



**NAPM**

30 సంవత్సరాల పోరాటం, సంఘీభావం మరియు ప్రత్యామ్నాయాల నిర్మాణం

## ప్రజా ఉద్యమాల జాతీయ వేదిక

(National Alliance of People's Movements)

జాతీయ కార్యాలయం: A/29, హాజీ హబీబ్ భవనం నైగావ్ క్రాస్ రోడ్,

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**NAPM**

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

To,  
Sri A. Revanth Reddy Garu,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Government of Telangana,  
BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat,  
Hyderabad, Telangana

**Sub: Urgent Appeal to rescind decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to Indian Navy for Radar Project: Save 12 lakh trees and Telangana Green Cover, Ecology and Public Health – Reg**

Dear Revanth Reddy Garu,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Telangana chapter of the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) Telangana, a coalition of people's movements and concerned citizens across India, working for social, ecological justice and constitutional rights.

We are deeply agitated about the decision of the state government, under your leadership, to hand over the pristine forest lands in the Ananthagiri Hills to the Indian Navy, for purposes of establishing a 'Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station', at an increased project cost of about Rs. 2,500 crores. We have learnt from media reports that along with Mr. Rajnath Singh, the Union Home Minister, you are likely to participate in the inauguration of the said Radar Project on the coming 28<sup>th</sup> July, preparations for which are underway by local elected representatives and officials.

Over more than a decade, local people organized as the 'Damagundam Forest Protection Joint Action Committee' and environmental activists have been flagging severe concerns regarding the impacts this Project would have, if permitted and executed. It is well-known that the dense Damagundam forests in Puduru mandal of Vikarabad district are very rich in bio-diversity. The forest cover here includes hundreds of rare tree varieties, especially medicinal plants as well as valuable flora and fauna.

We would like to draw your attention to some other long-term environmental impacts this project is likely to have on the state and people of Telangana. This area also serves as a catchment zone and destroying the forest could result in more frequent flooding in the city of Hyderabad. In addition to this, there is research to prove that tree barks are capturing Methane gasses, along with the trees' function of storing carbon dioxide, making this mass-

level of deforestation irreplaceable. This in turn provides for a safer local climate for the city to fight urban heat island effect while providing proper water cycle and monsoon base.

Mooted by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Vishakhapatnam, the VLF radar station is intended to communicate with ships and submarines, using low frequency radio waves. As per estimates, **a whopping 12 lakh diverse trees would have to be cut-down to make way for the Project in the reserve forest land of Damagundam.** The proposed project area of 2,900 acres of forest land includes 1400 acres for the Antenna Park, 1090 acres for technical areas, 310 acres for official, residential complexes and 100 acres of 'safe zone' for radiation hazard.

The casual response of authorities that an equal number of saplings would be planted indicates the complete lack of seriousness towards the concerns raised by local people, scientists and environmentalists. We have seen in numerous contexts previously as well as to how the claim of 'compensatory afforestation' is far from realised and it is in fact next-to-impossible to humanly recreate natural forests and ecosystems.

At least 60,000 people living in across 20 villages are lives would be impacted, over time. Livelihoods of small farmers, cattle grazers etc dependent on the forest also would be affected. In addition to the important Musi River which originates in Vikarabad, Kagna, another river of the region would also be impacted. Forest-cutting would in turn adversely affect the entire river basin through soil erosion.

Experts have been cautioning about the potential health risks this Project is likely to have on people of the region, through radiation. Scientists have also warned about risks of increased pollen concentration due to large scale deforestation, that would have health impacts, in particular respiratory disorders, including on people residing in Hyderabad. The region is also known widely for the 500 years old *Bugga Ramalingeswara Swamy* temple, an important religious and historical site.

It is owing to such concerns that the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana initially ordered a stay on the project for over 4 years, although unfortunately the stay was vacated earlier this year. It also needs to be highlighted that in response to a PIL filed in 2020, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Telangana admitted on affidavit before the Hon'ble High Court that a total 12,12,753 trees were allowed to be cut during the previous five years, and that it was the highest in the whole country. This is a shameful and tragic record that must be set right and not continued further by allowing gigantic projects, that destroy our precious forests.


Due to flawed 'development' paradigms, the entire world is reeling through acute climate crises. India already declared globally as one in top 5 most vulnerable, is no exception to the same and we have constantly been witnessing climate impacts on people, especially from vulnerable and working-class communities. Flash floods, heat waves, increasing pollution, crop losses and other impacts have become common. World over, Russia is the only other country, which has such an operational VLF project. Even technologically advanced nations like the United States had to abandon these projects owing to popular opposition on grounds of ecological and health impacts, reiterating the severe imprudence of the approval of such a project.

***As Chief Minister of Telangana, we look upto you to uphold the long-term interests of the people of the state and its ecology. We call upon you to rationally review and withdraw your decision to allow the Navy Radar Project in the Damagudam Forests of Anantagiri Hills and communicate the same to the Indian Navy and Union of India, immediately. We owe a safe environment to the current and future generation of Telangana.***

***We hope this Appeal of ours will be taken with all the seriousness it deserves.***

***Thanking You,***

Sl. No.	Name	Organization / Profession	City / Location	Personal message to the Chief Minister
1.	Dr. Babu Rao Kalapala	Scientists for People	Hyderabad	Decimating a forest for an outdated technology is sad. USA abandoned a similar project in Alaska decades ago.
2.	Shaik Salauddin	Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU)	Hyderabad	
3.	Natasha Ramarathnam	Consultant	Hyderabad	The project is located in an ecologically sensitive zone and it protects Hyderabad from floods. Please save the forest and the city
4.	Kirankumar Vissa	Rythu Swarajya Vedika	Hyderabad	
5.	Satyavati	Social Activist	Hyderabad	
6.	Sumitra	Ankuram	Hyderabad	Save 12 laks trees and Green cover in Telangana. Stop handing over Damagundam forest to Indian Navy for its project
7.	AiliSuryaprakash	Software Engineer	Karimnagar	Please Stop this radar project
8.	Ashalatha	MAKAAM	Hyderabad	
9.	Meera Sanghamitra	NAPM	Hyderabad	Please withdraw the decision. Save Damagundam. Save Telangana
10.	Rukmini Rao	Psychologist	Hyderabad	
11.	ADDAKULA TEJA	RYS	Hyderabad	Save the earth
12.	Sudhir Moorti	Business	Hyderabad	Sir please kindly reconsider this decision
13.	Mir omar Ali khan	Student	Hyderabad	
14.	Siddhartha lavudya	Student	Warangal	

15.	Vaishnavi	Assistant manager IT	Hyderabad	We are post climate emergency now. Destroying forests should not even be the last thing on our minds. Please save the trees.
16.	Islavath mathru	Student	Hyderabad	Stop this project
17.	Varsha	Research scholar	Medchal	
18.	Nikhil	Business person	Hyderabad	Please save nature.
19.	Charita	A freelancer karaoke jockey and emcee	Hyderabad	Please don't go ahead with the radar project. It might seem necessary at the moment, but the consequences will be brutal and irreversible.
20.	Sita	Retired Reader	Hyderabad	Please you have the power to make our planet cool. Use your power please to keep us all cool
21.	Jayasree Subramanian	Academician	Hyderabad	
22.	Ananya Sangameshwar	Student and Environment professional	Hyderabad	Please, conserve this forest. We sincerely hope you will keep the interest of your people in mind and conserve our ecology. We need air to breathe and water to drink in the future, which we won't have if we keep on destroying forests and green spaces. I really hope you will help conserve our ecology for life.
23.	Shefali	Teacher	Hyderabad	We expect better decision-making from a Congress Chief Minister. It can't be business as usual in the face of the climate crisis. Where is your sense of responsibility and vision for the future of ordinary people in Telangana?
24.	RAHUL	Student	Hyderabad	Please look over this matter asap
25.	Lissy	Telangana Domestic Workers Union	Hyderabad	Need for intervention to save trees, save lives
26.	kalyan Kakarla	Alokit, Program Manager	Hyderabad	As a person who leads the state, it is your responsibility that state stays alive and well. This project as mentioned above will damage our natural resources and put us in a very critical condition in the coming years. You need to ensure our eventual safety and at the same time ensure the safety and cultural lives of the 60000 people who will be displaced because of the project. If you live by the ideals of a leader of Telangana, call of the projects, let yourself be known as the preserver of Telangana's biodiversity and not its killer.
27.	P Vishwajith	Student	Hyderabad	Please don't deforest the 12 lakh trees it's our request sir please do shift this project to some other degraded land. We can grow this old aged 12lakh trees which are lungs for hyderabad city. 

28.	Hussain Abbas	Sales Professional	Hyderabad	As Chief Minister, we look upto you to uphold the interests of the people of the state and its ecology. We call upon you to review and withdraw your decision to allow the Navy Radar Project in the Damagudam Forests of Anantagiri Hills and communicate the same to the Indian Navy and Union of India, immediately. We owe a safe environment to the current and future generation of Telangana.
29.	AVS Krishna Chaitanya	Software Engineer	Hyderabad	#SaveTrees
30.	Padma	Journalist	Hyderabad	
31.	P.Shankar	DBF	Hyderabad	
32.	Puli kalpana	DBF	Hyderabad	
33.	Ram Chaitanya	Ecowiser	HYDERABAD	Kindly protect the forest
34.	Mahesh Akarapu	Private employee	Hyderabad	
35.	Girija.B	Social activist	HYDERABAD	
36.	Sravya	Student	Hyderabad	
37.	Rathod Dileep	Centre for peoples foresry	Adilabad	Save green save trees
38.	Sudha Goparaju	Development activist	Hyderabad	
39.	Rachita	Farmer	Hyderabad	
40.	Suvidha	Business	Hyderabad	Assign some other non cultivable land
41.	Puli kalpana	దళిత బహుజన ఫ్రెండ్	Hyderabad	
42.	K. Nimmaiah	Social worker	Bhongir	Stop handing over of damagudem forest to navy
43.	Vindhya	Retd Professor	Hyderabad	
44.	Ria	Student	Hyderabad	We are already dying Because of pollution. Only those trees can save all our lives. No cutting trees.
45.	Kumra Parameshwar	WASSAN	Tiryani, Asifabad	Rescind decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to Indian Navy for Radar Project.
46.	Kanneganti ravi	TPJAC co convenor	Hyderabad	
47.	S.Seethalakshmi	Independent Researcher	Hyderabad	
48.	Desapu sao Nitheesh	CPF,CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY ,Program officer	Hyderabad	SAVE NATURE SAVE WORLD.Please dont misuse the natural resources for the country development .....it effects the future generations alot.

49.	Padmaja Shaw	Rtd Professor	Hyderabad	
50.	Avi P	Advocate	Hyderabad	
51.	Prasad Bhandari	Civil Engineer	Hyderabad	If we cut one tree, it affects around 10 lakhs insects and birds. Imagine we are cutting 12 lakh trees, what will be the impact. Already we are facing the brunt of it. Slowly and steadily for various reasons we will keep on cutting trees and a day will come when WE WILL FIND AN EXCUSE TO CUT THE LAST REMAINING TREE ALSO ON THE EARTH.
52.	P Hanmanthu Nayak	Student	Osmania University	
53.	Anishetty Shankar	Retired Head Master	Saroonnagar	Save forests - Save tribals.
54.	Arshiya Begum	Student	Hyderabad	
55.	Kanishka saha	Climate front india	Hyderabad	rescind the decision of the state government to hand over large tracts of the Damagundam Forest to the Indian Navy for Radar Project.  Sir , you can't make development on cost future generation.
56.	Bhanupriya Pradhan	Climate front india	Hyderabad	Please stop the plan of project which are building on the cost of 12lakh trees and on our future
57.	J Vijay Kumar	Social worker	Hyderabad	
58.	Ravindranath Soory	Doctor	Nizamabad	
59.	Dhurgam Sammaiah	Research Assistant	Hyderabad	
60.	Uma Shankari	Farmer	Hyderabad	
61.	K. Madhavi	Rainbow foundation india	Hyderabad	
62.	Omrahmam	Bharat Bachavo	Hanumakonda	Sir, we expected a lot from you. We--Bharath Bachavo--did more than our strength for the Success of Congress in previous both Assembly and Parliament Elections. Please don't rule like KCR and Modi and don't make any allience with BJP to menace the Rights of the People.
63.	Swadesh Parkipandla	Pravasi Mithra Labour Union	NIRMAL	
64.	Sangepu Borranna	Raitu swarajya vedika jilla adyaksulu Adilabad	Adilabad	
65.	G RajaGopal	Researcher	Hyderabad	
66.	Nikhat Fatima	Journalist	Hyderabad	

67.	VATTAM BALRAJ GUPTA	CPF	HYDERABAD	
68.	Ramavath Sri Ram Balaji	Student	Hyderabad	
69.	Nunna Nageswararao	Cpim Dist Secretary Khammam	Khammam	Exactly
70.	E RAGHUNANDAN	Balala Hakkula Sankshema Sangam(BHSS)	Hyderabad	Rescind decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to Indian Navy for Radar Project: Save 12 lakh trees and Telangana Green Cover, Ecology and Public Health
71.	Hari Murthy	Retired faculty	Hyderabad	Protect green cover
72.	GANJI ESWARA LINGAM	Amma Eye organ and Body donation promoters organisation	Hyderabad	Save forests and save nature
73.	Ruchith Asha kamal	Climate Front Hyderabad	Hyderabad	
74.	S.Q.Maqsood	ASEEM	Hyderabad	
75.	Nikita Naidu	Climate Action	Hyderabad	
76.	John Michael	(ALIYSA Telangana)	Telangana	All India Inquilabi Youth and Students Alliance – NAPM urges you to save Damagundam Forests
77.	Kaneez Fathima	Civil Rights Activist	Hyderabad	
78.	Apoorva Orsu	Software	Hyderabad	
79.	Deepti	Social Activist, WT- JAC	Hyderabad	
80.	Soumya Kidambi	Independent Researcher	Hyderabad	
81.	Sanjusha Suresh	MBA student	Hyderabad	
82.	likhitha	lfe	hyderabad	
83.	Anil Kumar Reddy	Climate Front India	Hyderabad	Please save Trees
84.	Ramya	Engineer	Hyderabad	Tribal rehabilitation and environment conservation is the priority right now for balanced development to showcase yourself as a good government before the country's polity.
85.	Viswanth	Software Engineer	Hyderabad	Please rescind decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to Indian Navy for Radar Project

86.	Sagari Ramdas	Veterinary Scientist , Food Sovereignty Alliance	Hyderabad	
87.	Mekala Srinivas Yadav	Advocate	Sainikpuri Rachakonda Telangana	Telanhana Oxygen production Tress in Forests can not be artificial...ground water apart ...Why Future generations suffer from lack of Oxygen...can Navy Production Units produce one ounce of Oxygen..? Navy Radar technology is scrap from FOREIGN and Chinese Agencies playing game even at NGT .
88.	Srikanth	Student	Nagar kurnool	Forest is main source of peaceful life lead , so , please save forest
89.	Sharad Lele	Research	Bengaluru	
90.	Arif Ismail	Founder of Ismail Association Trust	Bihar, Samastipur	Urgent Appeal to rescind decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to Indian Navy for Radar Project: Save 12 lakh trees and Telangana Green Cover, Ecology and Public Health – Reg
91.	Jankee	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation	DELHI	
92.	Santosh Nelli	Centre for people's forestry	Hiramandalam , Srikakulam, Andrapradesh	Save environment and save Nature.
93.	Nidhi Tiwari	Homemaker	Jaipur	Pls save our forests
94.	ANKIT MAHESHWARI	BUSINESS	JAIPUR	Kind request to save trees
95.	Monika	Student	Jaipur	Can we do the project elsewhere
96.	Nupur jain	English trainer	Jaipur	Please let the trees live and with that the humans. Recent pandemic was due to urbanisation and pollution. What will happen if more trees are cut. No definite solution to this
97.	Nirdosh Kumari	Climate Front Jammu	Jammu	Please save this forest .... It is in your hands
98.	Sana Jamwal	Climate front jammu	Jammu	To rescind the decision of the state government to handover large tracts of the Damagundam forest to the Indian Navy for Radar project
99.	Haritha Malladi	Teacher	Visakhapatna m	Please stop this sir. Look an alternative.
100	K. Rajesh	Business	Visakhapatna m	To the Honorable chief minister of Talangana Sri Anumula Revnath Reddy sir The foresight in planning developmental projects is lacking; trees face the axe when these projects are executed with little thought given to replenishing these resources. Why can't saplings be planted at the planning stages itself when the tree cutting is



101	Sri Anjana Sarvani	Climate Front Vizag, have to pursue MBBS 1st year	Vizag	<p>Sir, admist all the political matters, please spend some time into the environment matters. Its really important that we give our future generations relatively safe environment to live. Already the global warming effects have been harsh in American States lets not put India into that hazardous situation. 12lakh trees is a very huge amount. Please consider sir.</p> <p>Lets give the best childhood to our future generations.</p>
102	Krish Goswami.	Climate Front Jammu	Jammu	<p><b>*An Urgent Plea to Save Damagundam Forest*</b></p> <p>Respected Chief Minister of Telangana,</p> <p>We, the citizens of India, are writing to you with a deep sense of urgency and concern. We implore you to reconsider the decision to hand over vast areas of the Damagundam Forest to the Indian Navy for their Radar Project.</p> <p>This decision will have catastrophic consequences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Destruction of 12 lakh trees and the precious green cover</li> <li>- Irreparable damage to the delicate ecology of the region</li> <li>- Adverse impact on public health, particularly for the surrounding communities</li> </ul> <p>We understand the importance of national security, but it cannot come at the cost of our environment and our people's well-being. There are alternative solutions that can balance development with conservation.</p> <p>We request you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rescind the decision to hand over Damagundam Forest to the Indian Navy</li> <li>- Explore alternative locations for the Radar Project that do not harm the environment</li> <li>- Prioritize the protection of our natural resources and public health</li> </ul> <p>We urge you to take immediate action to save Damagundam Forest. We are willing to engage in a dialogue to find a sustainable solution.</p>

**ప్రజా ఉద్యమాల జాతీయ వేదిక / (National Alliance of People's Movements)**

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