

More oxygen, cleaner air for Chennai as civic body plans to set up 1,000 urban forests

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Chennai: The residents of Chennai will now breathe in cleaner air as the municipal corporation is mulling the setting up of 1,000 urban forests. The Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner G Prakash said that the government will set up more forests in vacant places across the city.

On the anniversary of the first urban forest that was set up on a vacant plot, initially a garbage dumping area behind Kotturpuram MRTS station, Prakash said that the civic body might set up more urban forests.

Prakash said that several vacant plots and open reserved spaces have been serving as garbage dumps or illegal social elements. The commissioner said that the step is a way of reclaiming occupied locations and also of improving the climate of the area.

'It lets out more oxygen and cleans the air'

He added, "In a small plot when thousands of saplings are planted, it attracts several butterflies, birds, reptiles and insects that improve the biodiversity of the place. It lets out more oxygen and cleans the air. "

Prakash said that the corporation plans to take it in a big manner across Chennai. He said that around 60,000 saplings have been planted in around 30 such locations and the plan will spread to 10 more locations, The Times of India reported.

Prakash said that the responsibility of finding new plots were handed over to the regional deputy commissioners and zonal officials. The officials were directed to find plots and rope in NGOs, corporates as well as residential welfare association for the project.

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