

MCD looks at new techniques to tackle city's waste

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THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi is working towards making the Capital "garbage-free".

The Corporation is formulating an innovative plan to take care of the waste lying at landfill sites. "We are looking to mechanically 'package' waste that has been lying at the sites for 10 to 15 years. Soon, garbage will be packed in bales made of polyethylene plastic. As it will be waterproof and sealed, there will be no fermentation and generation of offensive odours," Municipal Commissioner K S Mehra said.

He said this would clear up space at these sites and make them available for a makeover.

To keep garbage completely out of public view, the MCD is also planning on having a 'Deep Collection System.' Under this system, garbage will be dumped in underground bins that will be lifted onto delivery trucks mechanically and make the city cleaner. "We are going to launch this system at 50 locations around Games sites, hotels and guesthouses," Mehra said.

The Corporation has given out contracts for a modern garbage disposal system to private firms for door-to-door collection of garbage in the Rohini and Civil Lines zones. Until now, residents were responsible for the collection. The firms will also be responsible for its segregation at source, processing, and recycling etc.

"The contract includes a new sanitary landfill site at Bawana. This will be developed as an engineered landfill site to prevent seepage into the ground, thereby protecting the groundwater of the area," Mehra said. The commissioner said such arrangements will be made available in 10 of the 12 MCD zones within the next six to seven months.

Delhi Waste Management (DWM), one of the firms looking after garbage management in the Capital, is also planning to pitch in with awareness and training programmes.

"Our awareness programmes have a total outreach capacity of 50,000 people. We are already conducting awareness programmes in schools. We are also conducting an awareness campaign on segregation at source for residents, as well as a campaign for registered recyclers of waste," Rishabh Sethi, DWM director, said.

"We are also trying to train rag pickers in the zones handled by us and are providing them with equipment like garbage carts," Sethi said.

"These efforts will continue beyond the Games," Mehra said.