

Joka Metro: 700 Maidan trees to be transplanted

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Kolkata: More than 700 full-grown trees, mostly in the Maidan, will be transplanted for the underground Kidderpore-Esplanade section of the Joka-Esplanade corridor. In the endeavour to keep at least 50 of these trees intact, implementing agency RVNL is about to begin a second tree survey with the Army, custodian of the Maidan. The trees will be transplanted in barren stretches of the Maidan before the actual Metro construction starts after the pujas.

The Maidan, the lush expanse of green spread across 5 sq km in the heart of the city, acts as the lungs of Kolkata, covering 60% of the city's green verge. Around 3,000 trees of various kinds are in

the Maidan area, including the large, canopied ones that absorb most of the carbon emissions.

“Naturally, a lot of care will be taken, surveys revised and fresh markings done before deriving the actual tree transplantation count,” an official of Metro Railway, which runs the city's rapid transit system, said.

L&T, contracted to build the 5km underground Mominpur-Esplanade section, is now bringing in barricade boards to cordon off the site near Victoria Memorial. “L&T, which won the Rs 2,447-crore contract in June, is mobilizing equipment and partitions. Around 700 metres will be barricaded for various pre-construction work, including tree transplantation and demolition of the Fountain of Joy, opposite Victoria Memorial,” an official said. Modern equipment is being brought in to yank out the trees with girths ranging from 3ft to 6ft.

The main construction, starting with the 325m-long Victoria Memorial station, may start after the pujas, once the final marking of trees is done with the Army's help and the trees are replanted in other parts of the Maidan.

The tree transplantation project is split into two categories. In the first are 500-odd trees that will make way for the permanent structures — the four stations to be built in the cut-and-cover method. In the temporary category or the working areas, excluding the stations, around 200 trees will be transplanted to allow movement of trailers and construction machinery like cranes.

This is the northern and final section of the 14km Line 3 (Joka to Esplanade), also called the Purple Line.

We also published the following articles recently

Construction debris chokes trees along riverfront: GreensEnvironmental activists in Pune have raised concerns about the dumping of construction debris along a river stretch marked for a development project. The activists claim that the debris is causing damage to trees and plants in the area, and that the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) is not taking their objections into account. The PMC denies being in contempt of any order and says it will address the issue once complaints are received. Activists argue that the dumping of debris is a precursor to the execution of the project and highlights the destruction of natural resources.[103649789](#)

Kolkata: No CC to buildings if trees hacked illegally at construction sitesThe Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) buildings department has decided to withhold the completion certificate (CC) for housing projects or individual buildings if trees have been cut without permission. The department will compare the number of trees shown in building plans with the actual number on-site. If trees have been cut beyond the permitted number, an FIR will be lodged and the CC will be withheld. The KMC parks department will work with the buildings department to monitor construction sites and prevent unauthorized tree cutting.[103677911](#)

No tree felling permission to be given for house construction: HCThe Delhi High Court has reiterated that no permission will be given to fell trees for construction of houses. The court has granted the Delhi government two weeks to provide a detailed report on the status of transplanted and replanted trees in the capital. The court also stated that no permission will be granted for tree felling in respect of house construction. The court was hearing a petition seeking contempt action against officers who were not complying with previous court orders regarding tree felling.[103676384](#)