

Prepare slum-free city plan, PMC told

Pune's Slum Rehab Project Fails To Meet SRA Target

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The Centre has asked civic bodies to draw up a 'Slum Free City Plan of Action' if they want to achieve the tag of a slum-free city.

Preparing the plan would require fresh surveys of slums, geographical information system (GIS) mapping of the localities and their analysis which would help formulation of curative and preventive strategies.

The Centre's directive comes on the backdrop of the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) failure to complete rehabilitation schemes under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA). The PMC planned to complete about 40,000 units under SRA to rehabilitate same number of slum families, but it has succeeded in building just 2,640 units so far.

"The Centre wants to review slum rehab schemes before the launch of JNNURM-II. Cities that benefitted from the JNNURM funds will have to draw up a plan for the slum-free city programme. Based on the plan, the Centre wants cities to take a comprehensive cluster-development approach for slum rehabilitation," said a senior state official.

He added that the PMC has sought the state's assistance to replicate the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority's (MMRDA) rental housing policy in Pune once the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) is formed.

Under the slum prevention programme, the MMRDA has decided to take up construction of 5 lakh houses in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. These houses would be built in five years and 50,000 of them would be developed over the next year.

The state government estimates a rental income of Rs 750 crore per annum from these flats. The authority will explore options like public-private partnership model and it will also develop some housing stock on its own. However, the state gov-

SLUMS	FAMILIES	% OF POPULATION
In Pune 564	2,10,000	43
Pimpri Chinchwad 69	36,126	15



Most slums located in cities of these six states: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

92.7% of the total slums are occupied

7.3% are vacant

84.9% Census houses are used for residence/residence-cum-other use

58.4% residential census houses are in good condition

37.5% are livable

4% are in dilapidated state

70.2% Slum households are owned, while the rest are mostly rented

(Source: Union Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation report on 'Housing, Stock, Amenities and Assets in Slums', based on House Listing and House Census)

SLUM REHABILITATION AUTHORITY (SRA) STATUS IN PUNE

► Schemes approved till October, 2013: **49**

► Completed schemes: **20**

► Schemes stayed by state: **5**

► Schemes stayed by Court: **2**

► Families benefited: **2,640**

(Source: Slum Rehabilitation Authority, Maharashtra Government)

“The Centre wants to review slum rehabilitation schemes before it launches JNNURM-II. Cities that benefitted from the JNNURM funds will have to draw up a plan for slum-free city programme. Based on the plan, they would be asked to undertake cluster development

A senior state official

ernment continues to sit on the PMRDA proposal and the housing scheme in Pune remains a non-starter.

"The PMC is working on the Centre's directive to chalk out a plan for a slum-free city. But the state and the Centre have to consider practical problems in the slum rehabilitation programme. Financial model, land acquisition and court cases have stalled the

work in Pune city," said a PMC official.

"It is a fact that the PMC has failed to implement slum rehabilitation schemes. But it's equally true that the state government has not extended the required support to the PMC. In the forthcoming state assembly session, all MLAs and MLCs from Pune will raise this issue in the house," said Congress MLC Mohan Joshi.

Furore over Dutt's parole plea loses steam as his wife has liver tumour

Legal Experts Say Parole Plea Decided On Merit

Swati Deshpande & Malathy Iyer | TNN

The initial outrage over actor Sanjay Dutt's second 30-day leave plea from jail within six months of his imprisonment ebbed a little on Saturday when a senior doctor claimed the actor's wife, Manyata, has been diagnosed with liver tumour.

Speaking on Manyata's health earlier in the day, Dr Ajay Chaugule from Global Hospital in Parel, said, "The tumour was found during an ultrasound scan almost three weeks ago. More tests are needed." He said the tumour was detected in the course of her treatment for heart problems. The doctor had issued her a certificate to this effect, which was submitted to jail authorities.

Sources close to the Dutt family, though, were categorical the tumour isn't cancerous. Manyata is likely to consult Dr Mohammed Rela, who is one of the foremost liver surgeons in the country.

Dutt had stated his wife's ill-health as the reason for seeking parole so soon after returning from a month-long furlough. Dutt was kept in Yerwada Jail in Pune since May after the Supreme Court held his conviction in the 1993 serial blasts.

Even though it's not unusual to extend parole, Dutt's release created an uproar because his co-convicts, which includes a 70-year-old Zaibunisa Kazi, were rejected on the grounds that they would abscond.

Manyata was also spotted at several social events over the past few days, evok-

PRISON RULES ON TEMPORARY RELEASE

Parole and furlough pleas of three convicts in the 1993 serial bomb blasts' case

SANJAY DUTT (54)

Crime | Possession of AK-56 rifle before the March 12, 1993, blasts

Sentence | Convicted under the Arms Act for illegal possession of the AK-56 rifle before the blasts; acquitted under Tada charges. Sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment

Term served in prison so far | 25 months

► **Granted furlough on October 2** for two weeks initially. It was extended later by two weeks to **October 29**. Returned to Pune prison on October 30

► **Sought a month-long parole** on December 6 on the grounds that his wife was unwell. **Not released** after Dutt failed to provide surety

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FURLOUGH & PAROLE

Furlough | It is leave granted under jail rules to convicts to ensure ties with family and society remain intact. No specific reason is to be cited

Parole | It has to be sought for a particular reason. Local police have to give a report on the convict. Prison authorities must apply their mind to each case while deciding on the plea and usually take good conduct of convict into account. A prisoner may be released on parole for a maximum of 30 days at a time

ing sharp reactions over Dutt's parole.

On Saturday, state home minister R R Patil said he would inquire into the reasons for actor Dutt's second month-long leave. He also met Kazi's daughter, Shagufta, along with former vice-chairperson of state minority commission, Abraham Mathai. Patil said he would make a statement during the assembly's winter session that begins on Monday.

Incidentally, another convict, Yusuf Nullwalla, was recently denied parole



ZAIBUNISA KAZI (70)

► Not entitled to furlough since she is a Tada convict. Parole plea was rejected in October. Bandra police said she might abscond or create problems

YUSUF NULLWALLA (MID-50s)

► Not entitled to furlough since he is a Tada convict. Parole plea was rejected around November after negative report from the police that he may abscond and his brother is incapable of giving surety

MANYATA'S HEALTH

Manyata, actor Sanjay Dutt's wife, was detected with a heart problem soon after she delivered the couple's twins almost three years ago. She used to suffer from palpitations and chest pain. "She underwent a stress test that

was positive for heart blockages. She refused to undergo further tests but started on a course of statins and blood thinners," said Dr Ajay Chaugule. A month ago, she again complained of severe palpitations and underwent blood tests and an ultrasound scan that showed a tumour in the liver

Actor still in jail for not furnishing surety

Asseem Shaikh | TNN

Pune: Actor Sanjay Dutt was not released on Saturday for his 30-day parole to take care of his ailing wife, Manyata, as he failed to furnish the surety.

Yogesh Desai, superintendent of the prison told TOI that he has received the parole order from the office of the divisional commissioner, but the actor was not released because he did not comply with the parole conditions. He said Dutt will be released when the conditions imposed in the parole order are complied with. The actor is undergoing sentence under the Arms Act.

Divisional commissioner Prabhakar Deshmukh told TOI over tele-

phone that he had exercised his authority of a court to pass the parole order on merit.

Deshmukh said, "Dutt had submitted the medical certificate of Manyata while seeking parole on the grounds that she was not well, but I

got the contents of the certificate verified from the Mumbai police before ordering his release on parole." He said the parole cannot be refused to a convict when the police and the state prison department have submitted reports recommending release.

Parole, a temporary or permanent release of a prisoner before the expiry of a sentence on grounds of good behaviour, is granted for a reason. It is not considered as a set off and will not be counted as part of his prison term.

Criminal lawyer Prakash Savarkar told TOI that the divisional commissioner is the competent authority as per the parole rules, and has discretionary powers to grant pa-

role to a convict up to 30 days, which may extend up to 60 days if the conduct of the convict is good, and if there is a necessity to provide medical aid to parents, wife among others.

Savarkar said if the commissioner refuses to extend the parole on expiry of 30 days, the convict will have to return to the prison and he can prefer an appeal to the state home department for seeking continuance of his parole period. If the convict fails to get relief from the home department, he has a choice to file a petition in the Bombay high court, he added.

The actor had returned to the Yerwada central prison on October 30 after spending time out on furlough for a month.

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DEE O'CONNOR
University of Notre Dam, AUSTRALIA

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195 held for drunk driving in one night

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The city traffic police arrested 195 people on Friday night for driving under the influence of alcohol. The special drive is being conducted in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad to keep a tab on accidents and maintain discipline on road.

Deputy commissioner of police (traffic) Vishwas Pandhare told TOI on Saturday that the drive was conducted at all important traffic junctions. People found driving under the influence of liquor were arrested and their vehicles were seized.

Thirty officers and 125 constables of the traffic police department are conducting the drive with the help of 25 breath analysers. Pandhare said more than 4,000 people have been fined for drunk driving this year.

The erring drivers were charged under section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act and cases transferred to concerned police stations for further action. Till now, over Rs 6 lakh has been collected in fine by the motor vehicles court.

Pandhare appealed to the public not to drive under the influence of alcohol and co-operate with the police.

Under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicle Act, if caught driving under the influence of alcohol (content exceeding 30mg per 100 ml of blood), the driver can be sentenced to simple imprisonment for up to six months. If caught again, the punishment can be up to two years.

Minimum temperature dips to 9.9°C

Vishwas Kothari | TNN

Pune: After remaining above 15 degrees Celsius for most part of the week, the mercury dipped to 9.9 degrees Celsius in the city on Saturday, marking the return of cold weather conditions during the night and early morning hours.

The temperature was 1.5 degrees below normal and equaled the season's lowest so far, which was recorded on November 17. On Friday, the minimum temperature was 13.6 degrees Celsius, a 3.5 degree dip in the last 24 hours.

"Clear sky and lack of moisture which enable the outgoing radiation to escape into the space, has led to the drop in temperature," P C S Rao, director of weather forecasting with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), told TOI. "We expect the temperature to remain low for the next couple of days," he said.

Night temperatures in the city have dipped to 6.3 degrees (December 2005) in the past, however, the city's all-time record for lowest temperature in December is 3.3 degrees, recorded on December 27, 1968.

Minimum temperatures also dropped noticeably in parts of Maharashtra, Vidarbha and central Maharashtra, which stretches from Jalgaon/Nashik in the north to Kolhapur in the south with Pune in the centre. Ahmed-

DECEMBER'S LOWEST

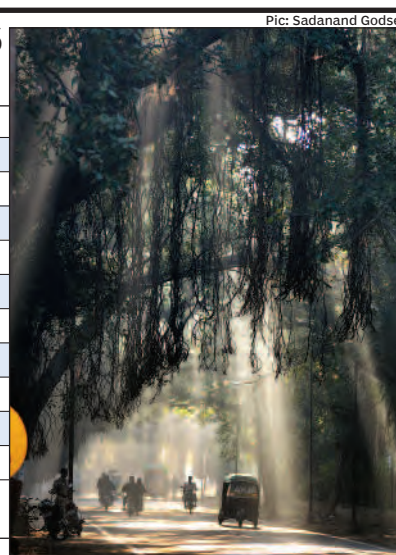
Year	Temp	Date
2012	7.4	27
2011	7.6	27
2010	6.5	20
2009	8.5	25
2008	8.6	31
2007	10.9	7
2006	9.1	18
2005	6.3	19
2004	8.1	19
2003	8.4	23

ALL-TIME RECORD:
Dec 27, 1968: 3.3
(Figures in degrees C)

COLD WATCH

► Lowest minimum temperature in the plains was recorded at 5 degrees Celsius at Phulbani in Odisha

► Night temperatures were below normal in parts of central Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka



ACROSS STATE

Ahmednagar	8.4
Gondia	9
Amravati	9.4
Osmanabad & Yavatmal	9.8
Parbhani	10
Nagpur	10.1
Wardha	10.2
Nanded & Nashik	10.5
Aurangabad	10.6
Mahabaleshwar & Akola	11.5
Satara	12
Jalgaon	12.2
Malegaon	12.3

(Figures in degrees C)

nagar was the coldest place in the state at 8.4 degrees while Gondia and Amravati in Vidarbha region recorded 9 and 9.4 degrees, respectively.

"The night temperatures across the state had remained above 15 degrees Celsius throughout this week owing to the moisture incursion and humidity caused by the after effects of cyclonic storm 'Lehar', which formed on November 19 and dissipated on November 28," Rao said.

After cyclonic storms 'Phailin', 'Helen', and 'Lehar', yet another cyclonic storm 'Madi' has developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal and is moving very slowly in the northward direction. "The system is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm in the next 24 hours and will keep moving northwards and then recurve north-northeastwards," said Rao.

"India has less to worry about 'Madi' as it will move in the direction of Myanmar and Bangladesh and there is no surety about how long it will sustain the intensity," he said.

"However, after the recurve of cyclone 'Madi', we expect cloudiness and moisture incursion in the southern peninsula, which includes parts of central Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada," said Rao.

"This will lead to an increase in the minimum temperatures by one or two degrees after the next 48 hours," he added.

Apart from 'Madi', a trough of low extends from Lakshadweep to the south Maharashtra coast, he said. "The cold northerly winds have had a limited effect throughout the week owing to the western disturbances," added Rao. Source: IMD