

Metro goes retro to move 15 full-grown trees to Mihan

Manka Behl TNN | Updated: Dec 17, 2017, 14:41 IST



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NAGPUR: Not wanting to chop age-old trees to make way for the [Metro](#), the Mahametro has transplanted 15 trees of different species at a newly built residential society in Mihan. The agency plans to save another 50 trees from axe — an initiative that could also be taken up by authorities like the National Authority of India ([NHAI](#)) and Public Works Department (PWD).

It would be a big loss to kill age-old trees lined up along the Metro corridor. It was this thought that brought probably the first large-scale transplantation of trees in the city. The work was carried out six months back by the horticulture department of Mahametro, officials of which have taken painstaking efforts to transplant trees without any external help or machines.

While the agency is taking similar efforts in Pune with the help of a specialized agency, Mahametro managing director Brijesh Dixit said that experts will be hired for Nagpur too. "In Pune, a scientific technique called arboriculture is adapted in which root balls are being prepared and then treated with nutrients. In Nagpur, we transplanted trees using our own labour and cranes," he added.

Today, these trees are standing tall inside the colony of [Mahindra Bloomdale](#) in Mihan, each having a display board in front describing the tree's date of replantation, original location and medical and ecological benefits.

Out of the replanted species, two are huge Banyan trees which were originally located at Zero Mile and were obstructing the path of the Metro station. "Though we have planted thousands of saplings, we realized that preserving the old trees was needed more. Trees like Banyan can live up to a thousand years," said [Ramesh Mishra](#), deputy project manager at Mahametro's horticulture department.

The other species include golden rain trees (amaltaj) and gular fig trees. While amaltaj is used for treating constipation, fever and other diseases, the latter has anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties.

As successfully transplanted trees can suffer transplant shock, post-replanting care is very important. "The real-estate agency has offered to take care of the trees for almost an year," said [PL Kadu](#), deputy chief project manager (Civil).

As per the data available with Mahametro, around 47 trees which can be transplanted have been identified by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation's ([NMC](#)) garden department. "We will now hire an expert agency for the work. We want to ensure good survival rate for all the trees," added Dixit.

TOI recently reported that the state government had launched tree transplantation project to develop wildlife habitat for animals to be displayed in Indian Safari at proposed Gorewada international zoo. The pilot project to translocate 200 trees is being implemented by state-owned Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) which has signed a one-month contract with the Sweden-based company for [Volvo](#) tree transplanter.