



# SPECIAL REPORT ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE PUNE, MAHARASHTRA



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## Overview

On February 10, 2025, the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) launched a large-scale demolition drive in Chikhali-Kudalwadi, targeting unauthorized structures that had been in place for years. Over 1,500 structures were razed, leaving approximately 1 lakh workers unemployed and numerous small businesses in crisis. While authorities cite legal and environmental concerns, the move has triggered widespread economic distress and public outcry.

## Background

For nearly two decades, Chikhali and Kudalwadi have been home to a thriving informal economy, with small-scale industries, scrap trading businesses, and commercial establishments operating on encroached land. Despite repeated warnings from PCMC, unauthorized growth continued, driven by demand for affordable business space. Concerns over pollution, fire hazards, and unregulated expansion intensified in recent years, prompting the municipal corporation to take decisive action. The demolition drive was officially announced on February 5, 2025, giving affected parties minimal time to respond.

## Execution of the Drive

PCMC's demolition operation was a meticulously planned effort involving multiple agencies.

### Key figures:

- **Structures Demolished:** Over 1,500 illegal establishments
- **Personnel Involved:** 600 police officers and 180 Maharashtra Security Force personnel
- **Equipment Deployed:** 16 excavators, 8 JCBs, 1 crane, and 4 cutters
- **Safety Measures:** Fire engines and ambulances were stationed to address potential emergencies.

The operation specifically targeted unauthorized warehouses, scrap yards, commercial sheds, and small factories constructed on land earmarked for development.

## Government's Approach

- According to PCMC officials, the demolition drive was carried out due to multiple legal and environmental violations.
- Structures were built without approvals from the Building Permission Department and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB).
- Air and water pollution concerns had been flagged due to improper waste disposal.
- Unregulated businesses posed safety risks, with past fire incidents in scrap yards raising alarms.
- Many businesses were found to be violating labor laws, providing unsafe working conditions.
- The land is required for planned urban development projects.

## Public Reaction and Protests

- On February 12, 2025, affected workers and business owners staged protests, blocking the Dehu-Alandi Road.
- Protesters claim PCMC did not provide adequate notice or rehabilitation plans.
- Law enforcement was deployed to control the situation.
- Discussions between authorities and protestors are ongoing.

## Current Situation and Next Steps

- As of February 13, 2025, debris clearance is underway, and further demolitions are expected.
- Many affected individuals are seeking legal recourse.
- Others are pushing for financial relief, but PCMC has stated no compensation will be provided.
- Frustration among displaced business owners and workers is increasing.

## Future Implications

- PCMC is likely to extend the anti-encroachment drive to other parts of the city.
- Displaced businesses may relocate, leading to increased rental demand in industrial zones.
- A surge in unemployment could create economic strain in the local community.
- Redevelopment plans will reshape Chikhali's urban landscape, but the long-term economic impact remains uncertain.

## Government Mandates for Future

- **Expansion of Drive:** PCMC plans to extend the anti-encroachment drive to other industrial and commercial zones with unauthorized structures.
- **No Compensation Policy:** The government maintains that no financial relief will be provided for demolished illegal establishments.
- **Urban Development Plans:** Cleared land will be used for infrastructure projects like road expansions, waste management, and commercial hubs.
- **Legal Compliance Enforcement:** Authorities urge businesses to follow zoning regulations to avoid future demolitions.
- **Socio-Economic Concerns:** Stakeholders are demanding rehabilitation measures, but no official plans have been announced yet.

For further details & developments on the drive please follow the below link- [Click here](#)

## Important Contact Details

- **Fire:** 101
- **Police:** 100
- **Child Helpline:** 1098
- **Traffic Helpline:** 1073
- **Ambulance:** 102, 108
- **Women Helpline:** 1091, 181
- **National Emergency Number:** 112
- **NDRF Helpline Number-** +91-9711077372
- **PCMC Contact Number-** 1800-1030-222

## List of Hospitals

Pune-<https://pune.gov.in/public-utility-category/hospitals/>

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