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*Vanashakti — which had filed a petition on Aarey colony demanding it be declared No Development Zone — also had filed a separate petition seeking protection of the unconstructed areas that are in the buffer zone of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), including Yeoor and Dindoshi (Survey No. 239).*

National Green Tribunal (NGT), while hearing a petition filed by NGO Vanashakti, not only asked the Thane Municipal Commissioner (TMC) to not issue permissions for construction inside the forest areas of Yeoor but also directed them for an immediate halt to the cutting of hills and destruction going on at Dindoshi.

Vanashakti — which had filed a petition on Aarey colony demanding it be declared No Development Zone — also had filed a separate petition seeking protection of the unconstructed areas that are in the buffer zone of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), including Yeoor and Dindoshi (Survey No. 239).

The order passed by the division bench of the NGT, comprising justice VR Kingaonkar (judicial member) and Ajay A Deshpande (expert member) on January 13, mentions that time has been given to the TMC for filing an affidavit in the Yeoor matter as well as asked the forest department to do the same, clearly indicating status of lands in question (Both Yeoor as well as Dindoshi Survey no 239)

"There has been rampant destruction of the buffer zones around SGNP, we have almost seen the entire Ghodbunder area being destroyed in less than four years. Hence we are seeking protection of the land around the buffer areas of forest where construction has not taken place," shared Stalin D, director, projects, Vanashakti.

The petitioner accused that at Yeoor range of SGNP, private developers are moving in once again and have started construction on the reserve forest lands and the proposed Eco Sensitive Zone of SGNP. "Ignoring the Supreme Court directives, massive constructions have come up inside the buffer zone of SGNP and to prevent the same situation arising in Yeoor, which incidentally has a high security Air Force radar base, we decided to file a separate petition with NGT," added Stalin.

Similarly, Vanashakti in the same petition has also brought to the notice of NGT how the hills of Dindoshi (Survey no 239) were being cut and quarried and the entire hill was being stripped of all vegetation and was repeatedly shaved of all tree cover and most of these activities were carried out at night and no government body had any clue about what constructions were being done.