

← Dear Friends... - Anjali Damania's Fight...



Anjali Damania's Fight Against Corruption

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Dear Friends from Media, my friends and my critics,
I have realized that fighting for a good cause is very difficult. Taking money is very easy but not taking it is extremely difficult. By fighting the system, I have put my entire life savings at stake for the cause of my country. These allegations have shocked me and shaken my confidence. Please spare 10 minutes of your time and read though this word by word

Facts about my case

Name : Mrs Anjali Anish Damania

Family Background : Married with 2 children

I come from a conservative joint family with sound value system and my ethics perfectly close to my heart and my heart does not permit me to do anything incorrect / injustice nor tolerate any injustice. I feel it below my dignity and self esteem to give such a disgusting clarification but the filth that has got accumulated in our very own system and our own group demands it and hence let me write all the facts and figures. I openly challenge the person who has initiated this email chain to an open discussion and examination of my papers. If I am at a single fault or if I am proved to be misusing IAC name for my personal benefit or my personal gains / to save my property I am ready to face whatever consequences come my way. But, if it is proved that I am right and fighting for a noble cause, I DEMAND ACTION AGAINST THE WHOLE GROUP who has been behind this disgusting allegation.

I got married in 1992. In 1994, we took a loan from Karur Vysya bank of Rs 1 lakh (which was huge for us at that time since we were very young and newly married) through Maxworth Orchards, invested in a 1 acre plot in Kolad which was for 'Fruit Plantations' under the Horticulture scheme of

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was for 'Fruit Plantations' under the Horticulture scheme of 1991(To bring cultivable but uncultivated land under cultivation). This company was a public limited company which is a sister concern of Sterling Holiday resorts. I have the following documents to substantiate my statement.

- 1) The agreement with Maxworth says that the company will buy us agricultural land in Village Mahagaon – Mangaon Dist : Raigad. This was registered in 1994.
- 2) In a separate agreement with the seller (farmer), which clearly states that the land was being purchased for fruit plantation. It also states that the officer in charge should check all the documents any then execute the necessary notification (8A and 7/12). The 7/12 was issued in my husband's name.
- 3) Due to financial problems, the company wound up operations in 1998 and defaulted.
- 4) This is apart from the fact that I come from a family who had ancestral agricultural land from both my parents. My father's family had in Alibaug (Raigad) and my mother's family had in Narayangaon & Makhmalanbad -Nasik. Anish too had some ancestral land in Daman.
- 5) From 1993 to 2006 we were busy with our family as I had my first baby in 1993 and the second in 1996 and we were very young and could not put aside too much money. In 2006 when our financial state improved, we invested some money in Karjat. We bought a land at Kashele and when they asked me for the 7/12 extract, I had submitted the 7/12 which we had got at Mangaon.
- 6) The officer (Talati and circle officer) is duty bound to verify the records and execute the necessary transfer. These officers would have found the papers satisfactory and hence transferred the land on our name.
- 7) Subsequently I had invested in a some other pieces of land in Karjat.

🕶️ Now one of this land which was about 30 acres was together bought in 2007 by my husband, his sister and our family friend Varita. They had their former "Dramannetra"

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together bought in 2007 by my husband, his sister and our family friend Vanita. They had their farmer "Pramanpatra" from Rajasthan (Print media is reporting that it is me & my husband who had our land documents from Rajasthan. My husband and me never had any land in Rajasthan) and this land was duly transferred (after all the checks ie after verifying the land from the actual place), on our name & their name by the same Tehsil where the great Tehsildar Jaysingh Girase himself holds office.

9) In May 2011, we came to know that a dam was likely to come up in Karjat and the dam line was exactly where our land started. That meant that the whole of our land would get into submergence.

10) Actually the location of the so called dam line was on 2 small muddy hillocks instead of 2 mountains. There was a better site just about 700 meters behind. Yes I was concerned about my land, can anyone please tell me is it wrong to protect your own land? I approached the irrigation officers to make some representations, Took them to the site(they had not even seen the site till then) and even met the Irrigation minister Mr Sunil Tatkare. He promised us that he would take action. I even served them a legal notice but received no response.

11) When I was in the ministers office (at his residence), Mr Nisar Khatri's name was called out (He owns F.A Construction). When I asked for his number to talk to him that the dam line was not correct, the doorman of Sunil Tatkare's office pulled out a visiting card out of his front pocket and gave it to me. Here I smelt a rat... I started to wonder a) What was a Contractor doing at the residence of a Minister & b) What made a doorman of Tatkare's residence have visiting cards of a contractor in his upper pocket.

12) This was around 1st week of August. On 16th of August, when Annaji was arrested, like thousands of Indians, I was also moved by the atrocities of the government. I left for Azad maiden to join the movement

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also moved by the atrocities of the government. I left for Azad maidan to join the movement.

13) Till this day, I was like any other Bombayite who would not want hassels in life and who would simply give in to the pressures of the system rather than taking troubles in life. But with IAC, my life changed.

14) I started digging into the details of the dam project. The contractors immediately started approaching me to buy out my land. They made small offers initially which grew phenomenally with time. Each time asking me to settle and not fight. Most of my friends told me to take that path and not invite trouble but Annaji's path and the fire that I had burning inside me stopped me at all times.

15) In December 2011 when I had set up the whole andolan at MMRDA and when I saw Anna for the first time, I had tears rolling down my cheek. Tears of pride and tears of being part of such a wonderful movement. It was a proud moment for me. I worked day and night during those days to ensure that we could give our best to the movement, for us having it in Mumbai was a matter of great pride for us. Unfortunately it was called off because of Annaji's health.

16) With a renewed vigour, I went on with my work of collecting the entire set of documentation not knowing the enormous proportions that were behind it. But God was on my side, I met Indavi Tulpule, a noted activist from Murbad who was fighting against Kalu & Shai dam. This is where I came to know that Kalu & Shai dam contracts too had gone to the same contractor - F.A. She put me onto Surekhatai Dalvi of Pen (who is known to Annaji for a very long time) She was fighting against Balganga Dam in Pen. This contract too had gone to FA. Then I met Brian Lobo from Dahanu who was fighting against Susari dam & this contract too had gone to FA. Then I started to understand the whole game. This company has bagged innumerable contracts in irrigation when the law states that they cannot be awarded more than 3 dam contracts and they can't be given second contract if the work of one dam is in progress

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be awarded more than 3 dam contracts and they can't be given second contract if the work of one dam is in progress.

17) Together we staged many andolans at various locations. We all thought working individually would not help as the people behind this corruption were giants.

18) This company (to our knowledge) has 13 dam projects in progress. Then we went into the depth and found out how the dams were shown as small dams and later scaled up in a month or 2 on flimsy reason and we have documents under RTI which show this.

19) I explained the case to Mayank Gandhi with whom I was working for almost 6 months in IAC Mumbai. Till then he knew only that I was working on something against dams but when I showed him the details, he was shocked.

Together we filed a PIL on 10th April 2012. In the meanwhile, I was getting calls to settle the matter. The intensity and the gravity of the calls started increasing. On 12th April, I got a calls from Talati Karjat asking for my fax no. He then faxed me a from notice the revenue department informing me that the land that I had purchased in Mangaon was "Gavat Pad" and hence was not fit for cultivation, was not fit for agriculture and hence we cannot be termed as farmer and this was a breach of clause 63 and hence the land which we bought in Kashele was not by law and all the land that we purchased subsequently was liable to be forfeited under section 84k of the BTAL act 1948.

20) Surprisingly, the number of calls received from them increased. I told them that they should simply wait for my written reply and argument at Tehsildar office at Karjat. I submitted photos of the so called uncultivable land at Mangaon which has been bearing fruits for the last over 10 years (I gave big photos for clarity in picture), I got the soil test report from RCF of the soil from this land which showed that it could grow Mango and even rice

21) I also showed the Tehsildar the file of my family which showed the ancestral land right since great grandfather's

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showed the ancestral land right since great grandfather's time. But he was visibly under pressure from the seniors and political circles.

22) One important fact that I wish to bring before you is that when I had gone to Kolad to get a fresh set of my papers (7/12 extract of the current date which still stands in my husband's name), the Talati there wanted to know if there was some problem. He then informed me that the Tehsildar of Karjat himself, along with all his officers (Circle officer and Talati) had visited Kolad which was at a distance of about 100 to 150 km from Karjat. Was this done to genuinely get to the depth of some case or was it political vengeance is for us to understand. I had openly asked him this in the hearing and I have a recording of his answer where he has stated that he indeed travelled to get my papers. Do I need to give any more clarifications??

23) Our PIL was put up for 25th April and subsequently on 30th April but unfortunately on both the days, the board was discharged. On 25th, after our case was discharged, I called Mr Sonawane, CE Irrigation. This is because he was supposed to give me the papers for the rest of the dams and had asked me to meet him at Thane office. On calling him, he told me he was in Fort office which was just opposite High Court. So I went to his office along with Mayank Gandhi and Preeti Sharma Menon who had come for the PIL. We told him that we wanted the papers which we had sought under RTI and were not delivered to us for over 3 months. We also pointed out to him that irrigation department website did not have RTI compliance nor were the tenders online as per CVC norms. He was visibly disturbed any promised action.

24) In five minutes of us leaving his office, he called me on the cell phone and asked me to come back to his office and that too alone. Understanding his intentions, I did so, to see how low the government set-up could fall. He first made me understand how 'Useless' it is to knock the court and also why I should give in and settle the case. He then called the

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understand how 'Useless' it is to knock the court and also why I should give in and settle the case. He then called the contractor himself (who was hanging around nearby). Mr Nisar Khatri pleaded that I should settle the matter and that too in front of a Government officer of the post of CE / ED Irrigation. I reached home quite late in the evening which is when the CE Mr Sonawane called me 3 times (I am open to anyone accessing my call records to verify this) The next morning CE Sonawane called me 3 times. I called him back and politely told him that my heart and my ethics do not permit me to fall prey to pressures.

25) That evening, I got 27 calls from some NCP volunteers of Karjat asking me to give in. I told them the same. I sent a request to the CM Maharashtra seeking an appointment.

26) On Sunday the 30th in the evening, I got a call from Additional CP offering me security and since Monday, special bodyguard was allocated.

27) On the 3rd May, I got a call from the CM's office that the CM wanted to meet. Lot of my friends and acquaintances discouraged me from fighting and showed me a note that was being circulated in the media. This note stated that I had vested interests and was under government scrutiny. I was upset for sometime but after that I was even more determined to fight.

28) We went to the CM as a group with 8 people from various organizations like Shramik Mukti Sanghatana and Kashtakari Sanghatana, joining a few of us from IAC Mumbai. The CM was moved by the papers which were shown to him which clearly showed massive corruption and the very next day, He called for a 'White Paper' on the last 10 years irrigation projects.

29) On 4th May, we had called for a state- wide seminar against dams which was attended by dam affected people, activists and organizations from all over Maharashtra. Attaching a copy of the invite for your reference. It was during this seminar that we got the great news of the 'White Paper' and showed it. For 2 days I was happy that I had

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Attaching a copy of the invite for your reference. It was during this seminar that we got the great news of the 'White Paper' and cheered it. For 2 days I was happy that I had achieved my goal but I did not know what was awaiting me.

30) Some people who clearly have vested interest have shown the audacity of doubting my integrity. I have been fighting the whole gang of monsters of corruption (Including the big ministers like Ajit Pawar and Sunil Tatkare) would surely not bow down before such creeps.

31) I challenge them to show me even ONE single grey area in all this...

32) Kondhane tender was cancelled in May & all the escalated costs were also cancelled. If I was fighting for my vested interest, Don't you think my fight would have ended there? Would I stage a dharna at Konkan Bhavan ? Would I stage a dharna at irrigation office Kolad? It is sad that I have to issue a clarification.

33) I would also like to mention that I am a director in a private limited company called S.V.V Developers. This company has done only one small project of 39 plots called Alpine village in Karjat. This was done following each and every norm and each and every rule in the rule book. This project was the only project done by this company between 2007 and 2011 & all but two plots were sold before Aug 2011.

34) I very humbly want to state that I have been sincerely working on this irrigation scam with utmost integrity and despite several offers and several pressures, I thought it was important to fight for the cause. I pray that the people of this country join me in this fight.

35) One more point I would like to mention that the SDO Mangaon sent me a letter dated 2nd Aug 12 informing me of a hearing to be held on 3rd September, against a complaint / objection raised by the farmer who had sold me the original land (which I purchased in 1994) had raised an

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the original land (which I purchased in 1994) had raised an objection. This was dispatched by their office on 28th August 12 and was received by Santacruz post office on 10th September 12 (8 days after the hearing)

Now I have few questions and I deserve an explanation

If I had to protect my property, would I have not compromised ? I was getting several calls for settlement (I have proof of my claims)

If one has to only protect one's land which is going under submergence, is it wise to file a PIL or it wise to fight ?

Even if I would not compromise, would I not get compensated when the land would get acquired ? It could be a little lower than the market value but wouldn't I have peace of mind?

Why would I make a PIL and clearly state in the introduction itself that I have land in Karjat which is clearly mentioned in point 3 page 8 of my petition.

Why would I not 'SETTLE' with the contractor who was ready to pay me whatever I would demand? Why did I choose to fight ? Was I not shutting my doors to something (irreversible???)

The notice from the land revenue department sent via the Tehsildar and who had shown the promptness of faxing it to me. Amazing isn't it??

Why would the fax come to me on 12th April 2012 when the first purchase of my land dates back to 1994. Does it take 18 years and a PIL for the revenue department to wake up and look for papers??

On 6th August 2012, the Tehsildar has issued an order taking away my entire land holding (on paper).

Allegations on me that I had 'Dhokadadi ke aarop' on me, that I am a 'Land Shark' and that I had vested interest are nothing but a smear campaign against me because I am fighting against powerful people. Land revenue case against

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Allegations on me that I had 'Dhokadadi ke aarop' on me, that I am a 'Land Shark' and that I had vested interest are nothing but a smear campaign against me because I am fighting against powerful people. Land revenue case against me was not something which I had on me in the past but a notice dated 12th April (after I filed my PIL) which was slapped on me because I did not give in to their threatening calls. I urge the media & my critics to understand my cause, verify my papers and then if they still feel I am fighting for my vested interest, they can surely go ahead with whatever they feel is correct.

Vande Mataram !!!

Mrs Anjali Anish Damania

133 shares

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