



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

SUO-MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (ST) NO.18656 OF 2025

**THE REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL) HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF
BOMBAY BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

....

Mr. P. R. Katneshwarkar, Senior Advocate appointed as Amicus Curiae

Mr. A. B. Girase, Government Pleader for the Respondents – State

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

DATE : 20.06.2025

PER COURT :-

1. This Court has read certain disturbing news items, which are a result of investigative journalism on the part of the Journalists working with Dainik Sakal, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, in the editions dated 14.06.2025 and 16.06.2025.

2. What has been reported is that there are some law offenders who are running a business of selling banned items, which are described as drugs and cigarettes, as well as,

e-cigarettes, and are targeting schools and colleges. Young students of an impressionable age, are enticed into consumption of such drugs and cigarettes virtually opening the path towards addiction and their physical destruction. There are much details in the various news items published in the said editions of Dainik Sakal.

3. Considering the aforesaid reporting of such sale and use of drugs, we deem it appropriate to take cognizance of the news items and we accordingly direct the learned Registrar (Judicial) of this Court to register a *Suo Moto* Public Interest Litigation. Copy of both these editions of Dainik Sakal, dated 14.06.2025 and 16.06.2025, shall be placed on record.

4. We requested the learned Senior Advocate Shri Katneshwarkar, to assist the Court as an *Amicus Curiae*. Shri Katneshwarkar has graciously agreed to assist this Court by filing a formal Public Interest Litigation, which he intends to draft at the earliest.

5. We, therefore, permit Shri Katneshwarkar to file the Public Interest Litigation, titled as *SUO-MOTO PIL*.

6. We record our appreciation for the Press Reporters of Dainik Sakal, who have taken up this issue. We would also appreciate if the Police Department of this city acts in the true spirit of the Department and ensures that the citizens are protected against such activities.

7. Liberty to the learned Senior Advocate to circulate the Suo Moto PIL at the earliest.

[Y. G. KHOBRADE, J.]

[RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.]

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