



NMC proposes second tree census a decade after first

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Nagpur: The much-delayed second tree census of city will be conducted by the garden department of Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) after almost a decade.

The first census was carried out in 2011 when the city had 21.43 lakh trees. This time census will be carried out with the help of GIS and GPS methods, stated a proposal submitted by the department before the standing committee meeting to be held on February 2.

As per an estimation by the department, the tree population in city has increased beyond 25 lakh. “During the first census in 2011, the NMC had counted 21,43,838 trees within city limits,” the proposal stated.

The city is spread over 222 sq km and many new areas like Hudkeshwar and Narsala were later included. So, conducting new tree census has been proposed, as per the proposal.

Trees under NMC area under Trees Act, full information and number of heritage trees as per the amendments to state tree act done in August 2021, preparation of PBR (People’s Biodiversity Register), city biodiversity index, local biodiversity strategy and action plan as per Biodiversity Act, 2002, etc have been included in the proposal.

The actual census will be done over a period of one year, which will be followed by four years of maintenance and updating information. This type of work is based on the tree counting process carried out by other municipal corporations in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Thane etc. The tree authority committee had given the nod to tree census on December 15, 2018.

The total cost of the work is to be paid in phases over a period of five years with a total expenditure of Rs6 crore. Of this, 60% amount will be paid in the first two years and the remaining in three years — 13.33% per annum. If the number of trees is more than 25 lakh, additional funds will be made available, the proposal stated.

The expenses are proposed to be borne from the amount received under the 1% tree cess which is included in the property tax. It is expected that the NMC may generate Rs 3 crore every year from tree cess. So far, the NMC has recovered tree cess of Rs14 crore and the amount will be used for works related to trees and their conservation.

TREE CENSUS PLAN

- * Carrying out geo-enabled tree census using GIS and GPS technology
- * Preparing urban forestry plan, people’s biodiversity register, city biodiversity index and local biodiversity strategy and action plan

* Development of tree census application, operation, maintenance and updation up to four years within NMC limits

OTHER PROPOSALS

Rs50.7 lakh | Supply, installation and commissioning desktop PCs and other computer and network accessories for e-library and Lalshala near Gitanjali Square

Rs65.09 lakh | Cement road work order in Prabhag number 1(B)

Rs55.55 lakh | For procurement of 300 pushcart and ghanta gadi each

Rs2.34 lakh | Renewing tar road from Automotive Square to Mohammad Rafi Square to Samarthan Hospital

Rs 9.51 lakh | Five years maintenance of Joggers' Park in Sneh Nagar

Rs28.49 lakh | Development of greeneries in newly-constructed Vande Bharat garden

Rs48.96 lakh | Construction of Shakti nullah near Poddreshwar Ram temple

Rs26.65 | Construction of cement road in Dandige Layout

Source:<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/nmc-proposes-second-tree-census-a-decade-after-first/articleshow/89210970.cms>