

Nalasopara cops knee deep in sewage

Tulinj PS carry on in illegal premises as land transfer delays stall construction of new facility

Diwakar Sharma
diwakar.sharma2@timesgroup.com

The Tulinj Police Station in Nalasopara East has been submerged in foul-smelling rainwater and sewage since Monday night, forcing officers to scramble to save case files, computers, and equipment from the rising muck.

On Tuesday, policemen were seen wading through knee-deep filthy water with trousers rolled up, carrying out daily duties in an illegal structure built over a drain on land reserved for a garden. The situation not only endangers their health but also jeopardises crucial records and equipment.

The flooding, now routine every monsoon, has turned the premises into a public health hazard. "Stagnant water mixed with waste has made this a breeding ground for disease. Our health, safety, and dignity are at constant risk," said an officer.

New PS in bureaucratic freeze

Although a 2,725 square metre plot worth Rs 3.5 crore was purchased from Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC) to construct a new station, "the bureaucratic hurdles



HANIF PATEL



The Tulinj police station that is housed in an illegal structure, as per reports

have delayed progress," said a senior police officer.

Sources in the police department revealed that the Home Department has yet to receive

full possession of the land (458 sqm out of 3,183 sqm), without which construction cannot begin. "Without complete ownership and a formal 7/12 extract — a key land record in Maharashtra — the department cannot begin construction," explained the source.

"It is the civic body's responsibility to hand over the full plot," said a senior police officer. The process has dragged on amid transfers of officials and arrests of VVCMC officers by the Enforcement Directorate.

A senior VVCMC officer, requesting anonymity, said, "I cannot comment, as the situation is different in our office after ED arrested former VVCMC Commissioner Anilkumar Pawar and suspended Deputy Director, Town Planning at VVCMC, YS Reddy. This is not the ideal time to talk to any outsider."

Newly appointed VVCMC Commissioner Manojkumar Suryavanshi said, "I will review the matter and take necessary steps."

With each spell of rain, the station turns into a cesspool. Officers call it their "new normal", working in degrading conditions despite repeated appeals. "This is not just inconvenient, it's dangerous. Case files and digital records remain at constant risk," said another officer.