

20k seed bombs to be distributed for Vanmahotsav

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Panaji: This year, as part of Vanmahotsav celebrations, the state forest department will distribute

seed bombs among the public. The aim behind the initiative is to enhance the greenery of protected areas in North Goa.

“We have a target of distributing 20,000 seed bombs in North Goa alone, in protected areas like Mhadei, Molem and Bondla,” deputy conservator of forests Vikas Desai said.

An aerial reforestation initiative, seed bombs are little lumps of compost of soil with seeds in the centre that are thrown onto land that is often physically challenging to access.

“These green weapons of change that can be used to fight deforestation. Generally, one needs to dig up the earth and sow seeds or plant sapling. But here, one simply throws or ‘bombs’ the ground with these seed bombs and the plants germinate and grow on their own,” Desai said.

Forest officials will later carry out regular checks to see whether the saplings are growing or not. “Seed have a higher chance of survival if we cover them with soil since the germinating seed must get soil during the preliminary stage. Even with a single rain shower, the mud retains enough moisture to keep the seed from drying. But in case of any casualties, we will replant ,” Desai said.

In a bid to further encourage afforestation, seedlings and saplings will be distributed to the public throughout the month of July. Plants will be available at the forest department’s divisions that have plant nurseries.

Also, the state forest department’s medicinal plants board will sell medicinal plants at subsidised rates all through July. A special mobile van carrying these medicinal plants will be stationed at prominent locations for a specified day.

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