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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

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# Juhu residents claim Irla nullah's desilting a sham, civic officials say it's perfectly fine

TNN | May 20, 2016, 11.27 PM IST

Mumbai: Juhu residents who visited the Irla nullah recently claimed that silt from it was not being removed properly by the contractor.

The residents said only one-third of the silt was removed. "Ideally, the silt should be removed till one does not hit the soil. However, we realized that it was not being done. Some civic officials explained that the contract was for removal of a certain weight of silt only. Apparently, the desilting quantity determined by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) was done without any survey," said architect P K Das.

Activist Ashoke Pandit said the BMC needs to take desilting of nullahs more seriously and such half-baked work was unacceptable. "Every year, only a partial amount of silt is taken out of drains, therefore it keeps accumulating. Soon, we may reach a point where the silt in drains will get unmanageable. Removal of silt before the monsoon should not be done as a formality," said Pandit.

The BMC said that this year, compared to 2015, they had finished more work. "As far as cleaning of the Mithi and Vakola rivers is concerned, we have finished 76% this year, while last year only 56.83% had been completed. Last year, till May 17, we had completed cleaning only 56.35% nullahs, while this year we have finished 66.23%. This is out of the total 60% nullahs we have to clean before the monsoon every year," said a senior civic official.

