

## City forest division wants BMC to take care while pruning trees

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BHUBANESWAR: The city forest division has decided to write a letter to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) urging it to check cutting and pruning of trees while putting up large hoardings. The forest department said rampant pruning of branches leads to the city losing its greenery.

“There should be controlled pruning. We have received several complaints from people that trees in their areas have been pruned to such an extent that they look barren. For that reason we have decided to take up the matter with the BMC,” divisional forest officer (City) Ashok Mishra said.

The forest officer said that since there is no penal provision for pruning trees, the BMC can ask the advertisement agencies to show restraint while putting up large hoardings and avoid cutting down big branches.

“During Cyclone Fani, about two lakh trees in the city got uprooted. We have been taking a host of measures since to improve the city’s green cover. The branches not only lend a beautiful look but also provide relief in summer as well as help increase the green space,” Mishra added.

Sources said after the BMC put a blanket ban on rooftop hoardings, they are being put up at places recognized as hoarding zones. There are also some areas and roads that are no-hoarding zones. BMC deputy commissioner Srimanta Mishra said advertisers have to seek permission before installing hoardings.

“The advertiser can’t himself put up a hoarding. It is a joint exercise and the civic body’s environment wing is kept in the loop. We are yet to receive any letter from the forest department. Once we receive it, we will take action accordingly,” Mishra assured.

As many as 10,000 tall seedlings from Rajahmundry in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh have been brought to the city for compensatory plantation to restore the greenery lost in the May cyclone. Of the 10,000 seedlings, which have been stocked by the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC), the city forest division has so far received 1,000 for plantation. Since fragile and exotic species were mostly damaged in the cyclone with wind speed reaching up to 200 kmph and more, windresistant species such as Baul, Neem, Karanj and Chhatiyani have been brought for the afforestation purpose.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/city-forest-div-wants-bmc-to-take-care-while-pruning-trees/articleshowprint/71929326.cms>