

Societies dumping waste in forest reserve to face action

Feb 22, 2025, 01.14 AM IST



Pune: Residential societies dumping waste near the Taljai reserve forest area will soon face legal consequences.

The Pune forest division has issued directions to the Dhankawdi ward office of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to act against the representatives of 15 housing societies near the Taljai reserve forest area for dumping garbage which often leads to forest fire.

The forest department had recently carried out a survey to identify the housing societies indulging in dumping of garbage in the forest area. "The forest area has a variety of wildlife. The said waste can adversely affect both nature and wildlife. This is a

serious issue. Also, the waste is not being segregated. Residents of these housing societies are dumping a large amount of mixed waste in the forest," the notice issued by range forest officer (Bhamburda) Manoj Barbole said.

The corporation has also been directed not only to collect the waste, but also to process it in a scientific manner. Legal action against the executive committee of the errant societies has also been sought.

"Preventative measures must also be taken in order to avoid residents from dumping garbage in the reserve forest area," the notice said.

Housing societies that have been issued the notices are Ganeshprabha Society, Shri Vitthal Niwas, Kulswamini Apartment, Vishnu Angan, Suraj Park Cooperative Housing Society, Nivgune Building, Tirupati Darshan, Kulswamini Darshan, Gagan Prestige, Gagan Shilp, Aryan Plaza, Lakshmi Niwas, Sardar Corner, and Yash Complex.

The action came in the backdrop of multiple forest fires at Taljai Tekdi and the adjoining areas. Taljai hills saw four separate forest fires in the last three weeks — on Feb 6, 9, and 14 — and the latest being on Friday.

Meanwhile, civic officials claimed they have not received any notice from the forest department. "We will look into the matter once we get hold of the notice," assistant municipal commissioner Surekha Bhangre said.

Fire destroys over 1 ha forest land on Friday

Over one hectare of forest land on Taljai Tekdi was destroyed in fire on Friday morning. A transformer blast led to sparks flying over the dry patches of grass. "Owing to the high wind velocity, the fire spread over a large patch of land, destroying multiple plants," a forest official said. The blaze was eventually doused with help of civic water tankers.