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## Municipal corporation wants illegal construction at site to go

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NEW DELHI: <u>North Delhi Municipal Corporation</u> will appeal to <u>Delhi high court</u> to remove portions of the new construction at the site believed to contain ruins of the Mughal-era <u>Akbarabadi Masjid</u>

. The civic body is planning to pass a resolution in this regard in its House meeting on Monday.

The high court had on Friday directed North Corporation, Archaeological Survey of India and Delhi Police to submit a special status report by Wednesday. "The illegally constructed portion of the wall has to be removed. It is ASI's responsibility to carry out restoration work. We have handed over the land to ASI to conduct a survey," said Yogender Chandolia, chairman, standing committee, North Corporation.

The ruling-BJP fears that if the structure is not removed, this would encourage similar activities by religious groups and start off a trend. North Corporation officialssaid this would disturb the plans under the Jama Masjid Redevelopment project, which was being implemented by the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation.

Meanwhile, ASI is working on a plan of action for the site which would be a part of the status report to be submitted to the HC by Wednesday. The probe of the ruins is likely to be handled by the excavation branch, said a source.