

Bangalore Mirror

TEMPERATURE MAX 32 | MIN 16 | HUMIDITY 37%

FORECAST MAINLY CLEAR SKY. FOG/MIST VERY LIKELY IN SOME AREAS DURING MORNING HOURS | SUNRISE 06:45 HRS | SUNSET 18:21 HRS

Forty per cent of the 812 trees that might be chopped for the steel flyover can be saved, says Institute of Wood Science and Technology; it has offered to translocate the big trees but civic bodies have not responded yet

INSTITUTE SAYS IT CAN STOP THE GREENOCIDE



GREEN WITH ENVY: The state government is hell-bent on axing these magnificent beauties to make way for the steel flyover from Basaveshwara Circle-Hebbal Flyover

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A city-based centre of excellence in wood science research is ready to save as many trees as possible from the 812 marked to be axed for two infrastructure projects – the controversial steel flyover from Basaveshwara Circle to Hebbal Flyover and the Jayamahal Road widening.

The Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST) – under the Indian Council of Forestry Research

& Education (ICFRE) – has expressed willingness to conduct the study in collaboration with Volvo, which has specialised trucks to translocate trees without damaging them.

Interestingly, while neither the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) nor the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has sought any consultations with the IWST so far, the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh has signed a memo-



BM's front page report on Jan 27

randum of understanding (MoU) with IWST for a similar study, IWST director Surendra Kumar told Bangalore Mirror on the side-lines of a national conference on "Tree improve-

ment research in India: Current trends and future prospects".

The CMPDI in Singrauli is looking at clearing a cluster of trees to make way for a coal mine in this MP district that borders Uttar Pradesh, for which it is preferring translocation over uprooting them. "We will be preparing a systematic protocol of translocating trees before actually doing it. The protocol is very important," he said, adding that it ensures minimal damage to the tree being shifted.

"At least 40 per cent of

these (812) trees (in Bengaluru) can be translocated safely to roadside locations elsewhere," he said. "If we are asked to carry out a feasibility study, we can easily do so as we have the required capability."

The IWST plans to use tomography, which involves placing sensors on the trees to assess the overall strength, stability and health of the trees.

Tomography uses the sensors to display a representation of a cross-section of the

TURN TO PAGE 2 >>>

Wood institute can stop the Greenocide

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tree using X-rays or ultrasound.

The feasibility study also assesses the tree's girth, its age and the method of translocating them to the destination points.

"This also includes pre- and post-translocation treatment for better survival to ensure prevention of pest attacks at the new location and the ideal sunlight exposure, which should be the same as the tree had in its original location," he said.

The steel flyover project is under the BDA while the Jayamahar Road widening project is under the BBMP. But for both the projects the decision over the trees falls under the jurisdiction of the BBMP within city limits.

When contacted, deputy conservator of forests, BBMP, Appu Rao, was not quite aware of the functions of the IWST although the latter dealt with the scientific aspects of trees.

However, when informed, he did show an interest in contacting the institute to find out more details about how at least some trees could be translocated, and save from the axe.

IWST PROPOSAL GETS NO BBMP RESPONSE

The IWST had also sent a proposal to the BBMP to conduct ward-specific tree health monitoring programme, especially for the roadside trees which get uprooted in the event of thunderstorms, posing a grave threat to life and property. However, there has been no response from the BBMP since the proposal was sent to the civic agency a few months ago.

IWST director Kumar said, "We had sent a proposal to the BBMP for assessing health of avenue trees (the ones lining the roads on either side) in each city ward and maintain a record of each tree's health and fitness. This is important as these are the trees which cause maximum damage to people during thunderstorms."

He said the idea is for the IWST to carry out the inspection with the BBMP as the co-principal investigators. The IWST had plans to use tomography in this too. "Using this system, we can assess the hollowness of the tree trunk, whether the tree is affected by pests, the root system and its spread, as well as the overall strength and stability of the tree," he said.

BBMP's DCF Appu Rao, however, denied having received any such correspondence from the IWST.

BENGALURU
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

'City's roads should be lined with sturdier trees'

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RANJANI GOVIND

BENGALURU: More often than not, it is not the number of trees that determine how effective a city's green cover is, but the choice of tree saplings and areas chosen for planting them that add value to the ecosystem. This was the point made clear by tree scientists, geneticists and experts here on Thursday on the sidelines of the first day of the two-day national conference on "Tree improvement research in India: Current trends and future prospects" hosted by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST).

"Bengaluru has an overdose of gulmohar and jacaranda trees. They are beautiful flowering trees, but it's not a good idea to have them lining important avenues as these softwood varieties do not endure the harsh weather," said Surendra Kumar, director, IWST. "Their 'fall-out' rate is large, be it because of wind, rain or even road-widening

... they fall apart," he said.

It is not just the softness of the wood that makes the trees buckle under pressure, but their roots get damaged during road-widening, making them weaker. "If the government authorities are informed of this, they can replace the trees with other varieties that are stronger, to make soil health more meaningful," Mr. Kumar said.

There are plenty of trees to choose from. "Pongamia (*Honge*) is a hardy alternative. These trees take only five years to reach a height of 10 metres. They can make up a canopy or be a stately addition to an avenue," said K.S. Sugara, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Department of Forests.

According to Mr. Sugara, Bengaluru could bring in varieties such as neem, bamboo, Burma bamboo, sandalwood and red sanders as avenue trees and also on vacant land, as these tree varieties help improve soil quality.

03.02.2017

ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ

ಸಂಪುಟ: 2
ಸಂಚಿಕೆ: 30
ಪುಟಗಳು: 12+4
₹ 5

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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು • ಮಂಗಳೂರು • ಕಲಬುರಗಿ • ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ • ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ • ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ



ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ

ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವೇ ವಿಶ್ವ

ವಿಚಾರ ಸಂಕಿರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರ ತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ವೈ.ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಮ್ ಅಭಿಮತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಕಾಳಜಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ

ಸಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬಳಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವ್ಯತಿರಿಕ್ತ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಹೀಗೆಯೇ ಮುಂದುವರಿದರೆ ಮನುಕುಲವೇ ನಾಶವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಪರಿಸರ ತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ. ಎಚ್.ವೈ.ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಮ್ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಿದರು.

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರದ ಮರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಗುರುವಾರ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ 'ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ಒಲವುಗಳು' ಕುರಿತ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಚಾರ ಸಂಕಿರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪರಿಸರದಿಂದ ನಾವು ಉತ್ತಮ ಆಮ್ಲಜನಕ ಸೇವಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಿಸರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಶೋಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ನಾವು, ಅದರ ಪೋಷಣೆ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಕಿಂಚಿತ್ತೂ ಗಮನ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನಿಸರ್ಗದ ಧಾರಾಳತನ ಒಂದು ಮಿತಿ ಇದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಪರಿಸರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಂದೇ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತಾರು ಬಗೆಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇವೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಕೇವಲ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆಯೇ ಹೊರತು ಉಪಯುಕ್ತವಾದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವೂ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆದ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವುದು ಈಗ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ಕಸುಬಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಮಾಜದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ನಾವು ಸಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೇವಲ ಸಸಿ ನೆಟ್ಟರಷ್ಟೇ ಸಾಲದು. ಅವುಗಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಗಮನ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

-ಸುರೇಂದ್ರಕುಮಾರ್
ಮರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ



ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರದ ಮರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ 'ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ಒಲವುಗಳು' ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಚಾರ ಸಂಕಿರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಾದ ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್, ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ಸುರೇಶ್, ಪರಿಸರ ತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ವೈ.ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಮ್, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಸುಗಾರ ಇದ್ದರು.

ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ಕಂಗೆಟ್ಟ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕೆ. ಎಸ್.ಸುಬ್ಬರಾವ್ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತೀ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 73 ಮರಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಇವೆ. ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ, ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅರಣ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ತಿಳಿದು ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 15 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಅರಣ್ಯವಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಅಗತ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ನಾವು ಅಮಿದನ್ನೇ ನೆಚ್ಚಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಈಗ ಇರುವ ಶೇ.12ರಷ್ಟು ಅಮದು

2020ರ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗುವ ಸಂಭವವಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಯನ್ನು ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯ ಬೇಕು. ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯದ್ದೇ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ನಿಗಮಗಳು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಮೂಲ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ತೆಲಗದ ಮರದ ಥಿನ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಪ್ಪು ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುವ ಅಪಪ್ರಚಾರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಬೇಸರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.