

## GARBAGE MATTERS

# HC may ask PMC to stop issuing permit to raise buildings

Having heard petition filed by city NGO, Bombay High Court orders civic body to submit affidavit on measures it will take to solve waste problem



In April, HC had asked Kalyan-Dombivli civic body to stop giving permission for residential, commercial constructions. Pune, which generates around 1,600 tonnes of garbage daily, may be asked to follow suit

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**T**he Bombay High Court (HC) hinted that it may have to order the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to cease building construction to solve the city's long-standing garbage problem on Monday. Following the submission of a petition against the PMC on the garbage issue by a city-based NGO, the HC directed the civic body to submit its say on what measures it would be taking to solve the issue by Wednesday.

In April, the HC had asked the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) to stop issuing building permission for residential and commercial constructions till the KDMC solves its garbage problem. The order was passed by justices N H Patil and V L Achaliya, also part of the bench which heard the civil application filed by Nagrik Chetna Manch (NCM) on Monday.

The judges pointed out that with the increase in buildings and population, the garbage problem would only get worse. The HC may ask PMC to cease all such construction, sources, who were present at the hearing, said.

Justices Abhay Oak and Achaliya gave PMC a two-day deadline to file its affidavit. Speaking to *Mirror*, Abhijit Kulkarni, who is representing PMC in the high court, said, "The HC asked PMC to submit an affidavit about the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules (MSWMR), 2000. It also asked the civic body to submit what it has done about the 2013 order to implement the MSWMR and closure of dumping sites within city limits."

SCN Jathar, founder of NCM, said in its application, the NGO pointed out that while the PMC pays private companies to segregate garbage, it is not doing anything about it. It's a waste of public money as it is the PMC's duty. On the other side, the civic body has been penalising those, who have not been following solid waste management rules."

Pune generates about 1,500-1,600 tonnes of garbage every day. PMC's 163-acre dump yard at Urali Devachi has been unused since June 2010. However, the civic body has been carrying out scientific land filling at the Urali Devachi garbage depot. It has also processed garbage using six different techniques. The garbage problem has peaked ever since the processing plant at Hanjar shut down last year.