



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
NAGPUR BENCH, NAGPUR.

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 18 OF 2026

Ravindra S/o. Jagdev Bhagat and another

.Vs.

State of Maharashtra and others

Office Notes, Office Memoranda of Coram,
appearances, Court's orders of directions
and Registrar's Orders.

Court's or Judge's orders.

Mr Sumit Gandhe, Advocate for the petitioners

Ms T. H. Khan, AGP for respondent Nos. 1 to 5, 7 and 8/state

CORAM : ANIL S. KILOR AND RAJ D. WAKODE, JJ.

DATED : 04th MARCH, 2026.

Heard learned counsel for the petitioners.

2. The petitioners have approached this Court
praying for following reliefs:

"I. Treat and entertain the instant petition as a "Public Interest Litigation" as the same involves greater public interest;

II. Issue any appropriate writ, order or directions and thereby direct the respondent no. 7- Superintendent of Land Record, Sangrampur, Dist. Buldhana to measure and ascertain the area of encroachment on the banks of Kedar River in the vicinity of Village Bawanbir, Tq. Sangrampur, Dist. Buldhana, in the interest of justice;

III. Issue any appropriate writ, order or directions and thereby direct the respondent no. 4-The Collector, Buldhana to remove encroachment on the banks of Kedar River, in the time bound manner, more particularly before the coming rainy season, in the interest of Justice;

IV. Issue any appropriate writ, order or directions and thereby direct the respondent no. 3- The Special Inspector General of Police,

Amravati to provide police protection to remove encroachment on the banks of Kedar River, in the interest of Justice;

V. Grant any other relief which this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the instant case."

3. The petitioners are the residents of village Bawanbir, Tq. Sangrampur, Distt. Buldhana. The contention of petitioners is that the Kedar river, which is a non-perennial river, emerges from the foothills of Satpuda hills and flows from village Bawanbir. On 22.07.2023, due to the encroachment in the nature of house, shops and religious places, on the banks of Kedar river, the water entered in the village Bawanbir, which caused flood situation. The flood was so severe, that the entire Bawanbir village submerged under water.

4. In order to investigate the reasons for such flood situation, the Special Inspector General of Police has visited the village Bawanbir and on inspection, came to the conclusion that the encroachment on the banks of river is responsible for such flood situation.

5. After such report of Inspector General of Police, the directions have been issued for removal of such encroachment. However, till date no effective steps were taken by the respondents-authorities. Because of such inaction on the part of respondents -authorities, even after passage of almost two and half years and in view of the ensuing

monsoon, the petitioners have approached this Court praying for the aforesaid reliefs.

6. The perusal of the petition reveals that the petitioner have already approached the respondent-authorities more specifically, respondent No. 5-Tahsildar Sangrampur, District Buldhana by filing a detailed representation on 08.12.2025, which is on record at page 49 (Annexure VII) and representation dated 05.12.2025, which is on record at page 50 (Annexure VIII).

7. The learned counsel for the petitioners submits that inspite of such representations, the respondents have not acted upon such representations nor have decided the same.

8. In view of the above, we direct respondent No. 4 – the Collector, Buldhana, so also respondent No. 5-The Tahsildar, Sangrampur, District Buldhana to decide the aforesaid representations dated 08.12.2025 and 05.12.2025 within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of the order of this Court.

9. The respondents are further directed to treat the present Public Interest Litigation as a representation submitted by the petitioners for such reliefs and decide the same in accordance with law within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of the order of this Court.

10. The petitioners undertake to produce copy of the order of this Court alongwith the copy of the present Public

Interest Litigation before the aforesaid respondent Nos. 4 and 5 within a period of one week from today.

11. The decision taken thereupon shall be communicated to the petitioners within a period of two weeks from the date of decision.

12. The Public Interest Litigation stands **disposed of**, accordingly. No order as to costs. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

[RAJ D. WAKODE, J]

[ANIL S. KILOR, J.]

Namrata