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Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation to focus on boosting urban biodiversity

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HYDERABAD: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner Somesh Kumar announced on Thursday that a special engineering wing would be set up to boost urban biodiversity in view of the ensuing Metropolis World Congress to be held in the city in October.

Speaking at a review meeting on the World Environment Day, the commissioner said the special wing would be headed by an executive engineer and supported by two deputy executive engineers and four assistant executive engineers. Somesh Kumar directed the urban biodiversity officials to distribute 3 lakh saplings to corporators (2,000 saplings each to 150 corporators), 2 lakh to educational institutions and 1 lakh to malls and added that the corporation was aiming to distribute 10 lakh saplings in the monsoon besides asking officials to plant date palms in heritage corridors.

He also asked the biodiversity wing to make special arrangements for the Metropolis Congress. "The GHMC is prepared to spend even more than Rs 50 crore (the sanctioned budget for the current financial year) for the international event," he added. The commissioner announced Rs 50 lakh to each zonal commissioner to take up works related to urban biodiversity. He also asked officials to develop 500 colony parks/tree parks by planting trees which grow fast and do not require much maintenance. He also instructed them to remove dead/decayed trees and finish branch-pruning operations immediately.

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Kumar said the mass plantation programme would be taken up during the monsoon season in areas like Jawahar Nagar dumping yard by involving local public representatives and students. The corporation would also procure around 20,000 iron tree guards. "Development of major parks

and development of

theme parks such as Bamboo Garden, Herbal Garden, Bougainvillea Garden, Butterfly Park, beautification of Musi bunds near the High Court and beautification of NTR Marg on the lakeside

would be taken up," the commissioner declared.

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santosh (hyd)

lakhs of showallahs in ghmc area are responsible for the death / non existence of around 50 lakh avenue trees along the roads all across ghmc area

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