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Mangrove shoots grow on a planned highway

Linah Baliga, TNN Jun 22, 2013, 03:57PM IST

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MUMBAI: Tender new mangrove shoots are growing where once a superhighway was planned by builders to engulf and destroy dense mangrove forests in CRZ 1. But these are now protected by the Indian law.

Few years ago, an environmental catastrophe was about to take place on 450 acres of virgin mangrove forests in Survey 344 at Dahisar West. The New Link Road Residents [Forum](#) with help of the BEAG, CAT, the then Suburban collector Shri Nirmal Deshmukh, Justice Tahiliani and few upright officials in the Judiciary, Police and MCZMA managed to stop the dumping of debris in this pristine mangrove forest.

"We had to go up to the Supreme Court to get a favorable verdict. Today the debris remain as a mute testimony of human greed. Some of it was ordered to be removed following the Supreme Court ruling, but a significant portion still remains", said Harishchandra Pandey, chairman, New Link Road Residents' Forum. He further added, "inspite of all these debris, there is something special coming up. Amidst the rubble, we see new mangrove shoots bravely springing forth. God has designed these mangroves with a special quality, to thrive amidst the tidal waves, harsh salinity and humid heat of Mumbai's coast", said Harishchandra Pandey, chairman, New Link Road Residents' Forum.



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