

AP to set up urban forests in six towns

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AMARAVATI: In an attempt to provide relief from growing concrete jungles, the state government has decided to develop urban forests in all urban local bodies.

The urban forests would not only help tackle rising pollution levels in urban areas but also provide recreation to the locals. The urban forests would be developed with walking tracks and children play areas amidst abundant greenery.

Forests and environment minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy directed the officials to ready the roadmap for development of urban forests in all cities and towns. He asked the officials to expedite the works on the proposed urban forests in six towns during the current fiscal. The minister reviewed the progress of the forest department activities with the senior officials in the secretariat on Thursday.

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Speaking to the media, Peddireddy said that they have decided to develop new urban forests in Palamanair, Kurnool, Puttaparthi, Proddutur, Chittoor and Madanapalle in the current fiscal. He said that the government had spared 18.02 crore to take up different works in six urban forests (Nagara Vanams).

“About 23 urban forests and seven eco-tourism projects were developed in the past. We wanted to develop urban forests in all the urban areas in the state in a phased manner,” said Peddireddy.



He directed the forest department officials to coordinate with the district collectors to identify the suitable land for development of urban forests in all the towns. He wanted district collectors and municipal commissioners to spare the land within 5km of the urban area to develop the urban forest.

“The urban forest will be a multi-utility space. It could serve as recreation park, children play area, walking track along with

providing pollution free environment,” said Peddireddy. He said that they have also decided to develop eco-tourism and temple tourism projects in different locations as part of promotion of greens.