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BBMP PLANTS A SCAM



FILE PHOTO

While the Urban Forest department is spending just Rs 38.18 lakh for planting 1.94 lakh saplings, the BBMP has allocated Rs 7.9 crore for 1.90 lakh saplings. Why such disparity?

NIRANJAN KAGGERE

It's not just that Bangalore's once bountiful trees are fast disappearing. Replanting efforts are getting torpedoed even before they start. And government agencies are out-

bidding each other in wasting money.

Wondering how? Well, compare how much the BBMP and the Urban Forest department spent last year on planting saplings across the city to increase green cover: The BBMP has spent

at least 20 times more than the forest department, and on fewer saplings!

HUGE DISPARITY

Here are the exact figures: BBMP's south division alone had spent Rs 2.92 crore in 2008-09 to plant a mere

90,500 saplings, whereas the Bangalore Urban forest department spent a mere Rs 42.2 lakh to plant 1.04 lakh saplings.

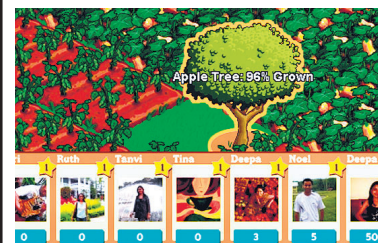
Even as how the BBMP contrived to spend so much of the tax-payers' money over so few saplings re-

mains a mystery, comes the current year's shocker: While BBMP plans to spend Rs 7.9 crore on 1.90 lakh saplings, the forest department's budget is a mere Rs 38.18 lakh for 1.94 lakh saplings.

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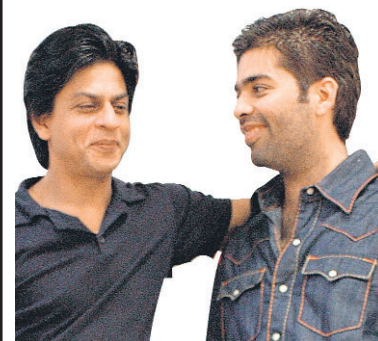
TECHIES TAKE TO FARMING



FarmVille on Facebook has become the fave game of the city's techies. They plant potatoes, rear chickens and mull over whom to invite as their neighbour

CITY 2

SRK IN 98 CR DEAL WITH FOX



Best buddies Shah Rukh Khan and Karan Johar have inked a Rs 98 crore distribution deal with Fox for their next film *My Name is Khan*

ENTERTAINMENT 28

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