

Minutes of Meeting of Public Hearing

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing conducted at the project site of M/s. Raja Rum Rye Pvt. Ltd., Gat No. 670-A-2, Plot no. 85, 86, 87 and 117, Shree Samarth Sahakari Audyogik Vasahat Ltd., Pimpalgaon Baswant, Taluka Niphad, District Nashik, State Maharashtra on 08/04/2026 at 11:30 AM for the Proposed 3 KLPD Mahua Flower-Based Distillery for Manufacturing of Potable Alcohol along with Liquor Bottling Unit with a capacity of 334 cases per day and a Manufacturing Unit.

The Environmental Public Hearing was conducted on Wednesday, 08 April 2026 at 11:30 AM at the project site of M/s. Raja Rum Rye Pvt. Ltd., located at Gat No. 670-A-2, Plot no. 85, 86, 87 and 117, Shree Samarth Sahakari Audyogik Vasahat Ltd., Pimpalgaon Baswant, Taluka Niphad, District Nashik, State Maharashtra for the Proposed 3 KLPD Mahua Flower-Based Distillery for Manufacturing of Potable Alcohol along with Liquor Bottling Unit with a capacity of 334 cases per day and a Manufacturing Unit.

As per the Order No. E-74/2025, Letter No. B.O./J.D.(WPC)/PH/B-260320-FTS-0151 dated 20/03/2026 issued by the Hon. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai, an Environmental Public Hearing Committee was constituted. The following members of the committee were present at the hearing:

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| 1. | Mr. Shashikant Mangarule
Sub-Divisional Magistrate &
Sub-Divisional Officer, Niphad Division | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik | Member |
| 3. | Sub-Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik | Coordinator |

Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar, In-charge Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik and Member of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, welcomed all Present citizens attendees and, with the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, initiated the proceedings of the public hearing.

He stated that the gathering was organized by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing for the Proposed 3 KLPD Mahua Flower-Based Distillery for Manufacturing of Potable Alcohol along with Liquor Bottling Unit with a capacity of 334 cases per day and a Manufacturing Unit M/s. Raja Rum Rye Pvt. Ltd., located

at Gat No. 670-A-2, Plot no. 85, 86, 87 and 117, Shree Samarth Sahakari Audyogik Vasahat Ltd., Pimpalgaon Baswant, Taluka Niphad, District Nashik, State Maharashtra

He further informed that the said project falls under Category 'B' as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 14 September 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The project requires Environmental Clearance from the competent authority of the State Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, and as part of this process, conducting a Public Hearing is mandatory.

M/s. Raja Rum Rye Pvt. Ltd. submitted an application to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for conducting the Environmental Public Hearing on 11/02/2026. Accordingly, with the permission of the Hon. District Magistrate, Nashik, the public hearing was scheduled on 08/04/2026 at 11:30 AM.

In compliance with the prescribed rules, a public notice regarding the Environmental Public Hearing was published 30 days in advance on 05/03/2026 in the daily newspapers Sakal and Times of India. Additionally, the project information booklet was made available for study and observation to the public at relevant government offices in the district as well as on the official website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

List of Locations Where Project Documents Were Made Available is as follows:

1. District Collector Office, Nashik
2. Zilla Parishad Office, Nashik
3. Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, 15th Floor, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai
4. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400022
5. Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, First Floor, Trimbak Road, Near ITI, Satpur, Nashik – 422007
6. Sub-Divisional Officer Office, Niphad, Dist. Nashik
7. Tehsil Office, Niphad, Dist. Nashik
8. Gram Panchayat Offices at Pimpalgaon Baswant, Karsul, Behed, Shirasgaon, Khedgaon, Kokangaon, Jopul, Wadner, Shirwade Vani, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik

Furthermore, the Convener mentioned that a period of 30 days had been provided for submitting suggestions or objections in this regard. Accordingly, one suggestion was received via email at the Sub-Regional Office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik. However, no written submissions were received during the public hearing, and copies of the same have been attached herewith.

The citizens present were informed that if anyone wished to submit any written or oral objections, comments, or queries, they could do so after the presentation of the proposed project. Thereafter, with the permission of the Chairman, of the committee the project proponent was requested to present details regarding the proposed project.

Presentation by Project Consultant

The project consultant, M/s. Element Consultancy Services, Pune, provided a detailed presentation on various aspects of the project, including:

Introduction, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and purpose of the public hearing, Location of the project, Google map of the project site, Project details, Project layout, Study area of the project, Current photographs of the project site, Key features of the proposed project, Basic requirements of the proposed project, Environmental baseline condition studies, Details of the local environmental conditions and surroundings, Information about the study area, Air quality monitoring results within the study area, Conclusions of air quality, Noise level monitoring in the study area, Noise quality conclusions, Water quality monitoring in the study area, Surface water quality conclusions, Groundwater quality conclusions, Soil quality monitoring in the study area, Soil quality conclusions, Biological environment, Land classification within the study area, Socio-economic environment, Expected impacts on the surrounding environment, Environmental Management Plan, Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS), Water and wastewater management, Solid waste management, Greenbelt development and its photographs, Environmental monitoring program details, Environmental Management Cell information, Social responsibility, Socio-economic environment, Expected environmental impacts, Environmental Management Plan, Mitigation measures for various environmental impacts, Socio-economic welfare activities under Environmental Responsibility Plan, Provision for environmental management cost, Benefits of the project, etc.

The above information was recorded in a CD, and a summarized version has been documented in the minutes.

After completion of the PowerPoint presentation by the project consultant, Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar requested the citizens present to raise any questions, suggestions, comments, or queries related to the project by stating their name and village.

During the public hearing, the citizens raised several questions regarding the project, and the responses provided by the project representatives/consultants are detailed as follows:

Sr. No.	Comments, Objections, Suggestions, etc. & Name of Present Person.	Assurances/Responses Given by the Industry Representative / Project Consultant
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1	<p>Shri Vikram Rajendra Sonawane, Khedgaon, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik, Farmer-</p> <p>Whether the pollution generated from the proposed project will be harmful to nearby agricultural activities?</p>	<p>The project environmental consultant clarified that the proposed project will operate as a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) facility, and not a single drop of treated or untreated wastewater will be discharged outside the project premises.</p> <p>An Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) will be installed to treat the wastewater generated from the project, and the treated water will be reused in the production process.</p> <p>The project will install a 1.0 TPH boiler equipped with a bag filter, which will prevent the emission of particulate matter from the chimney. Any particulate matter will settle through gravitational settling, ensuring clean air emissions.</p> <p>Additionally, 33% of the total project area will be developed as a greenbelt, which will act as a barrier and help in controlling pollution. Hence, it was assured that the project will not cause any harmful impact on surrounding agricultural activities.</p>
2.	<p>Shri Pravin Vasantao Patil, Pimpalgaon Baswant, Dist. Nashik-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whether tree plantation will be carried out for pollution control? 2. Whether indigenous (native) or foreign species of trees will be planted? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The environmental consultant stated that 33% of the total project area will be developed as greenbelt. A total of 93 trees will be planted within the factory premises, and under Corporate Environmental Responsibility, 500 trees will be planted in the surrounding villages. 2. The environmental consultant further clarified that instead of focusing on whether the trees are indigenous or exotic, tree species suitable to the local environmental conditions and capable of sustaining in the area will be selected for plantation.

3.	<p>1. Shri Anil Kalamkar, Pimpalgaon Baswant, Dist. Nashik-Whether any hazardous chemicals will be used in the production process that may mix with rainwater and cause pollution?</p> <p>2. Suggested that trees with large leaves, which can absorb pollution, should be planted.</p>	<p>1. The environmental consultant clarified that no hazardous chemicals or substances will be used in the production process of the proposed project. Therefore, there will be no possibility of rainwater pollution due to the project activities.</p> <p>2. The environmental consultant agreed with the suggestion and stated that it will be considered during plantation planning.</p>
4.	<p>Shri Bhaskarrao Namdevrao Bankar, Chairman, Shree Samarth Cooperative Industrial Estate Ltd., Pimpalgaon Baswant, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik</p> <p>At the time of allotment of land for the project, he had gathered considerable information about it. After reviewing the detailed presentation made during the public hearing, he observed that all relevant aspects of the project have been adequately addressed, and he does not have any doubts regarding the proposed project.</p> <p>The project is expected to generate employment opportunities for approximately 30 to 40 people, and will also provide financial support to certain local institutions in Pimpalgaon.</p> <p>The project will be particularly beneficial in providing employment opportunities to tribal communities in the area.</p> <p>As the Chairman of the Industrial Estate, he expressed his support and welcomed the proposed project.</p>	

<p>5. Shri Laxman Mahadik, Journalist, Resident of Pimpalgaon Baswant, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the raw material required for the project be procured? 2. Although details regarding air and water pollution after processing have been explained, if proper implementation is not carried out, who will enforce compliance? 3. As a citizen, to whom should grievances be addressed? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project proponent stated that for the proposed project, raw material procurement has been planned through agreements with nearby collection centers. Data for the past ten years has been analyzed to assess availability and ensure sufficient supply to meet project requirements. 2. Regarding compliance and enforcement, it was clarified that the need for grievance may not arise due to strict monitoring systems. The project will install a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) for boilers. If emissions exceed permissible limits, an immediate alert will be sent to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) headquarters. Officials will promptly inspect the site and necessary action, including issuance of notices, will be taken. <p>For water pollution, a Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (CETP/CEQMS) will be installed, operating 24x7 and connected to both the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), New Delhi and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Mumbai. In case of any deviation from standards, instant alerts (SMS) will be generated.</p> <p>Additionally, the project is required to submit a compliance report every six months to MPCB, including details of raw material usage, emissions, production, and water consumption.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar, Member and Organizer of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, informed that citizens
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		<p>may approach the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for grievance redressal.</p> <p>He further explained that the online monitoring systems are directly connected to CPCB and MPCB, and any deviation automatically triggers alerts. MPCB officials conduct inspections and take necessary action accordingly.</p> <p>He also stated that the Consent to Establish/Operate issued by MPCB includes all conditions prescribed by CPCB. Before granting permission for operation, MPCB will verify that all required pollution control systems have been properly installed and are functioning effectively.</p>
6.	<p>Shri Satyam Gondkar, Ozhar, Dist. Nashik</p> <p>This is an alcohol-based project, whether fire prevention systems will be implemented, and what safety measures are planned for the project?</p>	<p>The project proponent stated that the project layout has already been presented, and necessary approvals will be obtained from the Factory Inspector. Based on the submitted layout, the Factory Inspector will determine the locations where fire prevention systems are to be installed.</p> <p>It was further clarified that installation of fire safety equipment is mandatory for each unit, and the Factory Inspector will verify whether all required fire protection systems have been properly installed at designated locations. Only after such verification permission will be granted to commence production.</p> <p>Additionally, the project proponent informed that a Safety Audit Report will also be conducted to ensure overall safety compliance.</p>
7.	<p>Dr. Manoj Barde, Municipal Council President, Pimpalgaon, Tal. Niphad, Dist. Nashik- Employment opportunities should be</p>	-

	<p>provided to local people. He further mentioned that Mahua liquor is traditionally associated with tribal communities. Additionally, products such as sweets (laddus) are prepared from Mahua flowers, and research by a youth from Nagpur has also led to the development of beverages from Mahua.</p> <p>if the project considers such value addition activities, it would be beneficial for the project. He expressed his support and welcomed the proposed project.</p>	
8.	<p>Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar, Member and Organizer, Environmental Public Hearing Committee- It has been mentioned in the presentation that water will be required for the project and recycled water will be used. However, the source of water has not been clearly specified. Whether the water will be sourced from MIDC?</p>	<p>The project proponent clarified that groundwater will be used for the project, for which necessary permission has been obtained from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), Government of India. A borewell will be developed for this purpose.</p>

The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Shri Shashikant Mangarule, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Officer, Niphad Division, first expressed his gratitude to all present citizens from the surrounding area, company directors, project proponents, and officials of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

He informed the present citizens that if anyone still had any questions, criticisms, or comments, they were free to express them, as the public hearing was specifically conducted to address environmental concerns. Thereafter, no citizen raised any further questions.

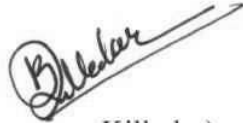
He further stated that the project proponent should submit written responses to the technical queries raised by the committee. He also mentioned that all the questions raised by the citizens, as well as the technical queries raised by the committee, have been duly recorded.

Mr. Vidyasagar Killedar, Member, Organizer and Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik, expressed his gratitude and stated that the Environmental Public Hearing was conducted today for the Proposed 3 KLPD Mahua Flower-Based Distillery for Manufacturing of Potable Alcohol along with Liquor Bottling Unit with a capacity of 334

cases per day and a Manufacturing Unit M/s. Raja Rum Rye Pvt. Ltd., located at Gat No. 670-A-2, Plot Nos. 85, 86, 87 and 117, Shree Samarth Cooperative Industrial Estate Ltd., Pimpalgaon Baswant, Taluka Niphad, District Nashik, Maharashtra.

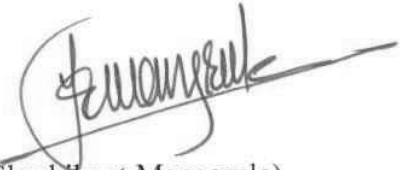
He further stated that a detailed presentation of the proposed project had been made by the project consultant. Thereafter, citizens were given an opportunity to raise questions, suggestions, objections, or comments. Accordingly, the company representatives/consultants addressed the queries raised by the citizens appropriately. All these proceedings have been duly recorded.

He also stated that, with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee, Shri Shashikant Mangarule, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Officer, Niphad Division, the public hearing was declared concluded.



(Vidyasagar Killedar)

Member, Organizer and Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Nashik



(Shashikant Mangarule)

Chairman and Sub-Divisional Magistrate,
and Sub-Divisional Officer, Niphad
Division

