

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH PUNE**

Original Application No. 92 of 2024 (WZ)

News item titled "Mumbai lost over 21000 trees in 6 years to make way for Metro road projects" appearing in the Indian Express dated 26.03.2024

REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.4 i.e BMC

1. I, Jitendra Vitthalsing Pardeshi, Age: Adult, Occupation: Service as Superintendent of Gardens and tree officer of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, having office at 2nd Floor, Superintendent Of Gardens Office, Penguin Building, Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyaan, Byculla (East), Mumbai 400027; do hereby state on solemn affirmation as under-
2. I say that, I have perused the copy of the application and compilation filed by the applicant and I have also perused the office records. I have made myself conversant with the facts of the case and am able to depose on behalf of the Respondent No. 4. I am filing this affidavit in reply thereto. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, vide order dated 16/04/2024, had directed the Respondent to submit data relating to the number of tree felling permissions granted and the compensatory plantation carried out in its jurisdiction for the relevant period.
3. That in compliance with the said directions, the Respondent has compiled the following data regarding tree felling permissions granted Annexed herewith as Annexure R-1 is a tabulated report of the above data.
4. That Tree Authority has imposed conditions to the applicants while granting tree felling permissions to carry out compensatory plantation. Out of responsibility to enhance



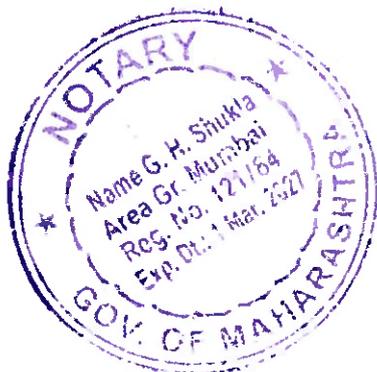
greenery and to compensate the loss of green cover the Tree Authority(BMC) has also carried out tree plantation. The data is Annexed herewith as Annexure R-2.

5. The recent achievements of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) related to Plantation and revival of Trees have been widely recognized, with leading newspapers highlighting their commendable work. The coverage praised the dedication and efficiency demonstrated by the BMC team in implementing various initiatives for the betterment of the city. With special mention of recognition by United Nations Food And Agriculture Organisation And Arbor Day Foundation Hereto Annexed some of the News Article as Annexure R-3 (Colly.)
6. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Respondent has complied with the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal and placed the requisite data on record. The Respondent Submits that the present Respondent will abide by any directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
7. I say that, there is no cause of action against this Respondent. In these circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that no action please be taken against this Respondent and Application may please be dismissed against the Respondent.

17/06/2025

Mumbai


Respondent No. 4



VERIFICATION

I, Jitendra Vitthalsing Pardeshi, Adult, Occupation Service as Superintendent of Gardens and tree officer of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, having office at 2nd Floor, Superintendent Of Gardens Office, Penguin Building, Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyaan, Byculla (East), Mumbai 400027; do hereby state on solemn affirmation that what is stated in above paras are true and correct to my own knowledge and belief.

Solemnly Affirmed at Mumbai)

| This 17th day of June 2025)_

Deponent

Respondent No.4

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

Advocate for Respondent
(Adv. Kunal Yeole)

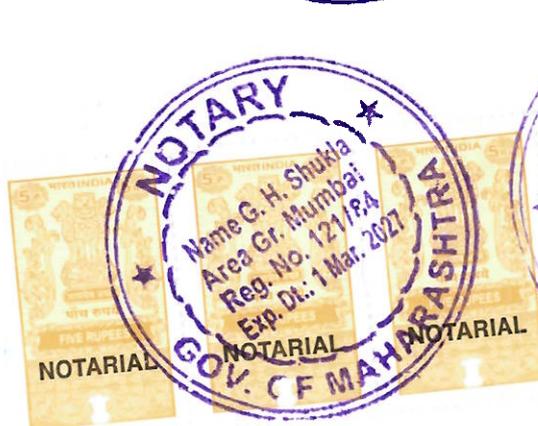
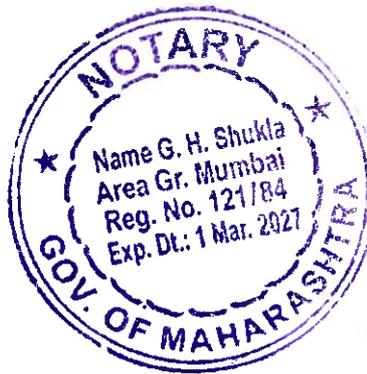
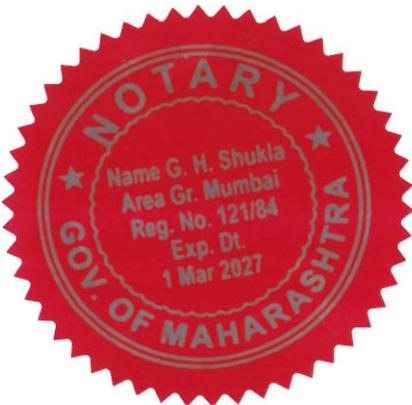
BEFORE ME

G. H. SHUKLA
NOTARY GREATER MUMBAI
Jagdamba Bhavan, Ground Floor
mpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel
MUMBAI - 400 013

17 JUN 2025

NOTED & REGISTERED

Sr. No. 80163 Page No. 12
Book No. 33 Date 17 JUN 2025



Detailed summary of Permissions issued in last 6 years (2019-2025) for Metro & Road Projects

SR.NO.	ZONE	PROJECT DETAILS	NO. OF PERMISSIONS GIVEN	DETAILS OF PERMISSIONS ISSUED			TOTAL TREES TO BE RETAIN	TOTAL TREES
				TO BE CUT	TO BE TRANSPLANTED	TOTAL TREES TO BE REMOVED		
1	1	ROADS METRO	19 10	381 65	251 41	632 106	646 72	1278 178
2	2	ROADS METRO	19 0	563 0	874 0	1437 0	372 0	1809 0
3	3	ROADS METRO	12 12	333 2551	568 1482	901 4033	433 2619	1334 6652
4	4	ROADS METRO	41 7	312 303	498 504	810 807	1330 1302	2140 2109
5	5	ROADS METRO	36 14	478 549	292 999	770 1548	864 1487	1634 3035
6	6	ROADS METRO	38 10	203 361	279 855	482 1216	371 2781	853 3997
7	7	ROADS METRO	25 4	133 194	69 179	202 373	472 944	674 1317
TOTAL			247	6426	6891	13317	13693	27010

PROJECT DETAILS	NO. OF PERMISSIONS GIVEN	TO BE CUT	TO BE TRANSPLANTED	TOTAL TREES TO BE REMOVED	TO BE RETAIN	TOTAL TREES
ROADS	190	2403	2831	5234	4488	9722
METRO	57	4023	4060	8083	9205	17288
Total	247	6426	6891	13317	13693	27010



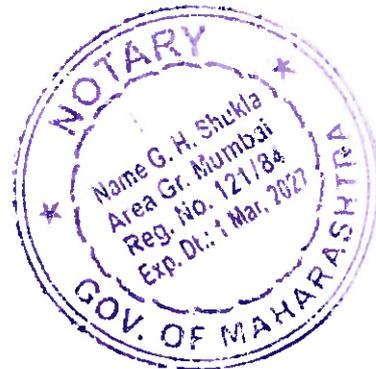
[Signature]
Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer

SUMMARY OF PLANTATION DONE BY BMC FROM 2019-20 TO 2024-25

Year	No. of saplings distributed	Plantation Done		Total Plantation
		Traditional Method	Miyawaki Method	
2019-20	18165	30451	0	30451
2020-21	11243	37170	163025	200195
2021-22	34432	40023	225010	265033
2022-23	17723	6214	69975	76189
2023-24	23177	13234	58978	72212
2024-25	19709	6630	13414	20044
TOTAL	124449	133722	530402	664124

No. of saplings distributed	124449
Total Plantation Done	664124

Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer



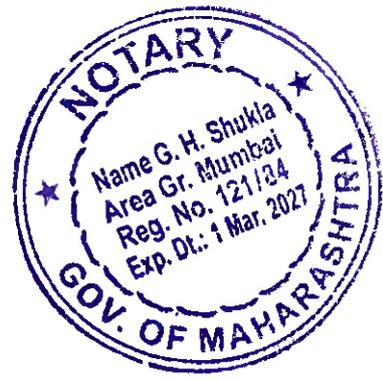


RECOGNIZES

Mumbai

AS A

2021 TREE CITY



[Signature]

Dan Lambe, Chief Executive, Arbor Day Foundation



[Signature]

Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





RECOGNIZES

Mumbai

AS A

2022 TREE CITY

Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

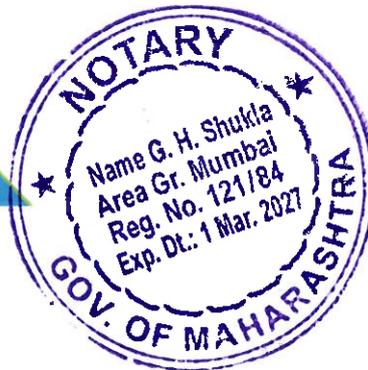


Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Dan Lambe, Chief Executive, Arbor Day Foundation



Arbor Day Foundation



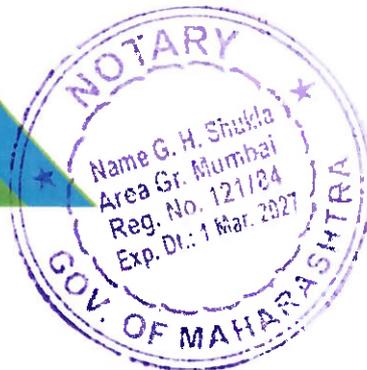


RECOGNIZES

Mumbai

AS A

2023 TREE CITY



Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Dan Lambe, Chief Executive, Arbor Day Foundation



Arbor Day Foundation

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Fwd: Congratulations on Your Tree Cities of the World 2024 Recognition

J V PARDESHI <jeetendra.pardeshi12@gmail.com>
To: DNYANDEV MUNDHE <dnyandevmundhe@gmail.com>

Mon, 10 Mar at 6:16 PM

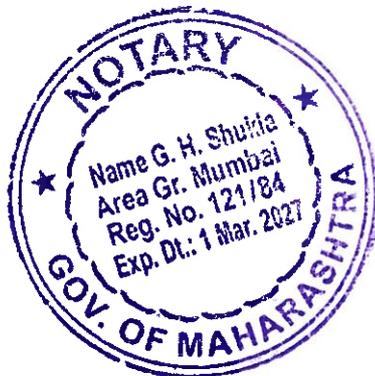
----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tree Cities of the World** <treecitiesoftheworld@arborday.org>
Date: Thu, 6 Mar, 2025, 15:30
Subject: Congratulations on Your Tree Cities of the World 2024 Recognition
To: <jeetendra.pardeshi12@gmail.com>

Your city's commitment to urban forestry is making a global impact.

[View online](#)

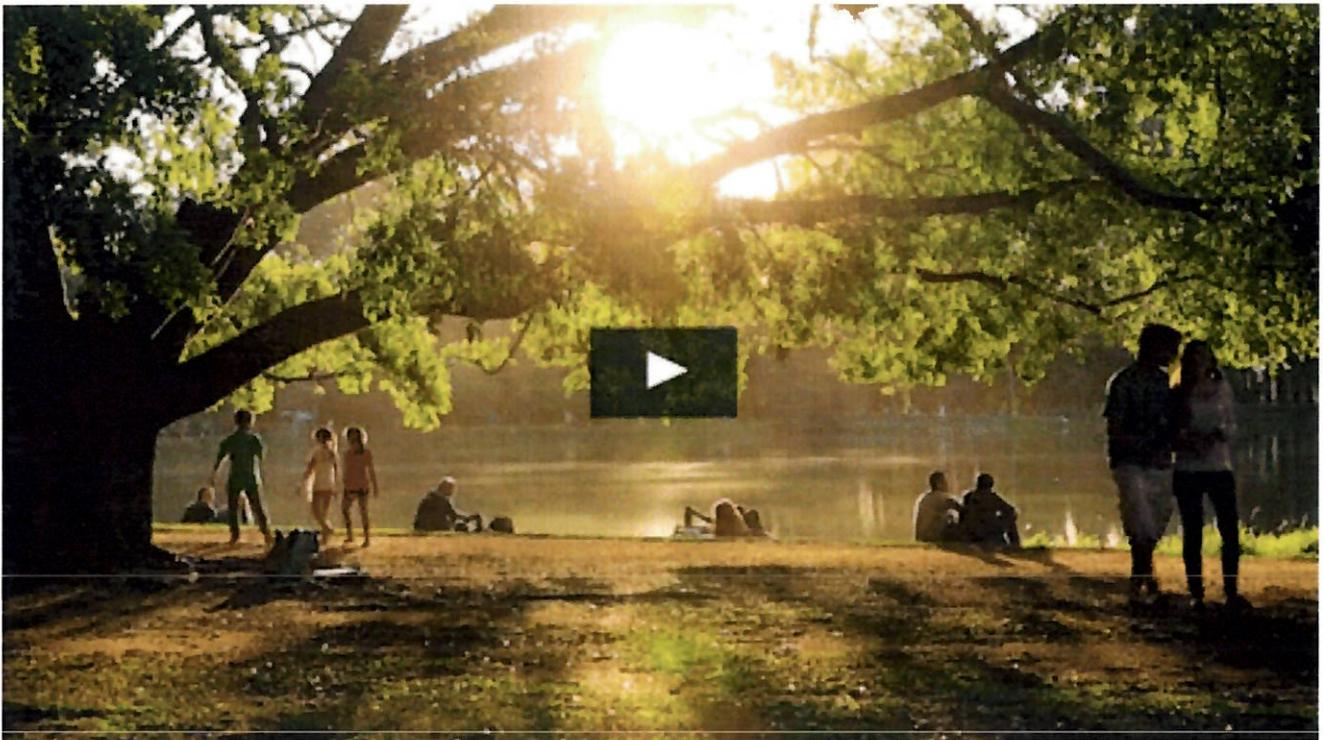
[LEARN MORE](#)



Dear Jeetendra,

We would like to congratulate Mumbai for once again being recognised as a Tree City of the World. On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, thank you for your continued commitment to creating a healthy city for all of your neighbours by investing in planting and maintaining trees.

Mumbai is part of an impressive global network, with a total of 210 cities from 24 countries, including 41 cities earning this status for the very first time.



What does recognition mean?

- Access to Tree Cities of the World Forum where you can connect with all 210 Tree Cities
- Benefit from a framework for action provided by the five core Tree Cities of the World standards
- A coordinated announcement from Arbor Day Foundation and UNFAO
- Available press release template that you can use and share throughout your communications channels
- Use of downloadable marketing materials and graphics found in the [resource center](#) to help share and celebrate your status in print and online. The Arbor Day Foundation and FAO will be celebrating your recognition throughout the year



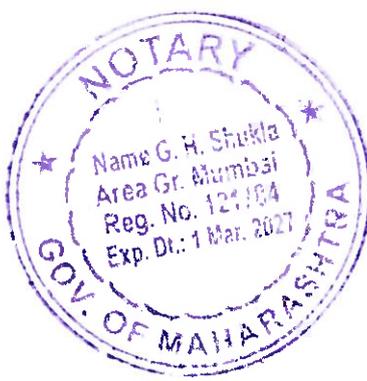
ONLINE TOOLKIT

Again, congratulations on your continued commitment to planting trees and supporting the people of Mumbai. Thank you for doing your part in growing a better tomorrow for all.

Sincerely,

Tree Cities of the World Team

In Collaboration with National Programme Leaders:



2.19 Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities

Census 2011 defines very large Urban Agglomerations (UA) with a population of more than 10 million persons in the country as Mega City. Currently, India has five major megacities namely Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai. Ahmedabad and Hyderabad are two other major rapidly growing cities.

In the current assessment, extent of Forest Cover of Seven Major Cities has been carried out. The total Forest Cover in the seven major cities is 509.72 sq km which is 10.21% of total geographical area (as per shapefile) of the cities. It is seen that Delhi has the largest Forest Cover (194.24 sq km) followed by Mumbai (110.77 sq km) and Bengaluru (89.02 sq km)

Table 2.15 Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities (ISFR 2021)

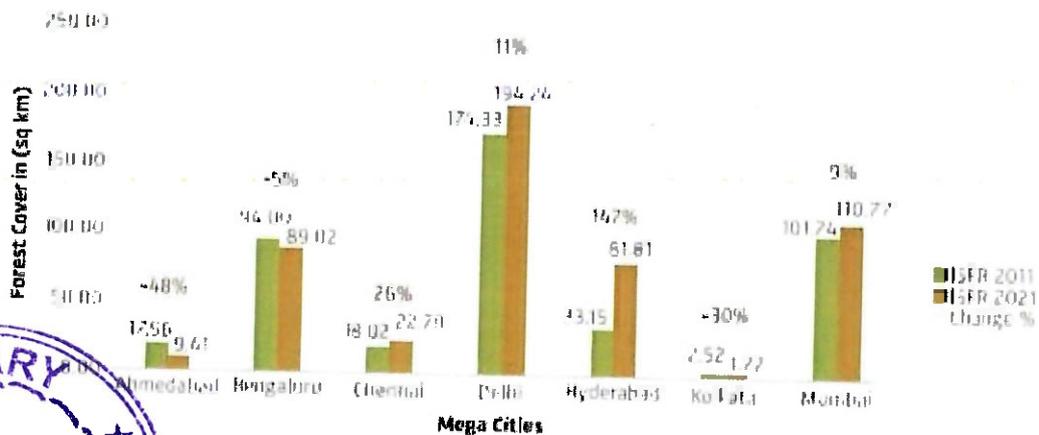
(In sq km)

Name	State	Area as per digitized Boundary*	ISFR 2021					
			VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest Cover	% of total Forest Cover wrt area of digitized boundary	Scrub
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	455.32	0.00	1.59	7.82	9.41	2.07	4.85
Bengaluru	Karnataka	1,307.35	0.00	12.65	76.36	89.02	6.81	14.87
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	430.07	0.00	7.66	15.04	22.70	5.28	1.77
Delhi	Delhi	1,540.63	6.74	56.34	131.15	194.24	12.61	0.45
Hyderabad	Telangana	634.18	0.00	17.68	64.13	81.81	12.90	29.96
Kolkata	West Bengal	186.55	0.00	0.10	1.67	1.77	0.95	0.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra	435.91	0.00	51.13	59.65	110.77	25.41	0.00
Total		4,990.01	6.74	147.16	355.82	509.72	10.21	51.90

* Shapefile of digitized boundaries as provided by NIC Delhi in 2021

Decadal change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2021 has also been analysed and details are presented in Table 2.16 given below. There is an increase of 68 sq km of Forest Cover in the last ten years. Maximum gain in Forest Cover is seen in Hyderabad (48.66 sq km) followed by Delhi (19.91 sq km) while Ahmedabad and Bengaluru have lost Forest Cover of 8.55 sq km and 4.98 sq km respectively.

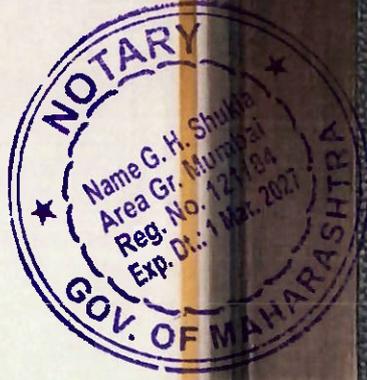
Figure 2.16 Forest Cover between ISFR 2011 & ISFR 2021 in Mega Cities



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JSW THE TIMES OF INDIA 10th EARTH CARE AWARDS



AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

70 WINNERS OVER THE LAST 9 EDITIONS

COMMENDATION

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ENABLERS FOR URBAN CENTERED CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT

10th Earth Care Awards commend "Garden Department of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)" for their Greening initiatives. The project is a classic example of how the Garden Department's efforts of creating dense green cover have resulted in creating biodiversity conservation hotspots for a city that is choking due to anthropogenic pressures. Using Miyawaki technique 4 lakh trees have been planted bringing 1 lakh square meter of area in Mumbai city has been made green, which will help in increasing catchment area, percolation & drainage capacity of land to combat flooding issues, protecting & preserving rare tree species thereby managing biodiversity.

The project contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goal



Poojita Jindal

Mrs. Sangita Jindal
Chairperson, JSW Foundation

Vineet Jain

Mr. Vineet Jain
MD, The Times Group





भारतीय वनसर्वेक्षण संस्थेचा रिपोर्ट; राज्यात २० चौ. किमीची वाढ

वनआच्छादनात मुंबई शहर देशात टॉपवर

गणेश वासनिक

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

अमरावती : पर्चावरण आणि वनाच्या

दृष्टिकोनातून महाराष्ट्रासाठी आनंदाची बातमी आहे. भारतीय वनसर्वेक्षण संस्था, देहशहून यांनी २०२५ मध्ये केलेल्या सर्वेक्षणानुसार राज्यात २०११ च्या तुलनेत २०२५ मध्ये २० चौरस किमीने वनक्षेत्र वाढले आहे. गेल्या पाच वर्षांपासून वन आणि वन्यजिवावास्त महासंघाच्या भागीदारी कर्माची वाढलेली आहे. सध्या विदर्भातील वनक्षेत्र वाच व विवट्यांचे वाढत्या संख्येने वहालेले आहे. राज्यात ५० कोटी रुंदलागवडीची फलश्रुती आता दिवू लागली आहे.

२०११ मध्ये राज्यात ५०,७७८

चौ.कि.मी. इतके वनाच्छादन होते.

यामध्ये २०२५ मध्ये ०.०४ टक्क्याने वाढ झाली आहे. आता ५०,७९८ चौ.कि.मी.

इतके झाले आहे. यामध्ये वनक्षेत्र हद्दीत

४५ चौ.कि.मी.ने वाढ झाली आहे. विशेष

वाच म्हणजे वनक्षेत्राच्या बाहेर हे

वनाच्छादित क्षेत्र २५ चौ.कि.मी.ने

वाढलेले दिसून येते. अति घनदाट वन

प्रकरात ५३ चौ.कि.मी.ने, मध्यम घनदाट

वन प्रकारात १७ चौ.कि.मी.ने वाढ. तर

धळजदायक वाळ म्हणजे विरळ

वनांमध्ये ५० चौ.कि.मी.ने घट झालेली

आहे. नाराठवाड्यात वनांची संख्या

अधिक आहे.

बांबूचे क्षेत्र

मात्र घटले

राज्यातील बांबू

क्षेत्र वन २०१५

च्या तुलनेत

१८.८२चौ.किमी.ने

कमी होऊन बांबूचे

क्षेत्र १३.२६

चौ.किमी. इतके

झाले आहे.

चंद्रपूर, गडचिरोली

या दोन

जिल्ह्यांमध्ये बांबूचे

क्षेत्र दिवून आहे.



कादकवनात रायगड अव्वल

मुंबई, अंधा, धसई, रायगड भागातील सागुटी अगल म्हणून ओळख असलेल्या कादकवन मध्यंतरी दुर्लभित होते. कादकवनाच्या संवर्धनाकरिता सरकारने अप्पर प्रधान मुख्य धनसंरक्षक दजॉचि ६०० घट निर्माण केले. साही क्षेत्रात कादकवनाची स्वयंदाही घेतली जाते. विशेष म्हणजे कादकवन क्षेत्रात ३२४.२९ चौरस किमीने वाढ झाली. यात रायगड जिल्हा अव्वल आहे.

मुंबईत ११० चौकिमी वनाच्छादन

देशातील सात महानगरातील वनाच्छादनाची तुलना केली असता दिल्ली, हैदराबाद, चेन्नई, बंगळूर, लखनौ, कोलकाता या महानगरांना मुंबईने मागे टाकले आहे. मुंबई महानगरात ११० चौरस किमी वनाच्छादन असून, मुंबईच्या भौगोलिक क्षेत्राच्या २५ टक्के आहे. त्यामुळे वनक्षेत्र मरून ठेवणारे देशातील नगर एकच महानगर बनले आहे. सलग २०११ पासून मुंबई ते २०२१ पर्यंत मुंबईत ५ टक्क्याने वनाच्छादन वाढले आहे.



BMC launches drive to relieve trees of junk

SHERINE RAJ
Mumbai

The BMC on Monday started a week-long citizen-driven initiative of ridding the trees covered in junk like concrete, nails, cables, among others. On the drive's first day at Lower Parel, 300 trees were cleansed of the scrap and 30 kg nails were removed by the drive's end.

Speaking about the eco-friendly initiative, BMC assistant superintendent of Garden G South ward, Avinash Yadav, said, "The volunteers who helped in the Lower Parel drive, were students from schools, colleges, NGOs and locals.

"We provided the people with the tools necessary for the drive and we made sure that children don't harm themselves during the work."

Not only nails hammered into trees were removed but

BMC'S TO-DO LIST

- To provide paraphernalia like hammers, etc for the drive
- To spread drive awareness among NGOs, schools, colleges and citizens
- To provide electric, garden staff for helping people during the drive
- To ensure segregation, disposal of the entire waste collected



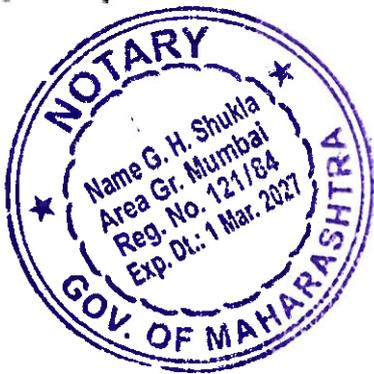
also cables, banners, posters, advertising boards, make-shift sheds attached to the trees, etc were also pulled out. These things were hampering the growth of the trees. "We

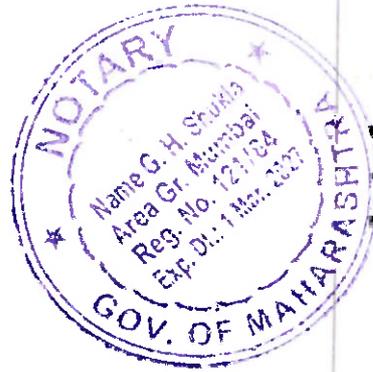
also dug out the cement which was at the roots of the trees and we filled it with mud. Also, halogen and flood lights, which were tied on the trees, were brought down," he

added. While the removal of unattended wires were done under the guidance of the BMC's electrical staff who instructed regarding live and dangerous wires. "The drive's impact was easily visible as those who had put the cables on the trees started removing it in advance because they knew that we were confiscating it," said Yadav.

Similarly, environmentalists from Borivali east enthusiastically participated in the drive in their area. A participant, Pankaj Trivedi from Kurlapwadi, said, "It took about half an hour to remove the nails and banners from each tree. Some of the nails were very rotten and after removing them, fluid started flowing from a tree."

The amount of waste collected will be announced on April 22 which is observed as World Earth Day the BMC said.





Miyawaki forest: BMC gets pat on back from Japanese consul

STAFF REPORTER
Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on Saturday received a pat on its back from the Consul general of Japan in Mumbai for its green initiatives, especially creating urban forests using the Japanese Miyawaki method.

The Consul general of Japan in Mumbai, Dr Fukuhiro Yasukata visits the Crlebo Woods garden at BMC's invitation and examined the Miyawaki urban forest and the rainwater harvesting percolation pits. Additional

Commissioner (East) in subject Ashwini Bhude, President of Indo Japanese Association, Mumbai, Mehool N. Bhavsar and Superintendent of Gardens Jitendra Pardeshi were present at the event.

Later, Dr Yasukata invited Pardeshi to the Japanese consulate and presented a formal letter of appreciation, praising BMC's environmental conservation efforts. He applauded the BMC's effort to increase the number of rainwater harvesting percolation pits up to 6,000 pits to save rainwater.

Complimenting the urban



Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Dr Fukuhiro Yasukata handing over a letter of appreciation to Jitendra Pardeshi

forest initiative to plant three lakh trees using the technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, Dr Yasukata said.

BMC has embarked on the project to create urban forests at 64 locations by planting more than 4 lakh trees

"Appreciating the efforts of the civic body, Dr Yasukata also offered to jointly organize bonsai and Ikebana exhibitions in Mumbai in the future," an official said.

Two years ago, the BMC had embarked on the project to create urban forests at 64 locations by planting more than four lakh trees.

Concrete removed, 983 trees breathe free

BMC, along with NGOs, schools and colleges participate in the drive; activist alleges that civic body failed to penalise contractors who dump concrete around trees



NGOs including Fair Vikasra Mitra, Eka March, River March, LACC, Arghareshi Gok along with schools and colleges participated in the campaign

A CORRESPONDENT
mailto:by@mc.mumbai.gov.in

THE BMC along with NGOs, schools and colleges, under the Vikasra Mitra and Ahiyan, removed a total of 94,325 kg of concrete from around 983 trees from across the city. The campaign is on from April 18 to 23.

"Wires, electric lights, cables, etc. damage trees. Also, the concrete stunts the growth of roots and if the soil does not absorb water, the tree may die," said a BMC official. NGOs including Fair Vikasra Mitra, Eka March, River March, LACC, Arghareshi Gok along with schools and colleges participated in the campaign

police Gok participated in this campaign

However, an activist alleged that the civic body has failed to catch hold of and fine contractors who dump concrete around trees. Zaru Bhatnagar, a tree with- out activist, removal of cement was a part of BMC's tree care tender and there is a provision of penalty of ₹1 crore if the contractor fails to remove concrete from its base and ₹500 is levied per tree if the concrete is not removed. However, no work has been done and hardly any fine has been collected from any contractor.



A before and after image of a tree free of its fetters

Posters, electric lights, cables, etc. cause damage to the trees. Also, the concrete stunts the growth of roots and if the soil does not absorb water, the tree may die. A BMC official

