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Navi Mumbai's AAP unit not to contest NMMC polls

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NAVI MUMBAI: The Aam Aadmi Party will not be contesting the forthcoming civic elections, following party chief Arvind Kejriwal's latest diktat.

However, Navi Mumbai-based AAP members said that this order was in the positive direction, as it shows that they have to do a lot more ground work before being ready for elections.

"The recent internal differences in AAP have now been resolved and it was decided not to contest any other polls till further notice. Kejriwal feels that it is not the right time to contest the elections in other parts of the country," said Ravi Srivastava, senior AAP leader for Navi Mumbai and Raigad. Ravi Srivastava. He added that they won the Delhi state elections only because the members had worked hard for several months and were fully prepared for the polls.

He also said that the Navi Mumbai unit was gung-ho about contesting from all the 111 wards. "However, in hindsight, we feel that it is better to work for various social causes so that we can earn the goodwill of the people and further strengthen our ties. We will continue to take on the relevant social issues in Navi Mumbai," said Srivastava.

Activist Siddh Vidya, who is the AAP's legal advisor in Navi Mumbai also said that the situation is not so ideal in the satellite city. "We do not want to put up any unknown faces, as a known candidate is what is required," she said.

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3 butchers held in Nagpada, bullock rescued

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MUMBAI: Three butchers were arrested as the Nagpada police, along with People For Animals (PFA) activists, carried out an anti-beef raid at Madanpura and rescued a bullock on Monday afternoon. The operation followed a tip-off by PFA that illegal slaughtering of cattle was taking place in and around Readymoney Compound despite a notice being issued by cops two weeks ago to some residents on illegal possession of animals like bulls and bullocks in a residential area.

The police said the FIR was registered under sections of the Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 1995. Chand Qureshi, Sultan Qureshi and Husain Langda were remanded to police custody.

Activist Chetan Sharma of PFA told TOI: "We had got a tip-off that large-scale illegal slaughtering of cattle was taking place at Madanpura. We rescued a bullock and seized certain items like a weighing machine."

Sharma said that beef or meat were not found during the raid as the illegal slaughtering usually takes place between 4am and 6am, after which the place is cleaned up.

"The rescued bullock has been sent to an animal shelter in Malad. A police inquiry is on. This is the second successful anti-beef raid by PFA since three butchers were earlier arrested in Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai, last month," said PFA activist and lawyer, Siddh Vidya.

She stated, "There is some confusion over a recent Bombay high court ruling on a stay on possession of beef. The high court has only for three months stayed the ruling on possession of beef sourced from outside Maharashtra."