



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

**SUO MOTO (PIL) NO. 08 OF 2020**

The Registrar Judicial High Court of Bombay Bench at Aurangabad  
VERSUS  
The State of Maharashtra and others

Mr. S. S. Bora, Amicus Curiae for petitioner  
Mr. A. B. Girase, GP for respondent-State  
Mr. A. G. Talhar, Advocate for respondent No. 2  
Mr. K. N. Lokhande, Advocate for respondent No. 3  
Ms. A. T. Gadge, Advocate for respondent No. 35  
Mr. R. K. Ingole, Advocate for respondent No. 37

**CORAM** : **Smt. Vibha Kankanwadi &  
Hiten S. Venegavkar, JJ.**

**RESERVED ON** : **09<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

**PRONOUNCED ON** : **18<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

**ORDER (PER : Hiten S. Venegavkar,J.) :-**

1. By order dated 9 January 2026 passed in Suo Motu Public Interest Litigation No. 08 of 2020, this Court, after recording its serious concern and expressing displeasure over the continued incidents resulting in injuries and loss of life to birds, animals and human beings due to the illegal use of nylon manja, had issued interim directions to the State Government to undertake immediate, structured and continuous intervention to prevent such occurrences. Considering the public importance of the issue, the Court had thought it appropriate to keep the present Public Interest Litigation pending and directed the State authorities, along with the municipal authorities, to place before this

Court compliance affidavits indicating the steps taken to implement the directions and guidelines issued by this Court from time to time.

2. Pursuant thereto, an affidavit has been filed on behalf of Respondent No. 1 by Sudhir Hiramath, Special Inspector General of Police, Crime (West), CID, Maharashtra State, who has been appointed as the Head of the State Level Special Task Force. The affidavit places on record the measures undertaken by the State authorities in compliance with the order dated 9 January 2026. It is stated in the affidavit that the Director General of Police, by notification dated 26 February 2026, has constituted a Special State Level Task Force to address the illegal manufacture, storage, transport, sale and online marketing of nylon manja. The affidavit further indicates that nodal officers have been appointed across various police units and that instructions have been issued to Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police throughout the State directing them to take strict action against the use and storage of nylon manja within their respective jurisdictions. It is further stated that any negligence in implementing these directions or any incident occurring due to the use of nylon manja within the concerned jurisdiction shall entail disciplinary consequences against the responsible officers.

3. The affidavit also refers to the steps taken with regard to monitoring of online sale and digital marketplaces. It is stated that the Maharashtra Cyber Cell has initiated action by issuing takedown notices under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Information Technology Act to several digital intermediaries and e-commerce platforms including Amazon, Flipkart, IndiaMART, Myntra, Snapdeal, Meesho, eBay, Etsy, Reliance Smart, JioMart, Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), Google, OLX, ShopClues and other online platforms directing removal of illegal listings, advertisements and promotional material relating to nylon manja. The affidavit further indicates that steps have also been undertaken in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act and the relevant governmental notifications prohibiting nylon manja, as well as under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita relating to acts endangering life and public safety.

4. In addition to enforcement measures, the affidavit refers to awareness initiatives undertaken by the police authorities. Public notices have been issued encouraging citizens to report illegal sale of nylon manja through the emergency helpline number 112. Awareness campaigns have been conducted through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter informing citizens about the prohibition

of nylon manja and the dangers associated with its use. Meetings have also been conducted with kite sellers, transporters and distributors informing them of the legal consequences of manufacturing or selling banned nylon manja. Awareness programmes have been organised in schools, colleges, markets and other public places with the objective of sensitising the public and various stakeholders regarding the harmful effects of nylon manja and the applicable legal regulations.

5. The affidavit further indicates that a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, attended by officers from various departments, in which the Director Inspector General of Maharashtra Cyber has been designated as the nodal officer to monitor e-commerce platforms, social media marketplaces and messaging applications in compliance with the directions of this Court. The State authorities have also assured this Court that they remain fully committed to ensuring strict compliance with the directions issued and that coordinated enforcement measures including identification of manufacturing units, disruption of supply chains, monitoring of digital marketplaces and continued awareness programmes will be undertaken.

6. At this stage, the Court notes that the affidavit placed on

record discloses certain initial steps taken by the State machinery in response to the directions issued by this Court on 9 January 2026. The constitution of a State Level Special Task Force, the appointment of nodal officers, the issuance of circulars to field officers and the initiation of digital monitoring mechanisms are steps which indicate that the administrative framework for enforcement has begun to take shape. The Court appreciates these preliminary efforts. However, the affidavit largely refers to administrative measures and does not furnish concrete data regarding the actual enforcement action taken on the ground. The affidavit does not indicate the status of offences registered, the quantity of nylon manja seized, the number of manufacturing units or storage facilities identified or dismantled, or the number of persons against whom criminal or penalty action has been initiated. Likewise, though reference has been made to take down notices issued to digital intermediaries, the affidavit does not indicate the number of illegal listings removed or the mechanism adopted to ensure continuous monitoring so that such listings are not repeatedly uploaded under different descriptions. The Court expects that the State Level Special Task Force will now ensure coordinated and effective enforcement action so as to identify manufacturing sources, dismantle supply chains and monitor both physical and digital marketplaces where nylon manja continues to be circulated.

7. Another aspect requires specific consideration. By the order dated 9 January 2026 this Court had also directed the municipal authorities to place before this Court their compliance reports indicating the measures taken within their respective jurisdictions to prevent the sale and use of nylon manja. No such compliance report has been placed on record so far. The Court finds this situation to be unfortunate, particularly when the issue concerns public safety and protection of birds and animals from the hazardous effects of nylon manja. However, instead of directing individual municipal corporations and municipal councils to file separate affidavits, this Court considers it appropriate that the State Government department exercising administrative control and supervision over municipal corporations and municipal councils shall place a consolidated affidavit before this Court. The said department shall obtain necessary information from all municipal corporations and municipal councils across the State regarding the steps taken by them to enforce the prohibition on nylon manja and shall file a comprehensive affidavit indicating the measures undertaken, including inspections conducted, seizures effected, action taken against sellers and the awareness programmes conducted at the local level. The State department may also consider issuing directions to all Municipal Corporations and Council in accordance with order dated 09.01.2026 so as to effectively take steps to prohibit illegal sale of nylon manja.

8. Yet another issue which requires attention is the question of compensation to victims who suffer injuries or fatalities on account of the use of nylon manja. This Court has on earlier occasions been approached by victims or their families seeking compensation through individual proceedings. Now that a State Level Special Task Force has been constituted, it would be appropriate for the said Task Force to consider evolving an appropriate mechanism to address such situations. The Task Force shall examine the feasibility of adopting a structured procedure for verification of incidents involving injuries or fatalities caused by nylon manja, assessment of the nature and extent of the injury or loss suffered, and determination of appropriate compensation in deserving cases in accordance with law. The establishment of such a mechanism would ensure that victims receive timely assistance through an administrative process and would also avoid affected persons being compelled to approach this Court individually seeking compensation. Though we have ordered payment of compensation to some persons, we would now indicate that the claims made in future by any victim would be subject to the policy that is directed to be framed and therefore, we direct the State to come up with such policy within a period of one month from today.

9. The State Level Special Task Force shall therefore place

before this Court, in the next compliance affidavit, the progress made in implementing enforcement measures including identification of manufacturing units, disruption of supply chains, seizures and prosecutions, as well as the mechanism adopted for monitoring online marketplaces. The State department exercising supervisory control over municipal corporations and municipal councils shall also file the consolidated compliance affidavit referred to above within a period of four weeks from today. The Task Force shall further indicate the framework proposed for dealing with claims relating to compensation for victims of incidents involving nylon manja.

10. List the matter for further consideration on 15.04.2026.

**(Hiten S. Venegavkar, J.)**

**(Smt. Vibha Kankanwadi, J.)**

B. S. Joshi