

## Deep in the dumps

### Environmentalists give their opinions on the plan to compact and cover garbage at the Deonar dumping grounds

Several environmentalists have claimed that the cleansing plan by Tatva Global Environment (Deonar) Ltd. (TGEL) and MCGM to compact and cover garbage, dumped up to 35 metres above the ground on 65 hectares, with polythene sheets and soil and then convert it into a green ground at the Deonar dumping ground may end up increasing the risks of land subsidence and pollutants leaching into the groundwater and also that it would not be feasible to



place the garbage in a landfill.

Experts say that piles of garbage need to be compressed to stabilise and must be treated to prevent leach formation as just covering the creek side will not stop leachate from contaminating water.

**Dr. Amiya Sahu**, president of the National Solid Waste Association of India, who's been monitoring the dump yard since 1970's and has found dead bodies and foetus being thrown there, states, "Wastes in a landfill cannot be capped and closed. When the waste is not compressed properly, it generates methane. There's a need to cover the ground with soil and small plantations and shrubs."

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**Reference:** Afternoon DC

**Link:** [http://www.afternoondc.in/city-news/deep-in-the-dumps/article\\_21091](http://www.afternoondc.in/city-news/deep-in-the-dumps/article_21091)