

# Protest staged against displacement of Koraga families

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Mangaluru: The approach of Mangaluru City Corporation and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in displacing the Koraga families, who lived for several decades at Mangalajyoti in Vamanjoor for the road widening project, is inhumane and highly condemnable, said Krishnappa Konchadi, state co-coordinator of the Karnataka Adivasi Rights Coordination Committee.

He was speaking at a protest meeting held in front of the MCC, condemning the alleged displacement of Koraga community families for road widening, on Tuesday. Konchadi strongly criticised the NHAI for issuing notice only to the Koragajja shrine and announcing a compensation of Rs 5 lakh, while failing to

provide any notice, alternative arrangements, or compensation to the Koraga families who lived there for over 70 years, and suddenly proceeding with bulldozer operations.

He stated that the land, now under the MCC's name and where the Koragajja shrine is located, was actually part of the 8.9 acres granted to the Koraga community in 1933. "The municipality illegally converted the land in its name in 1962, and now aims to destroy the Koraga community's livelihood," he said. Local leader Kariya K stated that the officials committed atrocities against women and children.

Activist Sunil Kumar Bajal urged all citizens to strongly protest against the MCC and NHAI, stating that they are set on destroying the Koraga community, the indigenous residents of coastal Karnataka. He called for continuous struggle to ensure a minimum compensation of Rs 15 lakh for the Koragajja shrine and all homes.

Krishna Inna, a state committee member of the Adivasi Rights Coordination Committee, Vasanth Achari, CITU leader, BK Imthiyaz, district president of DYFI, K Yadav Shetty, president of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, and leader activist Jappinamogaru, spoke.