

## Assam set to count the giving sapling and tree

By Bikash Singh, ET Bureau | Last Updated: Jun 09, 2023, 01:02 AM IST

### Synopsis

Assam chief minister said forest regulation has been amended to allow people to plant commercial trees, which could be felled after a certain period.



Rs 100 on planting a sapling and a further Rs 200, if it survives for three years: Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

The [Assam](#) government has urged people to plant 10 million [saplings](#) on [Gandhi Jayanti](#) this year to help mitigate climate change and expand the state's tree economy.

Chief minister [Himanta Biswa Sarma](#) on Thursday announced in Guwahati that the state government will reward "individuals with Rs 100 on planting a sapling and a further Rs 200, if it survives for three years".

"If we succeed this year, then we will plant 1 crore saplings next year (2024) on October 2. Those planting saplings will have to register on the web portal along with geolocation," the chief minister said.

### RELATED

Kerala government adopts divine route to fight climate change

Himanta Biswa Sarma launches National Education Policy 2020 in Higher Education Institutions

Mega nursery in J&K near Pakistan border all set to cater to local fruit growers this monsoon

Sarma said forest regulation has been amended to allow people to plant [commercial trees](#), which could be felled after a certain period.

"For the last few days, temperatures have crossed almost 38 degrees Celsius. I sympathise with everyone as we are experiencing soaring temperatures and scorching heat.

We should take steps to increase our forest cover, phase away fossil fuels and free up encroached forest lands," the chief minister said.

Assam is battling scorching heat conditions over the last 10 days and school timings have been revised in several districts.

“You know Assam is a state with 20% of its forest land occupied by encroachers. This means we have destroyed 20% of our forests and people are living in it unlawfully. We are witnessing adverse effects currently and on top of that destroying the hills. Using the hills as living areas is also showing its effects,” said Sarma.