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## GHMC to have Special Engineering Wing for Urban Biodiversity

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HYDERABAD: In view of the forthcoming Metropolis World Congress in the city in October, a special engineering wing will be formed for urban biodiversity in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, according to GHMC commissioner Somesh Kumar.

This engineering wing will be headed by an executive engineer and supported by two deputy executive engineers and four assistant executive engineers.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the commissioner held a review meeting with the urban biodiversity (parks) wing of GHMC here on Thursday. He directed the urban biodiversity officials to distribute 2,000 saplings each to 150 municipal corporators, which comes to around 3 lakh, and to distribute 2 lakh saplings to educational institutions and 1 lakh to malls. The GHMC's target for the coming monsoon is 10 lakh saplings.

The commissioner directed the officials to concentrate on developing 500 colony parks and tree parks during the current financial year and also to plant trees which will grow faster, give shade and with less maintenance in colony parks and to plant flowering plants on all the main roads of Hyderabad.

Somesh Kumar also asked the officials to coordinate with railway authorities in taking up plantation works near railway stations in GHMC limits.

About 50 lakh has been allotted to each zonal commissioner to take up the works relating to urban biodiversity wing exclusively. Keeping in view the rainy season, the dead, decayed and dried trees should be removed to avoid accidents and complete the branch-pruning operations immediately, he added.

During the current monsoon GHMC is going to procure 20,000 iron tree guards for safeguarding the avenue plants. He said that GHMC was having 20 nurseries in its jurisdiction and planning to establish seven more nurseries during the current year.

The commissioner said that GHMC would develop major projects such as development of Rock Garden at Jubilee Hills; Miralam Tank, Kishan Bagh Park, Malkam Cheruvu, Khajaguda Lake, Golconda Fort Heritage Corridor, Thamidikunta Lake near Hitec City, Brailey Park at Nalgonda Crossroads, Mullakathva Lake, Kendriya Vihar Lake, Kothaguda Lake and developing the theme parks such as Bamboo Garden, Herbal Garden, Bougain Villeda Garden, Butterfly Park, beautification of Musi river bunds near High Court and beautification of NTR Marg on the lake side.

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