



Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar)

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Shri Ganesh Naik
Honourable Minister of Forests
Government of Maharashtra

Subject: Halt Demolitions and Protect Adivasi Rights in Sanjay Gandhi National Park

Dear *Shri Naik,*

I write to you regarding the ongoing eviction and demolition drive affecting Adivasi padas within Sanjay Gandhi National Park, particularly in the Borivali–Malad stretch. Credible reporting confirms that multiple Adivasi hamlets are facing demolition from 19 January without completed surveys, verified resident lists, or the lawful conclusion of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) process.

Proceeding with evictions is a direct violation of Sections 4(1) and 4(5) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which explicitly prohibit eviction until all individual and community claims are verified through the Gram Sabhas. Eviction notices have been pasted late at night, with incorrect names and without field verification, denying residents a fair opportunity to seek legal remedy.

Equally concerning is the withdrawal of essential services. Electricity has been cut, BEST bus services suspended, and community facilities shut, with children being unable to attend school.

The justification that action is limited to so-called “re-encroachers” ignores the structural failure of rehabilitation. For Adivasi families whose livelihoods depend on land, livestock, and forest ecology, relocation to small SRA flats is neither viable nor lawful rehabilitation. This reality cannot be erased through administrative labelling. Conservation cannot be pursued by bypassing the law, particularly when large infrastructure projects continue within the same forest landscape.

I urge you to immediately halt all demolition activity, restore essential services, and ensure that no eviction proceeds until all FRA claims are lawfully settled through the Gram Sabha process. Failing timely intervention, affected communities and those supporting them will have no option but to intensify democratic protest and pursue all available legal and constitutional remedies.

Yours sincerely,

Anish Gawande