

## MMC starts capping Sonsoddo

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MARGAO: The Margao Municipal Council on Tuesday started the exercise of capping the Sonsoddo garbage dumpyard with tarpaulin.

However, in view of the non-completion of drainage work surrounding the dump, and smoke still seen billowing from within the garbage dump, questions have been raised over the efficacy of the exercise.

The MMC had tendered the work of capping the garbage at Sonsoddo at a cost of Rs 17 lakh while the drainage work was tendered for Rs 7 lakh.

The capping exercise was aimed at preventing the flow of leachate from the garbage dump onto the streets that posed a severe health hazard to locals.

Meanwhile, the MMC is yet to take any decision to award the contract of setting up the 50 tonne garbage treatment plant at Sonsoddo for which it has received expressions of interest from two companies Fomento-IL&FS Ecosmart and Hyderabad-based Renky Enviro Pvt Ltd. However, as the two companies are silent on the cost of the project that is to be executed on design build operate own transfer (D-BOOT) basis, the MMC is likely to examine the proposals by consulting technical experts, sources informed.

Meanwhile, the sanitary section of the MMC has submitted its report to chief officer Y B Tavde. In view of the absence of any detailed financial statements in the project report of both the interested parties, the sanitary section has suggested inviting request for proposals' from both the companies. However, sources informed that the scales are likely to tilt in favour of Fomento-IL&FS Ecosmart as it has successfully undertaken similar projects earlier in other cities.

It may be recalled that though Fomento-IL&FS Ecosmart had earlier expressed its willingness to invest in the project as a social obligation with zero cost to the civic body and the government', the MMC, in a bid not to breach any codal formalities' had gone in for a tendering process.

It may be recalled that the council had given an undertaking to the court that it would take measures like stationing a fire tender close to the site in view of the frequent incidents of fire. The council had also given an undertaking that it would cover the site with tarpaulin and construct a drainage network to streamline the flow of leachate following a writ petition filed by Goa Foundation. The foundation was earlier associated with the council for daily segregation and composting of garbage.