

Restore Kanjur dump to original state: HC

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MUMBAI: In a major setback for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Bombay high court on Friday ordered the civic body to return the dumping ground at Kanjurmarg to its original condition – a mangrove forest – within three months. The division bench of justices GS Kulkarni and Somasekhar Sundaresan struck down as illegal the 2009 de-notification of the 120-hectare plot as forest land and its conversion into a landfill for violating procedures laid down under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980.

“The absence of compliance with this requirement has led to the failure of due process stipulated in the FCA rules,” the court observed, directing the BMC to restore the 119.91 hectares to its



The dumping ground at Kanjurmarg is spread over 119.91 hectares.

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original condition.

The court was hearing a plea filed by the nonprofit Vanashakti in 2013, which challenged the grant of environment clearance (EC) for a landfill on the plot

adjacent to the Thane creek.

BMC commissioner Bhushan Gagrani said, “We are taking legal advice and may file a special leave petition in the Supreme Court.” →P3