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Sewage discharge into Panchaganga

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Kolhapur: The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has found sewage being released untreated from four nullahs in the city into the Panchaganga river causing pollution.

Apart from this, the sewage from the residential areas is being discharged into the famous Rankala lake.

The MPCB authorities conducted surveys of all the nullahs and lakes after activists complained that the MPCB has not surveyed since the last eight months even though the Bombay high court directed the authorities to submit the status of the pollution in Panchganga river and Rankala lake in every three months.

A panel under the Pune divisional commissioner has been appointed to monitor pollution mitigating measures undertaken by the local bodies.

A senior MPCB official requesting anonymity said, “We have collected samples of waste water discharging into the water bodies. The samples will be tested for various polluting parameters. We have observed the discharge is taking place from four nullahs without treatment.”

“The discharge from Jayanti nullah was taking place and after our directions the pumping of waste water to treatment plant was started,” the official added.

Samir Vhyagrambare, the civic body’s head of environmental cell said, “We have major nullahs diverted for treatment. The discharge from minor nullahs is happening as there is no pumping facility at present.

However, we ensure the water is treated before it is released.” MPCB has observed that to the discharge from residential areas, green algae are developing in Rankala lake.