

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 74 OF 2025 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

OMKAR AJIT KENI

...APPLICANT

Versus

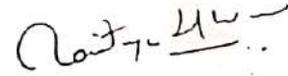
MAHARASHTRA ENVIRONMENT DEP & ORS.

...RESPONDENT

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THROUGH



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ADVOCATE

COUNSEL FOR THE RESPONDENT NO. 7

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Place: Dhamapur

Date: 16.08.2025



BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 74 OF 2025 (WZ)



IN THE MATTER OF:

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MAHARASHTRA ENVIRONMENT DEP & ORS.

...RESPONDENT



AFFIDAVIT IN REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO 7 SARPANCH,

DHAMAPUR GRAMPANCHAYAT

I, Mansi Mahesh Parab, age 45 years, Sarpanch of Dhamapur Grampanchat, Dhamapur, Malvan, Sindhudurg- 416626, do hereby state on solemn affirmation as under:

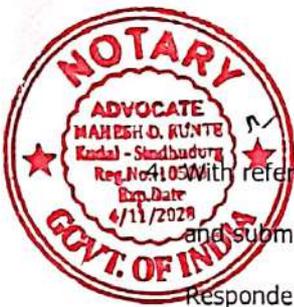
1. I say that I am presently the Sarpanch, Dhamapur Gram Panchayat, and I am authorized to file the present Affidavit. I am filing the present Affidavit in response to the contents of the Memorandum of O.A. No. 74/2025/WZ preferred by one Mr. Omkar Ajit Keni seeking directions for the protection and conservation of Dhamapur Lake against idol immersion and other polluting activities. I have read the copy of the Original Application along with annexure there to, also pursued the official records pertaining to the subject matter of the case and on the basis of the information derived there from.
2. At the outset, it is stated that that the contentions, which are not specifically denied by me in this Affidavit-in-reply, should not be construed as an admission on my part. I crave leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional affidavit, if so required.
3. In this Original Application the applicant has *inter alia* taken an objection on illegal idol immersion directly into the Dhamapur Lake wetland during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, for the purpose of protecting and conserving Dhamapur Lake, and accordingly sought for various directions to ensure protection and conservation of Dhamapur Lake, a World Heritage Irrigation Site.

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BEFORE ME

M. D. Kunte





With reference to the above-stated contention of the applicant, I respectfully say and submit that, the Respondent No. 3 District Collector, Sindhudurg, along with Respondent No. 4, Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Ambadpal, are the appropriate authorities/custodian of the concerned water body who are required to ensure its protection and conservation, as per the relevant statutory framework.

5. I further state and submit that Dhamapur Lake is a vital resource with multiple uses. That the Irrigation Department supplies water for both irrigation and drinking purposes to the Malvan Municipal Council, Kalse Gram Panchayat, and Dhamapur Gram Panchayat. Additionally, the Fisheries Department utilizes the lake for breeding and auctioning freshwater fish, a practice conducted annually. This multi-faceted use underscores the critical importance of maintaining the lake's water quality and the need for its statutory custodian to ensure its protection.

I. Significant Efforts Undertaken by Respondent No. 7 Despite Limitations of Gram Panchayat's Powers and Funding:

6. I further say and submit that, as per the Grampanchayat Act, 1959, the Grampanchayat operates under limited liability. It lacks sufficient revenue, manpower, and powers to directly employ force to enforce environmental regulations. The primary functions of the Grampanchayat include:
- Building and repairing village roads
 - Maintaining records of births, deaths, and marriages
 - Arranging street lighting, supplying drinking water, and managing wastewater
 - Providing education and health facilities, and maintaining public cleanliness
 - Implementing schemes for agricultural and livestock development
 - Organizing village markets, fairs, festivals, and religious events
 - Utilizing collected taxes and government funds effectively
7. Despite these limitations, the Dhamapur Grampanchayat has undertaken significant efforts within its capacity to protect the lake. As a conscientious Sarpanch, on various occasions I have organized and personally participated in waste management drives in collaboration with local voluntary organizations. We have actively collected and disposed of plastic and non-degradable waste to



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m.m.purab

BEFORE ME
J. Dhule





prevent it from entering the lake, thereby attempting to ensure its conservation and protection, despite limited availability of funds.

8. Further state that in the year 2023 and 2024 the Dhamapur Grampanchayat, in collaboration with SRM College, Kudal, had conducted a dedicated drive on Ganesh Idol immersion days to divert people to the artificial tank. Despite these efforts, some people forcefully immersed idols directly into the lake waterbody during the 2024 Ganesh Festival, indicating a need for stricter enforcement and monitoring.
9. I further submit that Dhamapur Grampanchayat has a population of 1,038 people across 383 families. We have been conducting extensive advocacy to divert idol immersions to the artificial tank through various platforms, including awareness meetings at the Grampanchayat level and during social events like Bhajans during religious festivals. However, Ganesh Chaturthi is a very popular festival in the Kokan region, and during this festive season, a significant crowd also comes from cities like Pune and Mumbai. It becomes an extremely difficult task for the Grampanchayat to handle the situation with its limited resources and authority.

II. Construction of Artificial Immersion Tank by Irrigation Department

10. I say and submit that, after persistent follow-ups from local organization and subsequent to receiving the World Heritage Irrigation Site recognition, the Collector of Sindhudurg, utilizing DPDC funds, directed the Irrigation Department to construct an artificial tank for idol immersion. This tank, built at a cost of ₹9,20,854 on July 1, 2022, was created in consultation with a local voluntary organization to prevent pollution in Dhamapur Lake.
11. That the Administrative Approval Order dated 1.07.2022 issued by the Collector of Sindhudurg, to the Irrigation Department, as annexed at Pg. 41 of the present O.A., clearly evidences that the authority responsible for construction of artificial tanks is the Irrigation Department itself. That no availability of funds with the answering Respondent renders Irrigation Department/Collector the main authority with the legal mandate as well as the financial resources to undertake such task. That such is also in line with CPCB's Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated 12.03.2020 annexed and marked herewith as **ANNEXURE R7-1**.

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Accordingly, I state that any directions that may be issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal directing for the construction of any additional artificial tanks must necessarily be issued to District Collector/Irrigation Department, such being the appropriate authorities responsible for ensuring construction of such artificial immersion tanks.

III. Violation of Maharashtra Irrigation Act, 1976

13. I state that immersion of idols, plastic waste, and washing of clothes and utensils directly in the lake—used for drinking water—is a gross violation of the Maharashtra Irrigation Act, 1976. Sections 93 to 96 prescribe penalties for such violations. The Canal Officer has the authority to take cognizance, yet the Irrigation Department has failed to act since taking custody of the lake. This lack of supervision has led to incidents of fish deaths due to anaerobic conditions in 2022, as well as typhoid outbreak in Malvan City linked to lake water in 2014.
14. I further say and submit that under Section 12 of the Maharashtra Irrigation Act, 1976, the Canal Officer has the power to take necessary action for water protection, including employing its security guard at the Dhamapur Lake.
15. The Dhamapur Grampanchayat, through local MLC funds, has already constructed a building and public toilets on the bank of the lake. These facilities can be immediately utilized by the Irrigation Department to depute its security personnel. Despite having these powers and the availability of facilities, the Irrigation Department has failed to prevent encroachment and pollution in Dhamapur Lake.

IV. Grampanchayat's Compliance and Communication

16. I state and submit that the answering Respondent has fulfilled its duty by issuing letters to the Irrigation Department, the custodian of Dhamapur Lake under Section 192 of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act, 1961. After receiving the letter dated 27.08.2024 from the Irrigation Department prohibiting idol immersion, as annexed at Pg. 59 of the present Application, the Grampanchayat immediately undertook the following activities:

- A. Sent a request for support to the Irrigation Department vide Letter dated 2.09.2024. A copy of the Letter dated 2.09.2024 is annexed and marked herewith as **ANNEXURE R7-2.**

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म.प. सिंधुदुर्ग

BEFORE ME

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- B. Installed banners at the lake using its own funds.
 C. Involved awareness program and plastic cleaning programme with Applicant and his organization.

17. However, I submit that no support from the Irrigation Department was received.

18. That thereafter, to ensure appropriate measures for protection and conservation of Dhamapur Lake are implemented during the Ganesh Festival 2025, the answering Respondent has submitted various Letters to all appropriate authorities, viz., Letter dated 12.08.2025 to the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, annexed and marked herewith as **ANNEXURE R7-3**, Letter dated 12.08.2025 to the Assistant Commissioner, Department of Fisheries, annexed and marked herewith as **ANNEXURE R7-4**, and Letter dated 12.08.2025 to the Chief Officer, Malvan Municipal Council, annexed and marked herewith as **ANNEXURE R7-5**.

19. I state that the following requests have been made to the above-mentioned authorities seeking protection of Dhamapur Lake during Ganesh Festival 2025:

- A. Installation of Safety Barricades: Temporary safety barricades should be installed by the Irrigation Department/Fisheries Department/Malvan Municipal Council on the lake steps during the immersion period to ensure that no idols are immersed directly into the lake.
 B. Appointment Security Guards: Security guards should be deployed by the Irrigation Department/Fisheries Department/Malvan Municipal Council at Dhamapur Lake during immersion days to manage the crowd and prevent any inappropriate incidents or illegal activities.
 C. Removal of Idol Silt: Arrangement for the timely removal of silt and debris from the immersion tank should be made by the Irrigation Department.
 D. Water Supply Arrangement: In case of low rainfall and insufficient water in the immersion tank, Irrigation department should arrange to pump water from the lake into the tank.

20. Accordingly, it is submitted that the above-mentioned action by the answering Respondent are indicative of the fact that various steps have been taken to ensure protection of Dhamapur Lake during the Ganesh Festival 2025.

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 ता. मालवण, जि. सिधुपूर, म. प्रदेश

BEFORE ME
 M. Kunte



However, as has been mentioned in in Para 27 of the present Application, over 150 idols are immersed annually in Dhamapur Lake, leading to an observed increase in siltation, reduction in water storage capacity, and curtailment of drinking water supply during summer months. Accordingly, it is requested that this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate orders for the construction of alternate immersion tanks, as well as ensure deployment of sufficient police force during the Ganesh Festival 2025 so as to enforce prohibition on immersion in Dhamapur Lake.

It is further submitted that the contents of Paragraphs 1 to 21 are in the nature of facts true to my own knowledge and official documents/records, and in the nature of submissions made on legal advice which I believe to be true and correct. No part of the present Affidavit-in-Reply is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Solemnly affirmed on 16th day of August 2025 at Dhamapur, Sindhudrug, Maharashtra.

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ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग
M.M.Pureb
AFFIANT



VERIFICATION

I, _____, the authorized signatory of Respondent No. 7, R/o _____, do hereby verify that the contents of the present Affidavit-in-Reply abovementioned are true to my personal knowledge and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Date: 16/08/2025
Place: Kudal

Signed before me
M.Kunte

This document is noted at **MAHESH D. KUNTE**
Sr. No.341.....
in the Notarial Register. **NOTARY**
Govt. of India
AARADHANA' Shriramwadi
Mumbai Goa Highway, Tal-Kuda
Dist-Sindhudurg Maharashtra

सरपंच
ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग
M.M.Pureb
APPLICANT/DEPONENT

Mansi Mahesh Parab
Solemnly Affirmed that this is my name and signature & that the contents of this affidavit are true.
M.M.Pureb
Signature of Dependent
M.Kunte
Signature of Notary





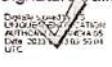

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Government of India

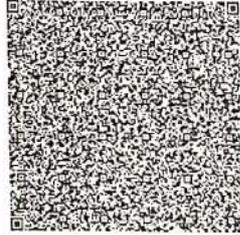
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Unique Identification Authority of India

नोंदणी क्रमांक/ Enrolment No.: 4029/52909/00198

To
मानसी महेश परब
Mansi Mahesh Parab
C/O: Mahesh Parab
571
parabwadi
Dhamapur
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Signature valid





आपला आधार क्रमांक / Your Aadhaar No. :
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VID : 9183 0074 3675 5103
माझे आधार, माझी ओळख




भारत सरकार
Government of India

Issue Date: 13/03/2012



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Mansi Mahesh Parab
जन्म तारीख/DOB: 26/03/1979
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ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग
m.m. parab

Programme Objective Series:
PROBES/-....-/2020

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION



CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change)

'Parivesh Bhawan', East Arjun Nagar,

Delhi – 110032

Website: cpcb.nic.in, e-mail: cpcb@nic.in

May 12, 2020

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

To worship God and Goddess generally natural things like Milk, Curd, Ghee, Coconut, Betel leaves and river water are used. Generally, Idols are made with clay or locally available materials and then coloured with natural materials like Chandan, Turmeric etc. The religious scripts, mythology and religious rituals have attempted to drive the importance of preserving nature by adoring it through the centuries. Bhagavadgita (9.26) states:

“Patram Pushpam phalam toyam, yo mey bhaktya prayachchati Tadaham bhakt yupahrutam asnaami prayataatmanaha” which means

“If one offers me in pure consciousness with love and devotion a fruit, a flower, a leaf or even water, I delightfully partake of that offered article”

भावार्थ : जो कोई भक्त मेरे लिए प्रेम से पत्र, पुष्प, फल, जल आदि अर्पण करता है, उस शुद्धबुद्धि निष्काम प्रेमी भक्त का प्रेमपूर्वक अर्पण किया हुआ वह पत्र-पुष्पादि मैं सगुणरूप से प्रकट होकर प्रीतिसहित खाता हूँ॥

Traditionally, clay is used to make Ganesh idols. Over the years however, plaster of Paris (POP), which is lighter and cheaper, has become the favoured material to mould idols. POP contains chemicals such as gypsum, sulphur, phosphorus, and magnesium. The dyes used to colour these idols may also contain mercury, cadmium, arsenic, lead, and carbon. Plastic and thermocol accessories are used to decorate these idols. Such materials are not biodegradable, hence are toxic when immersed in water bodies. Hence, need was felt to develop guidelines for idol immersion.

In the matter of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) / W.P.(C) No. 1325/2003 in the matter of Janhit Manch Vs. The State of Maharashtra & Ors., Hon’ble High Court of Mumbai in its order dated 22/07/2008 has given the following directions to the Central Government:-

“We expect that the Central Govt. will consider laying down of guidelines for immersion of idols and would also consider related matters with regard to pollution of water bodies. Both the Union Government as well as the State Government shall consider it expeditiously because the time lost involving the pollution might prove dangerous for environment of the country in long run”

In pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble High Court, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, vide order No. A-22011/1/90-Mon, dated February 10, 2009. In the year 2009. The constituted Committee held meetings with the concerned stakeholders and discussed the issues including designated identification of places for idol immersion in the river stretch, use of natural materials in "Pooja", mass awareness programmes to be initiated every year before commencement of all activities of worship and idol immersion. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the Committee, in the year 2010, CPCB has finalized "Guidelines for Idol Immersion" and circulated to all the stakeholders for ensuring its implementation. These guidelines have been prepared with a view to ensure environmental friendly idol immersion without affecting the quality of water bodies while ensuring religious observance. These guidelines emphasize the need for restriction on single use plastic materials for making idols, use of naturally occurring colors for coloring idols, imposing restrictions on size of the idol, construction of temporary synthetic lined ponds of adequate capacity, etc.

During the last few years, there has been some developments in terms of substitutes for various materials used for idols making as well as disposal of idol immersions in temporary artificial designated ponds/tanks, earlier guidelines circulated by CPCB in the year 2010 has been revised after taking views of stakeholders specially emphasizing use of naturally occurring clay, colors in place of synthetic paints and chemicals for coloring idols, arrangement for the provision of temporary confined ponds or tanks for immersion of idols, imposing spot fine for violation of guidelines, safe disposal of solid wastes generated during visarjan/immersion activities, development of market system whereby manufacturers or craftsman or artisans themselves can buy back the idols for reuse and other aspects have been considered and incorporated appropriately as felt necessary. The revised guidelines for idol immersion are detailed in subsequent paras: -

2.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL MAKERS-CRAFTSMANS OR ARTISANS

- (i) Idols made up of only natural, bio-degradable, eco-friendly raw materials without any toxic, inorganic raw materials [such as traditional virtuous clay and mud as well as free from Plaster of Paris (PoP), plastic and thermocol (polystyrene)] should be encouraged, allowed and promoted and Idols made up of Plaster of Paris (PoP) shall be banned.

- (ii) Only dried flower components, straw etc. for making ornaments of idols and natural resins of trees may be used as a shining material for making idols attractive.
- (iii) Use of Single use plastic and thermocol materials shall not be permitted strictly and only eco-friendly materials as straw structure should be used in making idols or decoration of idols/pandals/tazias in order to prevent pollution in recipient water bodies.
- (iv) Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes/oil paints for painting idols should be strictly prohibited. Enamel and synthetic dye based paints on idols should be discouraged instead eco-friendly water-based, bio-degradable and non-toxic natural dyes should be used.
- (v) For beautification of idols, removable and washable decorative clothes made only with natural materials and dyes shall be used in place of disposable material containing paints and other toxic chemicals. Only naturally occurring colors from plants (flowers, barks, stamens, leaves, roots, seeds, whole fruits), feathers of different birds, mineral or colored rocks shall be used for coloring.
- (vi) Craftsmen or artisans or manufacturer involved in making idols should be registered with the civic bodies, and should involve in making eco-friendly idols in accordance with these guidelines. In case of Large Scale Idol manufacturers (at least involved in making more than 100 idols in a day) shall obtain registration from the concerned ULBs (registration fee along with a deposit as decided by the ULB depending on the idol making capacity) and failing to comply with these guidelines or any violation of registration conditions, the deposit shall be forfeited by the ULBs apart from prohibition of idol making at least for two years.
- (vii) In the interest of protection of the environment, the craftsman or artisans prefer to adopt innovative approaches (Eg., use of natural clay, pyramid of sugarcane sticks that represents the pandals, natural clay mixed with alum for making idols (on disintegration of idol made out of mud mixed with alum in water, then alum act as a coagulant) in consultation with the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC).

3.0 GUIDELINES FOR POOJA ORGANISING COMMITTEES

- (i) As far as possible, low height and eco-friendly idols (made with natural clay, idols stuffed with eco-friendly food materials such as corn, spinach, wheat and vegetable powder), idols decorated with biodegradable, organic colours such as turmeric, chandan and gerua etc., (list of natural, bio-degradable and non-toxic annexed as **Annexure-I**) only should be used for offering poojas to avoid impact on environment.
- (ii) Use of cleaned multi-use metallic or glass or plastic utensils is ideal choice, especially when such material is available from utensil banks. Only biodegradable plates such as Patravali or Pattal or Vistaraku or Vistar or Khali or trencher made with broad dried leaves such as Areca/Banana/Banyan/Sal leaves, biodegradable paper cups/plates and earthen pots may be used in place of single use plastic and polystyrene (Thermocol) for prasad distribution and other purposes.
- (iii) Worship material like flowers, Patri (leaves), *vastras* (clothes), decorating materials (made of paper and bio-degradable or compostable plastic but not single use plastic) etc. should be ensured to remove before immersion of idols and segregated in colour coded bins provided at the designated idol immersion areas/spots.
- (iv) In the interest of protection of the environment, Pooja Organizing Committees should procure eco-friendly idols only from the respective ULBs registered or authorised craftsman or artisans.
- (v) Pooja Organising Committees should seek prior permission from concerned ULB as the case may be by providing management plan and the required provisions (as per the format to be issued by the ULBs) for ensuring safe idol immersion during festival season well at least one month in advance for making necessary arrangements in consultation with the concerned departments.

4.0 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL AND URBAN AUTHORITIES

- (i) Licenses/permits may be granted by the Local and Urban Bodies within the respective jurisdiction to only those Idol manufacturers or makers or craftsman or artisans who uses only eco-friendly natural clay materials (but not PoP or baked clay) in making idols, prior to festive times.

Also, large scale manufacturers (involved in making idols more than 100 in a day) shall obtain registration from the concerned ULB along with the prescribed fee and a deposit (as decided by the ULB depending on the idol making capacity). Registered idol manufacturer or maker or craftsman or artisan failing to comply with these guidelines or any violation of registration or permission conditions, registration or permission granted shall be cancelled apart from prohibition of idol making manufacturer at least for two years and in case of idol manufacturer, the deposit shall be forfeited by the respective ULB.

- (ii) While granting licenses or permits to the idol makers a list of permitted and non-permitted substances to be used for making/coloring/decorating idols may be provided to the Idol makers or craftsman or artisans.
- (iii) Only registered or licensed idol maker or craftsmen or artisans should be strictly allowed to make idols within the jurisdiction of the respective Urban and Local Bodies as the case may be, in accordance with these guidelines.
- (iv) As far as possible, instead of immersion of idols in water bodies, all the resident welfare associations or individual households in a city or town should be encouraged to create temporary ponds/tanks of suitable size and adequate capacity with necessary provision for collection and storage of segregated waste prior to immersion, and public should be involved for immersion of idols in such temporary/artificial ponds/tanks made by the resident welfare association or individual household within their campus itself. The waste generated from designated idol immersion activity sites shall be collected and disposed of safely by the ULBs within 24 hours of completion of the idol immersion activity.
- (v) Arrangements for temporary artificial idol immersion ponds or tanks in close vicinity of the public or on the banks of water bodies with all necessary safety provisions and waste collection centres prior to idol immersion should be arranged for ensuring safe idol immersion during festive season, by the concerned ULBs in association with the other departments as well as Pooja Organizing Committees.
- (vi) The temporary Idol Immersion Ponds/Tanks with the liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner should be arranged at suitable locations including on the banks of rivers or stagnant water

- bodies such as ponds or lakes shall be cordoned off and barricaded by ULBs and with all other necessary provisions keeping in view safety of the public (such as proper access, approach roads, sign boards, fire safety measure, barricades, designated space for keeping idols prior to immersion, suitable plat form with crane provision for idol immersion).
- (vii) In the interest of protection of environment, Urban and Local bodies (ULBs) shall impose restrictions on height of the idol to the idol making agencies or manufacturer or craftsman or artisans (as lesser the size of the idol better would be the immersion process and less consumption of materials required for making idols) depending on the availability of water bodies, provisions made for idol immersions by the ULBs.
- (viii) Waste collection centre in the vicinity of the designated temporary/artificial idol immersion sites or locations should be arranged for ensuring collection of segregated materials (such as flowers, leaves, decorating materials etc.) prior to idol immersion. All waste collection centres should have a provision of colour coded bins of adequate size for collection and storage of segregated materials.
- (ix) Also, all the collected and segregated materials should be transported and disposed of periodically or within 24 hours of completion of idol immersion in accordance with the prevailing provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, as amended notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (i.e., Reusable clothes may be sent to local orphan homes for reuse, bio-degradable materials for composing and non-biodegradable materials for ultimate disposal in sanitary landfills by the concerned Urban or Local Authorities, as the case may be).
- (x) After completion of the idol immersion ceremony, within 24 hours, the liner material shall be removed and the temporary pits or tanks should be filled with native soil and levelled properly. Other disposable materials shall be managed in accordance with these guidelines (i.e., Clay, Bamboo and wooden logs, if any may be reused). The straw structure materials recovered from designated temporary or artificial immersion areas or spots shall be retrieved and processed for converting into organic manure.
- (xi) Public should be educated on aspects relating to procurement of eco-friendly idols only from the licensed or permitted idol makers or craftsman or artisans, location details of idol makers, type of materials to be used for ill effects of immersion of idols/Tazias in the holy water bodies

and the existing guidelines for idol immersion through mass awareness programme.

- (xii) Immersion of Tazia during Muharram should be performed in Eco- friendly manner.
- (xiii) Local Bodies /Urban Bodies/District Authorities should make efforts to identify and arrange adequate number of designated temporary or artificial immersion ponds or tanks in consultation with River/Pond Authority, Port Authority, Water Supply Board, Irrigation Department and other concerned State/UT Departments, in the close vicinity of the public colonies (such as open grounds) to avoid overcrowding at the water bodies and also to reduce pollution load on receiving water bodies. In case, the designated temporary artificial ponds or tanks are required to be arranged on the bank of the river, in such a case, it should be arranged at suitable places where flow of river/ stream is not harmful to the public, does not inundate in case of increase in flow of river during idol immersion period and river is cordoned off and barricaded suitably to avoid any loss of life specially during immersion activities.
- (xiv) A co-ordination Committee comprising local Police Department, Non-Government Organizations, Local Authorities, SPCB/PCC, representatives of *pooja organizing* committees and other concerned stakeholders may be set up for guiding the public in carrying out the immersion without affecting environmental damages to the water bodies.
- (xv) To ensure safe immersion of idols during festive season, ULBs should deploy adequate number of staff at all the designated idol immersion spots under overall supervision of the nodal officer to be designated by the concerned ULBs. The Nodal Officers also should co-ordinate with the co-ordination committee constituted by the ULBs.
- (xvi) Details regarding arranged designated temporary or artificial immersion spots or areas need to be notified and public as well as *pooja organizing* committees preferably at least one week in advance of idol immersion through electronic and local media in vernacular language.
- (xvii) Sanitary workers shall also be deployed at all the temporary immersion sites for ensuring removal of bio-degradable items like flowers, leaves, clothes, ornaments etc. prior to idol immersion at the designated areas. ULBs shall provide separate colour coded bins for collection and

- segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes at immersion spots.
- (xviii) Littering or burning of solid wastes comprising of used flowers, clothes, decorating materials, recovered material such as Bamboo and wooden logs, straw structures etc. so generated at the immersion sites or on the banks of water body should be prohibited strictly.
- (xix) In case of immersion of idols in rivers, lakes and ponds is inevitable, arrangement may be made for construction of adequate capacity temporary confined areas at designated places with earthen bunds for the purpose of immersion of idols atleast 50 m away from the waterbody. Temporary immersion ponds shall have a free board of at least 50 cm. Temporary ponds should be constructed with impervious liner (made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner) with a provision of adequate landing platform for keeping the crane for idol immersion. Water in the temporary or artificial immersion ponds or tanks may be drawn from the nearby water body. After completion of immersion, only supernatant water may be allowed to flow into river/pond/lake, as the case may be, after checking for colour and turbidity as per BIS specification for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012. Natural coagulants shall be used for pre-treatment of wastewater mainly composed of polymers of natural origin extracted from plants, algae or animals. Among these are polysaccharides and water soluble substances that act as coagulation and / or flocculation agents. include microbial polysaccharides, starches, gelatin galactomannans, cellulose derivatives, chitosan, glues, and alginate.
- (xx) Concerned ULB Authorities also should consider option of construction of permanent cemented large sized artificial tanks for immersion of idols/Tazias at suitable places for a village or town or city to avoid direct immersion of idols into lakes/rivers/ ponds/sea.
- (xxi) Proper Sign Boards showing location of temporary idol immersion ponds/tanks, route charts to be provided at all salient points and also create awareness through local newspapers/electronic media in vernacular language, atleast one week in advance at all the salient points. by the ULBs.
- (xxii) The Pooja Organizing Committees/Local or Urban Bodies/ District Authorities be involved in organizing a public campaign on the ill effects of

the toxic components of coloring materials, not only of the idols, but also other decorating materials used during the festive season, for immersing (visarjan) the idol or 'pratima' or tazias only in designated temporary artificial ponds or tanks. Specific leaflets and poster for mass awareness may be prepared in vernacular languages and displayed at salient points. Further, the Pooja committees/Local or Urban Bodies/ District Authorities also be persuaded to display such posters and distribute leaflets among worshippers involving Eco Clubs, NGOs, Education Institutes/Universities and Schools.

- (xxiii) Idol makers, pooja Committees may also be awarded for promotion of clay idols made with natural colors, consistent awareness for ensuring compliance to these rules. Imposing Spot fine for violation of these guidelines also be practiced by the Local and Urban Authorities.
- (xxiv) ULBs also shall make arrangements for movable artificial tanks to reach residential welfare societies where people can do idol immersion without crowding and polluting the water bodies to avoid uncontrolled crowd conditions at Ghats during idol immersion and also to avoid accidents that may likely to happen at the time of idol immersion in rivers, lakes and ponds.
- (xxv) Management of idol waste and treatment of polluted water from the designated temporary Idol Immersion ponds or tanks should be carried out as detailed below:-
- (a) Practices that would lead to some economic benefits like returning the visarjit idols to the idol maker or management of solid wastes generated during visarjan activities in different localities for household as well as large community festivals shall be ensured in accordance with the prevailing rules by the Local/Urban bodies. As far as possible, only non-recyclable/non-biodegradable/non-recoverable materials should be disposed of in sanitary landfills by the Local/Urban bodies.
 - (b) Community festivals with large idols should be given permission by ULBs only when the organisers submits a detailed management plan prepared in line with the prevailing rules or by the guidelines issued from time to time on environmental management charge basis to be decided by the Local/Urban Bodies. The bamboo scaffolding/metal sub structure on which large idols are built shall be reused as far as possible and may be collected separately from the degradable remains.



- (c) The charges of hiring/outsourcing agencies to clean-up the wastes from the designated idol immersion sites should be collected as 'visarjan charges' from every individual citizen or community. The visarjan charges collected should be utilized to clean-up the visarjan sites, to manage polluted water from the artificial temporary tank/ponds and for environmentally sound management of e solid remains of idol, etc. The waste water collected from the designated temporary artificial ponds/tanks after ensuring on-site pre-treatment shall be discharged into or public sewers leading to the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)/ Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs).
- (d) Disintegrated material/Non-biodegradable materials shall be dealt as per provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rule 2016, as amended.

5.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION IN RIVERS, LAKES AND PONDS

- (i) As far as possible idol immersion in Rivers/Ponds/Lakes shall be encouraged only at specific designated artificial confined tanks/ponds with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner, on the banks shall be promoted.
- (ii) A temporary artificial tank or pond with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner (HDPE), and having earthen bunds on the bank of the river/lake/pond shall be created for Idol Immersion by the concerned ULBs. Temporary artificial tank or pond.

In case of immersion of idols in rivers, lakes or ponds is inevitable, a designated location (having proper approach, access, corner portion of a river/pond/lake, having shallow depth of water in river or lakes or ponds) should be identified and safety provision preferably steel or wooden barricades shall be made by concerned ULBs.

- (iii) All the flowers, leaves and artificial ornaments of idols should be removed prior to immersion of idols and only such idols may be immersed in a designated place provided with safety provisions.
- (iv) Lime or alum or any other equivalent coagulant should be added in designated temporary lined pond/tank as pre-treatment option for ensuring settling of solids. After completion of immersion, only

supernatant water may be allowed to flow into river/pond/lake, as the case may be, after checking for colour and turbidity as per BIS specification for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012.

- (v) **Post immersion, with remains of idols and activities such as desludging of the designated area should be undertaken and ensured its disposal as per Solid Waste Management Rules 2016** as amended thereafter, within 24 hours by the concerned ULBs, as per these guidelines.

6.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION IN SEA

- (i) In case of Idol immersion in sea, immersion may be done between low tide line (LTL) and high tide line (HTL) (irrespective of its depth) and only at designated areas identified by the Coastal Zone Management Authorities in the States/UTs. The low-tide line and high tide lines may be identified and marked well in advance by the ULBs in consultation with the concerned authorities.
- (ii) Immersion of Idols in High Tide Line (HTL) & Low Tide Line (LTL) into the sea may be permitted only in Non-Eco-Sensitive Areas earmarked previously in consultation with all the concerned agencies approved by Govt. of India for demarcation of HTL, LTL, Eco-sensitive area etc.
- (iii) Concerned authorities in State Govt./UT Administration dealing with safety & security in coastal areas shall take care of the necessary arrangements such as Motor Boats with security personnel/home guards with adequate safety equipment be deployed to supervise idol immersion activities during festive season.

7.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION BY HOUSEHOLDS

- (i) Individual households should be encouraged to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and bio-degradable materials as decorative and pooja materials.
- (ii) As far as possible, immersion of small idols should be done at their homes in eco-friendly manner i.e., in a bucket filled with water and idol be kept in immersed state until it dissolves completely. After settlement of settleable and colloidal solids (if required alum powder or any other equivalent coagulant may be mixed and stirred vigorously using a stick at least for 30 seconds and thereafter slow mixing at least for 30 seconds and

then allowed to settle), the supernatant liquid may be used either in gardening or discharged in a drain. Settled mud can be dried and then reused further for future idol making or may be used in gardening as soil).

- (iii) In case, individual households intend to perform idol immersions, then idols should be immersed only in the designated on-land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the ULBs.

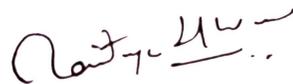
8.0 ROLE OF STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS (SPCBs) IN STATES & POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEES (PCCs) IN UNION TERRITORIES

- (i) Concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in the State/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in the Union Territory Administration should conduct water quality assessment of the water bodies, preferably in Class-I cities (having population more than one lac), at three stages i.e. Pre-immersion, during immersion and post-immersion. During post-festival, samples should be collected preferably after 3rd, 5th and 7th and 9th day of the festival.
- (ii) Considering the size of water body, appropriate number of sampling locations may be determined in order to get a fairly representative assessment of water quality during the afore-said periods. Sampling should be done at least 100 m away (downstream side in case of flowing water bodies-rivers) from the immersion site/location to avoid turbulence effect. For ascertaining water quality, Physico-chemical parameters such as pH, DO, Color, BOD, COD, Conductivity, Turbidity, TDS, Chloride, TSS, Hardness, Total Alkalinity and Metals (such as Chromium, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Cadmium, Mercury, Antimony, Barium, Cobalt, Manganese, Strontium) may be analyzed. Apart from the water samples, sediment samples also be collected during pre-immersion, during immersion and post-immersion and collected sediment samples be analysed for the metals (such as Chromium, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Cadmium, Mercury, Antimony, Barium, Cobalt, Manganese, Strontium)
- (iii) Detailed reports should be posted on the SPCBs/PCCs website in public domain and also shall be shared with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and CPCB, within two months of completion of last sampling conducted for a particular festival.

- (iv) SPCBs/PCCs shall help ULBs and District Administration in preparing material for creating mass awareness purposes as well as to assess innovative approaches for eco-friendly idol making by the idol makers or craftsman or artisans.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rajiv Kumar' with a horizontal line underneath.

Annexure-I

Major Types of Natural Dyes and Their Origin

Chemical class	Coloring matter	Origin	Color obtained
Vat dyes			
Indole	Indigotin	Woad, indigo	Blues
Quinone	Juglone	Walnut	Browns
Mordant dyes			
Anthraquinones	Alizarin	Madder roots	Reds, oranges, browns
	Pseudopurpurin	Madder roots	Reds, oranges, browns
	Munjistin	Munjeet stems	Reds, browns, maroons
	Laccaic acids	Lac insects	Reds, purples, Maroons
Flavoid tannins	Catachin	Cutch	Browns, grays
Saffron, Flavone	Luteolin	Weld	Yellows, khaki
Flavonol	Quercetin	50% of all plants	Yellows, khaki
Anthocyanins	Cyanidin	Elderberries	Purples
Neoflavanoidones	Haematoxylin	Logwood	Violets, blacks
	Brazilin	Brazilwood	Reds, purples
Isoflavanoid	Pterocarpin	Sanderswood	Oranges
Direct dyes			
Cartinoid	Curcumin	Turmeric	Yellows
	Crocin	Saffron, gardenia	Yellows
Alkaloid	Berberine	Mahonia wood	Yellows
Orinol	Orcein	Orchil	Purples
Benzoquinone	Carthamine	Safflower	Pinks
Reactive dyes			
Depsides	Atranorin	Lichens	Fawns
Despidones	Salazinic acid	Lichens	Browns

Source:- Eco-friendly dyes and dyeing (<http://sciedtech.eu/journals/advmtenvsci/current-issue/>)

Grampanchayat Dhamapur

Taluka Malvan, District – Sindhudurg

Email id- vdhamapur29@gmail.com Phone -: 02365255629

J.kra. 192

Date- 02.09.2024

To,
Executive, Engineer,
Ambadpal,
Taluka Kudal, District Sindhudurg.

Subject: Regarding Ganpati idol immersion in the artificial tank adjacent to the Dhamapur dam project.

Reference: Letter No. सिंपाविआं/प्रशा-4/1279/2024 dated 27/08/2024 from your department.

Respected Sir,

With reference to the subject mentioned above, it is informed that Dhamapur Lake comes under your jurisdiction. However, to prevent water pollution caused by the immersion of Ganpati idols in the lake and to maintain its cleanliness, signboards instructing that idol immersion be done in the artificial tank will be installed at the Gram Panchayat level.

Since the said lake is under your jurisdiction, we request that the necessary action regarding the immersion of Ganpati idols be carried out from your end.

Yours faithfully,

Sarapanch Dhamapur Grampanchayat



ग्रामपंचायत धामापुर

ता. मालवण

जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

Email Id : vpdhamapur29@gmail.com

फोन नं. : 02365 255629

जा क्र. ११२

दिनांक-१२/०८/२०२५

प्रति,

कार्यकारी अभियंता, आंबडपाल,
ता. कुडाळ, जिल्हा. सिंधुदुर्ग.

विषय: जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असलेल्या धामापुर तलावातील गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाबाबत
सहकार्यासाठी विनंती.

महोदय,

आपणास ज्ञात आहे की, गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील एक मोठा उत्सव आहे. जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असलेल्या धामापुर तलावात मूर्तीचे विसर्जन केल्याने मानवनिर्मित गाळ साचण्याचा धोका एक मोठी चिंतेची बाब आहे. महाराष्ट्र, गोवा आणि कर्नाटक राज्यात असे एकमेव जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असल्याचा आणि संपूर्ण भारतातील सहा जागतिक वारसा स्थळांपैकी एक असे हे धामापुर तलाव आहे. 2022 साली नवी दिल्ली येथे कार्यकारी अभियंता, जल सिंचन विभाग यांनी हा पुरस्कार राज्य सरकार यांच्या वतीने स्वीकारला, तेव्हा तो सर्वांसाठीच एक अभिमानास्पद क्षण होता.

गावातील स्थानिक संस्थेच्या मागणीनुसार, तुमच्या विभागाने धामापुर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांजवळ एक कृत्रिम विसर्जन कुंड बांधला आहे. ग्रामपंचायत आपल्या मर्यादित संसाधनांचा वापर करून गावकऱ्यांना या कृत्रिम कुंडात मूर्ती विसर्जन करण्यासाठी जनजागृती आणि प्रबोधन मोहीम राबवत आहे. परंतु, गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील मोठा सण असल्याने मुंबई, पुणे अशा अनेक ठिकाणांहून लोक मोठ्या संख्येने येथे येतात. धामापुर ग्रामपंचायतीकडे पुरेसे कर्मचारी, निधी आणि साधनसामग्री नसल्यामुळे विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये नियोजन करणे ग्रामपंचायतीसाठी अत्यंत अवघड जाते. याशिवाय, तुमच्या विभागाकडून येथे कोणताही सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमलेला नसल्याने अनेक लोक थेट तलावात मूर्ती विसर्जन करतात. तसेच, कमी पाऊस झाल्यास विसर्जन कुंडाला पाणी मिळणार नाही, अशीही भीती आहे. विसर्जनानंतर कुंडातील माती काढणे आवश्यक आहे असेही आम्हाला वाटते. तुमचा विभाग हे काम स्वतः करू शकतो किंवा आवश्यक निधी दिल्यास ग्रामपंचायत हे काम करण्यास तयार आहे.

त्यामुळे, धामापुर तलावाचे संरक्षण आणि सणाचे योग्य व्यवस्थापन करण्यासाठी आम्ही तुम्हाला खालील गोष्टींवर तातडीने पाऊले उचलण्याची विनंती करतो:

- १) सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवणे: गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाच्या काळात धामापुर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांवर तात्पुरते सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवावेत जेणेकरून कोणत्याही मूर्ती थेट तलावात बुडवल्या जाणार नाहीत.
- २) सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमणे: विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये धामापुर तलावावर आपल्या विभागाने सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमावेत, जेणेकरून गर्दीचे व्यवस्थापन होईल आणि कोणतीही अनुचित घटना किंवा बेकायदेशीर कृत्ये होणार नाहीत.
- ३) मूर्तीची माती काढणे: विसर्जन कुंडातील मूर्तीची माती वेळेवर काढण्याची व्यवस्था आपल्या विभागाने करावी.
- ४) पाण्याची व्यवस्था: कमी पाऊस झाल्यास आणि विसर्जन कुंडाला पाणी नसल्यास, तलावातून कुंडात पाणी पंप करण्याची व्यवस्था आपल्या विभागाने करावी.

तुमच्या विभागाच्या सहकार्याने आम्ही या समस्यांवर प्रभावीपणे मात करू आणि या जागतिक वारसा स्थळाचे संरक्षण करू, असा आम्हाला विश्वास आहे. आम्ही तुमच्या सकारात्मक प्रतिसादाची आणि सहकार्याची अपेक्षा करते .

कळावे,

m.m.pareek

सरपंच

ग्रामपंचायत धामापुर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

१३/०८/२०२५
आयक/जादक लिपिक
सिंधुदुर्ग पाटबंधारे विभाग
आंबडपाल, ता. कुडाळ, ४१५ ५२०

Grampanchayat Dhamapur

Taluka Malvan, District – Sindhudurg

Email id- vdhamapur29@gmail.com Phone -: 02365255629

J.kra. 112

Date- 12.08.2025

To,
Executive Engineer,
Ambadpal,
Taluka Kudal, District Sindhudurg.

Subject: Request for cooperation regarding Ganesh idol immersion in Dhamapur Lake, a World Heritage Irrigation Site.

Respected Sir,

As you are aware, Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in the Konkan region. Immersion of idols in Dhamapur Lake — which is a World Heritage Irrigation Site — poses a serious concern due to the risk of human-induced silt accumulation.

Dhamapur Lake is the only World Heritage Irrigation Site in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka, and one among only six such sites in the entire country. In 2022, when the Executive Engineer of the Water Irrigation Department received this award on behalf of the State Government in New Delhi, it was indeed a moment of pride for all of us.

As per the demand of the local village organisation, your department has constructed an artificial immersion tank near the lake steps. The Gram Panchayat is running awareness and education campaigns to encourage villagers to immerse idols in this artificial tank, using its limited resources. However, since Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in Konkan, a large number of people visit here from places like Mumbai and Pune. Due to insufficient manpower, funds, and resources, it becomes

extremely difficult for the Gram Panchayat to manage arrangements on the immersion days.

Moreover, as no security personnel have been appointed by your department, many people directly immerse idols in the lake. There is also concern that in case of low rainfall, the immersion tank may not have sufficient water. We also believe that the silt from the tank after immersion needs to be removed. Your department can either undertake this work directly or provide the required funds to the Gram Panchayat to carry it out.

Therefore, in order to protect Dhamapur Lake and ensure proper management of the festival, we request you to take urgent action on the following points:

1. Install Safety Barricades: Temporary safety barricades should be installed on the lake steps during the immersion period to ensure that no idols are immersed directly into the lake.
2. Appoint Security Guards: Security guards should be deployed at Dhamapur Lake during immersion days by your department to manage the crowd and prevent any inappropriate incidents or illegal activities.
3. Removal of Idol Silt: Your department should arrange for the timely removal of silt and debris from the immersion tank.
4. Water Supply Arrangement: In case of low rainfall and insufficient water in the immersion tank, your department should arrange to pump water from the lake into the tank.

We are confident that with your department's cooperation, we can effectively address these issues and protect this World Heritage Site. We look forward to your positive response and support.

S/D

Sarpanch, Dhamapur Grampanchayat

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Anty 44



ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर

ता. मालवण

जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

Email Id : vpdhamapur29@gmail.com

फोन नं. : 02365 255629

जा.क्र.-: ११३

दिनांक:-१२/०८/२०२५

प्रति,

सहाय्यक आयुक्त, मत्स्यव्यवसाय विभाग,
ता. मालवण, जिल्हा, सिंधुदुर्ग.

विषय: जागतिक वारसा स्थळ असलेल्या धामापूर तलावातील गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाबाबत सहकार्यासाठी विनंती.

महोदय,

आपणास ज्ञात आहे की, गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील एक मोठा उत्सव आहे. जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असलेल्या धामापूर तलावात मूर्तीचे विसर्जन केल्याने मानवनिर्मित गाळ साचण्याचा धोका एक मोठी धिंतेची बाब आहे. मत्स्यविभाग तर्फे धामापूर तलावातून सुमारे रु. ४१,००० मशांचा लिलाव केला जातो याची बाजार मूल्य सुमारे पाच लाख रुपये आहे. एप्रिल २०२२ रोजी धामापूर रोजी धामापूर तलावामध्ये सर्वत्र मृत मासे आढळले होते. तलावात साठणाऱ्या गाळामुळे तलावाची पाणी धारण क्षमता कमी होत आहे आणि याच्या दुष्परिणाम तलावातील माश्यांवावर आणि परिसंस्थेवर होत आहे. यावर उपाय म्हणून गावातील स्थानिक संस्थेच्या मागणीनुसार, जिल्हा नियोजन मंडळाच्या आर्थिक सहयोगाने धामापूर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांजवळ एक कृत्रिम विसर्जन कुंड बांधला आहे. ग्रामपंचायत आपल्या मर्यादित संसाधनांचा वापर करून गावकऱ्यांना या कृत्रिम कुंडात मूर्ती विसर्जन करण्यासाठी जनजागृती आणि प्रबोधन मोहीम राबवत आहे. परंतु गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील मोठा सण असल्याने मुंबई, पुणे अशा अनेक ठिकाणांहून लोक मोठ्या संख्येने येथे येतात. धामापूर ग्रामपंचायतीकडे पुरेसे कर्मचारी, निधी आणि साधनसामग्री नसल्यामुळे विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये नियोजन करणे ग्रामपंचायतीसाठी अत्यंत अवघड जाते. याशिवाय, येथे कोणताही सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमलेला नसल्याने अनेक लोक थेट तलावात मूर्ती विसर्जन करतात.

त्यामुळे, धामापूर तलावाचे संरक्षण आणि संवर्धनाच्या दृष्टीने आणि सणाचे योग्य व्यवस्थापन करण्यासाठी मत्स्यविभागाने मालवण तहसीलदार, आणि कार्यकारी अभियंता, जल संपदा विभाग, आंबडपाल, यांना पत्रव्यवहार करून खालील गोष्टींवर तातडीने पाऊले उचलण्याची विनंती करावी अशी आपणास नम्र विनंती आहे:

१) सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवणे: गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाच्या काळात धामापूर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांवर तात्पुरते सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवावेत जेणेकरून कोणत्याही मूर्ती थेट तलावात बुडवल्या जाणार नाहीत.

२) सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमणे: विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये धामापूर तलावावर पोलीस बंदोबस्तची व्यवस्था करावी, जेणेकरून गर्दीचे व्यवस्थापन होईल आणि कोणतीही अनुचित घटना किंवा वेकायदेशीर कृत्ये होणार नाहीत.

आपल्या सहकार्याने आम्ही या समस्यांवर प्रभावीपणे मात करू आणि या जागतिक वारसा स्थळाचे संरक्षण करू, असा आम्हाला विश्वास आहे. आपल्या विभागामार्फत सकारात्मक प्रतिसादाची आणि सहकार्याची अपेक्षा आहे.

कळावे,

सहाय्यक आयुक्त मत्स्यव्यवसाय
सिंधुदुर्ग - मालवण

13/08/25

सरपंच, धामापूर ग्रामपंचायत
M.M. Purub

सरपंच
धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

जल संपदा विभाग
दिनांक:
ता. मालवण (मत्स्यव्यवसाय)
सिंधुदुर्ग - मालवण ता. मालवण

Grampanchayat Dhamapur

Taluka Malvan, District – Sindhudurg

Email id- vdhamapur29@gmail.com Phone -: 02365255629

J.kra. 113

Date- 12.08.2025

To,
Assistant Commissioner,
Department of Fisheries,
Taluka Malvan, District Sindhudurg.

Subject: Request for cooperation regarding Ganesh idol immersion in Dhamapur Lake, a World Heritage Site.

Respected Sir,

As you are aware, Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in the Konkan region. Immersion of idols in Dhamapur Lake — which is a World Heritage Irrigation Site — poses a serious concern due to the risk of human-induced silt accumulation.

The Fisheries Department conducts auctions of fish from Dhamapur Lake amounting to approximately ₹41,000, with a market value of around ₹5 lakh. In April 2022, a large number of dead fish were found throughout Dhamapur Lake. The silt accumulating in the lake is reducing its water-holding capacity, which is adversely affecting the fish population and the lake's ecosystem.

To address this issue, and as per the demand of the local village organisation, an artificial immersion tank has been constructed near the lake steps with financial assistance from the District

Planning Committee. The Gram Panchayat, using its limited resources, is conducting awareness and education campaigns to encourage villagers to immerse idols in this artificial tank. However, since Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in the Konkan region, large numbers of visitors come here from places such as Mumbai and Pune. Due to a lack of adequate staff, funds, and equipment, it becomes extremely difficult for the Gram Panchayat to manage arrangements during the immersion days. Moreover, in the absence of any appointed security guards, many people directly immerse idols into the lake.

Therefore, for the protection and conservation of Dhamapur Lake and for proper management of the festival, we humbly request that the Fisheries Department communicate with the Malvan Tehsildar and the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Ambadpal, and request them to take urgent action on the following points:

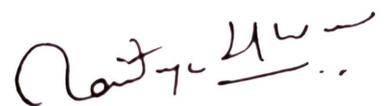
1. Installation of Safety Barricades: Temporary safety barricades should be installed on the lake steps during the immersion period to ensure that no idols are immersed directly into the lake.
2. Deployment of Security Personnel: Police security arrangements should be made at Dhamapur Lake during immersion days to manage the crowd and prevent any inappropriate incidents or illegal activities.

We believe that with your cooperation, we can effectively address these problems and protect this World Heritage Site. We look forward to a positive response and support from your department.

S/D

Sarpanch, Dhamapur Grampanchaya

TRUE COPY





ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर

ता. मालवण

जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

Email Id : vpdhamapur29@gmail.com

फोन नं. : 02365 255629

जा.क्र.: ११४

दिनांक:-१२/०८/२०२५

प्रति:

मुख्याधिकारी, मालवण नगरपालिका,
ता. मालवण, जिल्हा. सिंधुदुर्ग.

विषय: जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असलेल्या धामापूर तलावातील गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाबाबत सहकार्यासाठी विनंती.

महोदय,

आपणास ज्ञात आहे की, गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील एक मोठा उत्सव आहे. जागतिक वारसा सिंचन स्थळ असलेल्या धामापूर तलावात मूर्तीचे विसर्जन केल्याने मानवनिर्मित गाळ साचण्याचा धोका एक मोठी चिंतेची बाब आहे.

दरवर्षी मालवण नगर परिषदेला धामापूर तलावातून 0.12 MCM पिण्याच्या पाण्याचा पुरवठा होत आहे आणि 0.34 MCM राखीव आहे. २०२२ मध्ये धामापूर तलावाच्या पाण्याच्या प्रदूषणामुळे टायफॉइड सारख्या संसर्गजन्य साथीमुळे मालवण शहरात लोक बाधित झाली होती. त्याच बरोबर तलावात गाळाचे प्रमाण वाढल्याने तलावाची पाणी धारण क्षमता कमी होत आहे. धामापूर तलावात गाळाचे प्रमाण वाढल्याने तलावाची पाणी धारण क्षमता कमी होत आहे. गावातील स्थानिक संस्थेच्या मागणीनुसार, जिल्हा नियोजन मंडळाच्या आर्थिक सहयोगाने धामापूर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांजवळ एक कृत्रिम विसर्जन कुंड बांधला आहे. ग्रामपंचायत आपल्या मर्यादित संसाधनांचा वापर करून गावकऱ्यांना या कृत्रिम कुंडात मूर्ती विसर्जन करण्यासाठी जनजागृती आणि प्रबोधन मोहीम राबवत आहे. परंतु गणेश चतुर्थी हा कोकणातील मोठा सण असल्याने मुंबई, पुणे अशा अनेक ठिकाणांहून लोक मोठ्या संख्येने येथे येतात. धामापूर ग्रामपंचायतीकडे पुरेसे कर्मचारी, निधी आणि साधनसामग्री नसल्यामुळे विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये नियोजन करणे ग्रामपंचायतीसाठी अत्यंत अवघड जाते. याशिवाय, येथे कोणताही सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमलेला नसल्याने अनेक लोक थेट तलावात मूर्ती विसर्जन करतात.

त्यामुळे, धामापूर तलावाचे संरक्षण आणि संवर्धनाच्या दृष्टीने आणि सणाचे योग्य व्यवस्थापन करण्यासाठी आम्ही तुम्हाला खालील गोष्टींवर तातडीने पाऊले उचलण्याची विनंती करतो:

- १) सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवणे: गणेश मूर्ती विसर्जनाच्या काळात धामापूर तलावाच्या पायऱ्यांवर मालवण नगरपालिका आणि जल सिंचन विभाग यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने तात्पुरते सुरक्षा बॅरिकेड बसवावेत जेणेकरून कोणत्याही मूर्ती थेट तलावात बुडवल्या जाणार नाहीत.
- २) सुरक्षा रक्षक नेमणे: विसर्जनाच्या दिवसांमध्ये धामापूर तलावावर मालवण नगर पालिकेने पोलीस बंदोबस्तची व्यवस्था करावी, जेणेकरून गर्दीचे व्यवस्थापन होईल आणि कोणताही अनुचित घटना किंवा बेकायदेशीर कृत्ये होणार नाहीत.

मालवण नगरपालिकेच्या सहकार्याने आम्ही या समस्यांवर प्रभावीपणे भात करू आणि या जागतिक वारसा स्थळाचे संरक्षण करू, असा आम्हाला विश्वास आहे. आम्ही तुमच्या सकारात्मक प्रतिसादाची आणि सहकार्याची वाट पाहत आहोत.

कळावे,

सरपंच, धामापूर ग्रामपंचायत

M. M. P. 421b

सरपंच

ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

93/21/2024
बाजिशी तालिका
मालवण नगरपरिषद

Grampanchayat Dhamapur

Taluka Malvan, District – Sindhudurg

Email id- vdhamapur29@gmail.com Phone -: 02365255629

J.kra. 114

Date- 12.08.2025

To,
Chief Officer,
Malvan Municipal Council,
Taluka Malvan, District Sindhudurg.

Subject: Request for cooperation regarding Ganesh idol immersion in Dhamapur Lake, a World Heritage Irrigation Site.

Respected Sir,

As you are aware, Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in the Konkan region. Immersion of idols in Dhamapur Lake — which is a World Heritage Irrigation Site — poses a serious concern due to the risk of human-induced silt accumulation.

Every year, Malvan Municipal Council receives 0.12 MCM of drinking water from Dhamapur Lake, with an additional 0.34 MCM in reserve. In 2022, due to pollution in the lake's water, residents of Malvan city were affected by outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as typhoid. Furthermore, the increasing silt deposits in the lake are reducing its water-holding capacity.

In response to demands from the local village organisation, and with financial support from the District Planning Committee, an artificial immersion tank has been constructed near the steps of

Dhamapur Lake. The Gram Panchayat, using its limited resources, has been conducting awareness and educational campaigns to encourage villagers to immerse idols in this artificial tank. However, since Ganesh Chaturthi is a major festival in Konkan, large numbers of visitors arrive from places such as Mumbai and Pune. Due to a lack of adequate staff, funds, and equipment, it becomes extremely difficult for the Gram Panchayat to manage arrangements during the immersion days. Moreover, as there is no security guard appointed, many people directly immerse idols in the lake.

Therefore, for the protection and conservation of Dhamapur Lake and for proper management of the festival, we request you to take urgent action on the following points:

1. Installation of Safety Barricades: In coordination with the Water Irrigation Department, Malvan Municipal Council should install temporary safety barricades on the lake steps during the immersion period to ensure that no idols are immersed directly into the lake.
2. Deployment of Security Personnel: Malvan Municipal Council should arrange for police security at Dhamapur Lake during immersion days to manage the crowd and prevent any untoward incidents or illegal activities.

We are confident that with the cooperation of the Malvan Municipal Council, we can effectively address these issues and protect this World Heritage Site. We look forward to your positive response and support.

S/D

Dhamapur Gampanchayat

Sarpanch,

TRUE COPY

Naif 7-44

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

Original Application No.-74 of 2025

In re:

Omkar Ajit Keni

Applicants

VERSUS

Maharashtra Environment Dep & Ors. Defendant/Respondent

KNOW ALL to whom these present shall come that I/We the above named Respondent no.7 do hereby appoint (herein after called the advocate/s) to be my/our Advocate in the above noted case authorized him :-

Maitreya Prithwiraj Ghorpade (MAH/7771/2019), Aundh, Pune - 411067

To act, appear and plead in the above-noted case in this Court or in any other Court in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the appellate Court including High Court subject to payment of fees separately for each Court by me/ us. To sign, file verify and present pleadings, appeals cross objections or petitions for execution review, revision, withdrawal, compromise or other petitions or affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the prosecution of the said case in all its stages.

To file and take back documents to admit and/or deny the documents of opposite party.

To withdraw or compromise the said case or submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case. To take execution proceedings. The deposit, draw and receive money, cheques, cash and grant receipts thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the said case. To appoint and instruct any other Legal Practitioner, authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred upon the Advocate whenever he may think it to do so and to sign the Power of Attorney on our behalf.

And I/We the undersigned do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts done by the Advocate or his substitute in the matter as my/our own acts, as if done by me/us to all intents and purposes.

And I/We undertake that I / we or my /our duly authorized agent would appear in the Court on all hearings and will inform the Advocates for appearance when the case is called.

And I /we undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case. The adjournment costs whenever ordered by the Court shall be of the Advocate, which he shall receive and retain himself.

And I /we the undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or part of the fee agreed by me/us to be paid to the Advocate remaining unpaid he shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. The fee settled is only for the above case and above Court. I/We hereby agree that once the fee is paid. I /we will not be entitled for the refund of the same in any case whatsoever. If the case lasts for more than three years, the advocate shall be entitled for additional fee equivalent to half of the agreed fee for every addition three years or part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/We do hereunto set my /our hand to these presents the contents of which have been understood by me/us on this 09 day of August 2025.

Accepted subject to the terms of fees.

09-11-25

Advocate

Advocate

M.M. Narab
सरपंच
ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

Client

Client

Prithviraj
ग्रामपंचायत अधिकारी
ग्रामपंचायत धामापूर
ता. मालवण, जि. सिंधुदुर्ग

Client

Client