

SAVE HANUMAN TEKDI!

PMC is planning to build 2 elevated water tanks and one massive ground level tank on Hanuman Tekdi behind Fergusson and BMCC colleges. The elevated tanks will be 62 ft in height and will be supported by 10 – 15 pillars. A 3 m compound wall will be built all around the tanks cutting off access of almost 1 hectare of the tekdi to the public. An approach road is also planned to provide access to the site.

Since this is Reserved Forest land, PMC has got all the necessary clearances from the Forest Dept and Ministry of Environment under Forest Conservation Act (FCA). Excavation on one part was already done in 2017.

No one disputes the need for water; however, it is critical to explore all possibilities of minimising damage to the tekdi.

Pune's tekdis are like natural overhead water tanks! - they contain natural streams and aquifers that recharge Pune's groundwater. Excavation on these hills will lead to disruption of the aquifer systems which will impact bore wells in and around Deccan Gymkhana and Model Colony.

The city is rapidly losing its open spaces and Pune's tekdis are classified as 'open space' in the Development Plan. Losing one hectare of a public open space accessible to all citizens will be a significant loss. The new Development Plan for Pune already shows a vastly reduced open space per person of just 3 sqm which is far less than the 8 -10 sqm as per UDPI norms.

Around 140 trees will be cut for this project. Given PMC's poor record on compensatory plantation and survival, these trees will be permanently lost.

Our requests to PMC

- 1. Please conduct a water audit for the city under the aegis of a special Water Committee, headed by the Divisional Commissioner, as mandated by several NGT orders in 2017 and 2023.**
- 2. First complete construction on the area which was already excavated in 2017, before excavating the other part of the tekdi**
- 3. Look for structural designs that can optimally place the elevated tank above the ground level tank which will save a large part of the tekdi from destruction. Double decker tanks are being constructed in Nagpur and this model could be replicated here.**

Until all possibilities for minimizing the destruction on tekdi are explored, PMC must not begin any construction activities on the hill.

Pune's tekdis are public green spaces, where people of all ages, rich and poor, come for physical exercise. It is important to preserve them for future generations as 'Natural Heritage'.

Hanuman Tekdi Bachav Samiti Contact: Atul Kulkarni 8766886710 Shardul 8378822289

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