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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

SUO MOTU PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION STAMP NO.27392 OF 2023

Mr.Pushkar Shendurnikar, Amicus Curiae (appointed).

(CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE AND
Y. G. KHOBRAGADE, JJ.)

DATE : AUGUST 28, 2023

PER COURT :

1. We have come across a news report published in Sunday Times (Times of India), Aurangabad Edition dated 27.08.2023. The news item reports, on the first page, the plight of a girl student as well as other students under the title of *"Kids row thermocol rafts with makeshift oars to cross Jaykwadi backwaters, attend school"*.

2. The news item mentions that a girl by name Prajakta Kale, who is barely 11 years old, makes a daring journey, everyday, across the backwaters of Jaikwadi, one of Maharashtra's largest dams, to reach her school. She is not alone. 15 children from the Bhiw Dhanora village of Aurangabad district, sit on a thick thermocol sheet and use makeshift oars to cross the kilometre-long stretch of the backwaters of the

Jaikwadi dam to go to school. Prajakta told the Times of India, "we carry bamboo sticks or makeshift oars to fend off water snakes that climb on the thermocol sheet as we navigate our way." The news item indicates that the situation has remained the same for 47 years ever since the dam was made. Her father Vishnu Kale told Times of India that "I do not want my children to remain illiterate like me. So my daughter and son travel on the thermocol sheet to go to school. It becomes daunting due to the presence of venomous snakes in the water."

3. We are converting the said news item in a Suo Motu PIL. We deem it appropriate to appoint the learned Advocate Mr.Pushkar Shendurnikar to prepare a PIL petition in view of the Bombay High Court PIL Rules, 2010 and present the same on 04.09.2023 in this Court. He is at liberty to contact the reporter, who has reported the said news.

(Y. G. KHOBRAGADE, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)