

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (STAMP) NO.26591 OF 2020

THE REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL),
HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY, BENCH AT AURANGABAD
-VERSUS-
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

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Shri Satyajeet S. Bora, Advocate (appointed as Amicus Curiae).
Shri S.R.Yadav Lonikar, AGP for the respondents/ State.

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**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE
&
SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI, JJ.**

(VACATION COURT)

DATE :- 30th December, 2020

Per Court :-

1. We had an occasions to read two news items in “The Times of India”, Aurangabad edition, dated 30.12.2020 (Wednesday). The first news item is published on page 1 with the headline “Nylon manja kills woman in Nashik”. On page 3, there is another news item with the heading “Ban sought on nylon, sharp manja ahead of Sankranti”.

2. We find from the news items that the Maharashtra Government had invoked Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) act, 1986 to introduce the ban. The National Green Tribunal had declared a country-wide ban on the sale of manjas in July, 2017. The ornithologist

Shri Deelip Bhagat has spoken to the Times News Network stating that manja, which is nearly invisible to the naked eye, poses a perennial threat to birds during the festival. We find that a precious life of a woman in Nashik was snatched away on account of such nylon manja having slit her throat. So also, innumerable birds suffer debilitating injuries because of such nylon manja.

3. In view of the above, we are treating these two news items as Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation. We deem it appropriate to appoint Shri Satyajeet Bora as an Amicus Curiae. Shri Yadav Lonikar, learned AGP, has graciously assisted us today and assures that he would appear for the Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad, the District Collector, Aurangabad, the Commissioner of Police, Aurangabad and the Superintendent of Police, Rural Aurangabad. We call upon Shri Bora to add the State of Maharashtra as respondent No.1 and the above mentioned parties thereafter and also array the Administrator, Municipal Corporation, Aurangabad, as respondents.

4. Considering the urgency in the matter, Shri Bora is requested to file a proper petition and tender the same across the Bar tomorrow 31.12.2020.