

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

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No. Complaint 2020 / CR 11 / TC 4
Office of the -
Environment Department & CC, 15th Floor,
New Administrative Building,
Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032
Date: 11th November, 2020

To,

District Collector,
Alibaug, Raigad

Subject: Complaint pertaining to destruction of mangroves and blocking the tidal flow of water at village Panje, Tal: Uran, District: Raigad.

Ref: 1) Letter dated 4th March, 2020 to District Collector
2) DO letter dated 19th May, 2020 to District Collector
3) Constitution of the District Coastal Zone Monitoring Committee dated 23rd March, 2011 by the State Government.

This office is in receipt of repeated complaints pertaining to destruction of mangroves and blocking the tidal flow of water at village Panje, Tal: Uran, District: Raigad. It is alleged that inlet to tidal waters has been blocked at water body situated in village Panje leading to drying up the water body and mangroves. It is further alleged that 70 numbers of sluice gates installed by the CIDCO have been blocked leading to complete stoppage of ingress of tidal water in the mangroves and water body at Panje wherein lakhs of migratory birds visit every year. It is further alleged that security cabin have been erected at the site. Complainants has sent the photographic evidence substantiating the allegations.

2. From the site photographs, it is observed that water body at village Panje is being dried up due to blockage of free flow of tidal water. It is further observed that security cabins are erected in CRZ area which are in violation of the CRZ Notification, 2011. Obstructing the free flow of tidal water and destruction of mangroves leads to violation of the CRZ norms and provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This is gross violations of the CRZ norms. Destruction of the mangroves leads to contempt of the Hon'ble High Court orders in PIL 87/2006, as per which, mangroves needs to be protected and conserved.


3. This to inform you that Hon'ble Minister, Environment on 3rd March, 2020 had convened a meeting with officials of the Department of Environment in the matter and accordingly, this office vide letter dated 4th March, 2020 has issued directions to stop the ongoing activity of mangrove destruction and dumping of debris at village panje immediately. Further, Environment Department vide DO letter dated 18.5.2020 has sought action taken report in the matter on top priority. Despite of communications vide above referred letter at sr. no, 1) & 2), the report in the matter is not yet submitted to Government.

4. In order to protect the mangroves & water body at village Panje, you are hereby directed to initiate action with immediate effect as under:

- a) Restore the free flow of tidal water by opening the sluice gates and removal of the blockages so that free flow of tidal water reaches to mangroves and water body at village Panje.
- b) Remove the illegal security cabins erected in CRZ area immediately.
- c) Stop the work of filling of low lying area in the said site.

5. It is requested to submit the action taken report within a week to this office. Please treat this as MOST URGENT.

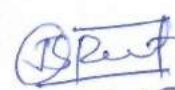
This is issued with the approval of the competent Authority


(Narendra Toke) 11/11/2020

Director, Environment, GoM

Copy to:

1. **Divisional Commissioner**, Konkan Division, Opposite Jahangir Art Gallery, Old Secretariat, Fort, Mumbai - 400 032
2. **Managing Director**, CIDCO, CIDCO Bhavan, Belapur, Navi Mumbai: it is requested to comply with the above said instructions.
3. **CEO, NMSEZ**, Navi Mumbai: it is requested to comply with the above said instructions.

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आज दि. 12/11/2020
रोजी निर्गमित केले
लिपिक/कार्यासन - 4
पर्यावरण व वातावरणीय बदल विभाग
मंत्रालय, मुंबई ४०० ०३२