CCP writes to forest dept to identify dangerous trees

TNN | Jan 16, 2023, 04.45 AM IST

Panaji: To avoid any untoward accidents in the state capital, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has written to the forest department to identify fragile trees within the city jurisdiction that can be trimmed. This comes in the wake of the recent incident in Sanguem wherein a Gulmohar tree fell on a car, killing one and injuring another.

"We wouldn't want any such thing to happen in Panaji, especially since trees can be so unpredictable," CCP commissioner Agnelo Fernandes said.

"We have written to them last week to identify dangerous trees and inform us so that we can get them removed or trimmed," he said.

The trees in Panaji are usually pruned by CCP in March, prior to the monsoon. Due to insufficient area to dump the trimmed portions of the trees, the CCP mulches the debris and uses the remains for gardening.

Fernandes said that irresponsible road digging could also contribute to fragility of trees. He blamed the Smart City for not being eco-sensitive while digging the roads. "With the Smart City team digging parts of Panaji and butchering roots of some trees, how can the trees stand? They do not know who is incharge, or what road is to be dug up," he said.

A Gulmohar tree came crashing down on a car in Sanguem when Anita Fernandes, 39, a mother of two, was driving during her last scheduled driving class last Thursday. She was driving towards the Sanguem police station under the guidance of trainer Nasif Shaikh when the tree fell on the moving car, killing Anita on the spot and leaving Shaikh injured in the damaged car.

The incident has thrown sharp focus on the matter of road safety among motorists and pedestrians.

The CCP has also identified the fragile buildings in the city jurisdiction and submitted the list to Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA).