Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

A Dossier
Dossier on
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Produced for
National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF)

By
Centre for Education and Communication (CEC)

November 2008
New Delhi
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Centre for Education and Communication (CEC), a labour-support organisation based in Delhi is privileged to be involved in Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan campaign that began from May 1-June 27, 2008 along the coastal belt of India. CEC contributes and engages by providing conceptual and logistical inputs. The compilation towards this Dossier is one such step forward as part of advocacy and campaign. This Dossier charts out the route taken by the Abhiyan through all the coastal states and maps out the media coverage received during this period. It includes press clippings, press releases and photographs from various states.

We sincerely would like to thank Harekrisha Debnath, Chairperson, National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF) for his undue support and perseverance, and providing us with the necessary documents for compiling this Dossier. It is to his insistence that we have been successful in bringing out this document as a campaign tool for the ongoing struggle. We would also like to acknowledge the supportive documents and photographs received from Direct Initiatives for Social and Health Action (DISHA), Kolkatta in bringing out this dossier. We hope that this dossier will be useful to various civil society groups, organisations, trade unions, activists alike for strengthened this campaign and others to understand the campaign.

We dedicate this document to all the courageous fisher people who embarked on this ambitious yet proved to be successful campaign. We urge the government to respond by withdrawing the CZM Notification.

November 3, 2008
New Delhi

J. John
Executive Director (CEC)
Introduction

The Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan commenced from May 1, 2008 in Jakhau in the Kutch region of Gujarat with ceremonial plantation of mangrove by the local fishing community. The Abhiyan traversed and campaigned along 7000 kilometers of coastland passing through the coastal states of Gujarat, Maharastra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. The main thrust of this campaign is to prevent replacement of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification 1991 with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) by the Government of India. The Campaign concluded in Kolkata in a citizen’s meet on June 27, 2008. This massive mobilisation was made possible with the concerted efforts of National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF), registered as a trade union representing about 3.5 million maritime fishworkers living along the coastline.

The fisher communities contest that such an imposition of the CZM would legitimise the rampant destruction of the marine ecosystem caused by unrestricted capital intensive development and cause massive displacement of the fishers from their natural livelihood systems. ‘Save the Coast-Save the Fishers’ yatra is an expression of dissent as well as assertion of the livelihood rights of fishers, in the context of the ever increasing external incursions into the coasts in the names of establishment of industries, SEZs, tourist centres, nuclear and petrochemical processing centres, airports etc. Increasing marine pollution, coastal aquaculture, destructive fishing methods used by many, incursions by industrial foreign fishing vessels and lopsided ecology conservation policies that denies access to fishers are other issues that threaten the livelihood rights of marine fishers.

A second and important demand placed by the National FishWorkers’ Forum is for a national legislation with the ILO’s Work in Fishing Conventions (C 188) that is adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2007. The Work in Fishing Convention attempts to regulate the working conditions of marine fishers and provides for their occupational health and safety measures as well as social security. The demand raised by NFF on this seeks a comprehensive legislation that includes not just the rights of the marine fishers but also the traditional fishers, engaged in shore based activities, inland fishers and women fishers.

November 3, 2008

J. John
New Delhi
Executive Director (CEC)
SAVE THE COAST: SAVE THE FISHERS
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Kutch - Kanyakumari - Kolkata
1st May - 27th June 2008

Abhiyan Itinerary

The campaign will start from 1st May 2008 and carry on for two months till 27th June 2008. The whole of the Indian coast will witness mass mobilizations with agitations, demonstrations, rallies, reception, public meetings, seminars and press conferences all along its stretch in the months of May and June 2008.

On 1st of May, the international day of labour, the campaign will commence at Jakho in the Run of Kutch in Gujarat and will end in Kolkata in West Bengal on 27th June 2008.

A central campaign team comprising of eminent leaders of National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF), National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC), peoples movements and civil society organizations will spearhead the campaign.

The state wise itinerary of the central campaign team is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1st to 9th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>10th to 18th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>19th to 20th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>21st to 24th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>25th to 31st May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TamilNadu+Pondy</td>
<td>1st June to 9th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra</td>
<td>10th June to 15th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>16th June to 21st June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>22nd June to 27th June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the course of the campaign there will be state level seminars on ILO Convention on work in fishing sector and national legislation for fishworkers at the following places and dates:
**Gujarat:** Ahmedabad - 6th May  
**Maharastra; Mumbai:** 12th May  
**Nagercoil:** 2nd June  
**Tamilnadu:** Chennai- 9th June  
**Andhra Pradesh:** Ongole- 11th June.

**Detail Campaign Plan for Gujarat**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/05/08</td>
<td>Jakho</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Inauguration of the campaign &amp; rally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/08</td>
<td>Mandvi Layja Vill</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Public meeting and interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/05/08</td>
<td>Junabander/ Ujjas</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Visit hot spot and citizens meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/05/08</td>
<td>Bhadreshwar</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Meeting with social activists, fishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/08</td>
<td>Dwaraka, Rupen Bander</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Meeting and interaction with fishing community and civil society leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/08</td>
<td>Harshed</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Meeting &amp; rally at fish landing centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/08</td>
<td>Porbander</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Meeting at fishing Harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/08</td>
<td>Mangrol</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Public meeting at Machhimar Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/08</td>
<td>Veraval</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception &amp; meeting at community hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05/08</td>
<td>Veraval</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Travel to Ahmedabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/08</td>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>ILO seminar at Awaj Kunj, Ambavadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/05/08</td>
<td>Jambusar</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Meeting with fishing Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/05/08</td>
<td>Umarsadi</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Indoor general meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/05/08</td>
<td>Valsad</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Mass meeting and press meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/05/08</td>
<td>Daman</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Informal meeting with community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/05/08</td>
<td>Umargaon</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Mass meeting and halt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan : Maharastra - Goa itinerary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 May 2008</td>
<td>8.30AM</td>
<td>Zai (Umbergaon) - - Bordi -- Chikhla</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.00AM</td>
<td>Dahanu Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00PM</td>
<td>Popharan Dandi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.30PM</td>
<td>Murbe-Alewadi-Navapur- via- Boiser - Palghar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00PM</td>
<td>Satpati (Shri Rajendra Meher and Shri Vinode Patil, Satpati Machhimar and Satpati Fishermen Society)-Vadarai - Mahim (Tembhi) - Kelva - Datiwara - via-Kore - Edwan - via- Safala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.00PM</td>
<td>Arnal - via - Virar and halt (Arnala Fishermen Society, Shri Vaity, Shri Dhaki, Shri Koli, Shri Patil &amp; other colleagues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 2008</td>
<td>8.30AM</td>
<td>Arnala (Four Machhimar Co-op.Societies) - From Nala to Bassi(Pachubandar) - Shri Philip Mastan - Khochiwada-Naigaon-via- Bassain Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30PM</td>
<td>Uttan-Dongri Chawk- Sri Leo Collaso and others - via-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30PM</td>
<td>Dharavi Pali Marg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30PM</td>
<td>Gorai (participation in NAPM State Convention) - Manori - Malvani - Marve (by boat).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30PM</td>
<td>Madh-Bhati (Shri Kiran Koli and colleagues).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00PM</td>
<td>Varsova (Shri Motiram Bhave and other fishermen leaders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May 2008</td>
<td>9.00 AM Worli Koliwada - GosfaDevi Sea face via Mumbai Central.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30AM</td>
<td>Bhaucha Dhakka (Kasara port) Shri Karsan Bhai and Shri Dilip Pagdhare, Shri Keluskar, Shri Vasant Mahulkar &amp; other colleagues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30PM</td>
<td>Crawford Market - Sasoon Dock: Shri Dattaram Meher, Shri Keshav Koli, Shri Pradip Nakhwa and others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30PM</td>
<td>Cuffe Parade (Colaba) - Shri Moreswar Patil, Shri Ramesh Meher, Shri Raghunath Bohir, Shri Laxman Dhanur &amp; others. Machhimach Sarvodaya Sahakari Society, Cuffe Parade - Lunch.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.00PM</td>
<td>Shivaji Mandir (Dadar) via Trombay - Mahul.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 PM</td>
<td>Karanja (via Vashi - Uran). Night halt. Dinner: Shri Ravi Koli, Karanja.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**12 May 2008</td>
<td>10.30AM - 4.30 PM There will be Seminar on ILO Convention on Work in Fishing Sector at Rajashri Shahu SabhaSahra, Shivaji Mandir, 3rd floor, Dadar, Mumbai. - Maharstr Machimach Kriti Samiti.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May 2008</td>
<td>8.30 AM Karanja- Bodani by boat (Vehicles at Rawas via Karanja- Vadkhal in the morning) Shri Datta Hashya Nakhwa, Shri Koli &amp; others.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30AM</td>
<td>Bodani - Sasavane- Thal - Navgaon - Varsoli.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30AM</td>
<td>Alibag (Lunch) Shri Ullash Varkate, Shri Ravikant Parekar &amp; others: Alibag Machhimach Society.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30PM</td>
<td>Murud: Night Halt and Dinner.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00PM</td>
<td>Harnepay (Harnepay - Ade - Utambar-Burandi- Public Meeting, night halt: Shri Pawesha, Chairman Harnepay Machhimach Sanstha, Shri Chaugule, Shri Narayan Raghuvira and other colleagues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30PM</td>
<td>Guhaghar- Night halt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30PM</td>
<td>Ganapatipule - dinner &amp; night halt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2008</td>
<td>8.00AM</td>
<td>Karla - Bhata: Shri Nisar Borkar and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.30PM</td>
<td>Sakhari Nate: night halt &amp; dinner: Sakhari Nate Machhimar Co-op. Society: Shri Amjad Borkar and other colleagues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 2008</td>
<td>9.00AM</td>
<td>Vijay Durg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.00 AM</td>
<td>Deogarh: Lunch - Deogarh Machimar Society &amp; leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May 2008</td>
<td>8.30 AM</td>
<td>To Panjim via Malwan- Goa Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.30 PM</td>
<td>Panjim: General Meeting of All Goa Fishworkers' Union. Night halt in Panjim: Shri Matanhy Saldanha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May 2008</td>
<td>9.00 AM</td>
<td>Visit to fishing villages, fishermen society and ecological hotspots: Shri Matanhy Saldanha</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Afternoon Press Conference: Timings to be finalized by Shri Matanhy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>To Karnataka</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

East Coast States’ Itinerary: Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.6.08</td>
<td>Nirodi</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marthandamthurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Velupillai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eravi Puthenthrurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Chinnathurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Thoothoor</td>
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<td>Eramanthurai</td>
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<td>Mulirthurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Enam puthenthrurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Helen Colony</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Kurunpanai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Vaniakudi</td>
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<td>Colachel</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Kottilpadu</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Periavillai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manvalakurichir</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.6.08</td>
<td>Wadia-Muttam</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rajakamangalthurai</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>Puthenthrurai</td>
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<td>Kepamanakudi</td>
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<td>New Kanyakumari</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.6.08</td>
<td>Uvari</td>
<td>Tuticorin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Periathurai</td>
<td>Tuticorin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.6.08</td>
<td>Kilakarai</td>
<td>Public meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ramanathapuram</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ramnad RFTU office (Press meet)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dargavalasai – group meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thangachimadam - Hail meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ramswaram - Public meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>05.6.08</td>
<td>Jagadapatnam</td>
<td>Pudukottai</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manalmelkudi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sethu Chettunam</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.6.08</td>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
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<td>Seretoor</td>
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<td>Karaikal</td>
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<td>Kilinjalmedu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NambiarNagar</td>
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<tr>
<td>07.6.08</td>
<td>Killai</td>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuddalore town (press meet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Putchikuppam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<tr>
<td>07.6.08</td>
<td>Naramanill</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gingev Salai- Public Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.06.08</td>
<td>Pondicherry Press Club</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Press Meet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.6.08</td>
<td>Nedu Kupam</td>
<td>Villipuram</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anumanthai</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kadapu pakkam Kuppam</td>
<td>Kanchipuram</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cuddalore Peria Kuppam</td>
<td>Kanchipuram</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mahabalipuram</td>
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<td>Ualikuppam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kannathuradi Kuppam</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.6.08</td>
<td>ICSA, Chennai. ILO</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Convention Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.6.08</td>
<td>Pazavarkadu ( Pulicut)</td>
<td>Thiruvallur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>10.6.08</td>
<td>Ramalingapuram</td>
<td>Nellore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.6.08</td>
<td>Ongole (ILO seminar)</td>
<td>Praksham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6.08</td>
<td>Wadarevu (Press &amp; public meet)</td>
<td>Praksham</td>
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<td>Ramnagar (Public meeting)</td>
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<td>Surya Lanka(Special Tourism)</td>
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<td>13.6.08</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam (Press meet and agitation at the collectorate)</td>
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<td>Vizianagaram Coleectorate</td>
<td>Vizianagaram (March and public meeting at Krishi Bhavan)</td>
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<td>15.6.08</td>
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<td>16.6.08</td>
<td>Mass rally and Dharna</td>
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<td>18.6.08</td>
<td>Puri Durga Bari - Fishers</td>
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<td>18.6.08</td>
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<td>Bhavan Press meet</td>
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<td>19.6.08</td>
<td>Chandra Bhaga, Konark</td>
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<td>Paradeep - 5.00 pm</td>
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<td>Kharinashi (public meeting)</td>
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<td>Sonakhalii (Sundarban)</td>
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<td>Mass dharna at Canning</td>
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<td>Kakdwip — Hall meeting</td>
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<td>Digha</td>
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<td>Chewasuli — Public meeting</td>
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<td>Dadanpatrabar — reception</td>
<td>East Midnapore</td>
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<td>26.6.08</td>
<td>Public meeting and civic</td>
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<td>reception at Contai</td>
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<td>27.6.08</td>
<td>Citizens meet and reception</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
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<td>Concluding meet in Kolkata</td>
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ABHIYAN ROUTE

Gujarat  1st to 9th May
Maharashtra  10th to 18th May
Goa  19th to 20th May
Karnataka  21st to 24th May
Kerala  25th to 31st May
Tamil Nadu  1st to 7th June
Pondicherry  7th & 8th June
Andhra Pradesh  10th to 15th June
Orissa  16th to 21st June
West Bengal  22nd to 27th June
Gujarat
1st to 9th May

Jakao

Jakho
Mandvi Layja Vill
Junabander/ Ujjias
Bhadreshwar
Dwaraka
Harshed
Porbander
Mangrol
Veraval
Ahmedabad
Jambusar
Umarsadi
Valsad
Daman
Umargoon
Gujarat

- Large-scale destruction of mangroves
- Scarcity of drinking water
- Establishment of SEZs, cement factories, thermal power plants, salt pans, private board and real estate development
- Pollution of the coastal borders and River Daman Ganga caused by ash and waste-water from these factories
- Drastic fall in total marine catch
- Imprisonment of Indian fishers and capture of Indian boats by Pakistan naval agencies were the major concerns during this campaign
- Campaign spearheaded by Machhimar Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (MASS), Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal (AGMM) and Gujarat NFF jointly
- State level seminar on ILO Convention of Work in Fishing was held in Ahmedabad on May 6, 2008
Fish workers’ body to launch campaign against industrialisation along coastline

Ahmedabad

The Indian Express

The Fishermen’s Union of Gujarat will launch a nationwide campaign from May 1 to protest against the large-scale commercialization of the coastline which is already affecting the livelihoods of the fishing community.

The campaign will see a series of activities, including protests, demonstrations, demonstrations, rallies, and marches along the country’s coastline. The campaign, which will begin in Surat on May 1, will proceed to other parts of Gujarat, with a focus on villages in the coastal and riverine areas.

The organizers have said that the campaign is aimed at highlighting the threats posed by industrialization along the coastline and the need to protect the fishing community’s interests.

He said that the Centre’s efforts to promote coastal development and industrialization are a threat to the fishing community. The campaign will aim to highlight the impact of such developments on the livelihoods of fishermen and the importance of preserving their traditional fishing practices.

The Indian Express has reported that the Centre has been providing financial assistance to the fishing community, but the beneficiaries have not received any such help.

The campaign will be supported by various organizations, including the National Fishermen’s Federation and the Gujarat State Federation of Fishermen’s Unions.

The organizers have said that the campaign will continue until the government takes concrete steps to address the concerns of the fishing community.

Gujarat
Maharashtra
10th to 18th May

Zai (Uhragan), Bord, Chikhla, Dahanu Port
Dekhi Dahanu-Gangavali, Velavan, Vare, Girvan
Tarapore, Chivoli, Uthela
Ripheran Cherd, Murba Aved, Navep, Boser, Rasgner
Satpati, Vadani, Mahim (Tenth), Kelve, Dativera, Kore
Evlen, Sadeta, Anel, Vir, Anela, Nela, Basa (Pachbanda)
Koivweda, Nigeon, Bassin Reed
Utan Dongi Chawk, Dhavali Pili Marg
Gira, Mirani, Malvani, Minve (by boat)
Mich Bhati, Varsa, Mahim Ship
Velli Kliweda, Gasta Devi Seatface, Mumbai Central
Bhauka Dekha (Keara port), Gavford Market, Season Dark
Coffe Parc (Gleba), Shivrj Mirde (Dadri), Tromay, Minul
Keraja (via Vedi-Urai), Keraja, Bobani by boat
Bodri, Sesavene Thl, Navep, Varsdi, Alibeg
Ashi, Paranda, Bheruda, Kadia, Eiai, Badi, Minda, Bobala
Mudaji Dghi, Bharat Krd, Harapej, Haru Depdi
Dehdi Kred (Jangli Jty), Ajend, Navegher
Gheger, Apdi, Pakha, Kerkau, Varesvar
Ada Ager, Hada, Kala
Navegher Kred (Jangli Jty), Chinb Bandar, Vavoda
Ginepatil, Jla, Bata, Mrekwith (Ratregiri), Runegad
Raves, Sakhari Ntea, Vijay Org, Dugug, Mitwawn

Maharashtra
Maharashtra

- Enormous depletion of coastal environment
- Setting up of industries (particularly Container Port Project of Reliance in Raigarh)
- Captive Jelly Project in Alewadi, Taluk Palghat in Thane district to affect more than 40,000 fisher people
- Sharp depletion of fish stock along the coast due to discharge of industrial effluence
- Large scale sand-mining for the construction industry seriously affects the ornamental fishes in the Creek
- Declared SEZs (covering Gorai, Uttan and Manori) threaten to displace more than one lakh people including fishermen, adivasis, artisans and farmers
- State level seminar on ILO Convention of Work in Fishing was held in Mumbai on May 12, 2008
- Maharashtra Machhimar Kriti Samiti organised this campaign successfully
Centre bows to greens on CRZ norms
Restricts Construction Activity Close To The Shore By Redefining The Setback Line

Mumbai: After concerns raised by environmentalists last year, the Union environment ministry has amended the proposed draft notification on coastal areas, redefining the setback line.

The proposed notification will supersede the existing Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms that permit construction activity close to the shore. It was issued by the ministry on May 1.

The earlier setback line proposed in the draft was an attempt to dilute the stringent CRZ regulation, which restricts possible construction activity within 300 m from the low-tide line along the landward side.

Experts had feared that if the government approves the draft, there will be no construction on coastal areas.

Now the ministry has suggested that the setback line will be fixed after mapping the vulnerability of the area by taking into account the parameters—direction, changes in the coastline due to erosion, topography, sea-level trends and human-induced displacement.

Sources said the objection raised by the greens could possibly be the reason for the environment ministry to redefine the vulnerability line proposed in the amended notification issued last week.

“Central government proposes to bring into force a new framework for managing and regulating activities in the coastal and marine areas for conserving and protecting the natural resources and environment,” said the notification.

Revised norms include a buffer zone which is 200 m from the low-tide line along the landward side. Within this zone, activities that are specific to conservation, ecotourism and research are allowed.

The Environment Ministry has given 60 days for people to make any objections or suggestions on the proposals in the draft notification.
Greens wary of new coastal zone notification plan

Mumbai) Environmentalists raised their concerns over the proposed draft of the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification 2003, which is supposed to supersede the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules 1992, at a meeting of the draft held at Maharashtra Nature Park on Sunday.

The proposed CMZ Notification is a gross dilution of the existing CRZ Rules. We are now planning to reject it outright,” said environmentalist G R Vora, adding that the CMZ was a complete rundown of CRZ rules.

The environmentalists were seen planning to demand that the existing CRZ Rules 1992 be

DRAFT READING
made more stringent in order to plug the loopholes created due to the 12 amendments.

One of the concerns raised was the ambiguity in the parameters which defined the concept of a setback line. The draft said that the parameters would include elevation, geomorphology, sea-level trends and coastal shoreline displacements.

The greens said the CMZ notification was over Advisory to be. It did not have well-defined rules in place, with unclear, unenforceable and redundant words.

“Economically, the draft has been drafted in a way to pave the way for the destruction of coastiders and their flora and fauna. Another reason is that development projects could be given a go-ahead without any checks and balances. It looks as if developers and builders have formulated this draft,” Vora said.

Environmentalists said the high tide lines (HTL), which had been used as the parameter till now, should be included in the parameters to define the setback line. These terms are vague and have scope for various loopholes,” said transport activist Prithi Agarwal, adding that if developers were to be dropped into a creek and a new land mass created, it would not violate any of the above parameters.

The environmentalists were also concerned about the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) and said that ecologically sensitive areas would be lost in yearning to view the safety and livelihood needs of local communities. “There is a need to define the scope of the terms and conditions,” said Vidya Vihar, from Cidco, adding that if the definition could also permit aquaculture.

Environmentalist Debjyoti Gergemia said the draft, which was the responsibility of environment and forestry, said was drafted by M S Sannadhi, had not been signed by her because a clause was added by the minister that was not in her permission.
सीएमझे डेमोल्ड मुंबईच्या विकासाला खींच

मुख्यमंत्र्यांची बैठक बोलवा

निदानपणे देशमुक्त पाणी रुपातक हिंदी
Machhinar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Maharashtra

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सीएमझेड़ची अधिसूचना
गुपचूप प्रसारित

तरुण भारत
Vilasrao seeks PM’s help on CMZ rules
Says They’ll Stall Development

Vilasrao Deshmukh, who is in the forefront of the cause of the concerned, has written to the Prime Minister and has asked him to take steps to ensure that the CMZ is not implemented in a manner that would stifle the economic development of the state. He has also written to the Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, to take appropriate action.

Deshmukh has asked the PM to call a meeting with the CMs of all coastal states before implementing the CMZ provisions, as he feels that the CMZ is a unilateral decision by the Centre and that it will have a negative impact on the coastal states. He has also said that the CMZ will affect the tourism industry and the fishing industry, which are crucial to the economy of the state.

The Prime Minister has been requested to consider the concerns of the coastal states and to take a decision that is in the best interest of the country.

The CMZ is a significant step towards the conservation of the coastal areas and the marine life. However, it is important to ensure that the economic development of the coastal states is not affected by this decision.

Maharashtra
Proposed CMZ could freeze DC rules and regulations

Stringent restrictions may be imposed on development of coastal areas in Mumbai and Maharashtra

Tentative vision for coastal protection

To the left:

Development as such are lands will be banned permanently.
New coastal rules may hinder development

Agencies say it restricts the use of additional FSI, which may stall major projects

By Rohan Deshmukh

The state is worried about the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification issued by the central government.

Officials from some agencies told this columnist that the notification could hamper major projects that are in the pipeline for redevelopment, like the Mahim International Airport project, and even a major highway project that was already commenced.

After receiving a representation from a few agencies, the project was not considered in the previous CMZ notification.

In a letter to the CEDA, the state said that it had no representation in the notification and that the notification was not considered in the previous CMZ.

The state has also been asked to submit a letter to the Central Government for inclusion in the CMZ notification.

MMRDA to protest against CMZ draft plan

The MMRDA has decided to take up the matter with the state and central government.

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Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has decided to take up the matter with the state and central government.

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मुंबई आंतरराष्ट्रीय शहर बनण्यात ‘सीएमझेड’चा अडथळा - मुख्यमंत्री देशमुख

‘सीएमझेड’मुळे मुंबईची स्वप्ने चवकाचूर होण्याची भीती - मुख्यमंत्री
Goa – Karnataka Border

19th to 20th May

Panjim – Goa

Panjim Melva Goa Road
Panjim General Meeting of All Goa Fishworkers' Union
Night halt in Panjim Sri Matarhy Saldarha
Goa

- Successfully fought against the imposition of eight SEZs in the state
- The fisher communities here strongly object to the imposition of the CZM notification
- Goenchea Rampar Karancho Ekvot organised the campaign events in Goa
- Campaign received tremendous support in Panjim and other places
NFF to oppose CMZ notification
Around 50,000 Activists To Meet In Delhi

Panaji: The fishing and coastal communities of India will march to the Parliament during the monsoon session of July 2008 to oppose the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification and to press for the implementation of the Coastal Regulation.

SAVING COAST & FISHERMEN

Since notification of 2001,
"We expect more than 50,000 people to converge on Delhi to oppose the CMZ and to demand the CMZ notification. The new CMZ notification is designed to control all violations of the CMZ and to accommodate the so-called development like SEZs and STZs," said Hirenmath, chairman of the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF). Hirenmath addressed a press conference here on Tuesday along with Mathew Salian, president of the Goa Chalo Ramponkoracho Ekut and former cabinet minister.

Hirenmath arrived in Goa on Tuesday as part of the "Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan" with the slogan "Save the Coast, Save the Fishers." The march started from Kutch, Gujarat, on May 1, 2008 and covered the entire coastline of Gujarat, Maharashtra and entered Goa yesterday.

Hirenmath said the coastal communities, environmental activists and all others apprehend that the new CMZ notification will facilitate destructive activities along the coast. It will jeopardize natural resources and livelihood of the fisherfolk and other coastal communities. Ultimately, this will result in a crisis of food and nutritional security of the masses, Hirenmath said.

The NFF has a long list of demands: recognise the rights of fishermen over coastal lands and waters; provide for natural growth of fishermen in coastal areas for residences not for commercial purposes; protect the coasts by disallowing SEZs and other polluting projects; prevent destruction of mangroves and enact legislation for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

The NFF also demands stopping of foreign vessels from fishing in their waters, halting all debts of poor fishermen along with farmers, end a total ban on trawling and nearshore fishing within 10 to 30 kilometres from the shore along east and west coast accordingly. Said Hirenmath, "The coast is auctioning our coastline. It has failed miserably to protect our livelihood. Notification of the Gowardhali SEZ has existed, 50,000 people."
National fishermen forum for saving mangroves
Nat forum of fishworkers on Goa visit

Protecting marine life
Karnataka
21st to 24th May
Karnataka

- Mega tourist project in Uttar Kannada coast
- Various defence installations in the coastal zones
- And real estate developments are major environmental concerns of the coastal zones
- Siltation, drazing of the creeks and the approach channels of major fishing harbours has been a long standing demand of the fishing communities.
- Abhiyan received tremendous support and participation of fisher people in Karwar, Tadari and other places
- Akhil Karnataka Fishermen Parishad organised this campaign
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Karnataka
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Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Karnataka
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Karnataka 40
Sethusamudram project poses threat to biodiversity in Gulf of Mannar: expert

MANGALORE: The proposed Sethusamudram project, if implemented, will adversely affect marine biodiversity in the “protected” Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, according to Director of Kochi-based Centre for Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), P.N.K. Pillai.

Mr. Pillai was inaugurating a seminar on “Biodiversity regime and emerging challenges and opportunities” organised by Mangalore Research Unit of CMFRI here on Thursday. He said the Gulf had 3,137 species including 300 species that were confined to the region.

He gave the example of how projects, such as Kochilaidheeraya, had affected the marine biodiversity in Kochi waters. He said studies relating to 1972-73 had shown there was intensive development activity. But another study conducted recently had revealed a biodiversity loss of up to 63 percent.

A study by the World Wildlife Fund had revealed that a quarter of wildlife had gone, but since 1973 and the mangrove loss was reported as “significant aquatic regimes” (99 percent). The phenomenon of vanishing wildlife had reached alarming proportions, he said.

Union strict regulations were enforced, biodiversity loss would reach a staggering 70 percent in the next three decades, he said. Drifting lack of political will to enforce these effectively, he regretted the enforcement of many regulations left unsolved. The only regulations adhered to were fishing of dolphins for 47 to 68 days. Although development activities could not be done away with, proper advice to policy makers had to be given.

Mr. Pillai released a CD on biodiversity at the seminar.

H. Bhavanashwa, Director of Extension of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal Sciences and Fishery University, called for strict implementation of regulations regarding fishing nets, R.K. Vankatesh, Director, Geological Survey of India, spoke.

V. Bhanwarakumar, Senior Supervisor with the Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, said the seminar was organised to coincide with the World Biodiversity Day on Thursday.
Team visits fishing villages in Uttara Kannada

Udupi: A team of the National Fishworkers’ Forum has visited several fishing villages in the Uttara Kannada coast, to study the problems of the fishermen in the district.

The 10-member team, under the programme ‘Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan’, with a motto ‘Save the Coast, Save Fishermen’, visited Majali, Karwa Thadali, Honavar and Bhalki, before arriving Udupi on Friday.

Mukhriyana Desamath, chairperson of NFF along with N D Koll, general secretary, Akhila Karnataka Fisheremen Parishad, after interacting with the fisher folk in the district, vehemently criticized the authorities’ move to replace the CRZ notification of 1991 with a new CME notification.

Addressing reporters, Desamath and Koll said that in the opinion of the fishermen, the new CME notification was designed to condone all violations of the CRZ and to accommodate SREs and STEs.

Desamath said if the intention of the authorities is straight, they should publish the draft notification in newspapers and show the state government to disseminate it at panchayat level. According to him, situation of the channels, blanket ban on fishing due to military exercises and the mega tourism project of a real estate business house are among the most serious problems faced by the fishermen.

The team, which started on May 1 from Jakkur in Kutch, Gujarat, will now travel towards Kanyakumari.
Withdraw CMZ draft notification: NFF

DH NEWS SERVICE
MANGALORE: Kolkata-based National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF) has urged the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) to withdraw its Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) draft notification immediately.

Addressing journalists here on Saturday, Forum Chairperson Shrikrishna Deb Nath strongly criticised the government’s move to replace the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 1991 with the new CMZ, stating that the new notification would jeopardise the natural resources and livelihood of the fisherfolk and other coastal communities, if implemented.

He said the people across the nation consider the new CMZ notification as a design to oust all violations of the CRZ and a manifestation to satisfy the greed of big companies and rich classes. “Ultimately, this would result in a crisis of food and nutritional security of the people,” he pointed out.

Stating that the MoEF is "bypassing the coastal people with a deceptive and manipulative approach", Mr. Deb Nath said the government had put up the draft notification on the Internet in order to collect objections and comments from the public, in a situation where majority of the fishers do not know what is Internet.

“If the government is sincere in protecting the coastal area, it should enact a national legislation for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity that interferes with traditional fishing and traditional fisher people’s preferential access,” he pressed.

The fishing harbours on the Karnataka coast are heavily allied fishing harbours.

The mega tourism project proposed for Uttara Kannada coast is also a potential threat, he observed.

The fishing communities will carry out a Parliament Chala in the 1st week of July to press for a 15-point charter of demands under the banner of Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan, he added.
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
THURSDAY, MAY 29 | 2008 | MADURAI

MOVE TO REPLACE CRZ

NFF to launch campaign against Coastal Zone Management
Captive ports would put country boats and fibreglass boats out of work

Express News Service
Madurai, May 28

The National Fish Workers' Forum (NFF) is organising a ten-day campaign in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu seeking to protect the rights of the fishermen from June 1.

Addressing a joint press meet organised by the Coastal Action Network (CAN) and the NFF here on Wednesday, CNN State convener Sivar said that the campaign was aimed at protesting the proposed move to replace the existing fishermen-friendly Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ-I) with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and against the Sethumadaiam Ship Canal Project (SSCP).

The move to implement the CZM was to bring the entire coastal region under the control of the Union Ministry of Forests and Environment from the purview of the traditional fishermen community so that ‘developmental projects’ like beach resorts, hotels and industries could be started in coastal areas, prohibited by the CRZ.

Expressing apprehension about the construction of small captive ports and private fishery harbours under the CZM, the executive committee member of NFF T. Peterdas, said that these harbour projects were aimed at making fishing a pet-based industry.

"If this makes sense, around 40,000 country boats and valamais lose their glass boats in Tamil Nadu would go out of the fishing industry. This would adversely affect the harvesting of fish at 30 percent of catch in the State which is now brought ashore by country craft, valamais and fibreglass boats.

These leaders were also disappointed over the intransigence of political parties as none came forward to speak in their favour. According to Peterdas, politicians consider the fishermen community as a weak vote bank.

The campaign commences from Manimalakurichi in Kanyakumari district on June 1 and passes through the coastal districts of Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Rameswaram, Panruti, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari, Thiruchendur, Puthucherry, Rameswaram, Villupuram and Chennai.

NFF executive committee member Padmanab and CSN state convener sevai Ramasinha were also present during the press briefing.
Withdraw notification on coastal zone: fishermen

Special Correspondent

MYSORE: Representatives of fishermen organisations have called for the withdrawal of the coast management zone notification, 2008, as it "threatened the livelihood of fishermen and industries." Addressing a press conference held in Mysore on Wednesday, representatives of National fishermen Forum said the Government, instead of "imposing" the CMD Notification, should act to improve the Coastal Management Zone Notification, 1991. It should recognise the traditional and customary rights of fishermen and protect them from special economic zones, nuclear power plants and polluting industries.

T. Pradeep, of Kannur, district, described the 2008 notification as an attempt to marginalise small fishermen, who owned country boats and catamarans. The new categorisation of the shore would make it a dumping yard for building activity would be allowed.

M. Jeesu of Madikeri said that the notification facilitated tourism and industrial activity, making the areas vulnerable to commercial interests. It also sought to legalise all illegal constructions along the coast. The construction of private waterfronts, he felt, would marginalise small fishermen further.

The "setback line" proposed by the notification, he said, drawn on the basis of a scientific study, would push the fishermen already affected by the tsunami further away from the shore. It was alleged:

A. Piyush of Harish Nachappa also called for the withdrawal of the coastal management zone notification. He said the project would adversely affect marine life, he added.

Campaign from June 1

The Tamei Nadi Parishad of the National Campaign for Protecting Fisher People Rights, that calls for withdrawal of the 2008 notification, will begin from Kanyakumari on June 1. It will reach Pondicherry on June 10 after passing through the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Karnataka
Kerala
25th to 31st May
Kerala

- Sand-mining
- Foreign fishing vessels off-shores waters
- Discrepancy in tsunami relief measures
- Fish-bending women’s problems were important concerns during the seven day long campaign from Kasargod to Trivandrum
- Massive demonstration of fishworkers in front of the AG’s office, Trivandrum on May 31st 2008
- This demonstration was the historic culmination of the Abhiyan in Kerala
- Kerala Swatanthra Matsya Thozhilali Union was responsible for the campaign in Kerala
Fish workers oppose reforms

Special Correspondent

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Hundreds of fish workers took out a march to the office of the Accountant-General here on Saturday in protest against the proposed reforms in the fisheries sector and the government's move to replace the Coastal Management Zone policy with the Coastal Zone Management policy.

The sit-in organised as part of a nation-wide campaign by the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) urging the Central and State governments to take steps to ensure the livelihood security of fishersfolk, inaugurating the march, Ponnani, Kollam, NFF said the government had a responsibility to protect coastal and marine resources.

NFF leaders alleged that the proposed reforms in the fisheries sector would expose traditional fishermen to unhealthy competition from multinational companies and lead to plunder of marine resources. They said the Coastal Zone Management policy and the decision to permit the operation of foreign trawlers would affect the livelihood of traditional fishermen all over the country.

NFF leaders Harishkumar Debnath and Manishya Sadasiv, vice-president of Kerala Swathantra Mahila Thusharapadi, T. Peter, and general secretary A. Abraham, were among those who spoke.

The NFF national campaign for the rights of fish workers began in Gujarat on May 1. During the Kerala leg of the campaign, the team visited fishing villages and landed areas along the coast from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram and addressed public meetings.

Mr. Debnath said the team had received complaints from fish workers against sand mining, import of fish, inadequate supply of kerosene for outboard engines and discrepancy in utilisation of tsunami rehabilitation funds.
'Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan'

Kerala 56
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Kerala
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Kerala
Chennai, ILO Convention

Tamil Nadu
1st to 7th June

Nirodi
Marthandamthurai
Velupillai
Eravi Puthenthalurai
Chinnathurai
Thoothoor
Eramanthurai
Mulirthurai
Enam puthenthalurai
Helen Colony
Kurunpanai
Vaniakudi
Colachel
Kottilpadu
Periavillai
Manvalakurichi
Wadia-Muttam
Rajakamangathurai
Puthenthalurai
Pallam
Malamankudi
Kepamanakudi
New Kanyakumari
Kanyakumari
Uvari
Periathurai
Periathalai
Allathalai
Amlinagar
Punyakayal
Teracepuram
Kilakarai
Ramnod
Dargavalasai
Thangamadam
Rameshwaram
Jagadapatnam
Manalmelkudi
Sethu Chettunam
Nagapattinam
Seretoor
Karaikal
Kilinjalmedu
Nambiar Nagar
Killai
Cuddalore Town
Putchikuppam
Tamil Nadu

➢ Tourism
➢ Sand-mining
➢ Deficiency of tsunami relief
➢ Nuclear and thermal power plants
➢ Commercial ports and harbour, the Seeth Samudram Shipping Canal Project
➢ And ban on shark, sea cucumber and sea weed harvesting were important concerns in the 10 day long campaign
➢ State level seminar on ILO Convention in Fishing held in June 9, 2008, Chennai
➢ Tamil Nadu Fishworkers’ Union (TUF), Ramnad District Fishworkers’ Trade Union (RFTU) and Vangakadal Meen Thozilalar Union (VMTU) organised the campaign
DHINA THANTHI 04.04.2008

44 கோடி பெண் கைப்பெற்று குழுப்பாக;
1000 வாழுகின்றனர்...
NFF threatens demo near Parliament

Over 10,000 fishermen from all over the country would resort to a demonstration outside Parliament House, unless the Government takes action to withdraw the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification, according to Rameshwar Debbar, chairman of the National Fishermen Forum (NFF).

Speaking to mediapersons here on Wednesday, Debbar said that instead of the government should implement the Coastal Regulation Zone notification.

He said that the national campaign for the rights of fishermen started in March, near Gujarat, on May 1, and would conclude at Kolkata on July 17.

The NFF had presented the merits of the Ministry of Environment and Forest to replace the Coastal Regulation Zone which was being done in the best of the World Bank, he said.

He accused the government of permitting companies which were banned in other countries, to establish their strongholds in coastal areas in India.

This would adversely affect marine wildlife and the well-being of fishermen, and the CMZ was designed for this very purpose. These companies would also enjoy tax concessions for their products, affecting nearly 6,000 fishermen as well as farmers earning their living in the coastal belts.

Therefore, the Forum has decided to conduct demonstrations opposite government offices on June 26. Even then, if the CMZ was not withdrawn, 30,000 fishermen would gather opposite Parliament and here, the Nagpur of CMZ notification, he added.

President, president in Ramanathapuram, Fishermen's Trade Union (RTU), Karpal, secretary in RPTU, and the representatives of other state fishermen associations attended the briefing.
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

தமிழகம்

20-வது சுந்தரம்

சுற்றுலா விளையாட்டு

தமிழ்நாடு
"New coastal management plan jeopardises livelihood of fishermen"

Special Correspondent

COLUMN: India’s 7,188-km coastline and the livelihood of 35 million people who depend on fishing in its waters will be threatened if the government proceeds ahead with its plan to replace the protective measures of the coastal regulation zone law of 1991 with a new management concept, the National Fishermen Forum has said.

The Coastal Management Zone draft notification, which is posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for public comment till June 24, splits coastal zones into four categories: ecologically sensitive, of particular concern (population dense or economically and strategically significant), open areas (including water) and islands such as Andamans and Lakshadweep.

The new plan gives too much power to the State authorities to waive the rights of fishermen and hand over coastal land and water to big business interests engaged in tourism, horticulture, mineral mining, shipping, energy processing and defence-related projects. Harshkrishna Desai, chairman of the forum, said here on Thursday.

Furthermore, he said, the plan would legitimise thousands of violations that took place under the 1991 coastal regulation zone notification, many of which were pending in court.

"Facing crisis"

"Our coastal zone is facing a crisis. In all States, fisherfolk are experiencing a drastic reduction in their catch owing to pollution, the destruction of mangroves and industrial effluents," he said. Yet, the fisheries sector contributed Rs 30,000 crore to India’s gross national product for little or no investment from the government.

Flanked by representatives from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh who are leading a fisherfolk yatra that has moved through two-thirds of India’s coastline from the shores of Kutch to Chennai through Kanyakumari, he demanded that the government withdraw the draft management notification and implement the 1991 notification until comprehensive legislation that takes into account the perspectives of all parties is in place.

The Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan, which will move on from Chennai up the east coast to Kolkata, is calling for a National Day of Action on June 20 to enable the fisherfolk to voice their concerns and petition the Environment Ministry.

In the absence of any response, thousands of fisherfolk may go to Delhi on the opening day of Parliament on July 22 for an indefinite agitation.
Fishermen demo reaches Pondy

The Times of India, Chennai
Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Fishermen reject CZM notification

Chennai: Rejecting the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification, the National Fishermen's Forum (NFF) has asked the Centre to stop giving coastal lands and resources to big businesses.

During the Tamil Nadu leg of the nationwide campaign for protecting fishermen rights, NFF chairman Harakekrishna said the rights of the fishing community to its traditional land remained unrecognised but chemical hubs, nuclear plants and ill-conceived mega projects like the Sethusandram Shipping Canal Project were being taken up.

The coastal regulations zone (CRZ) notification of 1997 was to prevent and minimise the impact of human activities on marine and coastal ecology. But the Centre and the states had failed to enforce the notification that had been amended 21 times under pressure from the business lobby, he charged.

Now, the Centre wanted to scrap the CRZ notification and introduce CZM with the intention of further selling out the coasts to commercial plunder, Harakekrishna said.

Fishermen still had no right to housing, access to the sea, to dry and repair nets, to sort, process and sell fish and to berth boats and most of the 5,200 fishing villages had no land title or pattas.
மாங்கிமர் அதிகாரச் சரியாளி ஆப்பியன்

தமிழ்நாடு
DHINAMANI 20.06.20

17 மாதம் விழா அற்றைக்காத

2008 இல் செய்துள்ள பள்ளிச்சாலையில் குற்றங்கள் ஆண்டை அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படையாகப் புரிந்து செல்ல அவர். இது போதும் படமும் எதிரேற்றம் தெரிபவும் ஆகும். குறிப்பிட்டால், எந்த குற்றங்களும் அடிப்படை�
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Tamil Nadu
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Tamil Nadu 75
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Tamil Nadu

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துற்றுவில் மிகச் சுகாதாராக்கல்
17 ஒளிகளில் அதிகற்றும்

DHINA MALAR 21.06.08
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Tamil Nadu

78
Fishermen stage protest in Kumari

The New Indian Express

Thousands of fishermen belonging to the Tamil Nadu Fish Workers Union (TNFWU), affiliated to the National Fish Workers Forum and other fish unions in the state, took part in a protest march to the Chief Minister's residence in Chennai. The march was in response to the government's decision to implement the Computerized Management of Sweep Net (CMS) system, which they claimed would adversely affect their livelihoods.

The TNFWU President, speaking on the occasion, said that the implementation of CMS would result in a decline in the number of fishing boats and fishermen. He also highlighted the problems faced by fishermen due to the CMS, such as delays in the payment of compensation and the loss of income.

The protesters also demanded that the government withdraw the CMS system and instead implement the traditional method of managing the fishing nets. They also called for the protection of their traditional fishing rights and the rights of the fishermen to continue their livelihood.

The protest was peaceful, and the police were present to ensure the safety of all parties involved.
Pondicherry
7th to 8th June

Naramanii
Gingev Salai
Pondicherry Press Club
Pondicherry

- Abhiyan was accorded a grand civic reception by the Pondicherry Fishermen Joint Action Committee
- Fisher communities here vehemently opposed the imposition of the CZM Notification
- Campaign in Pondicherry was brief but highly participatory and sensational
- The campaign was organised by United Fishermen Action Committee
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Pondicherry
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Pondicherry
Fish workers want CMZ notification withdrawn

They plan to stage demonstration on June 20

Staff Reporter

PONDICHERRY: The National Fish workers’ Forum (NFW) on Sunday demanded the immediate withdrawal of the new Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification and the strict implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification. The Sethumariam project should be stopped as it would affect marine resources, it said.

The forum, as part of its national campaign for the rights of fishermen, arrived here on Saturday.

The campaign started from Kutch in Gujarat on May 1. The forum had visited several fishing villages along Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Rameswaram, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore, covering 5,000 km.

In 1991, the CRZ notification was issued to protect the coast from commercial activities and to safeguard coastal ecology. It restricted construction activities within 500 meters from the high tide line, chairperson of the forum Haricharan Devasi told a press conference.

“While the concept of restrictions has been diluted in the CMZ notification to allow multinational companies and big firms to earn profits from the coastal zone, it has not been discussed in local parliaments, State Assemblies or Parliament,” he said.

On June 20, 3,300 fishing villages would go to the nearest government office and stage a demonstration, picket at the road as part of the National Day of Action against CMZ. The forum plans to march to Parliament on July 22.

Mr. Devasi said, India should arrive at settlement with neighbouring countries to prevent attacks on fishermen. The forum demanded stopping commercial harbours, thermal power plants and sand mining, redemption of outstanding debts of fishermen and proper rehabilitation of the tsunami affected fishermen. The campaign would reach Kolkata on July 27.
Machimir Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

DINA MALAR - Pondicherry - 9.6.2008

குடியகுடிய செயல்பாடு
கணினி விளையாட்டு: முனிவர் செய்தி

DINA MALAR - Pondicherry - 9.6.2008

குடியகுடிய செயல்பாடு
கணினி விளையாட்டு: முனிவர் செய்தி
Andhra Pradesh
10th to 15th June

Ramalingapuram
Ongole
Wadarevu
Ramnagar
Surya Lanka
Vishakhapatnam
Vizianagaram
Bhavani peta and Srikakulam
Andhra Pradesh

- Gross degradation of coastal and environment ecology
- Growth of various polluting industries
- Large number of aqua-culture farms and tourism establishments, ship-breaking yards, commercial harbours etc
- Apprehension among the fisher communities of the proposed Coastal Corridor
- Coastal areas of Nellore, Prakasam, Kakinad, Vishakapatnam and Srikakulam appear to be the most hazardous zone
- Samudra Teer Matsya Karmikula Union (STMKU) and Andhra Pradesh Traditional Fishworkers’ Union (APTFU) jointly led the campaign
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Andhra Pradesh
**AP coastal corridor, SEZs disastrous: NFF**

**One Bureau**

Visakhapatnam, June 12

The National Federation of Fishermen (NFF) has condemned the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government to build a coastal industrial corridor from Srikakulam to Kakinada and beyond as "utterly destructive" to the livelihood of thousands of fishermen dependent on the sea and also the coastal ecosystems.

At a press meet here on Friday, Mr. Havelkonda Debnath, Chairman of NFF, said the organisation was on a campaign from May 1 to June 27 along all the coastal States from the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to West Bengal "to educate and sensitise the fishermen and also the general public on the harm being wrought all along the 7,000 km coastline of India in the name of development."

He said that the NFF had so far covered the west coast States, Tamil Nadu, and parts of Andhra Pradesh till Friday and it would culminate in West Bengal on June 27. "We have called at the Ratch-Krishnapatnam-Kolkata campaign. As a part of it, we are holding public meetings in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts this week," he said.

**CRZ needed, not CMZ**

Mr. Debnath said that the Union Government and the States should sincerely implement the coastal regulatory zone notification, 1993, and give up the draft coastal management zone notification, as "the latter will open the gates for undertrial profit making, commercialisation of the coast by the companies, inland or foreign, and massive displacement of fishermen." The CMZ notification, he said, allowed for exploitation of the sea till 22 km in the territorial waters and would pave the way for setting up SEZs and hazardous chemical industries along the coast.

Citing the example of the Mundra port in Gujarat and the cement industries in the vicinity of the port, he said fishermen in several villages were evicted for the projects and none of them was paid compensation. "They were promised jobs, but not one job, out of 1,000 or so, has been given to a fisherman. The promise of jobs is simply a bait to lose fishermen," he alleged.
Call to withdraw CMZ notification

Special Correspondent

VISAKHAPATNAM: Fisher folk will observe a national day of action on June 20 to protest against the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification by organising picketing at the nearest government office in fishing villages and by staging dharna, rasta roko and other forms of agitation.

March to Parliament

Announcing this at a media conference here on Friday, chairperson of the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) Harekrishna Debbarma said that if there was no response to the agitation, the fisher community would march to the Parliament on July 22 during the monsoon session and continue the agitation in Delhi indefinitely till the withdrawal of CMZ notification and realisation of their demands.

Charter of demands

Besides withdrawal of CMZ notification, the charter of demands included an end to poaching in the coastal region and stopping of eviction of fishermen from their livelihood by commercial har-

ousse, ship-breaking units, SEZs, thermal power plants, tourism industry, and mining etc.; cancellation of letter of permits given to foreign fishing vessels and stopping diversion of tsunami rehabilitation fund to other projects.

The NFF chairperson was in the city leading a jatha, which began its 8,900 km journey from Kutch in Gujarat on May 1. “So far, we covered Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and entered Andhra Pradesh on June 10. This morning we arrived in Visakhapatnam,” he said.

Public meeting

Mr. Debbarma was accompanied by other NFF leaders P. Ramalingam (Andhra Pradesh), Ramnath Dhar (Maharashtra), K. Alleys (Orissa), Debasis Shyamal (West Bengal), Richard (Tamil Nadu), Sasekha Dev and Osman Gani Soorappas (Gujarat). He later addressed a public meeting near the Collectorate, NFF district leader T.K. Rehman also spoke.
Lakhs of traditional fishermen cry foul

Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

The New Indian Express Hyderabad, June 14, 2008 | Vishakapatanam

CRZ ACT DILUTION

CRZ ACT DILUTION

Lakhs of traditional fishermen appeal to the state and central governments to keep the CRZ Act intact and demand the closure of all illegal fishing practices. They argue that the new notification, which allows more fishing in the CRZ area, will lead to overfishing and damage to the environment.

Andhra Pradesh

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Coastal zone notification will ruin livelihood: fishermen

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The National Fishermen Forum has urged the Centre to immediately withdraw the ‘ill-conceived draft Coastal Zone Management Zone (CZM) notification.’

For, it will not only adversely impact the fragile ecological system and marine life but also take away the means of livelihood from the 10-crore fishing community, representatives of the forum said in a press conference here on Friday.

“The future of millions of fisherfolk is at stake as the Centre, in league with the governments of coastal States, plans to bring up huge commercial projects along the 8,185-km-long coastline,” the forum said.

The forum said the new draft superseded the 1991 Coastal Regulation Zone notification of 1991, but this was done without consulting the fishing community, main stakeholder.

Drawing attention to a national rally of fishermen, which started on May 1, the forum said it would continue on June 17 after covering various parts of the country to raise awareness of their issues.

Call to withdraw CMZ notification

Special Correspondent

VOORTHAPATTAM: Fisherfolk will observe ‘national day of action’ on June 20 to protest against the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification by organizing picketing at the nearest government office in fishing villages and by staging dharna, road block and other forms of agitation.

March to Parliament

Announcing this at a media conference here on Friday, chairperson of the National Fishermen Forum (NFF) Harikishan Debashis said that if there was no response to the agitation, the fisher community would march to the Parliament on July 22 during the monsoon session and continue the agitation in Delhi indefinitely till the withdrawal of CMZ notification and realization of their demands.

Charter of demands

Besides withdrawal of CMZ notification, the charter of demands included an end to pollution in the coastal region and stopping of evictions of fishermen from their livelihood by commercial harbor, ship-breaking units, SEZs, thermal power plants, tourism industry, and mining etc., cancellation of letter of authority given to foreign fishing vessels and stopping diversion of financial rehabilitation fund to other projects.

The NFF chairperson was in the city taking a stroll, which began its 8,000 km journey from Kutch in Gujarat on May 1. “So far, we covered Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and entered Andhra Pradesh on June 10. This morning we arrived in Visakhapatnam,” he said.

Public meeting

Mr. Debashis was accompanied by other NFF leaders P. Ramalingam (Andhra Pradesh), Ramesh Dhar (Maharashtra), K. Alleya (Orissa), Debashis Shyamal (West Bengal), Richard ( Tamil Nadu), Seesha Peri and Osman Gani Somari (Gujarat). He later addressed a public meeting near the Collectorate. NFF district leader Y.K. Reddy also spoke.
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Andhra Pradesh
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Andhra Pradesh

98
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Orissa
16th to 21st June

Ganjam, Orissa

Chatrapur
Press meet at Behrampur
Nairi (Chilika)
Puri Durga Bari
Bhubaneswar
Chandra Bhaga, Konark
Paradeep
Kharinashi
Rajnagar
Bideipur
Dhamra
Orissa

- Armament testing range
- Tourism
- Rare-earth, sand-mining
- Mega projects like the POSCO and Dhamra ports
- Wholesale displacement of more than 10,000 people due to blanket ban on fishing in Gahirmatha
- Coastal zones of Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Balasore districts seriously under threat
- Orissa Traditional Fishworkers’ Union (OTFU) led this campaign
Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

ORISSA - RAMKUM BAHATT 17-08-2001

"ଦୁଇଅବେତେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଦେଶୀ ଧାରୀ ମାତ୍ରା ଗଣର ରାଜରୀ ଗାଂଧିରେ

କୁପ୍ପିଆ ସିଦ୍ଧାନ୍ତରେ କାଙ୍କଳାର ଧାରା ରାଜରୀ ଗାଂଧିରେ

"SAVE THE COAST SAVE THE FISHERIES"

ଗାଂଧିରେ ଗାଂଧିରେ

The above image contains text in Odia language, discussing the Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan and the importance of saving the coast and fisheries. The text is an article from a newspaper dated 17-08-2001, discussing the ongoing campaign and its significance.
Fishermen rejoice at ‘holiday’ end

[Article text]

Fishermen venture into sea after fishing holiday

[Article text]

Govt had imposed ban on fishing for two months to save spawns from being netted

[Article text]
Marine fishermen oppose CMZ notification

THE HINDU - 17/06/2008

Marine fishermen oppose CMZ notification

Staff Report

BERHAMPUR: Traditional marine fishermen of Ganjam district organised a rally demanding immediate withdrawal of the new Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification at Chhatrapur on Monday.

The rally also welcomed the chairman of the National Fish Workers’ Forum (NFWF), Manoj Kumar Debath, into Odisha.

Mr. Debath reached Orissa on Monday from Andhra Pradesh. He is leading a campaign of the NWF to create public awareness among fishermen on India’s coastline against the CMZ, which started from Kochi in Kerala on May 1.

The awareness campaign of NWF will end at Kochi in West Bengal on June 21.

Public meet:

CPI MLA N. Narayan Reddy, Congress chairman of Chhatrapur NAC, H.C. Behra, president of fishermen’s organisation, Samudra, and general secretary of the Orissa Traditional Fish Workers Union (OTFWU), K. Alloys led the rally against CMZ notification. A public meeting was also held in front of the office of the Collector.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Debath said strict implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification was the only reason to protect coastal environment and livelihood of marine fishermen.

“To satisfy a few corporate giants, the government is diluting whole concept of coastal restrictions through the CMZ notification which is yet to be discussed by local panchayats, State Assemblies or Parliament although it would hamper livelihood of over 60 lakh population depending on marine fishing,” he said.

Mr. Debath will visit coastal areas of Cuttack, Puri, Chandrabhaga, Paradip, Bhubaneswar and Balasore during this week to create awareness against the CMZ.

On June 20, the marine fishermen of the country would observe their National Day against CMZ.
‘CMZ to deprive 17 lakh fishermen of livelihood’

The proposed Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Act by the Union Government would deprive the livelihood of at least 20 lakh people, including the 17 lakh fishermen across the country, stated chairman of the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF) HK Devnath.

The fishermen community, as a part of their nationwide protest movement, agitated in front of the Ganjam district Collectorate at Chhatarpur demanding withdrawal of the CMZ and enforcement of the Coastal Regulatory Zone of 1991 in the interest of lakhs of people depending on this zero investment sector-fishery across the country.

The fishermen living in 26 coastal States have begun their nationwide protest since May from Kochi, which would end in Kolkata and subsequently there would be a protest rally in front of the Parliament. In these coastal States at least 20 lakh people are engaged in the fishing sector, and due to the act of the Central Government fish production has already decreased by around 40 per cent.

Devnath alleged that the Union Government is encouraging the industrial houses to establish the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by diverting thousands of acres of land along the sea. The Andaman and Nicobar provinces had already proposed the Act in favour of the big industrial houses.

Devnath said that the fishery sector is doing a business of more than 12,000 crore dollars and earns around Rs 8,000 crore in foreign exchange for the country. Yet, the Government is adamant on enacting such a law affecting the sector seriously. He alleged that the Ministry of Environment has already taken an amount of 107 million dollars from the World Bank to modify this Act in favour of the big industrial houses.

To lodge their protest, they are conducting meetings in the coastal States and they are sending at least 10 lakh postcards each having ten signatures to the Central Government demanding withdrawal of CMZ and enforcement of CRZ of 1991. They are observing June 29 as the National Day of Action against CMZ notification demanding lifting of the ban on fishing by traditional fishermen in Orissa’s coastal regions and payment of adequate compensation to fishers for loss of work. Devnath said.
West Bengal
22nd to 27th June

Sonakhali (Sundarban)
Jharkali
Kakdwip
Digha
Chewasuli
Dadanpatrabar
Contai
Kolkata
West Bengal

- Proliferation of tourism in Mangamani
- Proposed nuclear power plant at Haripur
- Deep sea port in Sagar Island
- Mega chemical hub in Nayachar
- Eviction of 10,000 fisher people from Jambudeep
- and embargo restriction in Sunderbans Tiger Reserve are the major concerns for the fishing community in West Bengal.
- The Campaign concluded in Kolkata in a citizen’s meet on June 27, 2008
- Dakshin Bango Matsajibi Forum organised the state campaign
Protest against N-power plant after rural poll

Midnapur: Even as Chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya is said to be stepping up power generation in East Midnapur to his party’s poll rallies, members of the Midnapur Parliament constituency’s Production Front, which has been preparing to step up their campaign against the proposed nuclear power plant, have already started their agitation. Popular MP Baburam Bhattacharya announced that huge crowds will join the agitation under the banner of Midnapur Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan that has called for the cancellation of all projects that radiate radiation. Many villagers and residents, the Midnapur congregation will now be held on May 12 will be held to protest the government’s stance. People of Midnapur are looking forward to a strong local government that will ensure the cancellation of all projects that radiate radiation. The government’s stance will not be tolerated. People are looking forward to a strong local government that will ensure the cancellation of all projects that radiate radiation.
Fishworkers forum to demonstrate before Parliament

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, June 27: To protest against the Union environment and forest ministry’s alleged attempt to replace the Central Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification by a more corporate friendly Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification, members of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) will demonstrate in front of the Parliament.

NFF will also submit a petition to the Prime Minister to cancel the new notification, said Mr. Harekrishna Debnath, chairman of NFF.

According to Mr. Debnath, implementation of CMZ will enable capitalists to replace the coastal area that will destroy the coastal and aquatic resources. The forum demanded that both state and the union government should not permit setting up of special economic zones, nuclear and thermal power projects, chemical hubs and cottages for tourists within 500 meters from the coast line.

“Many setting up of such projects will destroy microgroves and sand dunes that act as natural barriers. Corrosion among the state governments to bring in more investment in their own states has forced the government to give land anywhere in the state,” said Mr. Debnath.

Mr. Debnath also opposed the Centre’s decision to allow Reliance Industries Limited to set up 10,000 outlets to sell fish as he felt that setting up of these outlets will affect the livelihood of about 17 lakh fish workers.

“The new law is based on Mr. M.S. Swaminathan’s report on coastal environment after the Tsunami. Even after the failure of ‘green revolution’ the Centre is attempting to bring in ‘blue revolution’ through CMZ,” Mr. N. D. Kale, general secretary of NFF said.

He said that the Centre’s decision to allow 10 outlets of companies like Taiwan, Thailand and Mexico to operate in Indian coasts has affected 1.2 lakh fishermen in the country. “Each of these ships net large ton of fish everyday thus resulting in over exploitation of aquaculture resources along the Indian coast,” said Mr. Kale.
Press Releases
Machimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Press Release: May 1, 2008

Today 1st of May, the international day of workers, the Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan has been flagged off from Jakhau in the Kutch region of Gujarat. In Jakhau there are 25,000 fishers. The area suffers from tremendous loss of catch. According to Mitthu Bhai an elderly local fisher the fish catch has come down to 10% of what it was 10 years back. The fisherpeople here are under the threat of extinction due to large cle pollution from Sanghi and Anjan Cement Factories. Fly ash and waste water from these factories have devastated the fish stock. Private jetties built up by these factories have destroyed large areas of mangrove plantation.

Jakhau Salt and Welbrind two salt companies have acquired 300 hectares of land but using only 40 acres. All this land has been acquired by destroying mangroves and fishers are not allowed in the area. The chemical waste released from these salt factories further pollute and devastate the ecology and environment of Jakhau.

The Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan was flagged off by ceremonial and symbolic planting of mangrove saplings by local fishers. Fisherwomen were particularly enthusiastic in planting mangroves. Because mangroves are the symbols of wellbeing of coastal ecology and they are the first victims of so called development efforts that wreck havoc to natural coastal and marine resources. After planting of mangrove saplings Adam Ibrahim Jat, a senior leader of the fishers led the fishers to take an oath in the name of god that they will plant, protect and help regenerate mangroves. That they will fight to the last to protect the water and their livelihood.

The inaugural meeting was attended by around 400 local fisher men and women. Isha Bhai the Sarpanch (President) of local Panchayet, Siddique Bhai, Sakina Bahen, Ahmed Bhai, Abdul Shah - all leaders of local fishers spoke of the desperate situation the fishers are facing and expressed their resolve to fight for justice, for livelihood, for protection of natural resources.

Harekrishna Debnath, Chairperson, NFF said that a state which is only 60 years old has no right to encroach upon the traditional and customary rights of the fishers, which are thousands years old. As the land belongs to the tillers, so the coast and coastal waters belong to the fishers. There is no power on the earth which can rob the fishers of this natural right.

He asked the fishers to unite and stand as one from Kutch in Gujarat to Sundarban in West Bengal. He said that not only in Jakhau or Gujarat, but in the whole of India the picture is the same. Everywhere the government is playing in the hands of big business and allowing large scale encroachment of coastal land and devastation of coastal resources by SEZs, large tourism, polluting industries, nuclear power plants. Now the government has allowed the foreign fishing vessels to fish in our waters. He warned the Government that very soon a big wave of protest and agitation will engulf the whole of the Indian coast. The agitating fishers together with the people of India who care to
protect the natural resources of our country will defeat the wrong policies of the government. He called on the fisherpeople of Jakhau to send at least two persons from each coastal village of the area to Delhi in July for a march to the parliament and sitting in demonstration.

NFF national leaders Shri Narendra Patil, Shri Ramesh Dhuri, Smt. Purnima Meher, Shri Noel Kuni, Shri Bharat Patel, Mr. Dharmendra of Yusuf Meherally Centre, Mohd Osman Gani of MASS, Father David and other leaders addressed the gathering.

In the afternoon the Abhiyan reached in Layza fishing village and conducted a public meeting. Hundreds of fisher men and women participated and resolved to fight for their rights and protect the coastal zone from violent encroachments.

The fishers responded with enthusiasm.
Machimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan

Press Release: May 12, 2008

“Save the Coast, Save the Fisher People”

With this slogan, the Machimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhayan, a national campaign of fisher people, organized by the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF), entered Mumbai on 12 May 2008. The campaign started in Jhekhau, Kachchh, Gujarat, on 1 May 2008. It will cover the entire seaboard of India and reach Kolkata on 27 June 2008.

The Abhayan held several public meetings and demonstrations in major fishing villages along the Gujarat seaboard such as Mundra, Bhadreshwar, Dwarka, Porbandar, Veraval, Mangrol, Dahez, Umersari, Jambusar, Daman and Umbargaon before entering Maharashtra.

The campaign demands that the proposed coastal management zone (CMZ) notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF) be scrapped. It advocates the continuous implementation of existing Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification, and recognition of the rights of fisher peoples along the Indian seaboard.

In Gujarat, the campaign witnessed disturbing large-scale displacement of traditional fisher peoples in coastal villages to set up industries and special economic zones (SEZ). Hazardous and polluting industries were mushrooming along the coast. The abhayan strongly pleads to the Gujarat government to immediately address the deep insecurity of coastal peoples.

The Abhayan witnessed the rampant destruction of mangroves, and pollution of coastal waters. It was shocking to see that besides the SEZs the fishing communities had poor access to drinking water, and poor transport and medical facilities.

It was distressing to note that the fisheries resources off the Saurashtra coast were fully depleted. The fishers, as a result, were venturing into deeper waters in pursuit of fish, which often landed them in Pakistani jails.

The fishing communities of Gujarat strongly protested against the letters of permission (LOP) issued by Government of India permitting foreign fishing in the Indian waters. They wanted all LOPs to be cancelled with immediate effect.

In Maharashtra, the campaign visited Zai, Dahan, Dhakti, Dahan, Varor, Dandi, Murbve, Satpati, Arnala, Vasai, Gorai and Maroni and Mudh and Versova during the course of last couple of days. In Gorai, the Abhiyan was briefed about threats posed by an SEZ created for tourism of eviction of fisher peoples from five fishing villages. The fishing communities were resisting these threats and they wanted the said SEZ to be scrapped.
The Abhayan is led by Harekrishna Debnath, Chairperson, NFF, Rambhau Patil, N.D. Kohli, Narendra Patil, Matanhy Saldanha and others.

The State-level Seminar on ILO Convention on Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, organized as part of the Abhayan, at Shivaji Mandir, Dadar, Mumbai on 12 May 2008, recommended that the Government of India enact a national legislation in the light of the ILO Fishing Convention to include fishworkers. The Seminar further recommended that the Government of India should extend social security benefits to all fishworkers. The Seminar was jointly organized by Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti and the NFF, in collaboration with others.

The Abhayan will resume its jatra from Uran on Tuesday, 13 May 2008. It will visit important fishing villages along the east and west coasts of India before reaching Kolkata. Further to the Abhayan, fisher people from all along the Indian coast will undertake a dharna in front of the Parliament during its monsoon session to press for their 15-point agenda.
Machimari Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan
Press Release: May 14, 2008

On the 13th of May 2008, the members of the Machimari Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan performed a street play in the coastal village of Karanja for “jan jagriti” or awareness generation. The Karanja Machimari Vividha Karyakari Sahakari Society Ltd. catalyzed this rendezvous with the coastal residents.

Touring the Alibag belt now, the activists of the “Machimari Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan” organized by the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF), found that 10,000 acres of farm land and greenery including mangrove vegetation would be affected by a port as part of an SEZ, proposed to be constructed by Reliance. 135 coastal villages of which 80 are exclusively dependent on fishing would be affected by the project estimated to cost approximately rupees 20,000 crores. “50,000 traditional fisher folk would be displaced from their traditional livelihood forever as the SEZ would legally encompass the area of 22 km into the sea” the villagers of Revas Bodani apprehended. The proposed container port would destroy a large tract of mangrove forest which keeps a fragile ecosystem in homeostasis, impacting both the livelihoods the environment. There are local agitations in the fishing villages. The villagers recall that there is no direct proposal for purchasing the land but according to informants, a few contractors and middlemen have already acquired land in the area.

After the ride to the next campaign site of Thal port where a quick meeting was underlined with the following three slogans, the campaign proceeded to the urban region near the district administration’s head-office at Alibag. The slogans that have punctuated the campaign today are as follows:-

“Samudra Amcha Kolencha, Nahi Konacha Bappacha”
“Kinara Amchi Kolench, Nahi Konachi Bapachi”
“Jo Humse Takrayega, Pani me doob jayega”
Kamane wala Khayega….. Lootne wala Jayega”

The Shri Martoi Varsoli Machhimar Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Society Ltd. was our next stop. Various delegates like Mr Changa Posha Kulam, Chairman of Martand Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Society; Mr. Balkrishna Mahaden Koli. A street play group which has joined the abhiyan till Goa enthusiastically performed their play which humorously splashes through the issues and the charter of demands which are advocated by the abhiyan. Mr Nandu Kumar Patil the Maharashtra Pradesh secretary spoke about the SEZ’s and the proposed shift from CRZ to CMZ regulation which threatens the livelihoods of people and the coastal ecosystem.
The *abhīyan* is now mingling with more villages along the Alibag coast. The Abhiyan creates an electrifying atmosphere along the coast and is greeted by warmth, everywhere the communities are spontaneously receiving the Abhiyan and enthusiastically expressing their solidarity with the cause. The *abhīyan* traversed across 5 fishing villages yesterday and have today resumed their *yatra* from Rajauri village in Mulund Taluka, Raigarh, Maharashtra where over 200 fisher people gathered to watch the play and energetically took over shouting the *abhīyan* slogans expressing their faith in the cause.

Three hours from Rajauri the next meeting was scheduled at the village of Bharatkhol in Trivardhan Taluka, Raigarh district, Maharahstra. At 1:18pm, the street play has been performed and the audience joined in shouting the campaign slogans. Currently, Mr. Rambhau Patil, Chairman Maharashtra *Machhimar Samiti* is sharing his views with the villagers regarding the proposed Coastal Management Zone regulation.

The journey highlights the stories of various fishing villages along the east and west coasts of India before reaching Kolkata. The energies roused along the Indian coast traversed by the Abhiyan and manifested in the concrete 15 points Charter of Demands of the fisher people’ would culminate in a *dharna* in front of the Parliament during its monsoon session. In each place people are committing to participate in the *Sansad Abhiyan* in July in large numbers.
Press Release

The Macchhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhayan, a national campaign for the rights of fisher people, has been flagged off by the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF). The two month long campaign commenced from Jakho, the run of Kutch, Gujarat on the International Labour day (1st May, 2008). Since then the entire Indian coast is experiencing mass mobilizations with agitations, demonstrations, rallies, reception, public meetings, seminars and press conferences all along its stretch. The campaign will traverse 8000 kilometers in nine states and conclude its feet in Kolkata on 27th June. This campaign will be a precursor to Fisher People’s Parliament March in July 2008.

Inaugurating the campaign HareKrishna Debnath, Chairperson, NFF said that Indian state had no right to encroach upon the traditional and customary rights of the fishers, which were thousand years old. He said that as land belongs to the tillers so the coast and coastal waters belong to the fishers.

Indian coastline which is 8118 km long is extraordinarily rich in diversity and its water hosts one of the richest fisheries of the world. About 3.5 million fisher people live traditionally in 3200-odd villages along the coastline of mainland India. They supply more than 30 lakh tones of marine fish, the cheapest source of animal protein to our people. The GDP from the entire fisheries sector is nearly 30,000 cores. India earns 4200 crore from export of fish every year.

NFF has consistently been alleging that Indian government both at the centre and states is playing to the tune of big business houses and corporate establishments allowing large-scale encroachment of coastal land and devastation of coastal resources by Special Economic Zone (SEZs) and Special Tourism Zones (STZs) expanding coastal towns, cities, ports and harbors. Ill conceived mega projects, rampant reclamation, large scale mechanized and destructive fishing are threatening our coastal environment, marine resources and traditional livelihood and the sea has become the dumping ground of all sorts of toxic wastes and pollutants. The crisis has reached to such an extent that in a UNEP report, In DEAD WATER has documented how the Indian Ocean has been turned into one of the major marine zones adversely affected by land based sources of pollution. Now the government has even allowed the foreign fishing vessels to fish in our waters.

The social history of coastal India is replete with incidents of traditional fisher’s struggles against coastal encroachments, pollution and destructive fishing gears and practices. Good fish requires healthy habitats. Traditional fishers’ struggles for right to fish have always been intertwined with strivings to conserve its resources. Protection of marine ecology and resources can’t be thought of independent of protection of the livelihood rights of fishers.

In 1991 when the government came out with a notification in the form of CRZ it was the first ever national statute to protect coasts from developmental activities. However central and state governments hardly made any serious effort to enforce this notification and moreover amended it as many as 21 times under pressure from numerous commercial interests. Now the government is planning to further sell out our coasts to commercial plunder and condoning all violations of CRZ.
that have taken place since 1991 and has come out with a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification with the sole intention of further selling out our coasts to commercial plunder.

The movement among other things demands to recognize Inalienable Traditional and Customary Rights of Fisherpeople over coastal lands and waters; Implement CRZ notification 1991 while rejecting recent CZM notification; Develop a comprehensive fisheries legislation for the EEZ waters; Reform Marine Fishing Regulation Acts of States to improve fisheries management and develop coordination mechanism for peaceful inter-state fishing; Develop regional mechanism to facilitate reciprocal access to adjacent maritime waters of neighbouring countries. Stop making fishworkers victims of maritime boundary disputes; Recognize and uphold the importance of women's roles in fisheries – recognize their rights to social security, Land for fish processing and marketing, basic amenities, child care, credit and transport facilities and a national legislation for fishers in the line of ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, 2007.

The movement is of the view that now the fishing community is under tremendous attack. While SEZ, CMZ, STZ and industrial aquaculture are overshadowing the coastal zone; imported foreign fishing vessels are plundering the sea. NFF struggle in 1990 had compelled the government to rescind the deep sea fishing policy that allowed foreign fishing vessels in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The high power Murari Committee recommendations were accepted by the government and it immediately stopped permitting the joint venture. And now once again Government of India (GOI) started allowing operation of Deep Sea fishing vessels under joint venture arrangements as resource specific. Letters of Permits (LOP) have already been issued to more than 100 vessels and there have been news doing rounds that GOI has decided to allow import of 500 vessels under joint venture.

Addressing the large inaugural gathering with other NFF leaders and releasing the detail itinerary of the campaign and the names of civil society organizations that have been with the fisher folk through thick and thin; Debnath came down heavily on both central and state governments. He warned the government to see reason with the demands of NFF and called people to stand united from Kutch to Sundarban. He also called up on the fishing community, other coastal communities, students, youth, peoples' movements, trade unions, civil society organizations and media to support the ongoing campaign and prepare for the bigger one during the monsoon session of the parliament.

The march in the meantime covered Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and now reached Karnataka.