

# TNPCB, forest plantation corpn allocate funds for green mission project

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Chennai: The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM) has set an ambitious target of planting 644 crore saplings across the state this year. The State Pollution Control Board and the Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation too would chip in to achieve the goal this time.

Principal chief conservator of forests Deepak Srivastava, who is also director of the mission, said the State Pollution Control Board sanctioned 60 crore, and the State Forest Plantation Corporation had allocated 15 crore for the project.

Already more than six crore saplings have been raised by various government agencies in 1,931 nurseries in the state. Of this, 1.46 crore saplings have been raised in 260 nurseries with funding from the GTM. The state agriculture department will take 75 lakh saplings raised in the GTM nurseries and they will be planted in various farmlands in the state, he said.

Only trees endemic to the state have been raised in all the nurseries of the Mission, and the species include teak, red sanders, rosewood, neem, pungam, neer marudhu, vengai, and Jamun.

In the last financial year, 3.14 crore saplings were raised and planted by various government departments in different landscapes. To execute the planting work, various governmental and non-governmental agencies have been involved, he said. The planted saplings are geo-tagged so that they could be monitored online. Whenever casualties were reported, they were replaced with new saplings.

As northeast monsoon is in full swing, the planting works will be taken up in various parts of the state and by the end of December the project will be completed. The remaining saplings will be kept for next year's planting, he

added.

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