, Environment Consultant made a Power Point Presentation on the Environment aspects of the projects including salient features of EIA Report in Marathi language. The project proponent elaborated the details of proposed project on following grounds;

- Preamble, detailed information about the project, analysis of the project, summary, conclusions.
- Analysis of alternatives.
- Status of statutory permissions and approvals.
- Area, boundaries, latitude-longitude, maps, etc. of the project.
- Environmental baseline status (current status), geological study, geological reserves, and year-wise production including coverage.
- Green belt, details of tree plantation, details of compensatory tree plantation.
- Hydrogeological study, impact management on air, water, displacement, biodiversity, etc., due to the planned project.
- Information regarding the environmental management schedule to be implemented after the project commences.
- Information regarding the mine closure schedule and other environmental management plans.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman of Public Hearing panel announced that the forum is open for question answers. The summary of issues raised, and reply/ Comments made by Project is as below.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES RAISED, AND COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE PROJECT PROPONENT ARE AS UNDER:

1) Ms. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist

Sr. No.	Suggestions
(1)	1. Development is fine, but zero percent pollution is important. 2. Any type of pollution should be controlled. 3. Consideration should be given regarding skill development. 4. I support this project. 5. An eco-friendly (Miyawaki) method of afforestation should be adopted.

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2) Shri. Chetan Patil.

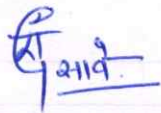
Sr. No.	Issue Raised	Comments / made by Project Proponent.
(1)	1. Information should be provided on how tree plantation will be carried out. 2. Will people in the affected villages actually get employment? 3. Are roads, bridges, lighting, and schools included? 4. Is there a traffic control arrangement in place to prevent accidents?	The PP has assured that, they have noted the points, and it will be incorporated in final EIA.

Shri. Chetan Patil again requested answers to his questions. On this, the Chairman of Public Hearing Panel, clarified that the answers to his questions are as stated in the presentation.

The Chairman of the Public Hearing panel invited the citizens present to raise any further questions/objections/comments they might have regarding the environmental public hearing. However, no one else from the public present came forward to raise any further comments/objections.

The Chairman of the Public hearing panel while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared at 1:30 p.m. that public hearing is ended, further announced that copy of the proceedings of the public hearing will be made available in due course of time in MPCB office at Sub Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, MIDC Staff Colony, Tarapur, Tal & Dist- Palghar. Also, the same will be published on official web site (<http://www.mpcb.gov.in>) of MPCB.

The public hearing ended with vote of thanks.



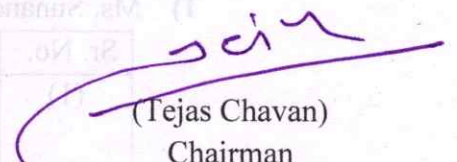
(Raju Vasave)
Convener

of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Tarapur-II



(Kiran Hasabnis)
Member

of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Thane



(Tejas Chavan)
Chairman
of the Public Hearing Panel
and
Dy. Collector and District
Magistrate, Palghar