

## Man-made forests also eligible for protection, says Bombay high court

Shibu Thomas | Jan 20, 2016,

**MUMBAI:** A man-made forest, that had not been designated as a protected forest under the law, is also eligible for protection, the Bombay high court has ruled, while striking down a two-decade-old Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) decision to construct a 60ft wide road through the hills from Paud Phata Road up to Balbharti building gate.

Hearing a PIL by Nagrik Chetana Manch, a division bench of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice V L Achliya held that the PMC's decision, that could lead to hacking of over 1,000 trees that were planted during an afforestation drive in the 1980s, could not "stand the test of legality".

"Endeavour of every citizen should be to protect the environment and, in particular, the forests," said the bench. "The forest within the meaning of the (provisions of the Constitution) must include a man-made forest. Therefore, the endeavour of the municipal body should be to protect the man-made forest."

The HC pointed out that an examination of the PMC's decision-making process revealed that it had mentioned the benefits of the road, but had not considered that the man-made forest will be adversely affected. The court added that the PMC decided to go ahead with its decision to construct the road without waiting for the recommendations of a committee set up to study the impact of the project

**Source:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Man-made-forests-also-eligible-for-protection-says-Bombay-high-court/articleshow/50644935.cms>