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## Maharashtra Residents Protest Demolitions, Demand Fair Rehabilitation and Compensation

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In Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra, residents staged protests against recent demolitions carried out by municipal authorities, alleging that the operations were conducted without prior notice or adequate consultation. Protesters demanded fair

rehabilitation, appropriate compensation, and official recognition of tenure rights for affected households.

According to local accounts, the demolished structures included long-standing homes and small commercial establishments, many of which had been occupied for decades. Residents claim they received no formal eviction notices and were given little time to remove personal belongings before bulldozers moved in.

“We are not against development,” said one community leader, “but we cannot accept being displaced without warning and without any assurance of where we will live.”

Municipal authorities have stated that the demolitions targeted unauthorized constructions as part of an urban development and encroachment clearance drive. Officials argue that such measures are necessary to ensure compliance with planning regulations and to free up land for public projects.

However, housing rights advocates contend that these actions violate due process and international norms on forced evictions, which require adequate notice, consultation, and provision of alternative housing. They warn that sudden demolitions can push vulnerable families into homelessness and economic hardship, especially when compensation and rehabilitation plans are unclear or delayed.

Protesters are calling for formal recognition of tenure rights for long-term occupants, which would provide legal protection against arbitrary eviction. They also demand that rehabilitation measures include access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and secure housing within a reasonable distance from their original neighborhoods.

The incident has sparked wider debate on urban eviction policies in Maharashtra, where rapid infrastructure expansion often clashes with the housing rights of low-income communities. Rights organizations have urged the state government to adopt safeguards that ensure development projects do not displace residents without a fair process and just compensation.

As of now, municipal officials have not announced any changes to the demolition schedule, but protest leaders say they will continue to mobilize until the authorities commit to a negotiated settlement that respects both urban development goals and the rights of affected families.