

Minutes of the Environment Public Hearing for Proposed development of All-Weather Multi-Cargo Greenfield Deepwater Port at Murbe, Taluka & District Palghar, Maharashtra consisting of total 16 nos. Berths and 2 nos. Port Craft Berths to handle about 134.07 MMTPA of various solid and liquid Cargo at Geographical Location – North of Satpati Creek (Latitude 19°47'33.65" North, Longitude 72°41'18.88" East) and (Latitude 19°43'50.60" North, Longitude 72°41'48.80" East) by Project Proponent M/s. JSW Infrastructure Private Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra who has been awarded Letter of Intent (LOI) by Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB)

The Environment public hearing in respect of proposed development of All-Weather Multi-Cargo Greenfield Deepwater Port at Murbe, Taluka & District Palghar, Maharashtra consisting of total 16 nos. Berths and 2 nos. Port Craft Berths to handle about 134.07 MMTPA of various solid and liquid Cargo at Geographical Location – North of Satpati Creek (Latitude 19°47' 33.65" North, (Longitude 72°41'18.88" East) and (Latitude 19°43'50.60" North, Longitude 72°41'48.80" East) by Project Proponent M/s. JSW Infrastructure Private Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra who has been awarded Letter of Intent (LOI) by Maharashtra Maritime Board was held on Monday, 06th October 2025 at 11 a.m. at District Sports Complex Ground, Near Sonopant Dandekar College, College Road, Tembhode, Taluka, District Palghar, Maharashtra.

Shri Virendra Singh, Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Boisar, Taluka, District Palghar & Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Dr. Indu Rani Jakhar, IAS, District Magistrate, Palghar & Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Shri Kiran Hasabnis, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane & Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Local People's Representatives, Officials of the Project

Proponents, journalist, Environmental Charitable organization, representatives of various channels, Police Administration and the local people who were present in large numbers and on behalf of Sub Regional Office, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and District Collector Office, Palghar welcomed all and with the permission of Chairperson, started the process of Environment Public Hearing.

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.

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 unit.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 11.08.2025 from Project Proponent M/s. JSW Infrastructure Private Limited, JSW Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra who has been awarded Letter of Intent (LOI) by Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) to conduct an Environment public hearing in respect of their proposed development of All-Weather Multi-Cargo Greenfield Deepwater Port at Murbe, Taluka & District Palghar, Maharashtra consisting of total 16 nos. Berths and 2 nos. Port Craft Berths to handle about 134.07 MMTPA of various solid and liquid Cargo at Geographical Location – North of Satpati Creek (Latitude

19°47'33.65" North, Longitude 72°41'18.88" East) and (Latitude 19°43'50.60" North, Longitude 72°41'48.80" East).

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No. S.O. 1533, Dated 14-09-2006, the proposed activities fall under Category "A" – Schedule 7 (e) - Ports, Harbours, Breakwaters, Dredging, which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

An application was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR) for studying the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the said project. Accordingly, Project Proponents submitted the proposal along with the Pre-Feasibility Report along with the prescribed application to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India on 24.04.2025 and ToR has been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi on 11.06.2025.

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 out from December 2024 to February 2025 (three months).

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared and submitted to study the potential impact/

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impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Boisar, Palghar vide letter dated 11.08.2025 requested Hon. District Collector, Palghar to conduct Environment public hearing for the proposed activity.

District Collector, Palghar directed on 11.08.2025 to conduct Physical Environment public hearing on Monday, the 06th October, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. at District Sports Complex Ground, Near Sonopant Dandekar College, College Road, Tembhode, Taluka, District Palghar, Maharashtra.

After getting sanction from District Collector, Palghar, 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-66 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-250910- FTS- 0220, dated 10-09-2025 as under: -

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| 1) District Magistrate-Palghar
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate | Chairman |
| 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Thane,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Thane | Member |

3) Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Boisar, Palghar

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As per said Notification, 30 days advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Boisar in the local newspaper in daily Lokmat for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Free Press Journal for English on 03-09-2025. The 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. District Collector, Collector's Office, Taluka, District-Palghar
3)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Taluka, District-Palghar,
4)	Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Palghar, District-Palghar,
5)	Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032.
6)	General Manager, District Industries Centre, Central Office, Taluka, District-Palghar,
7)	Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, Opp. Cineplanet Cinema, 3rd Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 022
8)	Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 5 th Floor, Office Complex Building, Near Mulund Check Naka, Wagle Estate, Thane -400 604
9)	Sub-Regional Officer, Tarapur-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, MIDC Residential Colony Area, Post-TAPP, Boisar (West), Taluka, District-Palghar-401 504, Maharashtra

10)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Palghar, District-Palghar,
11)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Palghar, District-Palghar,
12)	Chief Officer, Palghar Municipal Council, Taluka-Palghar, District-Palghar,
13)	Gram Panchayat Officer, Gram Panchayat Office – Alewadi, Betegaon, Birwadi, Chahade, Dandi, Dapoli, Navi Delwadi, Dhansar, Ghivali, Girnoli, Gundale, Kurgaon, Katale, Khairapada (Boisar), Kokner, Kolawade, Kolgaon, Maswan, Morekuran, Murbe, Nandgaon Tarfe Tarapur, Nawapur, Padghe, Pam, Pam Tembhi, Pathrali, Sagave, Salwad, Saravli, Satpati, Shirgaon, Uchchheli, Umroli, Unbhat, Vengani, Parnali
14)	Gram Panchayat Officer, Group Gram Panchayat Office – Ambadi/ Shelwali/Boisar/Dandipada/ Katkarpada, Devkhop / Nandore, Kamare / Varkhunti / Tokrale, Kharekuran / Vikaswadi, Kumbavali / Kamre Eklare, Maan / Kallale/ Varagande/ Kambalgaon, Shigaon/ Khutad/ Sumdipada, Mahim/ Vadrai/ Haranwadi, Pasthal/ Salgaon, Newale/ Rani Shigaon, Wandivali/ Vasroli/ Kharshet/ Wakdi, Panchali/ Aagwan
15)	Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai - Marathi & English Executive Summary Report is available

Similarly, a reminder for Environment Public Hearing (Reminder Notice) was published in Marathi in the local newspaper Lokmat and in English in the national newspaper Free Press Journal on 01-10-2025.

Till date, a total number of 4,374 suggestions/ objections have been received by Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Boisar, District Palghar regarding the above project.

Convener informed that all the participants have an opportunity to raise their objections, suggestions in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only in writing or orally.

Convener asserted that this Environment Public Hearing Committee is only to register public opinions, suggestions, objections for the environment and this Committee does not have the power to approve, reject or recommend the project. Suggestions/ objections raised by the local people in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included 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, revised EIA-assessment report by the Project Proponent taking note of the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting, written suggestions/ objections received during the public hearing, minutes of the meeting along with Revised EIA report, the written suggestions/ objections will be submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, New Delhi after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai. An Expert Committee there will take further decision in this regard.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee to direct Project Proponent to start the presentations.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that the issues raised by them will be video-recorded and the minutes of the public hearing will be prepared in Marathi and English. However, all the participants should not provoke, untoward incident, disturb law and order. You should raise your views, suggestions or objections calmly. This committee does not take any decision. The committee does not approve the project, recommend the project and neither reject the project. The suggestions/ objections raised by you will be noted and it will

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included in the minutes of the meeting and it will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi along with written suggestions/ objections. An Expert Committee there takes further decisions.

At that time, one participant appealed to all participants that they have to ask questions in a democratic way. Do not shout and do not use abusive language. He requested to provide water to every participant.

At that time, Shri Bhushan Bhoir, Sindhu Sahyadri Foundation, Shirgaon (Mogrewada), Taluka, District Palghar objected that a large crowd had come outside. The police did not allow to bring the bags inside. Written suggestions/ objections were brought in that bag to present to you. However, the bag should be allowed to carry inside. There were water bottles, medicines in the bag. This heat can cause a stroke. But, the local people do not get water. The bags were allowed with the person inside during the public hearing of Vadhavan Port. People need water as it is getting hot here. There is no water dispensing system near tent and also water is not served for drinking. That's why people are angry. Also, curtain of the sides may be opened for ventilation. This is not fair as per the Law. It was important to check our bags and allow them to enter inside with the bags.

Chairperson of the Environment Public Committee appealed all participants to listen to the presentation of the proposed project in a peaceful manner. She asked Environmental Consultant to start the presentation of the proposed project.

Project Environmental Consultant started making presentations. However, at that time, some people were shouting slogans and protests in the meeting.

Here, Chairperson, Environment Public Committee said that the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification Section 10 and according to Section 3, it is mandatory to inform local people, and the project affected people about the project in the public hearing. Presentation is a part of environment public hearing. After this, suggestions and objections about the proposed project are raised by the locals and Project Affected Persons (PAPs). Still, the confusion continued. At that time - Shri Vinod Patil, District President, Maharashtra Fishermen's Committee appealed to participants from Murbe and Satpati villages and all other villages of area to maintain peace and said that the District Collector Madam is the guardian of this district. Before start of this public hearing, I request Hon'ble Chairperson to hear two words. He raised objections saying that certain things have not been mentioned in the ToR. We have submitted a written suggestions/objections to the local office Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Tarapur-II; District Collector's Office, Palghar on September 12, 2025. At that time, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that according to the law, the first presentation is made. Only then participants are allowed to ask questions, suggestions. After the presentation, everyone will be given an opportunity to speak. Everyone's sentiments will be respected. However, the presentation should be completed.

Presentation was given by the project environmental consultant.

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After the completion of the presentation, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the presentation has been completed and further processing is being done.

Following questions are asked by the participants and the answers given by the Project Proponent/ Project Consultant/ Environment Public Hearing Committee

- 1) Milind Damodar Raut, President, Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, Taluka, District Palghar:

First of all, my question is that there have been public hearings of Vadhvan Port. At that time, Youtube link was also created and provided to all before the hearing so that those who could not remain present at the venue of hearing could watch proceeding live, they could register their opinions. There are lot of people standing outside the tent. They can't come in and hence unable to see the presentation here. They have been deprived. If you say that you will give everyone a chance to speak, then how will those who have not been able to see the presentation ask questions? Will you show the presentation again?

Also, the presentation has already been made available. Everyone knows that the information in it is incorrect, misleading. It is wrong to say that this environmental public hearing has been held on that presentation. Only the good side of the project is shown. However, the disadvantages of the project are not shown. Therefore, we publicly condemn this public hearing. However, letters from various organizations have been repeatedly sent to Government to stop this illegal public hearing immediately. The public hearing, which is based on the survey conducted without the prior permission of the government, and the inadequate and misleading information report, should be stopped here. We give five minutes to Environment Public Hearing Committee, otherwise we will have to take a decision.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all participants to first mention their name and the name of the village while registering suggestions, thoughts, objections, so that it will be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that she has taken note of the suggestions raised.

At that time, groups of participants demanded that Youtube Live be started immediately.

Shri Milind Damodar Raut, President, Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, Taluka, District Palghar said that some people coming to the meeting were wearing black shirts by mistake. They are not allowed inside. However, they should be allowed to come inside.

Here, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that the next speaker should be given a mike. At that time, some participants said that Environment Public Hearing Committee is given the next five minutes to cancel the meeting.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee stated that as per Section 3, the date, time and place of the meeting announced under Section 3 of the Environment Public Hearing cannot be changed unless some unavoidable situation arises. However, participants should raise the proposed suggestions and objections in the meeting peacefully without any provocation. This public hearing has been organized for the information of the public and to register their suggestions and objections.

Shri Milind Damodar Raut, President, Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, Taluka, District Palghar, again objected that five minutes given to cancel the meeting is ended and the Administration is forcibly continuing the public hearing, it is illegal to hold this public hearing on a wrong report.

At that time, the Speaker was of the opinion that the same person should not speak again and again, if there is another issue, it should be raised. Even if more than five thousand people have come here, another person should be given a chance to speak.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee that his suggestions and objections have been noted.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this Committee does not take any decision. The public hearing is being held to rectify the shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and to take note of your suggestions, views and objections. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. The Expert Committee will take further decision in this regard. If you present your points properly, it will be easier for the Expert Committee to take the right decision.

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2) Mr. Ramakrishna Jagannath Tandel, Executive Chairman, Maharashtra Fishermen's Action Committee:

You have organized a public hearing here. There are 47 fishermen's societies on the coast in Thane district. You have not informed any of the fishermen's societies about this public hearing. Therefore, this public hearing cannot take place. Thane District Central Fishermen's Association is a federation. We have not been informed. Therefore, this public hearing cannot be held.

Second point. - Jindal planned to construct a port at Nandgaon. Petition is filed at National Green Tribunal, Pune which continued for three years. Jindal later filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying he would not build the port. So how can he build a port here now? District Administration should have been informed about this in advance. However, this public hearing cannot be held. Participants gave slogans to cancel the project. Shri Tandel said that the public hearing will not take place at all.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that each person will be given a mike only once. Therefore, every speaker should raise all the suggestions and objections at once.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestion has been noted.

3) Shri Deepak Raut, Leader of a Party, Taluka, District Palghar:

Hon'ble Speaker, the citizens of area are here for opposing the project. You are saying that this public hearing is being organized for the local, project affected people. But, if you had spoken earlier, this public hearing would have gone ahead. Basically, today's public hearing is completely illegal. In the meeting, my colleague - President of the Fishermen's Association raised the point that the Jindal company had earlier held a public hearing for the development of Nandgaon port in 2012 by making a similar presentation. All our villagers did not even allow Jindal to make a presentation in the public hearing for the development of Nandgaon port. Now, this public hearing is explaining how it is illegal.

The case was filed at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the verdict was in Jindal's favour. Hon'ble Supreme Court is the highest judiciary of our country. As the District Collector, you are also the District Judge. You have a legal obligation to conduct your work impartially. Whoever the government is, the system of governance does not work in such a way that it follows its orders. The issue is whether the order given

to you is constitutional or not and how are you going to comply with it within the framework of the Constitution? That is why the officers of the Indian Administrative Service are working in the posts of District Collector and District Superintendent of Police. So we expect District Collector to abide by the Constitution.

I have two petitions pending in the Supreme Court till 6th August, 2022, yet I am not making my statement in the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Supreme Court has approached Thane District Court and sent a bailiff and instructed that in one petition there are villagers, in one petition we are facing as a political party, but we should present our case. After our oral notice, when the Supreme Court observed that the petition was incorrect on technical grounds and that the project promoter had expired, the Supreme Court sought an affidavit from the Government of Maharashtra whereby the Supreme Court found that the company had not complied with the promised period of execution of the project. That is why the company wrapped up the Nandgaon project.

Now, if the Supreme Court sends a notice to each of the plaintiffs, then when the proposal is submitted to the District Collector's office, then we are a party and we have no right to hold a public hearing on the project without giving a written notice to the various fishermen's associations, the villagers of Nandgaon. District Collector, Palghar, has committed contempt of Court, so I will file a re-petition. Because, I have not been given any prior notice to me while I am a party.

When we filed petition in National Green Tribunal, Pune, at that time, there were 3-4 petitions of the villagers. At that time, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) on May 24, 2016 had issued notices not only to the villagers but also to our party. I have said many times that my villagers will co-operate. I had suggested that all my villagers would speak first, because there is no difference between the presentation of 2012 and now. Also, this public hearing has been organized illegally. Because, if you go to Google and ask for a report, it will be noticed that the report is not available in the public domain. If the public hearing is held, I'm going to speak again. If the villagers say that this public hearing is illegal, you are still keeping it going. So all the villagers here, as a representative of the former Chief Minister, I am talking about the Maharashtra Maritime Board, which floated this tender, and the government officials for organizing an illegal public hearing. Action will be taken against them in the future.

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Now the next issue – we have not been issued a legal notice. In 1999, our government rejected the proposal of the same company. Then came the proposal of Viraj Port, which is rejected after a legal battle. Jindal's proposal did not survive in the Supreme Court in 2012. The decision was in favour of Jindal in the NGT, Pune. Jindal had gone to the Supreme Court. So a technical issue that the project implementation time had expired, and now Jindal says in front of everyone that if the Maritime Board floated the tender, then the Maritime Board contempt the Orders of Supreme Court or not? How was the tender awarded to the same Jindal whose offer was rejected? Jindal is not at all eligible to take this tender. Yet, it was done.

My party chief had assured the villagers a year ago that the Jindal project would not commission. We are committed to it. In 2012, I told that no matter how much Jindal spends, it will be wasted.

Now, the important point is for my villagers. Jindal's aim is not just to implement the Nandgaon port. It was not just that the port was built for commercial purposes and the traders took advantage of it. In the report of the Jindal company, it is said that they have many ports on the Maharashtra coast. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) is the second largest port in Asia. So why are they allowing a private port in Nandgaon near it, then there is a financial scam in it. Government has only given a Letter of Intent. Jindal has registered with Sebi soon after receiving it. This is a financial scam. At that time, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that other people should speak briefly, even if they wanted to speak.

Shri Deepak Raut said that he will file a case against Jindal for the financial fraud.

Shri Deepak Raut objected that we do not accept today's public hearing. However, it should be cancelled immediately and the meeting should be called again after six months, we will study all the issues and raise them.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that his suggestions have been noted. As Chairperson of the Committee, I request you to give others a chance to speak.

Chairperson, advised all the participants to first state their name, village name and present their points briefly.

4) Shri Ramakrishna Jagannath Tandel, Working President, Maharashtra Fishermen's Action Committee:

We will never allow Vadhavan port to be built. Though inaugurated by the Prime Minister, the case has been filed in the Supreme Court and a stay has been granted till 28th October, 2025. Our fishermen brothers are going to be affected due to Vadhavan port. Today's public hearing is illegal. Because, Jindal has written in the Supreme Court that we will not develop a port here. Now, Jindal is contempting Court order and the villagers, fishermen and villagers of area will be displaced. It's a question of livelihood. However, this project should be canceled, don't take our curse.

5) Shri Dheeraj Gawad, Deputy Sarpanch, Nandgaon Gram Panchayat, Taluka, District-Palghar:

I am openly opposing this Murbe port. Government of Maharashtra & M.M.B. gave permission to Jindal to develop Murbe port by ignoring all the rules, I publicly condemn it. Madam Chairperson, I would like to inform you that there was a meeting in your chamber yesterday. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared by them is fundamentally wrong. If this EIA report itself is false, So is there a legal permissible environmental public hearing based on this erroneous EIA? The answer is expected.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that the suggestions you made had been noted.

Shri Dheeraj Gawad opined that we know that the administrative answer will be given. He further objected to the presentation made and the report which was made available, There is no ToR anywhere in it. Because of the ToR that was passed to them, accordingly, they have not conducted survey within 10 Km periphery of proposed project. It is false that a perimeter survey was conducted.

It was stated in the presentation that the project will increase the production of fish, while in the operation phase, as per 4.7.2 - there is no analysis of the impact on the fishermen and fishing sector in that area after the increase in the traffic of ships.

Similarly, there is no mention of prior permission and analysis of the extent to which mangroves will be destroyed in the project area.

Also, if breakwater wall is going to be built, there is no scientific information about how much sand erosion will happen or whether the sand will increase.

The EIA report, which does not mention any of this, means that this EIA is false. And this public hearing based on EIA Report is also illegal.

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Also, Thakur College, which conducted the survey, has carried out study only for three months. How can a college camp that comes to our village for a day conduct a three month survey? However, according to the Bio-Diversity Act 2002 and 2007, they did not take any prior permission from the Government of Maharashtra and they did it for educational work. Building Environment (India) Pvt. Ltd. has used it to make a forgery report, hence first I.P.C. case should be registered under Section 420.

Madam, from 2012 to 2025, we Nandgaonkars have shown our strength to Jindal. We will not allow this project to happen. As you are a guardian of this district, this improperly organized public hearing should also be canceled.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee replied that the suggestions you have raised and objections have been noted.

6) Shri Jaywant Atmaram Tandel, Thane District Central Fishermen President of the Federation:

There has been no correspondence with our District Central Fishermen's Federation regarding this public hearing. There are about 47 fishermen's associations in our federation. Also, our 47 fishermen's associations have not been made aware of this public hearing, we fishermen community has been deprived of this. As a result, our fishermen could not raise their suggestions and objections here. However, this improperly organized public hearing is illegal and should be cancelled and we should be given an extension of six months so that we fishermen get an opportunity to file suggestions, objections and questions about the possible impact of the proposed project. However, this public hearing should be cancelled immediately.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that the suggestions raised have been noted.

7) Mr. Sanjay Koli, Former Corporator, Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation, District-Palghar, Former President, Vasai Fishermen's Association, director, Basin Catholic Bank:-

You are holding this public hearing in the backdrop of Vadhavan Port. Even though the public hearing of Vadhavan port is 100% against the port, the government is going ahead with the project. There are a few milestones in today's environmental public hearings. There are stages like identification, approval. There is also a stage where Project Proponent face public hearings on the environment. For this, first to conduct an

environmental survey within the periphery of the project site for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, for which the first ToR is obtained from the Government of India. The ToR instructions have not been complied with while preparing this EIA report. According to the objections raised in the discussion, the ToR guidelines have not been complied with – the impact of the proposed project on fish production, marine aquaculture, and agricultural area along the coast has not been studied. Only the EIA mentions the possible impacts on the areas. The report mentions that the proposed project will provide employment opportunities to 600 persons. However, there is no mention of loosing of direct and indirect jobs of the 60,000 fishermen and their dependents as a result of the project. We are not doing jobs at the behest of the government, we are doing our jobs on our own. We have built this employment and business on our own strength.

The report mentions that the impact on fish and fishermen is being studied. If the study is going on, it is a matter of shame that government officials are imposing projects on fishermen. That is why I allege that this is an illegal public hearing. BhumiPutras, Koli and Agri communities along the long 90 km coastline will be affected.

I have worked on the Pinjra project since 2007. Not a single cage project has been successful. Presentation mentions Artificial Pinjra. None of them have been successful.

Therefore, this public hearing should be canceled immediately. "We are opposed to Vadhavan port as well as Murbe port and if you try to build a port, you have been warned in advance that you will have to walk on our lives.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that objections raised have been noted.

8) Shri Sachin Ramesh Lokhande.-Residents of Alewadi Gondawale, Republican Party of India (RPI) State President Athawale Group -

The public hearing that you have organized is illegal, because how appropriate is it to withdraw it when it was held in 2012? We know that just as Vadhavan port was imposed on us, Murbe port will also be imposed on us. If this project is at the cost of the lives of the locals and citizens, then every citizen here will be on the streets to oppose the project and the government will be responsible for it. There is a public outcry here. Still, we are requesting Hon'ble Chairperson to cancel the project, otherwise we are ready to launch a mass movement.

Chairperson of the Committee said that the objections/ objections raised have been noted.

9) Advocate Vidyut More, Nandgaon villagers, Taluka, district-Palghar:

This public hearing is illegal because of it is based on incomplete reporting. I would like to mention here that when this project was announced, at that time, about a year ago, I had submitted my objections to the Prime Minister's Office. The reply from the Prime Minister's Office was that the proposed company would respond to my objection. He asked if the officials of the Jindal company were present here.

On this occasion, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee on suggested Advocate Vidyut More to raise his suggestions and objections.

Advocate Vidyut More objected that the company has not yet responded. The group also has a similar project in Jaigad. The project has been fined by the National Green Tribunal, Pune. Because the Jaigad project has violated environmental terms and conditions. Even the proposed project will also violate the environmental terms and conditions here. However, we do not accept that this illegal public hearing should be cancelled immediately.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that views expressed have been noted.

10) Shri Vinod Gangadhar Patil, Former Chairman of Satpati Sarvodaya Sanstha, Palghar District & President of All Maharashtra Action Committee:-

The EIA report of Murbe Port of the JSW project does not even mention Satpati and Dandi villages as fishermen's villages. The population is about 35,000. There are more than 400 boats in both the villages of Satpati & Murbe. Hundreds of our boats that are at the port of Murbe. For example- Vadrai, Kelva, Satpati, Dandi, Murbe, Dahanu is in this area. The fishing area of all these boats will be affected by this project. Their livelihood will go out of their hands. The mouth of Kharekuran creek in Satpati village is only 100 feet. After built of the breakwater wall, our Satpati village is situated in the low lying area. Water will flow due to the port, so is our creek going to be closed? There is no information in the EIA report about how this will affect the boats in our village.

The Akhil Maharashtra Action Committee on 12th September 2025 written letters District Collector's Office -It has been submitted to Palghar and the local Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office that the public hearing should be cancelled as the information is incomplete. Also on 25th September 2025, letter is submitted. After this, District Collector held a meeting with us the day before yesterday, how will the proposed project affect our population and business, fact is not known. However, all this information should be made available to the public only after corrections in the EIA report and then a public hearing should be held again. However, today's public meeting should also be cancelled.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

11) Shri Mandar Dev, Villager Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:

My Mother India is the one who instills patriotism. Seeing the outrage here, the District Collector Madam needs to cancel this public hearing immediately. The district administration is deliberately conducting the meeting despite the fact that there is no legal public hearing which every participant has expressed in the meeting. What is the need to make a high-ranking class-1 and class-2 officer of the government sit here to say that the suggestions and objections made by the participants have been taken note of?

If we violate the Rule in Ganapati Festival, police will come and take action against us. There is a lot of pollution in the MIDC here, one cannot stand for more than ten minutes in the Bhagwan Naka area and there is no action. So why action is not initiated against them? The public hearing should have been conducted following the entire legal process. There is a public outcry canceling the public hearing. So we demand that the Pollution Control Board should be closed. Reason M.P.C. Board officer should tell what is concentration of Hydrogen Sulphide, what is the tolerable limit. Tell us how many types of living organisms existed in the creek and how many are exist now. Fifty years ago, only few had cancer, now it has increased tremendously. Who is responsible for this? This is the cause of pollution.

Presentation shows that some elements are going to be affected by this project. However, they do not give the solution. That is, the company agrees that this port will cause disadvantages in this area. If the public outcry continues, then this illegal public hearing must be stopped

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immediately. So the Administration needs to realize that this public hearing needs to be stopped.

There is a Dead Sea on this earth. Since, it is the Dead Sea, not a single river mixes with it, so there is no living organism there.

Our area is the Golden Belt. Because many rivers meet here. That's where the plankton comes in. It is the food of fish, so a large number of fish are found here. If the rivers coming here are going to be closed because of the project, then there will be no fish, so we will be 100% affected. However, we demand that this public hearing should be stopped for now.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/ objections have been noted.

12) Shri Prithwesh Chandrakant Churi, farmer of Murbe village and Residents, Taluka, District Palghar:

I'm talking for my land, for the fishermen of my Murbe village. This project is going to destroy our land, our agriculture will be destroyed. We're going to be destroyed. Due to this port, sea water will come to the village, fishing will stop. They tell us that this is development, but not that development which destroys our agriculture and destroys our lives.

Development should be for the people, not against the people.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions have been taken into account.

13) Shri Bhushan Bhoir, Director, Indus-Sahyadri Foundation, Taluka, District Palghar:-

Many of our villagers are standing outside, but they are not allowed to come inside and give their suggestions.

14) Shri Ramakrishna Jagannath Tandel, Executive President, Maharashtra Fishermen Action Committee:

In the meeting, many people raised the issue that the public hearing was illegal and should be canceled.

One issue came up – National Green Tribunal, Pune, had then passed an order to Jindal to provide CSR funds of Rs 15-50 crore per year to local fishermen. That is, the NGT has admitted that the fishermen will suffer.

Also, thousands of our people are outside the pandal. The police don't allow to come inside. If we don't have a system to accommodate such a large number of people, then this public hearing should be canceled. Police officials outside say there is no space. They have been deprived of their rights. How many people are crowded outside should be shown on the screen. I mean, how can this public hearing be held by depriving the affected people from speaking? All affected people have the right to come here and speak. Every citizen has a right. Here all the citizens raised the issue that the public hearing should be canceled.

Shri Tandel asked all the attendees to raise their hands in support. Everyone raised their hands.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/ objections have been noted.

15) Shri Ashok Govind Shingada, Member, Nandgaon Gram Panchayat, Taluka & District Palghar, National President, Tribal Organizations-

I saw at the gate that the police would not let our black-clad villagers come and let them. Is it democracy or dictatorship? Those who want to protest, they have a constitutional right to express it. This public hearing is invalid, because the objections of 185 people in the register outside are torn by the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. It should be clarified. Without this, the public hearing will not go ahead. I and Shri Kundan Sankhe have seen it. The photos are taken. Moreover, his speech is taped. If three pages in a register are torn, how many such registers are torn? This public hearing should be cancelled. If the pages of the register are torn, so how many objections would have been torn? This should be explained here. However, this public hearing should be cancelled.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/ objections have been noted.

16) Kundan Raut, Farmer

Being a farmer, I am aware of the environment. Farmers and fishermen are the nourishment of the world. Floods are coming to India, Nature's wrath is happening. The reason for this is the increase in pollution. Why are such polluting plants forcibly set up at such a time. These projects should be stopped. Today, Palghar district is being ruined by bringing many projects to Palghar district. We have been living peacefully for generations. This silence is being destroyed by various new projects.

The most important point is that there should be no new project causing global warming. However, this project must be canceled.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/ objections have been noted.

17) Shri Manendra Harishchandra Arekar, Maharashtra Fishermen's Committee District Chairperson:

Our fishermen's committee works for the fishermen, but the Government, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not given prior notice to our committee about this meeting. It was necessary to hold this public hearing by taking our fishermen into confidence. Therefore, I request you to cancel this public hearing immediately.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions/ objections have been noted.

18) Shri Bhushan Bhoir, Director, Indus-Sahyadri Foundation, Taluka, district- Palghar:-

Technical issues here also need to be taken into consideration. As per directives of T.O.R., project environmental consultant has not conducted the survey and has not acted as such. The public hearing on the inadequate survey has been organized by the Government. This should be noted. This public hearing is not legally valid. The public hearing has been held despite correspondence with the District Collector's Office, Palghar, Superintendent of Police, Palghar, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. We are being forced to present our legal views in this illegal public hearing.

The first issue – Social Impact Assessment (SIA) – is the basis of this public hearing. S.I.A., EIA are incomplete. Despite this, the public hearing was held.

Also, NCSCM, Chennai (National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai) has declared the proposed project as a stable coast.

The survey was conducted by NCSCM, Chennai in 2013. And they have not re-surveyed it since the last twelve years ago. The plan prepared by them is based on a survey twelve years ago. So the project promoter cannot take the support of this. The CRZ is revised every five years, because the coastline changes every ten years. The impact of global warming is felt on the coastline. Therefore, it needs to be reviewed. NCSCM, Chennai has not physically conducted any survey. Coral draw, a

breeding ground for fish here, is not studied in the report. Therefore, it is incorrect to refer to NCSCM, Chennai.

Also fishing villages are not recorded in the report. Vadhavan port, Murbe port, ship breaking yard and airport are coming up in our fishing area. They are snatching the area from us without putting it on record. This is an injustice to the locals.

The EIA report does not mention the mining sector, nor does it survey the mining sector. The ToR has been violated here.

Also, crabs and other aquatic lives, various corals are not recorded in the report. There is no mention of the corals that are spawning around Murbe Harbour.

The proposed coastal line falls within the Emergency Planning Zone of the nuclear field. Besides, it covers some of our villages. Explosives and flammable materials like LPG, LNG will be stored here. Unfortunately, if there is an accident, the entire Palghar district will be destroyed. The public hearing is being held even though there is no Disaster Management Plan prepared and made available to us. The report does not mention the impact on fishing and the impact on those who live in Palghar city.

Thakur College report is part of this illegal public hearing. There is no mention of the name of JSW in the report. Thakur College has submitted a letter to the gram panchayat stating that the report is for non-commercial use. However, Thakur College informed us that we did not know that the report was for JSW.

Shri Bhushan Bhoir said that in the bio-diversity identified in the report of Thakur College, they inserted the conch shell in the list of mussels. He gave information about the wrong names and real names of various aquatic lives. He opined that this bio-diversity report is ineffective.

However, public hearings based on false reports are illegal.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

19) Shri Pramod Arekar, Murbe Jindal Bunder Opposition Struggle Committee Secretary:

Is anyone writing the minutes of the debate that is going on in the public hearing?

At that time, Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the minutes were being taken. Video recording is also going on. This video recording is part of the chronicle.

Shri Arekar said that you have been sent letters 3-4 times saying that the public hearing should not be cancelled but postpone it for giving the time to study the 1,300 page report. Suggestion was submitted as there was no mention of the CRZ, CZMP and the extent of the affected area of fishermen. Although the public hearing process is going on, everyone here has demanded the immediate cancellation of the public hearing. You should definitely think about it.

We have also lodged a complaint with the Satpati Sagariya Police Station regarding the illegal survey conducted by the students of Thakur College in the village. However, we demand that a case should be registered against Thakur College. College students come to our village for 7-7 days for the camp. Their food and lodging are arranged by the villagers. But, if they live in our village without our knowledge and sell the data to the company, then a case of 420 should be filed against them.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

20) Mrs. Monalisa Swapnil Tare, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:

EIA report that the company has submitted is incomplete. Therefore, this public hearing should be cancelled. The EIA report is incorrect and is based on wrong information. The real situation, side effects are not mentioned. Also, Thakur College has not taken our prior permission to carry out survey from the creek in our area. It has helped prepare the company's report by surveying the sea. The proposed project is a threat to local fishermen and will endanger the biodiversity of the area. Many fish species are going to be extinct. Due to the acquisition of agricultural land, the farmers will become landless. If the Jindal port has been built, the local fishermen will be driven away from their homeland. If you consider the combined ill effects of Vadhavan and Murbe ports, then there will be a lot of damage to the area. Livelihood of farmers will be affected. The project will increase traffic in the area and Solid Waste/ Garbage. The increase in sewage will pollute the environment and put an additional burden on the government machinery.

The EIA report is incomplete, inaccurate and the public hearing on the environment based on it is illegal and I strongly oppose the proposed project. No matter how hard anyone tries, we will not allow this project to happen.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee answered that the suggestions/ objections have been noted.

21) Shri Rakesh Rajendra Tare, Deputy Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:-

I am here to publicly oppose the proposed project and the permission given by the government is not acceptable to us. The shortcomings in the EIA report have been pointed out. I would like to bring to your notice some of the important points that -

According to the EIA report, the proposed project will be located in the open sea about 10 km from the Satpati, Murbe and Nandgaon coasts. It is commissioning in the sea and 9 km further. Dredging is proposed for a navigational channel of such a length and 270 meters wide. Two breakwaters walls are proposed to be built in Sea 10 meter and 1300 metre long. However, the area of breakwater wall magnitude has not been deliberately mentioned in the report. Only the length is specified.

About 1300 acres of landfill will be laid for cargo handling and facilities in the port area. Till date, the DPR of the project has not been prepared or submitted, only two months are left. If the final DPR was to come in two months, why is there a public hearing on the draft EIA? The possibility of an increase cannot be ruled out in many of the aspects highlighted in the EIA report.

The final DPR was supposed to be ready in two months after surveying the sea area, so why is a public hearing on the draft EIA being held?

The MMB has put a condition that the losses suffered by the fishermen due to the proposed project be included in the final DPR. So here's the question – How much damage is going to be done to the fishing? How much fishing area will be affected? How much will break water wall and fill will affect the tide? How much danger will it pose to the nearby villages? Why were these things not mentioned in the EIA report? Also, how can citizens raise suggestions about the proposed project when there is no report from Central Government department like CWPRS?

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I am of the opinion that this public hearing should have been held after the final DPR. However, it is my opinion that this public hearing is being conducted illegally.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have taken noted.

22) Shri Jitendra Gangaram Meher, Murbe, former Panchayat Samiti Member and Advisor, Murbe Jindal Bandar Virodh Sangharsh Samiti:

It is a destructive port to be built through the Jindal Company. A total of 16 berths will be set up here, Three of them contain hazardous chemicals in berths (hazardous chemicals), Bulk chemicals and coal will be unloaded. Pollution caused by these fine particles and water pollution during the removal of hazardous chemicals, Hazards due to noise pollution are not mentioned in the EIA report. This EIA report is false. The public hearing based on it is false and we are demanding that it be quashed.

23) Mrs. Seema Milind Bhoir, Sarpanch, Satpati Gram Panchayat, Taluka, District Palghar:

Despite all the dignitaries in the meeting repeatedly asserting that the incomplete EIA and the public hearing on the environment on the incomplete report is illegal, Administration does not respond. However, on behalf of Sarpanch Satpati and all the villagers, I condemn this illegal public hearing. Chairperson, should reply to this.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that feelings, thought, suggestions have been noted. As per EIA Notification 2006, this public hearing is in operation and the suggestions/ objections raised by the participants are being noted. All documents will be submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee takes further decision in this regard. You have the legal right to lodge your suggestion/ objection.

24) Shri Sameer Subhash More, Sarpanch, Nandgaon Gram Panchayat, Taluka, District Palghar:-

The public hearing, which was started by the use of repressive force, I am the first citizen of the Nandgaon Gram Panchayat, where democracy begins, is publicly protesting against the proposed port.

The project will be imposed on the basis of a completely incomplete and false report, so the Government is not for common citizen, farmer, Fishermen, Horticulture growers, Fruit growers, Pure air, Respecting the

water-hungry citizens. I am of the opinion that the company cannot provide drinking water to the five thousand people who come here, so what can you expect from them? People of Palghar are aware of water and air pollution from MIDC factories, cancer, skin disease endured? Just 20 km. Away, there is Vadhavan port, Textile Park. Why this project is planned in spite of all the terrible pollution?

National Green Tribunal, Pune says that microbes also have an absolute right to live. If you do a real survey, if you inspect the creeks, wells, borewells, agricultural lands, orchards, then you will find that due to temperature, heavy rains, no cultivation, fruits are uncultivated, all these are the ill effects of a destructive project & will such a disastrous project give us fresh fish? We've got a lot of promises. Are they going to give us various fish such as, wadas, mussels, crabs? We, the local people and fishermen, have been repeatedly requesting you to provide clean water, clean air. Hence, cancel disastrous Jindal project. Cancel, cancel the project.

25) Mr. Milton Saudia, Chairman, Fishermen's Action Committee:-

Respected Madam, many speakers have made many points. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report prepared by the company is incomplete violating ToR. This public hearing has been organized on the basis of an incomplete report by completely violating and misleading the people. I think the officials who tell the public to follow the law, the same officials are conducting an illegal public hearing process. Respected District Collector Madam, here are the officials who are regulating this illegal public hearing, including you. The Indian Judicial Code is against them. A case of cheating should be registered under Section 318.

Second point – In the report submitted by the company, there is a suggestion on page 143 that the impact of this project on the fisheries sector should be assessed. I think the company has ignored that recommendation and provided a false and misleading report to the locals here. Many speakers have raised many issues before me. However, I do not raise those points again.

My request to Hon'ble District Collector that to show at least one person who is supporting this project. If everyone is opposed to this project, then we should mention that opposition in the minutes of the meeting.

26) Dr. Mangesh Sawant, Mumbai-

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My doctorate is from IIT, has taken a degree in Chemistry from Mumbai. As far as the project is concerned, it was informed in the meeting on Saturday how the environmental impact assessment report was incomplete and inaccurate. In the meeting, we had said that today's public hearing should be cancelled as it is illegal. I say the same thing today. Now, the points I am making against the project, let all should know.

This public hearing is being organized to inform the people of the project area about the environmental management plan that the project promoter will implement for the potential environmental impact of the proposed project. All those scientific measures should be mentioned in the EIA report, people should know those solutions. But, that is not the case here.

The twenty-four directives given in the ToR are not complied here. The most important of these is that Satpati village will be the most affected by this project, which has a population of about 25,000 to 30,000. There is a fishing village, but there is no such record in this report as Satpati village as a fishing village.

Next point: Port is 10.0 km away. The break water wall of the harbor is 10.0 km. No study has been done on the extent to which Satpati and the surrounding area will be affected when there is a surge in the sea or a storm.

Next point: There is no mention of how much area in the sea will be affected by the proposed project? how much area will not be allowed for fishing? how much area in the sea will be destroyed due to dredging? That is, all the scientific, social studies and measures in this regard are not mentioned in the report. Very little information has been given. The design of the breakwater wall has not been given. There is no record of how much excavation will be done? how much will be filled? how much brake material will be dumped? how much pollution will be caused in the sea due to the dumping of brake material? how it will affect fishing? how it will affect fish production?

Also, it should be noted that no scientific or social study has been done on the fishermen community who will be affected by this.

Also, about 7-8 km from this Murbe project, Vadhavan port is proposed at a distance. 5-6 km of India's nuclear power plant is there. Murbe port is proposed at a distance. For both ports 10 km and 6.0 km brakewater walls will be installed. There is a need for a scientific study on

the impact of these two brake water walls on the shoreline of Tarapur Port and the impact of hot water released from Tarapur Atomic Power Plant. It is regrettable that this report has been prepared without any socio-economic study of the income of local fishermen and farmers, putting at the risk of safety of the people.

Madam, you were informed at last Saturday's meeting and you were requested not to hold a public hearing on such an incomplete and inaccurate report. Yet you have organized it.

The second thing you have said here is that everyone's opinion will be respected.

He appealed participants to raise their hands in protest. People's feelings are intense. However, I am conveying the sentiment of the locals to the government that this Murbe port and Vadhavan port should be cancelled.

27). Shri Satyajit Vishwanath Chavan, Rajapur, District Ratnagiri-

This report (EIA) has not been prepared as per the ToR. Madam, the public hearing is illegal as per various directions of the Supreme Court. We will appeal to the Court about it. However, since District Administration is forcibly continuing the public hearing, we are left with no option but to register our objections. As a constitutional duty, we are registering our objections.

Point No. 1. The date of ToR issuance is June 11, 2025. The Project Promoter had requested to approve the ToR on 14-15th May, 2025 at the Infra Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. This means that this ToR is the fastest received ToR in the history of Indian environment. So you should consider that you are the Chairperson of the environment public hearing committee of the very weak and fastest received ToR.

The NABET approval date of the Project Environment Consultant at the 77th EAC meeting was 27-05-2025. In the EIA report, the project environmental consultant has shown the date as June 20, 2025. That is, from May 27, 2025 to June 20, 2025, the environmental consultant M/s. Building Environment (India) Pvt. Ltd. did not have NABET accreditation. However, during the same period, on June 11, he was given a ToR. In other words, it is a gross violation from the EAC-Infra-I Committee.

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Even if this is an administrative mistake, there is no point in this public hearing on the environment. Because during the period during which the environmental consultant did not have NABET approval, the ToR has been approved for the project submitted by the environmental consultant.

Issue No. 2 – While preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, the survey and study has to be done for the entire season (i.e. all the seasons). Project Environment Consultant submitted the first preview to MPCB on 30-06-2025, i.e. the first draft environmental impact assessment report was submitted to the MPCB within 11-06-2025 to 30-06-2025-19 days. So the next report is 18-07-2025 i.e. the EIA of such a big port has been prepared in 38 days, it is not convincing to anyone, whether it is a scientist or a common citizen. However, the involvement of their NABAT Accreditation Committee is given from November, 2024 to July, 2025.

If the ToR was granted on June 11, 2025, how could they have imagined it for 6-7 months? This means that the Jindal Company's tendency to take the administration for granted is clearly visible.

Also, our local brothers told us in Saturday's meeting that the photos taken by Thakur College on May 11 are of the survey. If the TOR was received on June 11, how did you take photos of it beforehand? This means that Jindal is confident that this is all farce and we will be allowed to do whatever we do. We condemn this.

Also, the dredging that will be done for the port, page no. 39, the figure shown above has not been studied on eco-sensitivity, corals, biodiversity. Where the protective wall will be built, the pollution caused by the material that is dumped has not been studied.

After the start of the project, 150 permanent jobs and 450 contractual people will be employed. So why should fishermen give up their sea to employ only 600 people?

Environmental Impact Assessment Report is like a research manual of the college. However, the report has admitted that there is water and air pollution in the project area.

There are many polluting projects underway here and Vadhavan port expansion is proposed. In the future, Palghar district is likely to be included in the MMRDA (Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority) and developed as Mahamumbai like Navi Mumbai.

Therefore, piecemeal environmental impact assessment is not useful. The Cumulative Impact Assessment of West Coast of Palghar District should be studied. However, Jindal's project is not wanted by the locals and the citizens of other districts.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee has informed that suggestion/ objection have been noted.

28) Shri Ajinkya Milan Deo, Residence-Murray, Taluka, district-Palghar:-

Environmental consultant of the project while making a presentation at the meeting said that after the project becomes operational, it will provide permanent employment to 150 people and employment to 450 contractual people. That is, 600 people will get employment opportunities. So I want to say in the meeting that we have 400-500 small and big boats in the Satpati and Murbe areas. We know that fifteen people are working behind a boat. So what are you going to accomplish by taking away the jobs of about 7,500-8,000 people for 400-500 boats?

However, my request to the Public Hearing Committee on Environment is that we should ask the project promoters the above points. Whom are you going to raise by exterminating 8,000 people? Are you going to make Jindal big by exterminating the common man, 8,000 people, or are you going to make his brokers bigger? This should be answered.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestion/ objection have been noted.

29) Shri Rajeev Chowdhury, District Palghar:-

Respected Madam, you are the guardian of our district. This public hearing is illegal. All the speakers here have said that this public hearing is illegal, so let me tell you how it is illegal.

I live in a village where it is written on the wall - filter water, avoid naru. When it comes to fever, check the blood. The government is always trying to convince the common man. And the environmental impact assessment report of the company is available. He read out the answer in technical language. He opined that we are ordinary people. We don't understand the language of the report.

However, you are requested to postpone this public hearing by six months.

He further said that JSW is an irresponsible company. Because JSW has a project in Ratnagiri. Molasses tanks were built there. No permission has

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been taken till 2013. No permission has been taken for this. Even if the MPCB took action, after that the project resumed again.

Second Incident -

Goa Pollution Control Board bans coal handling by JSW. Four and a half lakh Metric Tonnes of coal were allowed, but they had given ten lakh Metric Tonnes of coal were transported and this led to pollution of coal in Goa region. As a result, the Goa Pollution Control Board cancelled its accreditation. Then permission was given again.

Third incident: There is an LPG tank next to the Jaigarh port. There was a gas leak, about 60 children were affected. Some people were admitted to the district hospital.

The police registered a case under Section 286 the next day. Then the project started again.

Will we give it to such owners?

Issue No.2

The project promoters have sanctioned water from the Surya project for the workers. But, if we get information from various villages in this tribal-dominated district, it shows that 60% of the water is provided as per government rules. If water is given to the project, we will not even get drinking water.

Issue No.3 -

There is also a liquid berth at proposed JSW Murbe Port. Its LSIR – Location Specific Individual Report says that if 110 people worked at JSW's liquid berth for a year, one of them would die. If this is explicit, should the project be allowed?

Issue No. 4 –

The company will built 10 km of brakewater wall. So the water will stop. Due to the stoppage of water, the quantity of oxygen in the water will decrease. As a result, the fish will go elsewhere and the quantity of fishing will decrease in this area.

The brakewater wall will lead to sedimentation, which will lead to the formation of silt. If this sludge goes into the Satpati creek, the creek will become narrow and shallow. There are 300-400 boats fishing in Satpati, their fishing will be affected.

Satpati is famous for pomflet fishing all over the world. Pomflet has the status of a state fish. Therefore, Satpati village produces crores of rupees. Satpati's 300-400 boats provide food to thousands of people.

In the future, the Murbe plant will transport hazardous chemicals and fertilizers. If those chemicals fall into the field, the agriculture will be destroyed. Due to this, the people of our village will have to face health problems.

On July 26, 2025, at Satpati, there was a tide of 7 meters. There are bigger tides than that. But, due to rain and wind, water entered many houses. The water does not go back due to the reflux. Houses are going to collapse due to water seeping into the houses. So it's a question of displacement. Some of these houses are like toilets. JNPA has given one thousand acres of alternative land to the displaced people, but nothing has happened as it falls in the CRZ.

The JSW project is a one-man project. A request not to destroy the homes of thousands of people for the benefit of one man.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

30) Mr. Sachin Chavan, Residence Mumbai and Deogarh:-

Issue No.1. Colonel (Retd.) Prakash Tiwari was a member of the EIA Committee in the meeting where the ToR was passed. Prakash Tiwari was the vice-president of Jindal's joint CSR fund division. I don't know if there are more. This is where the conflict of interest comes in. Therefore, the passed ToR should be revoked immediately.

Issue No. 2. The survey was conducted prior to receipt of the ToR. So how did the surveyors know the terms and conditions of the ToR? It was a conflict of interest. Therefore, the ToR should be revoked immediately. Therefore, the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report should also be scrapped immediately. The terms and conditions passed in the ToR are not correct. All the criteria were not applied, because there was a conflict of interest.

Issue No. 3 –

The first terms and conditions state :

ToR require mangroves, CRZ-1 areas be excluded from the port site –

The answer is given in Jindal's EIA – EIA only claims minimum impact.

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The two are not compatible with each other. Because, it has been alleged from time to time that Jindal is a serial killer of mangrove. This will not be wrong. Because, in the Dolvi project in Raigad district of Maharashtra state, N.G.T has imposed a fine of one crore sixty-one lakhs. Apart from this, it has been reported in the newspaper that they have infested mangrove in twenty-two hectares at the site of the Dharamtar project.

However, it would be a big mistake to exclude Jindal from these terms and conditions.

Issue No. 4 -

Marine Ecology and Biodiversity:

Participants objected that Satpati village has been deliberately excluded from the environmental impact assessment report. So the data taken in Jindal's EIA is from Census 2016. So the villages taken from that government data are far away from the proposed Murbe port. The nearest villages are Satpati village and Dandi village. These two villages are not mentioned anywhere. The number of fishermen in the two villages together is over 4,500, says Census 2016. This kind of gross negligence has been done by the environmental consultant. Because, here is the conflict of interest.

Secondly, two breakwater walls will be constructed in this project. One of them is 10 km Length. There is a map of the breakwater wall in Chapter 2 by the environmental consultant. If you look at it, you will find that its numbers are so small that they cannot be read. If the map is inaudible or incorrect, the EIA should be set aside.

There is no information about how the breakwater wall will be built, how much dredging will be done for it.

When compared with the breakwater wall of Vadhavan port, the port limit is not given anywhere in Jindal's map.

No fishing boat is allowed to enter when port limits are issued and transferred to the Maritime Authority Board. Jindal didn't show it because he had a conflict of interest.

The second thing is the first reclamation followed by the breakwater wall near Jindal port. There are 30 km between Vadhavan Port and Jindal Port. The sea is forbidden to fishermen, it has not been studied. Also, there are different types of juvenile fish in Satpati port. There is no mention anywhere of how far the Banganga river is from the estuary.

Also, due to the breakwater wall, sediments, sand will penetrate, it has not been studied and recorded.

The Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee on the Environment said that its suggestions have been noted. It was suggested that some brief points should be made as other speakers wanted to speak.

Mr. Sachin Chavan said that he is raising only important points. He said that at Satpati, various juvenile fish, they come from Veraval, Gujarat. How will it come after the breakwater is built? Green traffic is not an issue for environmental consultants. Therefore, this EIA is flawed.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said the suggestions had been noted.

31) Mr. Satish Tannur, Deputy Sarpanch, Alewadi, Taluka, District Palghar:-

Since the start of the public hearing, all the speakers have been talking about how the EIA report is wrong. We are raising our objections. Stating the technical issue in simple language. There's a glass of water in front of you. If you put a stone in it, the water will come out. Also, after the boat is parked in the sea, the flow of water will come out. This is going to put our standard of living in danger. Jindal says that this project develops you.

But the Hon. Chairman, Jindal tell that they are developing us. We work all day, if we don't have vegetables at home, our fishermen go to the sea, cast nets and bring fish. Whether fish will remain there if this project comes?

Chairperson Environment Public Hearing Committee said the suggestions had been noted.

32) Shri Sumit Ravindra Thakur, Former Deputy Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Nandgaon Tarapur:

How is the public hearing social? I'm making seven points about how it's illegal for environmental and national security.

Issue No. 1. The Environment Impact Assessment Report submitted by the project promoter for the proposed project is incomplete, flawed, misleading. This is because the survey required for this report has not been completed. The survey was stopped midway as locals opposed the survey. Therefore, the decision taken on the incomplete survey report cannot be accepted.

It shows that the environmental impact of tree cutting is limited to this. Incomplete studies and reviews of terrestrial ecosystems, coastal water resources, marine biodiversity and wider impacts on fishing habitats have not been understood.

Issue No.2 - Environmental defects -

According to the Environment (Protection) 1986 and Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to prepare an environmental impact assessment report of the proposed project before starting the project. Environmental principles and public justice are being violated. Therefore, the constitutional principle is being violated.

Destruction of Mangroves:

There is a high possibility of destruction of mangroves due to this project. It needs to be protected.

Rehabilitation Plans:

A rehabilitation plan for the displaced has not been prepared and submitted. There is no information about alternative employment, accommodation and security for the displaced.

Impact on local fishermen and farmers:

The proposed project will have a direct impact on fisheries. This will destroy the fishing community.

Due to the construction of the port, the sea water will go into the fields near the coast and the agriculture will be destroyed.

Article 21 of the Constitution

Traditional rights are protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The project will destroy the livelihood of the local people and is in violation of the Constitution of India 21. I am opposed to this project.

Threats to National Security:

If JSW Port is built near Tarapur Port and Tarapur Atomic Power Station, it will be a threat to national security. The project, which was supposed to come up at Nandgaon Alewadi, was stopped due to the protected area. Similarly, India's Vadhavan port is developing. Therefore, there is no need for the port of Murbe.

Chemical Wastewater Pollution, No study has been done on the compensation caused by water pollution.

I am publicly opposed to the Jindal project.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions had been noted.

33) Mr. Santosh Tandel, Residence Murbe, Taluka, District- Palgar:

My previous speakers have pointed out how this public hearing and the environmental impact assessment report presented are illegal, despite the many flaws in the report, the public hearing is going on with repression by keeping the general public in the dark. I would like to focus on three things:

The outcome of the proposed project is the security of the country, Impact on the health of the people and the livelihoods of the local people.

Security of the country:

There is a nuclear power plant next to this Murbe. Next to it is the Vadhavan port. If Murbe becomes a port, many cargo ships will come here. Your enemies may come. You may have seen the 26-11 terror attack. Our enemies come by sea and attack us. This project will affect India's security.

Three hundred and fifty years ago, Shivaji Maharaj recognized the danger of the enemy coming from the sea and built forts here. But in independent India, the government is endangering the security of the common man by allowing the construction of ports for some capitalists, rich people.

Health Impact:-

Tarapur MIDC is next to us. There is a nuclear power station. Due to its radiation and pollution, the locals are suffering from serious diseases. Young boys and girls in the area are dying due to cancer and heart disease.

The question of subsistence:

For this project, 1,500 acres of marine area will be filled. Due to this, the area and the surrounding area will be affected. As a result, the fishermen and their dependent families will be displaced and destroyed due to lack of access to fishing.

A few days ago, our fishing boat was hit by a cargo boat. The local fishing boat has suffered a loss of lakhs of rupees. The government has not yet compensated a single penny for it.

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However, the proposed project will have serious implications for our livelihood and health. The government's schemes remain on paper, not directly to the affected person. It is requested that the administration should take serious note of the fact that the local son of the land is going to be destroyed.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions had been noted.

34) Jyoti Rajesh Meher, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Fishermen Co-operatives:

What the previous speakers have said, I am saying that the public hearing on the environment that you have organized when the EIA report is incomplete and the CMFIR survey of fishermen has not been done is illegal. Everyone demanded that this public hearing should be canceled, but you are going ahead with it with repression. However, I am raising a few points -

Issue No. 1 - On 25th August, 2025 you had published a public notice. The public was informed about the Jindal port project at Murbe in Palghar district. Accordingly, a memorandum was submitted to you regarding the opposition of Murbe Gram Panchayat to this project. However, you have organized a public hearing and continued it despite all the demands to cancel this illegal public hearing.

Issue No. 2-

Satpati village has not been mentioned in the EIA report. It is a very sensitive village. The sea water still enters half the village. Even though it is a 100% fishing village, that village is not deliberately mentioned. The population of Satpati village is about thirty thousand. If you take us for granted, that's completely wrong. The EIA report itself is wrong. The locals have demanded that it should be repaired first and only then a public hearing should be held again.

Several speakers at the meeting said that JSW wanted to build the first port in Nandgaon. At that time, 25,000 people were present at the public hearing. However, the public hearing was kept operational. Our fishermen fraternity appealed this to the National Green Tribunal. The NGT ruled that fishermen should be paid Rs 130 crore compensation every year as they will suffer 100% losses. Jindal appealed to the Supreme Court that he could not pay such compensation every year and withdrew. The same project is now shifted one and a half kilometers. We are asking the

company administration why they are rebuilding this project for Murbe even though it was withdrawn at that time.

For the proposed project, 165 acres of land will be filled up in the sea. For Port infrastructure like Railway Yard, Vehicle Terminal additional land will be acquired in Satpati village. It is our only means of livelihood, that's fishing which is going to be affected by this project.

We are all opposed to this Jindal project.

From the point of view of the environment, the proposed port is a CRZ-1,2,3,4 and coming under the purview of CZMP. No construction is allowed there.

Mangrove trees will be cut down and salt land will be acquired for the project. For this port, 10 km Breakwater wall will be constructed. The report does not mention in which direction the sea water will go and which way it will not.

The proposed expansion of the port in future cannot be ruled out. We are going to have far-reaching consequences. Satpati village is famous for fishing. There is an abundance of various fishes here. Due to the port, fishing in Satpati village as well as surrounding areas will also be eliminated. This will affect Satpati village as well as so many areas.

The harbour will destroy fish breeding grounds, thereby affecting fish production. The livelihood of traditional fishermen will be in question. Traditional fishing relies on tidal currents. The construction of the port changes the flow and movement of the tides.

However, it is requested that this port be abolished. The harm to traditional fishing, which is the backbone of our economy and culture, outweighs any benefit. The livelihoods of thousands of people, local food security, environmental balance are at risk. However, this project should be cancelled.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said the suggestions had been noted.

35) Pragya Hemant Tare, Member, Gram Panchayat Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:

I have an emotional appeal to the District Collector to put aside your position and prestige and think about yourself as a guardian of Palghar. On the one hand, the great Vadhavan port is being built, while nearby is India's

nuclear power plant. Now, Jindal port has been proposed. A textile park is also planned at Kelve in the future. All these destructive projects taken together will cover a large amount of sea area and will harm the local fishermen. We should introspect on this. The Jindal Port project should not be implemented forcefully. As the parents of the district, you should think about your children. Accepting the responsibility of being a responsible citizen of India, it requests that the government should not impose a destructive project and I opposes this project.

An important point I raise in the meeting is that your letter of October 3 had the word "rehabilitation of fishermen". So why was the word 'rehabilitation' used, does it mean an attempt to evict us locals? You should clarify this.

I oppose the proposed project.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions had been noted.

36) Shri Manish Manohar Patil, Residence Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar, Member, Murbe Jindal Bandar Virodhi Sangharsh Samitee:

I am speaking as an ordinary citizen. These people have come only to protest. You must take note of this. Everyone has put forward every issue before you. Every person who has come here has come to oppose Jindal. Everyone has used the word that public hearings is "illegal". This living example is in front of us. Before coming here, people were told that water and food arrangements have been made here. But they don't even get water here. Mr. Speaker, you are sitting here for the life-and-death questions of the people. All of them have made points. The people who have come here have come to us to demand justice. Farmers, fishermen and many people dependent on them will be affected. Our agriculture is going to be completely affected due to the way boats are going to come and go to the sea. After filling up, the sea water will come to our fields at the time of tide. As a result, agriculture will be completely affected. Whom should we go after the traditional farming given to us by our forefathers will be destroyed?

I am questioning the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board whether they have inspected the proposed project site? Has there been a survey? However, this illegal public hearing should be cancelled immediately.

37) Mr. Meesan Yashwant Naik, Taluka Pramukh, Maharashtra Fishermen's Action Committee and Director, Kharekuran Fishermen's Cooperatives:-

We took information here, at that time, I came to know that more than 2000 of our sisters had come here for meetings. They were dressed in black. That's why the police didn't let them in. That's why they have come here wearing clothes of this color.

The breakwater wall that the company is going to build will be 10 km from the Shiva temple. A large amount of water in the creek will go from Kharekuran, Murbe creek to Kumbavli, but let me remind you that during the Corona period, 3,000-4,000 people used to go to this creek every day to collect chimbos, mussels. We have increased our immunity power during the Corona period by eating mussels, chims, nivtyas. That's why we're still alive today. Respected Collector Madam, eating this boosted our immunity power.

Now, if the project promoters build a breakwater wall and the water rises, we will never get these fish. Because, if there is a large amount of water during the tide, we will not be able to see the tide. We get to eat these fish only after the water dries up.

Now, I want to tell the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that during the Corona period, when all the companies were closed, there was no pollution.

38) Mr. Kundan Sankhe, Kumbhivali:

You have organized a public hearing. It means people and hearings. Public hearings are meant to take into account the public opinion. Public hearing means conveying the feelings of the public about the proposed project to the government through public hearings. Thousands of people have come here. In the public hearing, all have opposed the proposed project. We don't want this project. In 2013, Jindal had planned to set up a project in Nandgaon after changing the name. At that time, a crowd of thousands present at Tarapur had forced Jindal to flee from here.

All I can tell you as a government is that if Jindal tries to do something like this, Jindal will have to go back and all the people here will not sit silently until Jindal is sent back.

Here, I would like to commend the government administration and Jindal for taking such prompt action by applying to the administration for a public

hearing on the environment before the people gathered. When the extension was imposed, at that time, people struggled for a long time.

On the one hand, the security of the country through the Nuclear Power Corporation is the top priority, while on the other hand, the foundation stone of the Vadhavan port has been laid and on the other hand, has the security of the Nuclear Power Corporation been given in the hands of both of them? My first point of view is that there shall be no compromise on national security.

The first point of objection –

The most important point of my objection is that in view of the security of the Nuclear Power Corporation from the point of view of national security, the government should immediately cancel any port of Jindal without recognising it.

It is necessary to raise any shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report through public hearings. Similarly, the sentiments of the locals towards the proposed project are also important. Because any industry develops or destroys that geographical area.

The second point of objection –

Tarapur Industrial Estate in Palghar district is Asia's largest township in the country. What the locals got out of it was the unemployment of the locals, the contracts taken by the migrants and the pollution. There is no place for locals in Tarapur Industrial Estate.

If we look at the background of the Jindal industry here, it is doubtful how many people of our village will be employed in the proposed project. The revenue area in which Jindal's project stands is called Kolvade. Jindal should show that at least five people from Kolavade village are working in his Kolavade project. Also, for Nandgaon should be shown. That is, the industry, which has not guaranteed employment to the locals, will destroy us through this port industry.

Fish is the food of our district. So, when Jindal Port stands next to Vadhavan port, we will have to take permission from Jindal to take fish from our sea. It is my earnest request to you to stop the Jindal port project which is blowing the axe on the livelihood of our fishermen brothers and our tribal brethren who depend on it.

The third point of objection:

We are looking for different ways of communication. Similarly, the route of fishing boats in the sea will be chosen, at that time the corridor will be decided, due to which there will be huge restrictions on their fishing. The fishermen themselves will be the ones who will be affected. However, we should reject this project.

The fourth point of objection –

A corridor is being built on the ground through Murbe. There are different corridors from Murbe to Kumbhivli on one side, Kharikuran on the other, as well as in other villages. The railway yard and the road are being routed. The company wants a reserve area on land as well as at sea.

Now, if there is one of the most protected elements in the country, it is mangroves. Through mangroves, the government has taken passed government decision (G.R.). The sarpanch of the village is the Chairman of the mangrove protection committee. So have you taken the sarpanch and gram sabha of the village into confidence where the land is being taken?

More than 60% of the land from Murba is mangroves and salt groves, if studied by the project promoters or their consultants.

So, will the project promoters be allowed to build the port by ignoring the various directives passed by the government for the protection of mangroves?

An example is that the Forest Department and the Mangrove Department are now separate cells. The important issue is whether the project will be allowed to be built by destroying thousands of acres of mangrove forests. You should reject this project as mangrove is a protected area.

Now the next important point. Palghar district is tribal-dominated and Palghar district falls under the PESA (PESA) law, in which indigenous communities are given self-government rights in the scheduled areas of the district. The Gram Panchayat here has been given special powers.

So have you taken prior permission from the Gram Sabha for this project? The resolutions of the Gram Sabha of the affected villages in the project area must be taken. We must take decisions in the interest of the sons of the soil.

39) Shri Rupesh Karuna Kisan Mhatre, member, Gram Panchayat Satpati and Vice President, Palghar District - Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)

It should be noted that approving the project on an incomplete and legally invalid report is a direct violation of environmental rights.

Also, the environmental question that I am going to ask should be noted -

Question number 1 –

How much will the natural appearance of the sea coast change due to the construction of the port?

Question number 2 –

How much and how will the project affect the sea water quality, salinity, pollution, chemical level?

Question number 3 –

What are the measures to prevent erosion of sand and minerals in coastal areas?

Question number 4 –

What will be the impact of the project on the ocean, biodiversity of fishes, prawns, mussels, turtles, corals, etc.?

Question number 5 –

How will the sea coral hives, sea grass strips be protected?

Question number 6 –

What technology and facilities will be implemented to control pollution?

Question number 7 –

What will be the impact of climate change and sea level rise on the project and on the sons of soil?

Question number 8 –

How much trees will be cut for the project and where and how much is its alternative plantation?

Question number 9 –

To what extent will the coastal mangroves and marshes be destroyed?

Question number 10 –

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How will domestic sewage and industrial chemicals be ensured not to be discharged into the sea?

Question number 11 –

Are there going to be any impacts on the community and local people? How many families will be rehabilitated by the project?

Question number 12 –

How much plots, agricultural land, houses will be acquired in the local villages?

Question No. 13 -

What kind of employment will be provided to the locals? Will employment be given only to skilled people or will unskilled people be given opportunities?

Question No. 14 –

How many people/ workers are you going to bring in from outside for the project?

There are technical and long-term questions, please note -

- I) Has EIA studied for the long-term effects after 15-20 years?
- II) Has the risk of natural cyclones, storms, tsunamis in the sea been studied?
- III) What is the local rescue plan in case of a port accident? Has there been a preview by independent experts?
- IV) If environmental clearance is denied, is there an alternative plan?

All these questions should be noted and answers should be given in writing.

40) Shri Ketan Ravindra Raut, Residence Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:-

I am a fisherman by body and mind. If you have taken note of the suggestions and objections raised in the meeting, then its report should be made available to us.

Madam Collector. Project promoters say 600 people will get employment opportunities once the project becomes operational.

During the Corona crisis, my creek provided employment to millions of people. This point should be noted. Also, this illegal public hearing is going on. It should be repealed.

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41) Shri Prashant Yashwant Tare, Member, Gram Panchayat Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:

In your village where the Jindal Port is being built, there are Mangroves. If Mangroves cut down, a case of manslaughter is registered. They will have to cut lakhs of Mangroves while building the Jindal Port. So what punishment will be given to them? It should be communicated to us.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that only issues regarding the proposed project be raised.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said the suggestions had been noted.

42) Shri Atul Rane, Residence Nandgaon, Taluka, District Palghar:-

My objections are that –

Issue No. 1 -

The registration was done before the start of the meeting in the morning. There were some employees at that time, they were without identity cards. Whom these people belong, the government or Jindal? I intervened at that time. The police has moved these men aside. We need answers to some issues now.

The people who were working were either from the government or from Jindal.

Issue No. 2 –

When our brothers were coming there, at that time, they tore the papers. Registration were torn. What action will the District Collector Madam and the Superintendent of Police will take against the concerned person?

Mr. Atul Rane said that a similar public hearing was held in 2012. The same Jindal had named some of us and told the court that we had no objection. Why were our signatures and mobile numbers taken in that register? Is Jindal going to use our signature and with the help of AI present it in court as our no-objection?

He appealed to all participant brothers to go live on Facebook and Instagram, to record all this, because in your name this Jindal will give a no-objection certificate in the Court.

Issue No.3 -

Hon. District Magistrate Madam, you are the judge of this meeting. Both those who are local and Jindal should be in front of each other. How did Jindal's people sit on stage? Get them down first. Many at the meeting said that the public hearing was going wrong. Yet Jindal's men should be in front of us. The three people who are working in front of us are either from the government or from Jindal. If they belong to the government, why don't they have an identity card?

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that he should raise issues regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. Procedural clarity here means that those who are writing down the minutes of the meeting are officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. There are MMB officers. Their project is as per PPP principle. Everything is being noted. Video recording is also going on.

At that time, Mr. Atul Rane suggested to disclose the identity of the concerned. Chairperson suggested to file environmental suggestions and objections about the proposed project. The police department has also taken cognizance of the incident that took place outside the pandal.

Mr. Atul Rane objected that we had all objected to the public hearing held in 2012. Viraj had planned to build Navapur port. Jindal was building a port first at Nandgaon and after cancellation now building a port at Murbe. Are you going to attach that report to this public hearing report?

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that it was repeatedly stated in the meeting that the minutes of the meeting would be prepared in Marathi and English and the written objections filed by them and video recordings would be submitted as annexes (accompanying) to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. The expert committee will take further decision in this regard. The minutes of the meeting will also be made available to participants.

Shri Rane objected to the openness with which you were replying, accordingly, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board does not respond.

Shri Atul Rane objected that Jindal had tried to suppress our voice in 2012. They didn't success to suppress us. The CAG report of 2010 said that Jindal has made corruption of 56,751/-. Also, in 1990-95, there was an explosion in Jindal's scrap yard. The police office has a record of this.

Here again Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that only environmental suggestions/ objections to the proposed project should be recorded.

Shri Atul Rane opined that the Constitution of India has given powers to the Gram Sabha and all the Gram Sabhas have opposed the project and will you submit the resolutions of all the Gram Sabha to the Government along with this report? The Speaker said that he had taken note of the notice.

43) Sri Ramakrishna Jagannath Tandel, Executive Chairman, Maharashtra Fishermen Action Committee:

The public hearings that is going on here are a matter of life and death. A villager here alleged that some officials were sleeping during the meeting. Some officers are talking on mobile. However, the officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should disclose their identity.

At that time, Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee on the Environment said that the identity was stated at the beginning of the meeting. However, the participants should register their suggestions and objections.

Shri Tandel objected that all the participants of the meeting had objected that the EIA report is incomplete. Therefore, everyone has objected that this public hearing is illegal. Despite the demand to cancel the public hearing, the public hearing is going on.

Shri Tandel further asked how many nautical miles is this JSW Shipping Corridor?

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that it was said at the beginning of the meeting that the public hearing can only be cancelled in the event of a natural calamity or catastrophic situation and held at a later date. The second thing is that your suggestion has been noted. Participants should please speak on topics.

Shri Tandel said the public hearing was illegal and demanded that it be quashed. The Chairperson said that it has been noted.

44) Shri Shankar Tarle, R/o Kelwa Mahim, Taluka, District Palghar-

Palghar district is a tribal-dominated district. The district is divided into three divisions — Marine, Nagari and Dongri. This public hearing is operational for the JSW port. In the past, many destructive projects have

been brought to this district. Now, the project is being brought to the western part of Palghar along with Vadhavan. Apart from this, there is a plan to set up a textile park in the urban area. Will the people of Palghar district continue to fight against these project?

There are factories in Boisar area, factories in Palghar division, many houses have been destroyed due to polluted water from these industries. Due to the pollution, coconut production and water wells here have been affected. The fishermen community and Agri community have been affected by these project. All sections of the society in Palghar district have been affected by this pollution. Vadhavan Port, Murbe Port are an eco-degrading project and you should not approve it.

Here, son of the soil who have come down to defend the truth. Therefore, they should be given justice.

45) Mrs. Anjali Arvind Bari, Sarpanch, Navapur Gram Panchayat, Palghar District:

Satpati and Murbe, a breeding ground for many fishes known as the Golden Island. A creek famous for its silver pomflets. If there is any industrial tampering here, the marine wealth will be destroyed.

The project causes a lot of air pollution. It contains sulfur oxide and various pollutants, which cause acid rain. Exposure to these pollutants can cause cough, respiratory diseases, heart disease, etc. Serious illnesses can occur. These pollutants also affect public health, including respiratory diseases, increased risk of cancer. Therefore, we local residents are against this project.

We are opposed to this project as ships and equipment, especially systems that use diesel, emit various pollutants.

Appeals to all the citizens present at the meeting that thousands of people have come here to oppose the project. However, everyone should be given a chance to speak. Don't underestimate anyone. It's important to win our battle. Points of opposition should be presented.

46) Tripti Kundan Sankhe, Sarpanch, Kumbhivali Eklare Gram Panchayat, District Palghar:-

Jindal port is proposed in Murbe village. Kumbhivali is an isolated village adjacent to Murbe village. The corridors for the project will pass through our villages. It was necessary for the government to take the initiative and solve

the problems of the villagers through the Gram Panchayat. That's my objection.

It has not been taken up when it is mandatory to get the resolution of the Gram Sabha. The government has only sent a letter of the meeting.

This environmental public hearing is being held in accordance with the EIA report. In a way, it has been imposed on our Gram Panchayat. This is the second objection.

There is no information in the report about the revenue area of our village through which this corridor of the project will pass, how much area will be required in our village, our gram panchayat has not been informed about it. This is the third objection.

Today, the District Collector has organized a public hearing on the environment. We raise slogans to plant trees, save trees. But the sensitive Mangrove forest for environmental protection is largely in the revenue area of our Kumbhivali village. In Kumbhivali revenue village, there is a river called Doot creek and it joins the sea in the form of a creek. When the tide of the sea rises, the level of the river Doot Creek rises, while the mangrove protects fields by preventing water from entering in the fields. In other words, mangroves naturally prevent fields. The water level of the Doot River will also increase when the sea flow is divided by this port and it moves towards the creek and increase water level.

As a result, the mangroves will be destroyed and the sea water will come to our farms. In this way, the damage has been caused by Tarapur port. Our remaining agriculture will also be destroyed if this Jindal port is built. You should take note of this.

When a ship is to be broken, permission from the forest department has to be obtained. So has the project promoter taken prior permission regarding the mangrove? Have you studied mangroves? It is not mentioned in the EIA report.

The corridor that will pass through our village for the proposed project will affect the mangroves in our village. There is no information in the report about the mangrove affected area, the prior approval of the competent authority to cut it and the penalty that will have to pay to the government in this regard is not included in the report.

Now, the issue raised by everyone in the meeting is the question of employment. We had the Tarapur Industrial Estate. People got jobs. One

of Jindal's plants is in Kolvade village in Tarapur. Earlier, there was only one Gram Panchayat in Kolavade-Kumbivli village. However, in that Jindal project, the affected people have not been given employment and the locals have not been given employment opportunities. They have not given jobs to the affected and local people.

However, we should consider the public sentiments raised here.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that suggestions have been noted.

47) Shri Vineet Pratibha Prabhakar Patil, Residence Varor, Taluka, District Palghar:

We believe in the Constitution. The law-abiding people are naïve people. That's what happened at Vadhavan port. However, it was reported in the media that Vadhavan port has support from 50,000 people. Not even that many people had come to the public hearing. We've come here. We have come to cancel that public hearing. Madam District Collector, you must think of the people first. We are environmentalists. We know they are going to dump landfills for the project in the sea. That water is going to enter in the nearby villages. So you are the parents of the district and why is this public hearing being forcibly held.

However, this public hearing should be cancelled immediately. Why is the administration so helpless? We're not going to talk. We're not going to get up from here unless you cancel.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the suggestions/ objections has been noted. Now, the next participant should speak.

48) Mr. Sunil Ramesh Achrekar, Residence Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:-

The vehement with which the locals protested, from this, you must have understood that people are angry for what? The submitted EIA report and presentation are false. In Palghar district, there are various source of income, the main source is fishing. Fishing and chikku are two products that comes under Forest District, Forest product theme in Palghar district. Silver pomlet is exported as the royal fish of Maharashtra. The highest production in the world was in our village in Satpadi. So in the world, the rate of the fish is decided by the people of Satpadi village. Even though Satpadi is next to Murbe, Satpadi village is not mentioned in the EIA. This

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has not been taken into consideration while planning the project. The mussels are found in our Marba Satpadi creek. What we call the Lobster, which lives on algae. So the algae that is needed for it, which forms on the coastline belt here and this species will become extinct. Also Ghoul, Dhada is an enhancer of fishermen's production. They are trying to destroy the fishermen here by bringing a destructive harbor.

The proposed project will employ only 600 people, but you will destroy the fishermen and their dependents. However, it is requested to take note of the opposition of the fishermen here.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that the suggestions/ objections has been noted.

49) Mr. Jaywant Tandel, Chairman, Thane District Central Fishermen's Association:-

Through this public hearing, you would like to inform that all the fishermen villages from Zai to Uttan are participating in this public hearing. The proposed project will destroy our fishermen here. All the coastal fishermen's associations (Zai to Uttan) have sent a message to me that they are opposed to the project.

However, all the fishermen's associations are opposed to this Jindal port. However, our opposition should be conveyed to the government.

50) Shri Mohan Devrao Rane, Residence Nandgaon, Taluka, District Palghar:

On October 07, 2012, 13 years have passed away. Jindal had held a public hearing on Nandgaon Port at Boisar at that time. Some people from our village went to Pune and Delhi. Local villagers have raised their oppose to Nandgaon Port in the National Green Tribunal, Delhi. In August 2023, Jindal went to the Supreme Court and gave an affidavit that they are not executing the Nandgaon port project. There is 720 km long Sea Coast in Maharashtra. Gujarat has 1200 km long Sea Coast.

Madam, the Nandgaon port shifted to Murbe and the Nandgaon sea boundary which is our Sapt Kuli Mata has been encroached upon. This is a contempt of court.

Shri Mohan Rane objected that the landfill would change the topography of our agriculture. Dumping the landfill will bring sea water into the fields and destroy our agriculture. Freshwater springs will be destroyed. Due to the movement of boats and garbage, our Golden Belt marine areas

will be polluted and the breeding grounds of fish will be completely destroyed. As a result, 80% of the fishing community in the taluka will be destroyed and the tribal community dependent on them will be wiped out. The business of the Bhandari community will collapse. Also, 40% of the tribals migrate here for four months for agricultural work. They will also suffer losses here as the crops have become barren. The project will lead to the degradation of mangroves. Dumping in the sea will destroy the biodiversity here.

Respected Madam Collector, you are the custodian of Palghar district. It is the responsibility of the district administration to maintain the safety of the people here. Jindal won't do that.

Presentation showed that fifty crore rupees would be provided for local development. We don't want it from them.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions have been noted.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all not to repeat the issues that have been raised. If there are new issues, they should be raised. About 3,000 written suggestions and objections have been received during the hearing. Those who have written suggestions or objections can submit them to the Public Hearing Committee on the Environment. It will be acknowledged.

51) Manjusha Gaikwad, Shiv Sena's Hind Kesari Sena's Labour Secretary,

Shiv Sena Hind Kesari Sena Labor Secretary, as an official representative, I am at the National Green Tribunal, Pune and Delhi and at Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, I was a petitioner and a party. Our Party President is former Chief Minister Shri Uddhavji Thackeray Saheb and under the guidance of Deepak Raut Saheb, we forced Jindal to cancel the proposed Nandgaon port on a technical issue.

As a representative of our Party President former Chief Minister Shri Uddhavji Thackeray Saheb and Shri Deepak Raut Saheb, I assure you that we will cancel the Murbe port by fighting a technical and parliamentary battle. If this is the dream project of the central government, then we are not their lamp that we will fulfill all their wishes. We are opposing, opposing and opposing to the proposed Jindal Murbe port.

52) Mr. Mukesh Meher, Fisherman & Ex-Panchayat Member, Satpadi Taluka, District Palghar

Murbe port is located to the north of Satpadi. Satpadi is located at 500 metres. Satpadi is known for co-operation, freedom struggle and fishing. In 1920, the Bombay Gazette declared Satpadi as a fishing harbour.

The proposed Murbe port will affect a large number of fishermen involved in the sea. Also, there are no reports from CWPRS, Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra, Central Water Commission by the project promoters. So on what issue should the question be raised?

Today, the people of the coastal areas are the worst affected by climate change and warming. Satpadi is one of the fastest erosion villages in India. Therefore, CWPRS, an organization of the Central Government, has been implementing the Satpadi coastal and marine internal affairs study project for the last four years. It has been studied and it is doubtful whether the report was deliberately not included in the public hearing on the environment.

Considering their emergency situation, Collector Palghar approved to built a non-erosion prevention dam of Satpadi village as a special case.

About 80% of our fisheries are women. Their employment will be affected.

Shri Mukesh Meher objected that there are no reports of CWPRS, Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra, Central Water Commission by the project promoters. So on what issue should the question be raised?

At that time, the representative, the chair, the public hearing on the environment said that their questions had been taken into account.

Mr. Meher informed that the fishing sector is getting affected to a great extent. The objection was raised by the project promoters that there were no reports from CWPRS, Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra, Central Water Commission. So those reports should be obtained and a public hearing should be held again.

53) Shri Harshal Lokhande, Bhumiputra Sena-

Today, a public hearing on the environment is being held here, and all of us who live in the coastal areas have come here. In our Palghar district, you are bringing all the projects and putting on the heads of the locals.

You hold public hearings and don't even listen to us. Only noting objections/ suggestions.

I say that a lot of projects have come in Palghar district and they are bullying the local people here.

There is a wave of anger over the proposed project in Palghar district. Let you bring Murbe Jetty. If you bring the Murba jetty, we will not allow the jetty to be opened by agitating here.

54) Mr. Vijay Vaze, Social Friend, Humanitarian Organization-

Since this morning, social activists and political leaders have raised issues. Also, they raised issues of public interest. Similar issues were raised at the time of the port of Vadhavan. Even there, almost everyone opposed the project, but it was reported in the media that fifty thousand supporters supported the project. We were cheated there. We assume that same will happen in this public hearing. All the attendees have expressed their opinion against the project.

But, now if this Jindal Murbe project is imposed, we will fight till there is a drop of blood. We will also fight legally. Even if the District Collector, Palghar is holding illegal public hearing, we will not allow the project to take place legally.

55) Shri Lochan Chandrakant Choudhury, Tarapur Nuclear Power Project Affected-

I am affected by the Tarapur project. Our project was of the Central Government. Yet injustice was done to us. Jindal Murbe is a private project. The private company will not give anything to the project victims. We have experienced the pain of a project victim.

The only thing I can say there is Vadhavan port on one side, Murbe Harbour on other side, Tarapur Nuclear Power Project is in between, so if there is an accident, our situation would be worse than Russia's Chernobyl. Chernobyl incident has affected 800 km area. However, I request that due consideration should be given to this in the public hearing. I request that all the destructive projects here must be cancelled.

56) Mrs. Sufal Nitin Tare, Residence Satpati, Taluka, District Palghar:

We will oppose to the end of the plot to destroy our fishermen's world, our homes, our livelihood fishing and our livelihood for this Jindal project. The sea belongs to our fishermen, not to Jindal.

57) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

Respected Madam District Collector, all the sons of the soil who have come together for their village and their rights. You are harassing all the sons of the soil here by trying to bring Jindal here. No son of the soil here will tolerate this. When the time comes, we'll spill our blood, But this project will not be allowed to happen. All of us fishermen will take to the streets and come down on the railway tracks and fight till the end for our rights till Delhi.

58) Shri Uttam Pimple, Local Residence-

The issues that were to be raised in the public hearing, it is narrated by all the speakers. I live in the area since the 1980s and have seen the Jindal Group through social work. The district administration would have conducted its own survey before the public hearing, so the flaws in this report would have been understood and earlier it was a Piramal company. Jindal took it. If you remember, at that time, Piramal Company has not provided employment locals and to the project affected. Workers in the company who went to the union, they have been expelled by the Jindal Company using police force. However, how many Marathi young man and women have been employed by Jindal since then? It should be studied.

Palghar district became PESA district in 2014 – Because Palghar is a tribal-dominated district. If Palghar district becomes PESA district, Jindal has been in Palghar since 1980. But, they have done nothing for local development. If the other organization with social commitment works for the development of the community here, it seems that Jindal doesn't want to do that. Why this Jindal has not started project in Talasari & Mokhada?

It was necessary for people's representatives, MLAs and MPs to be present for the public hearing. So it should be first seen whether the Jindal project follows the social commitment for 2-3 years and then hold a public hearing. If Jindal does not do so, then Jindal should be expelled from this district.

59) Kumar Guru Suresh Thakur, Residence Murbe Gaon, Taluka, District Palghar:

Everything has been said by the dignitaries. So I want to say as a son of the soil that if the project is going to be in Muraba, so why was the public hearing held in Palghar? It should be conducted at place where the projects are going to be built. There are mangroves which will be cut down. They must be charged with manslaughter. So what case are we going to file against Jindal port?

60) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

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In Boisar area, Government or Capitalist projects like Tarapur MIDC were implemented by the Government. The fishermen living on the coast are facing the consequences of this project. Creeks and seas are polluted. Many fish species are extinct and on the verge of extinction. Also, fish eaters are suffering from diseases like cancer due to pollution. The local fishermen's fishing business is declining. This project of Jindal will destroy the fisheries from Bhayander to Dahanu. The fishing business is going to end. Therefore, the Jindal Murbe project should not be approved.

Fisherman is like a farmer. Whoever do fishing, according to the rule of occupation, fisherman should be given the same rights as that of farmers.

The fishermen are a tribal society. Our Koli community does not know the definition of tribal. Tribals are those who have settled in one place for thousands of years. Fishing is a distinct culture of Koli's. However, the Koli fishermen should be given the status of a tribal society.

61) Mr. Rupesh Ramdas Sankhe, President, Paryavaran Utkarsh Organization, Palghar-

After the jetty, 190 acres of land outside will be acquired for the railway yard and corridor. At the same time, 270 hectares of land will be acquired for storing the goods. A total of 550 acres of land will be used for this JSW port.

All the trees on 550 acres of land will be cut. If a common man cuts a tree, a fine of ten thousand or a crime of manslaughter is imposed. So the company is going to cut millions of trees, then that provision is not applicable to them? Earlier, there were 150-200 years old trees besides road from Palghar to Boisar. They were cut down while making a new road and now there is not a single tree.

So doesn't the rule that is there for the common man apply to the government machinery?

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that suggestions and objections be made regarding proposed project only.

62) Mr. Chirag Raut, Residence Murbe, Taluka, District Palghar:-

There was only one way to survive when everything was closed during the Corona period, sea, Fish in the creek. If the project destroys the fishery, So what will the son of the soil do?

63) Mr. Deepak Bhandari, Vadrai, Agri Struggle Committee-

He suggested the name on the Public Hearing Notice Board. It was suggested that the project should be proposed.

According to the discussion, he asked with whom the joint project was.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that this information was initially communicated. It will be informed to you.

64) Mr. Sujay More, Vadrai, Taluka, District Palghar:-

Following the above discussion, he opined that we cannot deny information. He explained the directives in the EIA.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified this. This committee does not decide, approve projects or reject projects. All documents will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. The expert committee will take an appropriate decision in this regard.

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee on the Environment said that the participants made very good points. But if you want any clarification on this, the project promoters and MMB officials will give this.

65) Mr. Deepak Bhandari, Vadrai, Agri Struggle Committee-

Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee on Environment said that you should put forth our points. There should be no outburst. This public hearing is to correct any errors in the report.

Shri Bhandari criticized the working style of the M.P.C. Board.

66) Mr. Sujay More, Vadrai, Taluka, District Palghar:-

Asked if the project promoter would finally respond, the Chairperson said yes.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said the environmental consultant would provide an explanation. Cross Questions will not be allowed.

Shri Sujay More enquired about the duration of the meeting. Shri Sujay More sought clarification on CRZ.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Environment Consultant will give clarification / answer.

67) Mr. Chandrakant Tare, President, Satpati Fishermen's Society:

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All said in the meeting that the EIA report was false and the public hearing is illegal. However, the affected villages have passed resolutions against the project and submitted it to you. But, without thinking about it, you have organized a public hearing. However, according to the public sentiment, you should submit a report to the Government that the project should not be approved.

68) Shri Shailaj Chandrakant Pawar, District Palghar:-

The water from the creek will go to the village due to the filling that will be done during the development of the project. Agriculture will be affected. Jindal port should not be built as fishermen and farmers will be ruined.

69) Advocate Patil:-

How often did you visit the project location. You should see that we are leading a healthy life. You should not ruin our happy lives because of Jindal. Our opposition to the project.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that the discussion has been going on for a long time, suggestions and objections should be presented in brief.

70) Mr. Bhupendra Raut, Dahanu:-

He started talking about a different topic.

At that time, the Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee on the Environment suggested a brief speech on the subject.

71) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

One question is for the public and one is for the dias.

Question to Participants - The fact that none of our public representatives are present in this public hearing makes their intentions clear.

Question to the dias – No one in the meeting says that the project should be permitted. However, you should submit a report that the project should not be approved keeping in mind the public sentiment.

72) Mr. Deepak Raut, District Palghar:-

Earlier, I had proposed that the public hearing should be cancelled. All the points raised in 2012 are presented by the attendees. All the issues raised by us should be incorporated in the report. However, a copy of the minutes and video recording of the meeting should be made available.

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Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestion has been noted.

73) Mr. Vinod Patil, All Maharashtra Action Committee, Palghar President:-

ToR Conditions – The project promoter objected to the original text and its deficiencies.

Why the physical model was not done by CWPRS?

How will the filling affect the sediment on the shore?

Socio-economic impact on the local fishing community.

The information about fishing area is not included.

There is no scientific study on soil erosion of seashore.

Chairperson said that she has taken note of the suggestions.

74) Mr. Bhupendra Raut, Dahanu:

He opined that he wanted to talk about the environment.

Chairperson said that environmental suggestions and objections should be raised about the proposed project.

Mr. Raut opined that this is a PESA district, there is a lot of fishing. It should not be endangered by pollution. Self-employment should be generated in the village.

Chairperson of the Committee said that suggestions have been noted.

75) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

The plant will use 50,000 litres of water per day. So if you calculate the year, the company will waste such a big amount of water.

There is no mention of biodiversity in the ocean.

76) Shri Abhijit Tare, Deputy Sarpanch of Satpati

Houses in our village were washed away during the monsoon. The construction of landfill and breakwater wall for the proposed project will not only destroy the creek but also wash away houses in the village.

Chairperson suggested that you are a public representative, Speak only to the points.

77) Mr. Satpate, Resident of Satpati:-

The issues they raised were done in the past.

Chairperson of the Committee suggested not to repeat the same points, saying that the points have been noted.

78) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

He urged the attendees to be against the project. He suggested to raise their hands. Everyone raised their hands.

He pleaded that no one is in the support of the project.

79) Chairman of Vadrai Fishermen's Society

There are 50 boats in my village. However, we have not been informed about this public hearing. 5,000 people are dependent on fishing. Those will face starvation due to 10 km breakwater wall as they fish with the tidal in the Sea. He advised the attendees to prepare for a battle on the streets.

80) Mr. Tandell, Chairman, Fishermen's Society

Even if the Prime Minister has inaugurated Vadhvan Port. However, the battle for expansion is going on. The stay is till October 28. Murbe Harbour will never be.

The Chairperson said the suggestions have been noted.

81) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

He said he would fight in court.

Chairperson said the suggestions have been noted.

82) Rupali Sachin Patil, Gram Panchayat Member-

I'm a farmer. Everyone here has opposed the project. However, this should be noted that we have also oppose Public hearing.

83) Shri Devendra Bharat Dev, Residence Murbe -

There is opposition to the project.

84) Mr. Chandan Mhatre, Murbe -

There is opposition to the project.

86) Shri Prashant Yashwant Tare -

People have become aware. However, don't send Project Proponent to Murbe.

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87) Nandgaon villagers

Why are locals not given priority in any project? Do locals have priority?

88) Mr. Santosh Gavand, R/o Nandgaon,

Eight-Ten thousand people are present. Only 100 people have protested.

The Chairperson asked to give the representation in writing.

89) Mrs. Namita Tara, Gram Panchayat Member, Murbe

There is opposition to Jindal port. Take note of this. As companies came, pollution increased. The incidence of cancer has increased in the last twenty years. There is no need for Murbe port when there is already Vadhvan Port, one of the largest port in the world.

90) Shri Prasanta Krishna Tare, Gram Panchayat Member, Murbe -

Everyone said that this public hearing is illegal, I stand by that opinion. JNPT is handling 1,25,0000 containers near Murbe. If India's GDP is 5.6. If there was a project of India's protection instead of, we would have donated our houses. We will fight and scrap the Jindal port.

91) Mr Vrushabh Prashant Tare, Murbe -

There is strong opposition to the Murbe port.

92) Mr Mithil Ashoka Tare, Murbe:-

There is strong opposition to the Murbe port.

Chairperson of the Committee suggested that the opinion should be made peacefully.

93) Shri Dhiraj Subhash Tamore -

How many objections were there at the beginning of the public hearing and how many are there now? Also, how many people came to the meeting?

Chairperson of the Committee informed that it will be informed at the end of the meeting.

94) Shri Prashant Naik, Residence Kharekuran, President of the Fishermen's Association-

Even if you would have given an EIA report to the affected gram panchayat, but it has not been given to any of the fishermen's association.

In the report, on page 138, the population of Palghar is given as 1,10,701 in year 2001 and in year 2041 it is projected as 9,67,041. That is, it should be disclosed whether the population will not increase in rural areas?

There is a discrepancy in the population of the villages that will be affected by the project. It should be disclosed.

Everyone has protested in the meeting here. It is requested to take note of it and submit it to the Government of India.

95) Shri Shailesh Raut, Murbe:-

Everyone has protested. So when and how the survey that was shown in the sea in the report was done? State the date of survey, Field survey was done by whom and from which boat, information should be given about whose prior permission was taken.

Information about this and with whom survey was conducted for social conditions should be informed.

Chairperson said that information has been given in the initial presentation. However, you should give a written notice about this, we will take note of it and the concerned government department will be asked to inform about it.

Mr. Shailesh Raut alleged that the information of the survey is false.

Chairperson of the Committee said that suggestions have been noted. Now, the mike should be given to the other speakers.

96) A Local Villager, Taluka, District Palghar:

Everyone has raised objections to the port. In Palghar District, seashore area is spread over 120 km. There are 24 Nos. of Fishing Organizations and there are 32 Nos. of Co-operative Societies.

Satpati is the first port in Maharashtra. Large quantity of fishes are found up to Dahanu in the north of Mumbai. There is no report from any government department on fishing. The fisheries here fetch currency worth crores of rupees to the country. So bringing a port like Jindal here is dangerous. The sea is regressing one and a half kilometres. Why hasn't there been a scientific study on the regression? There are many flaws in the report. The port is opposed.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that JSW's environmental advisor is giving the following information, it should be listened to peacefully.

97) Shri Rahul Raghunath Raut, Murbe-

Many ships will come to the port, it will cause pollution. So answer how much pollution does a ship make?

Chairperson suggested to raise the issue.

Shri Raut opposed the project and said that it is important to study the information in the Guardian newspaper and the pollution that cargo/ ship cause on a daily basis.

98) Mr. Mandar Deo, Resident of Murbe Village

Are you going to do dredging on the port, there is a black stone, will you use explosion to break it? What will be the depth of dredging? Where are you going to get the stuffing material from? Give its GPS location. Also, if the project promoter destruct the mangrove, will a non-bailable case be filed against him? Pure water, pure air is everyone's right.

We are completely opposed to this public hearing and the project.

99) Mr. Jayesh Gavand:

The proposed project is going to destroy us. The fishing is about to end. We will always oppose to this port. With the intervention of the police, we postponed the water samadhi, but if you impose the project, we will immolate ourselves.

Environmental consultant started sharing the information. However, due to the confusion caused by the participants, he could not present the complete information.

Member, Public Hearing Committee on Environment said that till date, 8,000 suggestions / representations / objections have been received since the publication of the public hearing notice in the newspaper. Participants of the meeting have given suggestions and objections on the issues of TOR, biodiversity, health hazards and safety provided to the proposed project.



Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed to the attendees to raise any suggestions, objections, if any. There was no response from the attendees.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee concluded the meeting by saying that the suggestions and objections raised here have been taken note of and will be included in the report.

Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked everyone for attending the meeting of the Public Hearing Committee on Environment and declared that meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Copies of the 8,980 nos. of suggestions/ objections obtained received during the public hearing process is attached.



(Virendra Singh)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-2,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Boisar (West), Taluka, District Palghar



(Kiran Hasabnis)
Member,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Thane



(Dr. Indu Rani Jakhar, IAS)
Chairperson,
Environment Public Hearing Committee
And
District Magistrate, Palghar,
District Palghar