

200-year banyan tree ‘felled’ by builder now sprouts leaves

Sep 10, 2023, 04.07 AM IST

Calangute: Conservation efforts by environmentalists to save the uprooted banyan tree at Khobra Vaddo, Calangute, have borne fruit.

The 200-year-old tree, which was allegedly uprooted by a builder on World Environment Day on June 5 by excavating the mud under its roots, was replanted on July 28 following protests by locals.

“The replanted tree has sprouted leaves. Some new branches are also visible. This should set a good example for the rest of Goa,” said Calangute Constituency Forum president Premanand Divkar, who had led the protests.

A similar attempt to replant a banyan tree at Arambol had failed a few years ago, while a recent bid to replant an uprooted tree in Panaji was abandoned and the tree was subsequently chopped.

Divkar said manure and other materials were used during the replanting process in consultation with experts.

“The tree is now on the National Biodiversity Register and will be looked after by the Calangute panchayat biodiversity committee,” he said.



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