

NMC plans 50-acre bamboo forest near Gorewada

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NAGPUR: The city is set to get a new attraction that would also add to its greenery. Nagpur Municipal Corporation is all set to create a bamboo van on a 50-acre land close to Gorewada forest.

NMC possesses around 55 acre land on the ring road patch between Mankapur square and Katol road square. However, with the civic body neglecting it for years, a major portion of the land had been encroached upon. Even a party lawn has come up on civic body's land. Two developers had tried to encroach upon the land and were set to start housing schemes on the area.

Timely intervention foiled their attempt. When mayor Pravin Datke's office was informed of the infringement, the NMC enforcement squad conducted an anti-encroachment drive. Later the civic body took possession of its land, confirmed Datke. According to NMC sources, the land is close to Gorewada reservoir.

Now, the NMC plans to develop the area as Bamboo Van or bamboo forest. "Initiated by the NMC, the project will be implemented with the Forest Department. It aims at increasing the coverage of bamboo cultivation area in the coming five years. Apart from supplying saplings, the forest department will provide technical and scientific advice to the drive," said a senior NMC officer.

Sources said the mayor has also directed the standing committee chairman Ramesh Shinghare to make financial provision to develop the Bamboo Van in his budget to be presented either this or next month.

Datke told TOI that the NMC is also planning to take the help of Vidarbha Bamboo Mission (VBM) led by coordinator Sunil Joshi. VBM, a body of stakeholders, artisans, activists, farmers, NGOs and SHGs, will help the NMC to boost industrial and economic development of the forest.

Later, NMC will provide training to members of self help groups who will be allowed to sell the products they make out of bamboo grown here. TOI visited the place and its surroundings. Many encroachments have also come up near the water treatment plant near the reservoir. Land grabbers, who have an eye on a major portion of government land, have already constructed many houses on Pitesur road.

Source : THE TIMES OF INDIA, NAGPUR