

Green tribunal wants four municipal corporations and a group representing industries to deposit ₹95cr for scientific cleaning

Enforce ruling on Ulhas cleaning: NGO

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Armed with the Supreme Court order, which has stayed the orders passed by the Bombay High Court, Mumbai-based NGO Vinasakti has demanded that the state government should implement directives of National Green Tribunal (NGT) for conservation of Ulhas river.

As per Stalin D, director project for Vinasakti, it was only after seeing the rampant pollution of Ulhas River due to release of partially and untreated industrial effluents along with domestic sewage that they filed a petition in the NGT in 2013.

"The NGT gave a detailed order, including asking four local bodies, along with an organisation that represented industries to deposit ₹95 crore for implementation of scientific programme for cleaning of the Ulhas and Wadhwa rivers in snow-cum account headed by the Konkan command but these agencies approached the Bombay High Court and the NGT order was stayed," he informed. Stalin added that following the stay by the high court, Vinasakti filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) at the



Activists are fighting for complete revival of the heavily polluted Ulhas river

SC, challenging the decision. Meanwhile, during the hearing of the matter on April 18, the division bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices Prakash Chandra Ghose and Amitava Roy stayed all the orders passed by Bombay High Court.

"This is the best gift I can give on Earth Day. Now that the high court order is stayed, we expect the state government to comply with the NGT judgment and recover the fine imposed by the tribunal on polluters," said Ashwin Aghor of Vinasakti.

The NGT, that is hearing the petition currently, in an order

dated March 30, stated that it was dismayed by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and it was clear that the board was not taking effective and urgent steps in the control and monitoring of CETPs within its jurisdiction.

According to activists working for complete revival of the river, all government authorities had completely failed to stop the violation and were guilty of allowing toxic pollutants to not only enter the river but also destroy the biodiversity all around and it isn't a surprise that Dombivli industrial area has been identified as a critically polluted area.

Take back 2 Borivli lakes maintained by pvt gymkhana, HC tells collector

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Citizens on Friday won the fight to protect lakes in Borivli against a private gymkhana and local political leader who in the garb of maintenance took over the state property and illegally built a jogging track and charged fee to enter inside the premises from citizens.

A division bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Prakash Halik observed, "Everything was done under the eyes of the government but yet the government did not do anything to protect its own property". The court, while allowing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by two activists Edwin Brijesh and Meera Kamath, said: "Government/collector should demolish the illegal structure and restore the lake to its original position."

According to the PIL, local MLA Gopal Shetye had in 2008 sought permission for maintain-

ing the two lakes known as 'Ekalak lakes'. The revenue department had granted permission for beautification to him by using the MLA funds and maintaining for a period of one year. However, later he sublet the maintenance to Palsar gymkhana, which is managed by him.

Corruption tales

The petitioners claimed that the two lakes admeasuring area of 381.60sqm and 12,925.58sqm were in illegal possession of Shetye and he had by dumping things caused vanishing of the smaller lake, while illegally constructed a jogging track on the bigger lake and was charging an entry fee and providing boating services.

The petitioners relied on a Supreme Court judgment which states that it is the responsibility of the government and the local body to restore/conservate and maintain lakes/pools and

other water bodies to ensure proper maintenance of ecological balance.

After perusing the facts of the case and judgments relied on by the petitioners, the court observed that "state was under obligation to ensure that the lakes were not polluted. State will have to take immediate action to restore the lakes to their original state. The lake has been beautified using the funds, nevertheless Shetye and the gymkhana cannot claim a right on the lake as it is vested with the state."

The court has allowed Shetye and the gymkhana to apply before the collector for permission to maintain the lake within six weeks from now and if such application is made then it should be decided within four months. Without depending on the decision the application on the decision will have to take possession of the lakes and restore them within nine months.

local VOCAL

15th Toyota West-zone cricket meet held in Thane



(L-R) Mumbai Toyota dealership CEO Manoj San, Balu San, Amar San, Noah San and Anil San present a memento to senior V-P N Raja San on the occasion of 15th Toyota West Zone Cricket meet.

Chasing a score of 72 runs, Shival Toyota team won the recent 15th Toyota West-zone dealership/financiers/Insurance Co Cricket meet 2016, held at Dadaji Kondeo Stadium in Thane. Earlier, Millennium Toyota scored 106/4 against Wasan Toyota and entered the Mega final. Dineh Kamble of Millennium Toyota was honoured with the Man of the Series award for his outstanding performance. Senior vice-president of Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), N Raja San, graced the occasion with senior delegates of Toyota dealerships. They all praised Millennium Toyota for organising such a high-class event. Spectators had a truly Q-Class, with HD camera set-up, third umpire and other amenities.

Konkan Rly to follow monsoon timetable from June 10-31

The Konkan Railway (KR) on Friday announced that it would be following its annual monsoon timetable from June 10-31. The KR, in a statement, said that passengers who have been issued journey tickets prior to announcement of the monsoon timetable should check the timings of their train well in advance. The monsoon timetable is a mechanism to ensure that trains start their journey earlier or in some cases later in order to compensate for the reduced speeds.

Mobile app to pay newspaper bills online launched in Thane

The Infinity Management Solutions organised a function for newspaper vendors on April 20 in Thane, during which a new application - Paperman Smart Billing - was introduced. The app not only facilitates vendors with automatic recording of bills, but also allows one to pay the newspaper bills online. After Thane-Mumbai, the app will be launched all over the state. Many newspaper heads attended the event and shared a few words on the new technology.

Snehanjali Electronics announces opening of showroom in Virar

The Snehanjali Electronics has announced the grand opening of the biggest electronic showroom in Virar. Founded by Kamalajalal Mulchandani, with an agenda to give the customers best quality and service, Snehanjali started its journey 42 years ago.

HC to BMC: What about relief policy for firemen?

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The Bombay High Court has asked the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) whether it has a policy to compensate firemen who died while on duty or provide jobs to the legal heirs of the deceased.

A division bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Prakash Halik has asked the corporation to file an affidavit by June 24, giving details of policy and if there is none then take steps to formulate one. The court observed: "There have been incidents in the city where firemen have lost their lives and suffered injuries. The BMC will have to place on record policy on compensation in case of death of firemen."

The direction was given during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a law professor Sharmila Ghugra, who has claimed that though the act has come into force in 2006 and subsequently in 2008 rules were framed, proper implementation is not being done.

The court also directed the civic body to file an affidavit detailing the steps taken for proper implementation of Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006, of the fire audits carried out by it on new buildings which were granted Occupation Certificates in 2015.

The civic body had on the last occasion informed the court that it has been regularly carrying out fire safety audits and have issued notices to several buildings in the city and suburbs which have not complied with the rules in the act and even in some cases prosecution has been initiated.

City firemen have lost lives, suffered injuries. BMC will have to place on record the policy - Court bench

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City & its cyclists

On the occasion of the World Earth Day and to commemorate the World Bicycle Day that was observed on April 18, a unique event was organised by the Smart Commute Foundation - Pioneers of CycledWork - along with Gilberco Vender-Root, whose employees have adopted cycling as one of the modes of commuting. Amin Hajeer, best-known for his role in movie *Lagaan*, rode along with the employees to support them as they took the lead to create an environment-friendly society. dra's Forum Gandhi takes to five arid cycles about the issues they face.

Ishmeet Singh, 45
Profession: Business head, Vodafone India
Cycling record: 40km per day
Number of years: "I have been cycling for over 10 years now."
Issues: "My biggest issue is the weather. I make sure that whatever organisation I work with, it has a shower facility or else it would be difficult for us to survive."



Firoza Suresh, 44
Profession: Marketing manager at Pirella Göttsche
Cycling record: 40km per day
Number of years: "I have been cycling continuously since 2009. That is my only mode of transport."
Issues: "The biggest problem is the unevenly laid pavement, which makes it difficult for us to cycle."



Amin Hajeer, 47
Profession: Actor/Director
Cycling record: 50km per day
Number of years: "I've never stopped cycling since childhood."
Issues: "Cycling comes with a lot of stigma. Unfortunately in this country, cycle is the vehicle of the poor."



Keyur Kapadia, 35
Profession: Engineer
Cycling record: 30km per day
Number of years: Five years
Issues: "A fear I face regularly is of being knocked down because people do not abide by traffic rules at all. The second issue is parking."



Mirza Saib Beg, 27
Profession: Lawyer at SEB
Cycling record: 70km per day
Number of years: "I have been cycling continuously for 3 years."
Issues: "The issues I usually face are the traffic in the evening, and the poor condition of roads."

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Differentiate radicalisation from violence: US group

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Washington DC: Government and civil societies should make a difference between radicalisation and violence (extremism) to work on countering violent extremism. The distinction advocated by Mumtaz, a leading resource centre for law enforcement agencies and policy makers in the US, was important because beliefs should not be curtailed.

"Radicalisation is not same as violence. A person can be radical. Violence is illegal. The distinction is important for freedom of religion and peace. They (youth) should not go into space of violence," said Humera Khan, executive director of Mufleh.

She was talking to media representatives of 14 countries who had gathered at their office in Montgomery County as part of a reporting tour on "Youth and Countering Violent Extremism" organised by Foreign Press Centre, US Department of State.

When asked by one of the journalists that radical views are not acidic



and can turn violent, Khan added, "Civil society can point out hate ideology if they are inciting violence, civil society has a role. It should not get into vigilante justice. That is outside of justice system and government should step in." She added that the system, however, should get into non-coercive means or get into

speech is a problem," said Khan. The group emphasises that civil society can point out hate ideology. It is better that they (views) are at the surface. Civil society has a role to pull it back," said Khan, whose group focuses in emphasising the structure and method to improve the existing systems and also focuses on local areas instead of spreading out its network because dynamics of a prospective violent extremism are understood best by local groups.

The group has made efforts to tell the law enforcement agencies to not be culturally averse as that ends up mounting distrust in the society and suggesting that media not be bias in its reporting. Khan said introducing "soccer tournaments" as means to counter violent extremism by turning them as programmes to integrate youth were not the way to go ahead. "In Afghanistan, a soccer player blew himself up," said Khan. A set of psychologists and preachers are involved in intervention and prevention programmes by the group besides giving advice to government on the same.

Humera Khan (centre), executive director of Mufleh, talks to journalists from 14 countries, in Washington DC