

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED Establishment of 5 KLPD Mahua Flower based /Fruit based sprit distillery unit along with liquor bottling plant for the manufacturing of potable alcohol by M/s Indus Organics, Plot no. A-12, MIDC Goregaon, Dist Gondia.

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of proposed project establishment of 5 KLPD Mahua Flower based /Fruit based sprit distillery unit along with liquor bottling plant for the manufacturing of potable alcohol by M/s Indus Organics, Plot no. A-12, MIDC Goregaon, Dist Gondia Maharashtra was conducted on 18th September, 2026 at project site on 12.30 p.m, Attendance register is attached as Annexure no.I.

Mr. Kishor Pusadkar, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhandara and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Smt Pooja Gaikwad, Sub-Divisional Officer, Tirora and Chairperson of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Manoj Watane, representative of Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nagpur and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Environmentalists, NGOs, journalists, representative of media channels and company officials and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairperson, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Member, 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 No. S. O. 3067 (E) on 01st December 2019, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

He informed that, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of an application from Project Proponent M/s Indus Organics, Plot no. A-12, MIDC Goregaon, Dist Gondia vide letter dated 17.07.2026 to conduct Environmental Public Hearing for their proposed project for establishment of 5 KLPD Mahua Flower based /Fruit based sprit distillery unit along with liquor bottling plant for

the manufacturing of potable alcohol, at Plot no. A-12, MIDC Goregaon, Dist Gondia, Maharashtra, and Head office has accorded permission to start public hearing procedure vide office dated 23.07.2026.

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 unit.

After receiving sanction from the District Collector, Gondia to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on on 18th September, 2026 at 12.30 p.m at project site, and as per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Bhandara in the Local Newspaper in 'Lokmat' for Marathi and in 'The Hitavada' for English on 15th August 2026. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit. Copies of advertisement are attached as Annexure no.II.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as under: -

- 1) District Collector, Gondia.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Gondia.
- 3) District Industrial Centre, Gondia.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Tirora, Dist. Gondia.
- 5) Tehsil Office Goregaon, Dist. Gondia.
- 6) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 7) Department of Environment & Climate Change, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Madam Kama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032.
- 8) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Mala, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opposite Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-400 022.
- 9) Regional Office (West Central Region), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Block, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001.
- 10) Panchayat Samiti, Goregaon, Tq Goregaon, Gondia.
- 11) Nagar Panchayat, Goregaon, Gondia..

12) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, website www.mpcb.gov.in

Convener informed that two written suggestion for the project have been received by e-mail before public hearing by Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Bhandara and one representation from the Hon'ble DR Prashant Padole, MP Bhandara/Gondia and one received during Public hearing which are attached herewith.

As per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, Gol), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order dated 23.08.2026, Copy attached as Annexure no.III.

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

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.

He requested consultant of Project Proponent to start the presentation of the project is local language Marathi.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Environmental Consultant for the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. She gave information about the geographical location of the proposed project, potential impact on the environment due to the proposed project, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared for it, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and it's utilization.

After the Presentation, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to raise their suggestions, objections

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

Sr. No.	Objections / Suggestions / Queries	Replies / Remarks by Project Proponent/Environment Consultant
1)	Shri Jagdish Yeramwar, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	From where will the proposed project receive its water supply?	The Project Proponent stated that, since the proposed project is located in the MIDC area, the water supply will be obtained from MIDC or made available through an authorized groundwater permission. The project will not put any additional pressure on local wells or the drinking water sources of the village.
ii	How will you ensure that the proposed project will not pose any threat to the environment?	The Project Proponent stated that the proposed distillery project will be based on Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technology. The entire 49 cubic metres of treated wastewater will be reused within the project premises. Therefore, no contaminated wastewater will be discharged outside the project premises. For odour control, modern centrifuges, dust collectors, and bio-filters/scrubbers will be used to ensure that no odour is released into the surrounding area or residential localities.

		The project will provide direct employment to at least 20 people. In addition, indirect employment opportunities will be generated for local farmers and women. The project proponent further stated that production will commence only after obtaining the Consent to Establish (CTE) from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and complying with all the terms and conditions stipulated therein. The Consent to Operate (CTO)/environmental permissions will be obtained after ensuring complete compliance. Compliance reports will be submitted every six months. For controlling particulate emissions from the boilers, a bag filter-based air pollution control system will be installed.
iii	The Nagar Panchayat has received your letter; however, the officials of the Nagar Panchayat were not given prior intimation regarding the public hearing. If a detailed study had been undertaken, we would have been in a position to express our views on whether the proposed project is beneficial or otherwise. Therefore, the public hearing being held today should be cancelled and rescheduled to a later date, so that the residents	The points raised were noted.

	are given prior information and sufficient opportunity to study the project. We will support whatever decision is taken based on the collective opinion of the people. Otherwise, there is a possibility that the Nagar Panchayat may be blamed in the future for allowing a liquor factory to be established, which could bring disrepute to the elected representatives and officials of the Nagar Panchayat. Therefore, this matter should be carefully considered.	
iv	It is not appropriate for citizens from Amgaon Taluka, located 15 km away from the proposed project, to come here and extend their support to the project.	The points raised were noted.
v	Our area is predominantly tribal. Farmers and tribal people collect Mahua flowers, and some people produce liquor through traditional stills, which serves as a source of livelihood for them. However, since this activity is illegal, the Police Department acts against them. Industrial units purchase Mahua flowers from them at low prices and sell liquor at higher prices. Therefore, small-scale industries should be established	The points raised were noted.

	in the villages and brought under the legal framework so that they can provide a legitimate source of livelihood and employment.	
2)	Shri Kamlesh Barewar, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	The Project Proponent has not obtained a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Goregaon Nagar Panchayat or Hirdamali Gram Panchayat. It should be clarified whether the proposed project is intended for the designated villages or for the benefit of the villagers.	The Project Proponent stated that, since the proposed project is located within the MIDC area, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the local Nagar Panchayat or Gram Panchayat is not required.
3)	Shri Hidayat Sheikh, Goregaon, Dist Gondia	
i	An advertisement regarding the proposed project was published in the newspaper. However, it was also necessary to inform the general public and the local Nagar Panchayat and Gram Panchayat directly, so that the maximum number of people could have been made aware of the public hearing and the expected members of the public could have attended.	The points raised were noted.

ii	The Project Proponent stated that everything is presented positively until the project commences, but thereafter, no one pays attention, resulting in inconvenience to the public. Information should be provided regarding when and how the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) verifies the measures implemented by the project after granting permission to the project.	The Sub-Regional Officer stated that polluting industries are regularly inspected and monitored. If any violation of the stipulated terms and conditions is found, appropriate legal action is taken.
4)	Shri Pawan Rahangdale, Sabhapati, Corporator, Nagar Panchayat, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	There is a municipal solid waste processing facility located approximately 100 metres from the Nagar Panchayat limits, and the surrounding areas of Hirdamali and our Ward No. 1 are already experiencing foul odour. What measures are planned under the proposed project to control and prevent the problem of odour?	As above.
5)	Shri Tejram, President, Nagar Panchayat, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	The information that should have been provided to the public regarding this public hearing was not adequately disseminated. Therefore, the	The points raised were noted.

	level of public participation that should have been seen at this hearing is not evident. Unless the concerns of the public are fully addressed and their satisfaction is ensured, we cannot support the implementation of the proposed project or grant our consent to it. It is unclear whether the required permission/NOC from the Nagar Panchayat or Gram Panchayat was obtained. We are of the view that this public hearing should not have been conducted today, and we oppose the holding of this public hearing in the present circumstances.	
6	Shri Rahul Yelle, Member, Nagar panchayat, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	There are only a limited number of residents present at this public hearing. On the one hand, the Government is implementing policies aimed at making the country free from addiction; therefore, we also seek clarification on what impact the proposed project may have on the younger generation and students in our	The points raised were noted.

	area. We are concerned that the project may affect students and that odour generated from the project may adversely affect the health of residents. Therefore, the public hearing should be postponed.	
7	Shri Suresh Jiyalal Channe, Ex member, Goregaon, Dist Gondia.	
i	The public has not been adequately informed about the proposed project. There is also a tyre-to-oil manufacturing unit on the Amgaon-Goregaon-Thana village road, which is allegedly posing a health risk. Complaints regarding the same have been submitted to the Gram Panchayat, the Pollution Control Department, and the District Collector's Office, Gondia; however, no action has been taken against the unit so far. I therefore humbly request that the concerned authorities visit the said factory and the concerned Gram Panchayat and inspect the matter. I would also like to suggest that appropriate action be taken against the factory and, if violations are found, the unit	In this regard, the Sub-Regional Officer stated that no complaint has been received so far. If a complaint is received, the industry concerned will be inspected and necessary legal action will be taken.

	should be closed in accordance with the applicable rules.	
8	Shri Vijay Mahalle, Hirdamali, Gondia	
i	The project will provide employment opportunities to local people, and the Goregaon MIDC is intended for employment generation.	The points raised were noted.
9	Shri Ajay Raut, Hirdamali, Dist Gondia.	
i	It should be clearly established that the project will not have any adverse impact on the health of the residents living in the vicinity, and that employment opportunities should be provided to unemployed persons from the village.	As above.
10	Shri Sanjay Jagne, Goregaon Thane, Dist Gondia.	
i	The project will provide employment opportunities to local people, and the project should be commenced.	The points raised were noted.
11	Shri Suresh Bisen, Hirdamali, Dist Gondia.	
i	As a liquor manufacturing company is proposed to be established in this MIDC, it	The points raised were noted.

	was questioned as to why a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Gram Panchayat and Nagar Panchayat is not required. Although the Government receives revenue from the project, liquor consumption adversely affects the lives and families of villagers. Therefore, the project should not be established at this location, and we oppose the proposed project.	
12	Shri Sunanda Reddy, Environmentalist	
i	The speaker expressed support for the proposed project and welcomed industrial development. With an investment of ₹2.0 crore, the proposed project is expected to provide employment to 20 people. Mahua flowers will be procured from local farmers for the project. It was requested that environmental clearance/permission for the project be granted without any conditions or restrictions. A Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)	The points raised were noted.

	system should be established in the project. The project proponent should organize health camps and undertake plantation of fruit-bearing trees in the surrounding area. Skill development training should be provided to local skilled and unskilled persons. The project management should remain in regular contact with the local community. The speaker conveyed his/her best wishes for the proposed project.	
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i	The people who have expressed support for the industry are not residents. They should establish the factory in their own villages. We do not want a liquor factory in our village, Hirdamali.	The points raised were noted.

Mr. Manoj Watane, Member, stated that all the objections and suggestions raised by the public during today's hearing were being recorded, and the minutes of the hearing would be forwarded to the concerned Authority.

The Hon'ble Chairperson, in her concluding remarks, stated that the public hearing regarding the environmental aspects of the said industry had been conducted today. She clarified that the Public Hearing Committee does not have the authority to take a decision regarding the establishment of the industry. The purpose of the public hearing is to understand and record the sentiments, views, objections, suggestions and concerns of the public and forward the same to the concerned Authority for consideration.

The representatives of the project's consultant had provided responses to the queries raised by the public. All the issues raised during today's hearing would be duly recorded and submitted to the concerned Authority. Any complaints regarding pollution may be submitted to the office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB).

With the permission of the Chairperson, a vote of thanks was proposed, and the public hearing was declared concluded.



(Hema Deshpande)

Member, Environment Public Hearing
Committee and Regional Officer,
MPCB, Nagpur



(Kishor Pusadkar)

Convener, Environment Public
Hearing Committee and Sub-
Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara



(Smt Pooja Gaikwad)

Chairman ,Environment Public Hearing Committee and

Sub-Divisional Officer, Tirora, Dist Gondia.