

Minutes of Public Hearing Panel in respect of proposed 23 nos. of Sand Mining Projects in the Akola District proposed by District Mining Officer, Collector Office, Akola Maharashtra dtd. 15/09/2025 at 3.00 p.m., at Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Akola

The District Mining Officer, Mining Department, Collector Office Akola has submitted the application for conducting Environmental Public Hearing for obtaining Environmental Clearance in respect of 23 sand ghats in Akola District. The said Public Hearing has been conducted as per the provisions made in the notification dtd. 14/09/2006 issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest (Climate Change). Accordingly, the Public Hearing in respect of the sand mining projects has been conducted on 15/09/2025 at 3.00 p.m. at Niyojan Bhavan, District Collector Office, Akola. The Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has issued Office Order No. E-65 of 2025 vide letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-250910-FTS-0210, dtd. 10/09/2025 of constitution of Environmental Public Hearing Committee to conduct the said Public Hearing.

The following members of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee were present for the Public Hearing.

1. Hon'ble Varsha Meena, District Magistrate, Akola – Chairperson.
2. Shri S. D. Patil, Regional Officer, MPCB, Amravati – Member.
3. Shri M.D. Bhiwapurkar, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Akola – Convenor.

The public notice for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing has been published in Daily "Lokmat" (Marathi) and Daily "Hitwada" (English) on 14/08/2025. Accordingly the Environmental Public Hearing has been conducted on 15/09/2025 at 3.00 p.m. at Niyojan Bhavan, Collector Office, Akola.

The Public Hearing was started with due permission of Hon'ble Chairperson. Shri M.D. Bhiwapurkar, Sub Regional Officer, Akola welcomed the participants present in the Public Hearing. He further briefed about the requirement of conducting Environmental Public Hearing of the said project. He further stated that the District Mining Officer, Akola has submitted Environment Management Plan, Executive Summary (English & Marathi) in respect of 23 sand ghats in Akola District. The said documents were made available at following offices for the people residing in the project area / environmental groups in order to obtain suggestion / objections, if any, from the concerned.

- (1) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th Floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Near Sion Circle, Sion(E), Mumbai-400022
- (2) Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sahakar Surbhi Bapatwadi near Vivekanand Colony, Amravati - 444606
- (3) Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Alsi Plot, Opposite Hutatma Smarak, Neharu Park Chouk, Akola
- (4) Collector Office, Akola, Zilha Parishad, Akola, District Industries Center, Akola, All Sub-Divisional Offices, All Tahsil Offices & Gram Panchayat Offices Lakhpuri, Virwada, Dapura, Kolsara, Khaparwada, Khaparwada (Khairi), Ghungshi Hasnapur, Durgwada, Lonsara, Sangwamel, Sangvi, Bapori & Pingla Tal. Murtizapur, Kajikhed, Kajikhed (Hingna shikhari), Mokha, Swarupkhed, Janori Mel and Hata, Tal. Balapur, Talegaon paturda, wangargaon and Babhulgaon Tal. Telhara Dist- Akola.

With the permission of Chair, Shri M.D. Bhiwapurkar, Sub-Regional Officer, Akola and Convenor of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee briefed about the procedure of Public Hearing and requested the Project Proponent to give the presentation regarding sand ghat projects.

The representative from Enviro Techno Consult Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur (Environmental Consultant of the Project Proponent) had given the presentation regarding sand ghat projects.

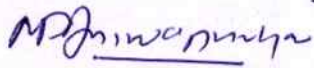
Shri M.D. Bhiwapurkar, Sub-Regional Officer, Akola stated that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has not received any objection/suggestions in respect of the sand ghats. He appealed the participants to raise their suggestions /objections.

Shri Vijay Tayde, Malkapur Akola, Dist. Akola suggested that it would be convenient if the process of the said auction was done according to the Ghat wise. On this, representative Dr. Ashish Shukla, Enviro Techno Consult Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur said that as per the government policy dated 8th April 2025, the auction of all ghats is to be done at the level of Sub-Divisional Officer. Accordingly, all the sand ghats in a subdivision will be auctioned at the same time.

Mr. Tayde asked what is the current status of the sand ghats that were not auctioned last year due to lack of environmental clearance. In this regard, the District Mining Officer, Akola said that the auction process will be started immediately after receipt of the environmental clearance for the said sand ghats.

Shri V. Sunanda Reddy expressed his support for the sand ghat process and suggested that the project promoters should utilize the CSR funds properly. He further said that fruit trees should be planted in the area of the sand ghat. In this regard, the representative Dr. Ashish Shukla, Enviro Techno Consult Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur said that the CSR fund is a CER and it will be used properly. Also, fruit trees will be planted in the surrounding area of sand ghats.

With the permission of Hon'ble Chairperson the Public Hearing concluded with vote of thanks.


(M.D. Bhiwapurkar)
Convenor
&
Sub-Regional Officer,
MPC Board Akola


(S. D. Patil)
Member
&
Regional Officer,
MPC Board Amravati


(Varsha Meena)
Chairperson
Public Hearing Committee
&
District Magistrate
Collector Office, Akola.

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