

Water pipeline work crosses deadline

Even as work on much-awaited project started last week, its completion remains a big issue

Shyam PV

Thane residents will have to wait longer to receive adequate water supply to their houses. The work of 110 MLD (million litres per day) projects that could have provided some relief to the woes of water supply has crossed its deadline of May 12 but is yet to be completed due to unknown reasons.

According to City Engineer, KD Lala, around 4.7 kilometres of the 5.5 kilometres proposed pipeline has already been laid. However, the remaining portion comes under Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Thane Municipal Corporation hasn't got the required permissions to lay the pipelines under its service road in the area.

"Due to some official clearances, BMC hasn't yet permitted the remaining work to be done. Once we get approval from BMC, the entire work would be completed in four more days. Official meetings are being arranged to obtain the required permissions," said city engineer. However, he denied commenting about BMC's delay in providing the permissions.

The 110 MLD project is a Rs 74 crore project, which was designed in a way that the first phase of the project was supposed to be completed in April second week. As the work didn't complete the said time, the completion date later was extended to May 12. Civic Commissioner Nandkumar Jantre had asked the corporation authorities to complete the work before the date. The 110 MLD project comes under Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Water supply department of TMC are also considering various other projects to ensure that adequate water supply. "We will complete 110 MLD project in this summer itself. Apart from this single project, we have designed some other projects which would be completed in coming years," said an executive engineer of water supply department.

Meanwhile, Mumbra, Kolshet, Kalwa and almost all other parts of Thane are already severely hit by water scarcity. TMC officials said that the city faces 20 per cent water shortage. "Once the project gets completed and supply of water gets started, Thane would be made free from water scarcity," an officer said.



TMC assures that normal life of a citizen won't be disrupted during the rains this year

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—City engineer

“Once the water pipeline project gets completed and supply of water gets started, Thane would be made free from water scarcity problem which is ailing the city in big way”

—A TMC official

TMC goes on an overdrive before rains

TMC plans to finish entire public works well before monsoon

Shyam PV

If Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) officials are to be believed, routine life of Thane residents will not be disrupted during rains.

While the entire city roads are dug up by various departments and no work is carried out in some of such portions, civic officials and Corporation engineers have said that the Corporation has been carrying out all the essential and necessary public works preparing for the forthcoming monsoons.

City Engineer KD Lala said that works such as plastering city roads, trench filling, sewer pipeline works and many other projects are being carried out full fledged which will be completed by May 30.

“Over 30 executive engineers and 900 workers are carrying out pre-monsoon maintenance work in city area to make citizens' life better. We have been given adequate machineries and financial aid by the Corporation for carrying out all these projects,” said KD Lala.

However, whether the

works can be completed within the time period has to be seen as the works are carried out by various departments.

115 km of trenches and around 53 km of city's road length have been dug up by public and private sector telecom and electricity companies. Another 62 km have been dug up by two departments of the TMC themselves.

The water supply department has also dug up around 50 km of trenches on the city roads to lay its underground water supply pipelines. The sewerage department of the corporation has dug up around seven kilometers of the road stretch and laid its sewer pipelines under the on-going Underground Sewerage project (USP). Another five kilometers of sewer lines will be laid under the city roads in the next few days.

City engineer said that each department has been giving regular reviews regarding the work progress at least once in every week. “The next review would be on May 26,” said engineer.

With roads being dug by different departments under the pretext of pre-monsoon work, residents can only hope that the works are completed before rains.

PWD waits for EC's nod to finish pending works



Deepa H Sarma

The Public Works Department (PWD) of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) is waiting for the permission of the Election Commission (EC) and district administration for necessary works to be completed before the monsoon.

Due to Code of Conduct of Election Commission, work to be completed is getting affected. Corporation is waiting for EC and district administration to give permission for completion of necessary works in the city.

As per the data provided by PWD, 115 kilometres length of the trenches is to be filled before coming May 30 in order to give Thaneites lasting roads this monsoon.

“Most of the damage is caused due to the ongoing work by the civic departments. Out of the 115 km length, 53 km have been dug by the

public and private sector telecom and electricity companies. Remaining length is dug by TMC itself. 50 km is dug by water supply department while 7 km is dug by sewerage department,” mentioned KD Lala, City Engineer, TMC.

The task of trench filling has already started at several places in the city. Treatment on tar road is done by Water Borne Macadam (WBM). The expense involved in this around 1.4 crore. However, the corporation is willing to give this treatment to WBM treated roads at a further expense of 1.5 crores.

The work has begun on the battered road stretch between Mumbra-Kausa by-pass junction and Sheelphata as it was damaged before due to channel digging.

“A letter to the district collector has already been forwarded. We have not received their response yet,” added City Engineer.

Meeting held to combat traffic woes

Deepa H Sarma

The fourth quarterly meeting to tackle traffic issues which is likely to be faced in the monsoons was discussed by the Thane Traffic police along with Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) and other four corporations falling under traffic jurisdiction.

Dnyaneshwar Chavan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), D Shiv-anandan, Commissioner of Police, Madhu Shinde, Joint commissioner of Police and KD Lala, City Engineer, TMC were present at the meeting.

DCP Chavan discussed with various department representatives present over completion of the ongoing projects in Thane and concretization of roads at several places. There was slideshow presentation also showcased during the meet.

“The developments works are in progress at various places. In order to regulate the traffic, it is necessary that these works gets completed on time. This becomes difficult to regulate congestion during peak hours, especially in railway station areas,” explained DCP Chavan.

During monsoons, there are chances of traffic congestion mainly near the station, Cadbury and Majiwada junction. Station area problem cannot be resolved due to the ongoing STATIS project work, while for Majiwada, there has been constant conversation with MSRDC for flyovers, but that cannot be possible this year at least. At the same time, TMC has been asked to speed up the nullah cleaning work near Civil Hospital. The tonga occupying space near Talao Pali would be shifted to Upvan Lake care. This will help in smooth flow of traffic in this region.

DCP Chavan added, “Parking is also a major concern presently. We don't have even parking spaces because of which again there is congestion of ve-



CKR Baling

hicles.”

At the same time, installing new signals at various places and blinkers by the traffic department has also to be done. Another point discussed in the meeting was the pending Vitawa project. As per the information provided, there hasn't been cooperation from the railways because of which this project is getting delayed.

TMC and city police together will look forward to tackle the hoarding issue which is prevailing in city for a long time. All three departments would be coordinating with each other to avoid any problems during this monsoon.

Taking stock before the rains

D Sivanandan, Commissioner of Police, Dnyaneshwar Chavan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Madhu Shinde, Joint commissioner of Police and KD Lala, City Engineer, TMC were present at the meeting

TMC and City Police together will look forward to tackle issue and problems during this monsoons

Station area problem will not be resolved in this monsoon also, due to the ongoing STATIS project work

Municipal Corporation was asked to speed up nullah cleaning work that is carried out near the Civil Hospital

City still doesn't have enough parking spaces because of which controlling vehicle has become a big problems, say cops

Brindaban Seva Sangham is dedicated to service

Thane-based socio-spiritual organisation was formed in late 80s

Gomathi Viswanathan

“Seva is our middle name”, is what Brindaban Seva Sangham a socio-spiritual organisation in Brindaban Complex, Thane, identifies itself with. Brindaban Seva Sangham was registered in 1995 as a Public Charitable Trust with the objective of providing spiritual and social succour to the deserving and the needy. The Sangham formed in the late 80s by a few far-sighted individuals as Brindaban Bhakta Sangham, today boasts of members across and beyond Thane.

Bhajan classes, Tirupugazh classes, are regularly conducted in the Sangham. Vishnu Sahasranamam is chanted daily. Other main activities include Rudrabhishekam on Pradoshams, Tharpanams. The Sang-

ham has also been organizing Bhajans, Abhangs, Ashtapathi, Nagarasankertanam etc. Veda Upakarma is performed annually. The festivities celebrated include Rama Navami, Gokulashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Thaipooam, Mandala Pooja celebrations and the like. The Sangham has also been conducting Homams such as Sudharshana Homam, Atharvasirsha Homam, Medha Dakshinamurthy Homam, Shani Peyarchi, Guru Peyarchi and so on, for universal peace and prosperity. On the occasion of Sangham's 15th Mandala Pooja Celebrations in 2004, Maharudram was performed.

Over the last decade, as part of the Mandala Pooja Celebrations, the Sangham has been providing uniforms and study material to the children of child-care institutions. The Sangham commemorated its 18th Mandala Pooja Celebrations in 2007 with an 18-day programme wherein it honoured NGOs championing various causes like Preservation of Vedas, Post-death rites, Child-care, Adoles-

For the upliftment of humans

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The Sangham commemorated its 18th Mandala Pooja Celebrations in 2007 with an 18-day programme wherein it honoured NGOs championing various causes like Preservation of Vedas, Post-death rites, Child-care, Adolescent Rehabilitation, welfare of stray dogs, welfare of street children, Senior citizens' welfare, welfare of abandoned children

A Community Bonding Scheme called 'Pidi Arisi Thittam' propagated by Shankaracharya of Kanchi H.H. Chandrashekara Saraswati was launched by the Sangham in February 2002

ham distributes rice collected on the 1st Sunday of every month from Brindaban residents to needy organizations in and around Thane. The Sangham has donated over 8000 kgs. of rice so far.

Since 2001, on every Tamil New Year day the Sangham has been donating new clothes to the inmates of an old-age home at Panvel. Some of Sangham's notable activities include donation of wheel chairs to J.J. Hos-

pital, sewing machine to Ladies Club of Ghatkopar, awarding scholarships to deserving students etc. The Sangham has conducted free Cataract Detection Camp, Eye Checkups, Health Camps and Career Counseling. The Sangham also extended its helping hand by providing material aid to the Tsunami victims.

S.N. Ananthasubramanian, Secretary of Brindaban Seva Sangham observes, “ True to its slogan “We care for others”, the Sangham has become a Special Purpose Vehicle in enabling people from marginalized sections to lead a better life”. In recognition of its yeoman service towards the society, the Shiv Jayanti Utsav Samiti honoured Brindaban Seva Sangham with the title 'Brindaban Bhooshan' on May 1, 2008, the occasion being Maharashtra Day. While felicitating the Sangham, one of the organizers acknowledged that while preserving its original identity, the Sangham also gives due respect and promotes the Maharashtra culture through its various activities.

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