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## Aam Aadmi Party seeks to protect depleting mangrove cover

**Bella Jaisinghani**, TNN Jun 19, 2013, 07:17AM IST

**Tags:** mining | Mangroves | land grab | Aam Aadmi Party

MUMBAI: The Aam Aadmi Party is protesting the systematic destruction of mangroves, mining and land grab in Navi Mumbai. It will lead an agitation, perhaps even file FIRs against offenders since mangrove hacking is in contravention of CRZ (coastal regulation zone) norms.

"Dr Janki Ram, a resident of Sector 15, Belapur, has chronologically recorded this trend (of hacking mangroves). He has made appeals to the chief justice of India, the environment minister, local authorities like CIDCO, municipal corporation and police commissioner to no avail," alleged AAP's Thane convenor Ravi Srivastava. Srivastava said vested interests were reclaiming land by cutting mangroves. The next move could well be to start construction.

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Srivastava claimed land grabbers were building dirt roads after filling the reclaimed portions with debris. "We cannot be silent witnesses to the destruction of mangroves, reclamation, salt pan grab and deforestation by the politician-bureaucrat-police-builder nexus. Every inch of available land is being occupied for greed than need," AAP said. Apparently, mangrove cover has been destroyed by more than 30% in the last 25 years. Its destruction results in natural calamities like flash floods, landslides and flooding during high tide.

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