

**Draft for Approval**

**Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory from 4,900.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD, Distillery from 40.0 KLPD to 300.0 KLPD By Using Heavy Molasses (B & C) And Cane Juice/Grain Based, Establishment of 35.0 MW Co-Generation Plant in Existing Project Site At Survey Numbers 185, 186, 188, 329, 330, 331, 396 & 398, Village-Halkarni, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur – 416 552, Maharashtra State by Project Proponent M/s Atharva Intertrade Private Limited (Leased Unit of Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited)**

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The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory from 4,900.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD, Distillery from 40.0 KLPD to 300.0 KLPD By Using Heavy Molasses (B & C) and Cane Juice/Grain Based, Establishment of 35.0 MW Co-Generation Plant in Existing Project Site At Survey Numbers 185, 186 188, 329, 330, 331, 396 & 398, Village-Halkarni, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur – 416 552, Maharashtra State by Project Proponent M/s Atharva Intertrade Private Limited (Leased Unit of Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited) was held on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 11.30 a.m. at project site – Factory Meeting Hall - M/s Atharva Intertrade Private Limited (Leased Unit of Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited), At Survey Numbers 185, 186 188, 329, 330, 331, 396 & 398, Village-Halkarni, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur – 416 552, Maharashtra State.

Shri Pramod Mane, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and the Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed to Shri Shakti Kadam, Deputy Collector, (EGS) Kolhapur and the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Nikhil Gharat, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the public hearing.

The 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 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation for

environmental clearance to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

The Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation for environmental public hearing is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the environmental impact from the proposed project, understanding the thoughts of the local people, the information given to the general people regarding the required mandatory pollution control systems of the projects and considering the suggestions offered by the people.

The Convener further, informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006, the proposed activities fall under Category "A" - 5 (j) Sugar Industries, 1 (d) – Thermal Power Project, 5 (g) Distillery which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental public hearing is mandatory.

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 20-09-2025 to obtain approval for Terms of Reference (ToR) and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi has given approval the same through online dated 25-09-2025.

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). The environmental impact assessment report for the proposed project was prepared considering the project's location within a 10km area and submitted it.

The Convenor informed that the Project Proponent M/s Atharva Intertrade Private Limited (Leased Unit of Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited) has submitted to the proposal for Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Expansion of Sugar Factory from 4,900.0 TCD to 10,000.0 TCD, Distillery from 40.0 KLPD to 300.0 KLPD By Using Heavy Molasses (B & C) and Cane Juice/Grain Based, Establishment of 35.0 MW Co-Generation Plant in Existing Project Site At Survey Numbers 185,186, 188, 329, 330, 331, 396 & 398, Village-Halkarni, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur – 416 552, Maharashtra State, to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board vide dated 24-01-2026. The Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 30-01-2026

directed to Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur to carry the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

The District Collector, Kolhapur has given approval to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Tuesday, 21st April, 2026 at 11.30 a.m. at project site – Factory Meeting Hall - M/s Atharva Intertrade Private Limited (Leased Unit of Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited), At Survey Numbers 185,186, 188, 329, 330, 331, 396 & 398, Village-Halkarni, Taluka-Chandgad, District – Kolhapur – 416 552, Maharashtra State.

After getting sanction from District Collector, Kolhapur, 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 dated 20-04-2026 as under: -

- 1) District Magistrate-Kolhapur **Chairman**  
or his representative not below  
the rank of Sub Divisional  
Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra **Member**  
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -  
Regional Officer – Kolhapur,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kolhapur
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, **Convener**  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kolhapur

In accordance with the notification, the Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur, published a public notice regarding the public hearing 30 days prior to the scheduled date in Marathi in the local newspaper 'Dainik Pudhari' and in English in the national newspaper 'The Times of India' on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. 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 & ClimateChange, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Lines, 001 440 –Nagpur
2)	Hon'ble ,District CollectorCollector Office, Kolhapur;
3)	GeneralManager, District Industries Centre, Kolhapur;
4)	Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Kolhapur;
5)	Sub Divisional Officer, Gadhinglaj Taluka-Gadhinglaj, District-Kolhapur;
6)	Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Chandgad, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur;
7)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Chandgad, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur;
8)	Gramsevak / Grampanchayat Officer, Grampanchayat Office- Halkarni, Tambulwadi, Date, Hallarwadi, Ambewadi, Majre Karve, Jangamhatti, Rampur, Mangaon, Turkewadi, Nandvade, Dhumdewadi, Tavarewadi, Narewadi, Murkutewadi, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur;
9)	Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Governmentof Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, th Floor15, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, 032 400-Mumbai;
10)	Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution ControlBoard, Kalpataru Point, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, 3rd Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, ) Sion ,Near Sion CircleEast022 400 -Mumbai ,(;
11)	Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, District Collector Office, Kolhapur – 416 003
12)	Sub Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, District Collector Office, Kolhapur – 416 003;
13)	Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai – Executive Summary in Marathi and English were made available

The Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

The Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the meeting in Marathi and English after approval of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. The Convenor directed the Project Proponent to commence the presentation upon approval by the Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee.

With permission of Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Consultant of the Project gave presentation regarding project and Environment Management Plan.

Environmental Consultant of the project said that the factory in question was previously operating under the name Daulat Shetkari Sahakari Sugar Factory. Project Proponent Shri Atharva Intertrade Pvt. Ltd. has taken the land on lease for 39 crushing seasons under a leave and license agreement and has planned to expand the sugar factory and distillery project and set up a new co-generation project.

Environmental Consultant provided detailed information about the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the proposed project in the meeting. He said that due to the project expansion, an additional 575 manpower is required in the sugar factory, and 40 manpower is required in the distillery project, which will be fulfilled by providing opportunities to young boys and girls of the area. Project Environmental Consultant said that 33% of the green belt must be developed in the project. Currently, there are 24,006 trees in the project and in the future, 52,741 trees will be planted and maintained. Also, a total of 7,83,117 cubic meters of water will be stored through rainwater harvesting, rooftop harvesting and surface harvesting in the project and it will be used for green belt development and fire control. Project will have an environmental management capital investment of Rs 4,100 lakh and an annual maintenance and repair investment of Rs 505 lakh for the pollution control system. Proposed project is most beneficial for Halkarni village, Maharashtra State and our country.

After Presentation, the Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that this Environment Public Hearing is held today i.e. on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026. Thirty days before i.e. on 18-03-2026, a public hearing notice regarding Environment Public Hearing was published in Marathi in a local newspaper Dainik Pudhari, Kolhapur Edition and in a national newspaper daily Times of India. All citizens were requested to submit any environmental suggestions, views or objections regarding the proposed project in writing/email. Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and other notified offices have not received any written suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project. However, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur has received an email from Shri. Uday Gaikwad, Member of District Environment Committee regarding this public hearing on environment. He has raised eight issues. Convener of the meeting read out all the points. Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Environment Consultant to provide a written explanation on all above points. The written explanation will be submitted to the government along with the minutes of the meeting. He requested Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee to take further action.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed all participants that everyone had seen whole presentation. Most people would have come to know all the information about the proposed project. However, participants are requested to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project. As this public hearing pertains to environmental matters, any environmental suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project should be submitted. It will be noted and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. However, you are appealed raise issues without discussing it among yourselves. Before making a point, please inform your name and the name of the village. Also, any point please be made in brief, so that others can also be given a chance.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to state their full name and the name of the village. The same will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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

**1) Shri Mahadev Anu Banekar, Residence-Murkutewadi, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur: -**

Earlier, there was a Daulat Shetkari Co-operative Sugar Factory here. It was closed. Now, Project Proponent has planned to expand the project. So, is there any difference in the

machinery of expansion project and the previous machinery? Will this reduce pollution? There are two types of pollution here, one is water pollution and other is air pollution. So, it should be clarified whether it will increase or decrease with the expansion project.

Project Environmental Consultant said that previous project had boilers, which were large and needed more fuel. They were low pressure boilers. It was equipped with a wet scrubber for air pollution control. All the boilers and air pollution control systems from the previous project, it means from the sugar factory and the distillery, will be removed during this project expansion. Now, modern advanced plants will be commissioned in the expansion project. This project will have most advanced pollution control devices. Most advanced 165.0 T/hr. high pressure boiler will be installed. It will be equipped with most 75.0-meter height of chimney (stack) and most sophisticated equipment's such as ESP (Electro-Static-Precipitator) to control air pollution. ESP will have four fields, and it gives efficiency of 99.9%. Also, in the distillery expansion project, a 60.0 ton per hour incineration boiler with a 75.0-meter-high chimney and advanced type of Electro-Static-Precipitator (ESP) as air pollution control system will be implemented. In distillery unit also, the ESP having four fields will be commissioned. This will reduce emissions and trap all pollutants, thereby reducing air pollution.

Therefore, people residing near the project area will not suffer from air pollution because the previous boilers were low pressure boilers. Since the modern boilers are high pressure boilers, an updated ESP system will be installed, hence residents residing near the factory area will not suffer due to air pollution.

Shri Mahadev Banekar asked to give information regarding water pollution.

Project Environment Consultant informed that industrial wastewater treatment plant (Effluent Treatment Plant) from the previous project will be removed. New modern ETP will be commissioned. Also, CPU (Condensate Polishing Unit) will be installed in the project. The wastewater will be treated in the ETP and then it will be purified in the CPU and then it will be recycled and reused in the production project itself.

Also, a CPU (Condensate Polishing Unit) will be installed in the distillery project and 100% of the wastewater from the distillery project will be recycled and reused. Not a single drop of the wastewater treated from the project will be discharged outside the project. Proposed project is a ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) project.

**2) Shri Santu Jotiba Patil, Residence-Basrange, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur:**

How much industrial wastewater, i.e. spent wash, will be generated in the proposed alcohol project, how will it be treated? Also, what measures will be adopted to prevent it from mixing with the river water?

Project Environment Consultant informed that the wastewater i.e. spent wash, which will be generated in the project production process, will be approximately 8.0 Kilo liters. Spent wash will be concentrated. Hence, the quantity spent wash would be 1.6 Kilo Liter. After removing of water, the spent wash will be burned in an incineration boiler. Also, after drying of spent wash its remaining water will be treated in the Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) and it will be recycled and reused in the production process within the project itself. Therefore, not a single drop of treated wastewater will be discharged outside the project. Concentration and incineration will ensure 100% disposal of spent wash.

**3) Mrs. Rohini Raju Mense, Residence-Shinoli BK, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur: -**

How much and what products will be produced in the proposed expansion project?

Project Environment Consultant informed that -

**Sugar Project: -**

The main product of the sugar factory will be sugar. Similarly, the sugar production process will produce by-products such as molasses, bagasse and press mud.

After expansion of the project, the total by-product capacity will be 400.0 MT/day of molasses, 3,000.0 MT/day of bagasse and 400 MT/day of press mud.

**Distillery Project: -**

In Distillery Project R.S. (Rectified Spirit – 300.0 KL/Day; Extra Neutral Alcohol – 300.0 KL/Day; Ethanol (C/B Molasses/Sugar Cane Juice/from Grains – 300.0 KL/Day, also Ethanol (R.S./ from Especially D-natured Spirit) – 300.0 KL/Day; Carbon-Die-Oxide – 225.0 MT/Day; D.D.G.S. – 252.0 M.T./Day.

Molasses from sugar factories is the raw material for the distillation project. Bagasse can be used as raw material in the cogeneration project. Pressed mud will be made available to farmers as fertilizer at a reasonable price.

Carbon dioxide will be sold to soft drink companies.

**4) Shri Raghunath Eshawar Patil, Residence-Tambulwadi, Taluka-Changad, District-Kolapur: -**

My place of residence is only 3.0 km from this project and takes air distance it is 2.0 km. Detailed information about the project has been given. This project is very good for farmers. Because the crushing capacity of the factory is going to be expanded from 4,900.0 tons per day to 10,000.0 tons per day. So, the real problem here is the wastewater. Due to which, obnoxious smell spreads everywhere in the area. Also, information should be provided on how soot/fly ash coming out of the chimney will be disposed of, or how the wastewater will be disposed of so

that it does not go into the river. Even though the information has been provided, information should still be provided on how the project will be implemented and what measures will be implemented.

Project Environmental Consultant said that first, regarding the wastewater, the answer is – first, the ETP in the old project will be completely removed. A modern ETP will be put into operation on this project. The wastewater generated in the sugar factory will be treated in the ETP and the treated wastewater will be recycled and reused in the production process of the project, for cooling, and for the development of the green belt of the project. This will greatly reduce the need for fresh water in the project. No water will flow to the river. The effluent/wastewater generated in the distillery project will be treated in the Condensate Polishing Unit (CPU) and will be recycled and reused in the production process. Since wastewater will be recycled and reused in the project, the need for fresh water will be reduced. Composting was done in the previous project. It will be completely discontinued and incineration will be used. Also, there will be no problem with molasses, as it will be concentrated and the remaining water will be used in the production process. The thick spent wash will be burned in an incineration boiler.

Environmental Consultant informed that the height of the stack will be 75.0 meters. Also, the stack will be equipped with ESP (Electro-Static-Precipitator), a advanced air pollution control system. It will have four fields. ESP shows 99.9% efficiency, all dust particles/pollutants fall due to gravity.

**5) Shri Anil Laxman Shivangekar, Residence-Mangaon, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur: -**

Is there any conclusion that increasing the height of chimneys will not cause air pollution?

The Project Environmental Consultant informed that just increasing the height of the chimney does not mean that air pollution will not occur. It is also important that a most advanced ESP system be commissioned to the chimney. ESP will have four fields. ESP system provides 99.9% efficiency. All dust particles/pollutants fall down by gravity and clean air is released.

Shri Anil Laxman Shivangekar, opined that the present problem is wastewater from the project and dust/pollutants emitted from the chimney. It is necessary to plan properly in this regard and ensure that people residing around the project should not suffer. Because large quantity of sugarcane crops is produced in the surrounding area of the factory. Proper planning

should be made to ensure that the pollution from the proposed project will not have any impact on the sugarcane crop in the area.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee requested to raise their hands if they desire to ask any questions suggestions, so mike can be handed over to them.

Here, Shri Anil Laxman Shivangekar, enquired that the expansion of the distillery project will be from 40.0 kiloliters per day to 300.0 kiloliters per day (an increase of 260.0 kiloliters per day). So, will this project operate only during the cultivation of sugarcane season, or will it run whole year?

Project Environmental Consultant clarified that distillery project will be operated on spent wash, syrup, molasses and grains. When there is sugarcane season, it will be run on syrup. When there is no sugarcane season, the distillery project will be run on molasses and grain. This is beneficial for the farmers. Because farmers who only grow sugarcane will also grow grains, which will increase their income.

Here, Shri Anil Laxman Shivangekar how many days Distillery project will be in operation?

Environmental Consultant answered that Distillery Project will be operated for 330 days as we are going to stop composting activities and will start incineration. Therefore, the government allows the project to run for 330 days.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestions, objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. Instead of asking questions one by one intermittently, please ask the complete question at once; this will provide an opportunity for others to ask questions as well.

**6) Shri Mahadev Anu Banekar, Residence-Murkutewadi, Taluka-Chandgad, District-Kolhapur: -**

If we look at the memories of this project, the farmers had very bad experiences. Hence, you should not do anything due to which farmers will suffer every time. Hence, in this meeting benefits of project which will get to the farmers please be informed. Whatever happened in the past should not be repeated.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that this is an environmental public hearing for the proposed project. Hence, suggestions or objections regarding proposed environmental impacts due to project should be raised. It will be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

Here Shri Mahadev Baneker remarked that this project is of the Farmers, hence interest of farmers be protected by the Project Proponent. As previous experiences were very bad for the farmers, questions are raised to avoid repetition of bad experiences.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent to clarify/say few words regarding the fear expressed by a participant of unkind experiences happened in the past due to this project and their wish not to happen such incidences in future.

The Project Proponent Shri Mansingh Ganapati Khorate, Residence-Rajampuri, 10<sup>th</sup> Lane, Kolhapur remarked, "We don't know what previous events you are talking about, because we came here in 2019. You and everyone else know what happened before that. So, since 2019, we have not harmed/exploited anyone, any farmer. Dues have been paid all intime. Now what will be the benefit of this expansion? The factory's income will increase. But our aim is Environment Protection. Because, since coming here, the villages in the area, villages like Halkarni, Mangaon, Tambulwadi and other villages, the most common question will be - fly ash/soot. Also, there will be question of water pollution. Besides, there is water pollution. We had complaints only in the first year since we arrived, but in the last 4-5 years, there have been no complaints of water pollution. Now on to air pollution. In the past, there has been a lot of trouble with the fly ash/soot. Earlier there were four boilers. It was so old that no matter how many repairs were made, it was of no use. After our study, we found that if pollution is to be reduced here, then pollution will not be reduced unless there is most advanced machineries and pollution control devices. Hence, we planned to install boiler with high pressure and high temperature. Soot/fly ash is the bagasse that is put in the boiler, which is unburnt, partially burnt, less burnt. If the bagasse should be burnt completely, it should be given a higher temperature and pressure."

Environmental Consultant said that a chimney of 65 metres height was required here. However, we have decided that the chimney should have more height i.e. 75 meters high. Chimney (stack) will be attached most advanced ESP system with four fields. So that local people do not face any problem due to the expansion of the project. We have planned to convert fifty years back project into modern project. All the advanced technology will be implemented alongwith most modern machineries and devices.

Therefore, the modern expansion of the factory will benefit the factory as well as the local people. So now we are paying more than the FRP and may even pay more.

The main objective of modernizing this plant is to protect the environment, as well as increase the production, the sugarcane crop of the all local farmers will be crushed on time.

This will benefit the local farmers. Because 4,900.0 tonnes per day producing project will be 10,000.0 tonnes per day.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all to raise suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

**7) Mrs. Archana Naik, Residence-Halkarni, Taluka- Chandgad, District-Kolhapur: -**

The problem of all the women in our village was solved by the project promoter. How much water will be used in the project? Congratulations to the project promoter for planning to implement this project here. Locals should not face any problem of pollution due to this project.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked What is the source of the water how much you will use for the production of the project?

Project Environment Consultant said the proposed sugar expansion project would require a total of 5,465.0 M3/day. Out of this, fresh water will be taken from the Tamraparni river and the remaining water will be taken from condensate, treated water from E.T.P. from sugarcane crop and treated water from S.T.P. The treated water from the project will be recycled and reused in the project activities. The proposed molasses-based distillery plant will require a total of 3,900.0 M3/day of water. Out of this, fresh water will be drawn from the Tamraparni river, and the rest will be used from the condensate from the sugarcane crop and the CPU of the distillery project. The treated water will be recycled and reused in the project activities.

The proposed cane syrup-based distillery plant will require a total of 1,518.0 cubic meters of water per day. Out of this, fresh water will be drawn from the Tamraparni river, and the rest will be recycled in the CPU of the distillery plant.

The proposed grain-based distillery plant will require a total of 3,408.0 cubic metres of water. Out of this, fresh water will be taken from the Tamraparni river and the rest will be the reuse of treated water and the recycling in the CPU of the distillery plant.

The project will require 1197.0 cubic metres of water. Rain water harvesting will also be done in the project.

**8) Shri Anil Shivangekar, resident of Mangaon, Taluka-Chandgad, District Kolhapur:**

How long will it take to complete the expansion of the project? Also, will the number of trees that will be increased to protect the environment be fully planted within the period?

Project Environment Consultant said that the work of the expansion project will start only after obtaining environmental clearance (EC). However, we will start afforestation in the

project immediately, i.e. from the coming monsoon season (June-July 2026). The project will involve plantation of large leaves as well as trees that can survive in local conditions.

Shri Shivangekar asked if there is a plan to start the expansion season in 2026-2027 i.e. whether the capacity of crushing sugarcane of 10,000.0 tonnes per day will be started.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that Mr. Shivangekar had asked the project promoters what is the plan of the factory management even though the proposal was 10,000.0 tonnes per day.

The Project Proponent informed, "We intend to start production of 10,000 tonnes per day by 2026-27, but the expansion can be started only after obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC). Usually, November 1 is the date of commissioning of the factory, by which time if the environmental clearance (EC) is granted, then further action will definitely be taken."

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified here that Environmental Public Hearing Committee does not have the power to approve any project, reject the project or recommend the project. Minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Central Government.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to register any environmental suggestions, objections, if any, about the proposed project.

**09) Ms. Tanuja Naik, Residence – Halkarni, Taluka – Chandgad, District-Kolhapur:**

All the farmers are appealed that the afforestation scheme will be implemented in the factory. Also, farmers should not cut their trees.

The Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee again appealed to all participants to register any environmental suggestions, if any, about the proposed project. There was no response from the participants.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to the participants to register any environmental suggestions, objections, if any, about the proposed project. There was no response from the attendees.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that in the meeting, citizens have registered suggestions, questions or objections regarding water pollution, air pollution, green belt development, need for fresh water for production and expansion plan. It has been duly answered by the Environmental Consultant and the Project Proponent.

The Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee was of the opinion that the local people certainly responded well to this public hearing. I would like to thank all those

present for the peaceful conduct of this public hearing and he declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 03 suggestions/objections as received.



**(Pramod Mane)**

Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Kolhapur



**(Nikhil Gharat)**

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,

Kolhapur



**(Shakti Kadam)**

Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Deputy Collector, (EGS) Kolhapur,

District - Kolhapur