Tax collection drive reaps dividends for municipal corporation

COIMBATORE: The aggressive tax collection drive and the garbage

bin placement strategy seemed to have worked in favour of the city municipal corporation as the civic body received a total payment of more than Rs 1 crore on Sunday, the last day of the financial year.

This is in excess of the 87% collected last year and the corporation will allow the residents to make tax payments till April 5 with a five-day extension.

The corporation has set a target of 90% collection this year and officials claimed that it could be the highest tax collection rate in the state.

"We received about Rs 1 crore payment on Sunday alone. The total payment collected will be more since we are giving extension to the residents," Coimbatore municipal corporation commissioner G Latha said.

The city corporation is presently focussing on tax collection for the past two months and so far the total collection figures

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have crossed Rs 91.3 crore against the total demand of Rs 103 crore for the current year.

Total tax arrear amount to be collected from the city for the current year is Rs 12.4 crore which is expected to go down in the coming days till the final payment date.

The corporation has 27 collection centres including the five main zonal offices in the city. The civic body is also collaborating with 58 branches of 16 main banks in the city through which the residents can make tax payments.

"The tax drive seems to be a success and we will now compile a list of defaulters after the final date and decide on further course of action," G Latha added.

The corporation has set a maximum tax demand of RS 33 crore for the central zone which includes major commercial localities like Gandhipuram and Cross Cut Street. The central zone is followed by the east and west zones with demands of Rs 21 and 19 crore each respectively.

The civic body had resorted to road announcement campaigns to <u>remind</u> the residents to make the tax payments. Similarly, the civic body has also been placing garbage bins in front of commercial establishments across the city with pending tax payments to ensure that they make the payments without any delay.