

Revamp dumps, forget Slumdog: addl civic chief

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If Danny Boyle's award-winning film Slumdog Millionaire showed Mumbai as a city of shanties, the portrayal will soon change, according to R A Rajeev, additional municipal commissioner.

Speaking at the 'Low Carbon Environmental Solutions' seminar on Wednesday, Rajeev described a systematic revamp of the dumping grounds, which will soon give Mumbai a green lung and change the image of the city as a waste ground.

He said that soon the city's dumping grounds would have a sanitary land-filling systems in place, now that the scientific closure of the Gorai site is already underway. "Once the landfill sites at Deonar, Mulund and Kanurmarg get its composting and sanitary landfill systems, no filmmaker would be able to come to Mumbai to make films like Slumdog. Because the sites would become a green lung and the face of the city will be transformed," Rajeev said, showing slides of the closure of Gorai dumping ground with Slumdog tune in the background.

Rajeev said that the Gorai dumping ground is already a win-win effort, as the BMC had earned Rs 74 crore as carbon credit while the project expenditure was only Rs 50 crore. "Plus, we are collecting nearly 1,000 cubic meter per hour methane gas which is being put to productive use," he said. Kanjur and Mulund will soon see a makeover as a composting and sanitary landfill, he said.

The Low Carbon Solutions seminar was organised by the UK Trade and Investment officials who are in the city to promote Environment and Water trade mission. UK-based officials working in sectors of sewage management, and recycling discussed their experience in reliable and cost-effective environmental solutions in waste management, biodegradable packaging, waste recycling, sewer and storm over flow monitoring among others.