

1,500-year-old replanted baobab tree sprouts leaves

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Haveri: Conservation efforts by environmentalists to save a baobab tree, which fell recently, have borne fruit. The 1500-year-old tree, which was replanted, has started sprouting leaves.

The tree fell on July 7. Within a week, the forest department, Haveri district administration, and Doddahunase Kalmath jointly replanted the enormous baobab tree at the same spot. A tree, which weighs approximately 80 tonnes, has a diameter of 12.6 metres and is 18 metres tall.

The tree had been attacked by termites, which weakened its stem. It fell due to heavy rain and wind.

The forest department dug an eight-foot-deep hole at the same spot. It also treated its branches to prevent toxins from entering, and covered them with plastic sheets to prevent entry of rainwater. As per expert's advice, they had also laid organic chemicals and fertiliser for the roots to grow.

The forest officials were confident, that the Baobab tree would survive, and they got positive results now.

Channabasava swamiji, pontiff of Doddahunase Kalmath expressed happiness that the ancient baobab tree is sprouting leaves. "The Doddahunase Kalmath has got fame through these baobab trees. So, protecting them is our prime responsibility. We should protect the other two also." the seer added.

“We used 300-tonne capacity cranes for replanting the baobab tree. The tree has survived because we restored it within a week of it falling, and treatment was given as per expert advice. Now leaves are sprouting in every branch of the tree. But its roots must grow well and grip the soil, so that it doesn’t fall. It takes time as the tree is more than 1,000 years old. We hope this ancient baobab tree will return to its shape within a couple of years,” said S Balakrishna, deputy conservator of forest (DCF) Haveri.

Prof NR Birasal, an environmentalist, said, “We have witnessed many examples of replanting or relocating trees in recent days. If the tree survives from the root level, its great news. We are hoping that the tree lives long.”

We also published the following articles recently

Felling of trees continues at Sinqerim hill
The destruction of biodiversity on Sinqerim hill continues despite complaints and lack of response from authorities. Trees are being cut without permission in a no-development zone with high slope and dense vegetation. The Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) reported the felling of trees to various authorities, but no action has been taken. The area is covered by natural green vegetation and has a canopy density above 10%. The conversion of the land violates a Supreme Court order prohibiting the approval of land conversion in Goa above 1 hectare with a forest canopy density above 10%.105454703

Chipko-like campaign brews over tree felling
The move to expand National Highway 17 in Assam has sparked a movement led by filmmaker Rima Das, reminiscent of the Chipko movement. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) claims to have taken measures to reduce tree loss. Rima Das emphasizes the historical importance of the Chhaygaon area and the threat the tree cutting poses to its identity. People have expressed their opposition by hugging an old tree. NHIDCL has taken steps to minimize tree loss, including constructing a bypass and acquiring less land.105401737

Over a dozen trees felled, 3 acres cleared in Aravali leopard corridor
Illegal land clearing and tree felling have occurred in the Roj Ka Gujjar area, a part of the leopard corridor near Damdama lake in Gurgaon. This has raised concerns among environmentalists about the increasing urbanization in the region and its impact on wildlife movement. The leopard corridor, which extends from Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in Delhi, has already been fragmented due to human encroachment. The city's expansion towards the Aravalis, including the construction of new residential sectors and roads, further threatens the ecosystem. It is crucial to monitor sensitive zones and protect these wildlife corridors to prevent man-animal conflicts and maintain the ecological balance.105341481

