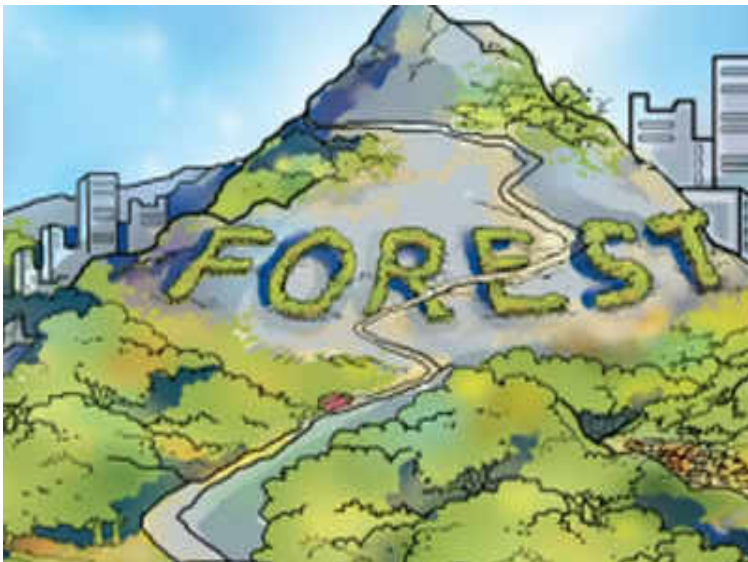


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# Forest department submits proposal to Maharashtra govt

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KOLHAPUR: The forest officials of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) have once again submitted a proposal to the state government regarding the relocation of the wildlife department office from Dhebewadi in Patan taluka of Satara district to Mandur village in Sangli district. According to a forest department official, the existing SRT office is a British-era building and quite old. It was also the office where famous writer, forest officer and conservationist Maruti Chitampalli was first posted.

The proposal to shift the office had first come up during the tenure of the earlier BJP government. However, after 2019, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government suspended the proposal. The trio of then guardian minister Balasaheb Patil, state minister Shambhuraj Desai and MP Srinivas Patil had tried to prevent the relocation of the office.

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Now, after the change in guard, the demand to relocate the office has again gathered momentum. A proposal for relocation has been sent to conservator of forest for STR Nanasaheb Ladkat for his signature.

Meanwhile, Rohan Bhate, honorary wildlife warden of Satara, said, “The location of forest department (wildlife) office is convenient for everyone — villagers, officers and employees. If it is shifted to Mandur, there will be several problems. In case of crop damage and loss of livestock due to wild animals, it will be very difficult for the villagers to go to Mandur.”