

MPCB, BMC list out banned products during interaction

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Mumbai:

Spelling out to Mumbaikars what is banned and what's not, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and BMC officials said on Thursday that it's time we begin to learn to live without plastic.

At the "Social Sanchar" organised by the NGO V Citizens Action Network, Dr P Anbalagan, member secretary, MPCB, and Nidhi Choudhari, deputy municipal commissioner (special), pointed out what is banned and what is allowed.

Citizens, on their part, raised several questions while pointing to the discomfort they would face for not being able to use items such as plastic bags for carrying back home meat and fish from vendors or even food containers from restaurants. The authorities made it clear that none of these items would be allowed and people would be penalized for using them.

"Plastic carry bags end up in the dumps and therefore the ban is being enforced after a lot of deliberation. Plastic carry bags will be banned, irrespective of the shape and size," said Anbalagan and added that some sacrifices need to be made for a better environment.

Meanwhile, other than the 250 inspectors authorized by the BMC, no one else would be allowed to penalize defaulters. Even clean-up marshals do not have the authority, said Choudhari.

Indrani Malkani, trustee of V Citizens Action Network, said, "As responsible citizens, we need to do away with plastic but then we require clarity, and therefore we were hopeful that this interaction was able to do so."