

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 17.08 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 17.08 Ha. Gat No. 82 (Part), Mouje Gargaon, Taluka Palghar, District Palghar for Mining area 17.08 Ha., Mining Quantity 3608764 Tons/year"

Date : 02.08.2026

Time : 1:30 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 17.08 Ha. Gat No. 82 (Part), Mouje Gargaon, Taluka Palghar, District Palghar for Mining area 17.08 Ha., Mining Quantity 3608764 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. No. TO26B0108MH5341451N, 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),

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Boisar-Shigaon Road, Taluka & District Palghar. The said venue was finalized due to its 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 .

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 regarding the Gargaon Stone Quarry Project, Gut No. 82 (Part), lease area admeasuring 24.94 hectares, located at Village Gargao, Taluka and District Palghar, which was scheduled to commence at 10:00 a.m., was commenced at 12:35 p.m. and concluded at 1:30 p.m.

Thereafter, Shri Raju Vasave, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur-II, and Coordinator of the Public Hearing Panel, announced from the dais that the proceedings of the next proposed public hearing would commence at 2:30 p.m.

A public hearing was organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) at the open playground of the aided Primary and Secondary School of Jeevan Shikshan Sanstha, Shigaon (Khutad), Boisar-Shigaon Road, Taluka & District Palghar. From a security standpoint, security checks were carried out, and after signing the attendance register, citizens coming to the public hearing venue were seated in an orderly arrangement in the pavilion. At the scheduled time of the first public hearing, a total of 90 concerned citizens had signed the attendance register and taken their seats in the pavilion.

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Before the proceedings of the first public hearing could commence, some members of the public present at the venue raised an objection stating that copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Draft Report containing details of the said project, in both English and Marathi, and copies of the Executive Summary, also in English and Marathi, had not been received by their respective Gram Panchayats at least 30 days prior to the public hearing.

They further stated that written representations had been submitted to the office of the Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur-II, requesting that the public hearing be postponed. 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 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, and that damage caused to houses and paddy fields due to heavy rainfall, crop plantation activities, and other such concerns, and prevented the proceedings from being commenced.

Following the slogan-raising, some of the citizens who were seated inside the public hearing pavilion left the venue. The citizens who had exited the pavilion, along with the members of the public gathered near the entrance, continued raising slogans demanding that the public hearing be postponed and did not re-enter the pavilion.

The Convener of the Public Hearing Panel, Shri Raju Vasave, Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur-II, appealed to the public gathered outside the pavilion to enter the venue, take their seats, and present their issues and concerns in a lawful and orderly manner. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board further reiterated that the project proponent would provide satisfactory responses and assurances to the issues raised during the hearing. It was also explained that the purpose of conducting the public hearing was to facilitate an effective dialogue between the project proponent and the people likely to be affected by the proposed project.

The Convener repeatedly requested to the public that, to submit their objections, comments, views, suggestions, and representations in accordance with the prescribed procedure on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the project proponent. However, despite these repeated appeals, the public gathered outside the pavilion did not enter the venue and continued raising slogans outside the pavilion.

The Chairman 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.

In accordance with the guidance in the Office Memorandum issued under letter No. J-15012/29/2010-IA/II(M) dated 19.04.2010 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and after allowing a sufficient

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interval, the public hearing proceedings proposed for 1:30 p.m. were commenced at 3:00 p.m.

At the outset, on behalf of 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 Hon'ble Chairman to commence the hearing procedure.

The Chairman briefed about the concept and objective of Public Hearing. He made an appeal to participants & all to attend the public hearing peacefully and place their views regarding Environment aspect. He stated that videography of the said public hearing is being carried out by MPCB as per the procedure laid down in EIA Notification 2006. The Chairman further stated that the presentation about the proposed projects will be given by the project proponent and then the questions/ objections shall be raised by participants. He made an appeal to participants to come forward with their name & address before raising any query/objections so that the name of the participant along with views will be included in the proceedings of meeting. Then the Chairman requested project proponent to give the presentation of the projects along with its salient features.

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, the 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.

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

1) Shri Sunil Sawant.

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	Comments / made by Project Proponent.
1.	I am a person connected to nature; saving nature is our duty. I do not understand why this project is needed — it will gradually destroy the hills.	The project proponent clarified that all the points raised have been noted and will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
2.	Undertake this work only if you can recreate hills.	
3.	If the hills do not remain, the river will not get water at all.	
4.	Owing to the growing population, the strain on natural resources is increasing	
5.	Undertake this work only if you can recreate hills; otherwise not — causing harm to nature is the greatest sin.	
6.	Everyone must work for the sake of nature; people's land is their very existence.	
7.	The Government only makes promises of employment but does not actually fulfil them.	
8.	Save nature — if nature is saved, people will be saved, and if people are saved, there will be employment; but this project will destroy people's very existence and lives.	
9.	Undertake this project only if you can recreate people's existence.	
10.	Will you be able to recreate people's existence?	
11.	Can the hills that are cut be restored exactly as they were?	
12.	Who has given anyone the right to tamper with the environment without having studied it?	
13.	If the Government cannot recreate all this, who has given the Government the right to destroy it?	
14.	Everyone should work towards finding a way to cancel this project.	

2) Shri Shivraj Patil, Mumbai:

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	Comments / made by Project Proponent.
1.	Will there be any impact on the agricultural land?	The project proponent clarified that there will be no impact whatsoever on agricultural land.

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3) Shri Sagar Saindane, Nature Lover, Resident of Jalgaon

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	Comments / made by Project Proponent.
1.	In exchange for the mining being carried out here today, you are planting trees in Parbhani what benefit that will be to this area?	The project proponent clarified that the concern raised has been noted.
2.	How many trees will be planted in Palghar?	

4) Mr. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist.

Sr. No.	Suggestions
1.	Zero-percent pollution is important. Different Ways to reduce environmental degradation should be examined.

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 made again appeal to if there are any other question /issues, the same may be asked. However, nobody came with any question. The Chairman of the Public hearing panel while concluding the proceedings, summarized various points raised and declared at 4:00 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.

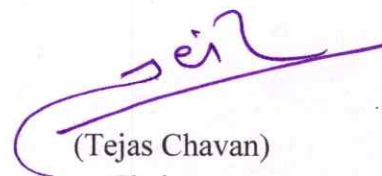
The public hearing ended with vote of thanks.



(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