

# BIODIVERSITY THRIVES IN CITY PARKS

## 2 GARDENS RICH IN FLORA, FAUNA: STUDY

A 2.5-mth study was conducted by NGO Waatavarán at 2 parks to map the biodiversity. **Clara Lewis** reports

### WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY

● It is variability among living organisms—terrestrial, marine and aquatic—and ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are a part

Source: Convention on Biological Diversity, 2011

### TWO GARDENS SELECTED FOR BIODIVERSITY STUDY

- Historical Mancherji Joshi Five Gardens, Dadar, and A P J Abdul Kalam Vanodyan, Malad West
- Both parks were developed approximately 100 years apart
- Biodiversity study by Waatavarán for BMC done between Aug-Oct 2023



### FIVE GARDENS

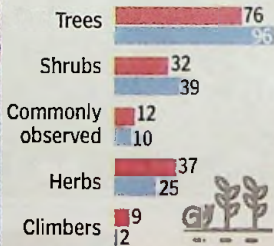
#### Flora

**Indigenous species** | Banyan, bhend, guava, neem, karanj, jambhul, chinch, bor, mango

#### Non-native species

Samanea saman, mahogany, Ashok, copper pod, which provide a cool canopy cover

**Total species:** 154 162



#### Fauna

Frugivorous bat colony (50+), jungle owl, common grass-hopper, warbler, greater coucal, little swift rufous, treepie, spotted owl

**Total species:** 124

### VANODYAN

**Flora** | It is a thematic garden and has sections such as forest trees, indigenous, medicinal plants, palm species and exotic species, among others

**Tree species** | Palm, bakul, nettle leaf velvet berry, crown of thorns, dwarf umbrella tree, fish poison tree, geiger tree

#### Fauna

Coppersmith barbet, house sparrow, Indian golden oriole, jungle owl, spot-breasted fantail, taiga flycatcher

**Total species:** 126

“ We collaborated with the BMC and took up the mapping of these two urban parks as a case study. We want to urge the BMC to carry out biodiversity mapping of other urban parks too, especially in light of climate change. We put out an appeal for volunteers on social media and 30 students studying botany and others have responded

**Bhagwan Kesbhat** | FOUNDER, NGO WAATAVARAN

