

Debrigarh finds way to check forest fires

Apr 16, 2024, 04.38 AM IST



Bhubaneswar: To prevent forest fires, which are primarily caused by villagers burning dry leaves to gather mahua flowers, the Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary authorities have devised an innovative solution.

They have installed green nets around mahua trees, allowing the flowers to fall onto the nets without the need to burn leaves. To ensure the success of this initiative, the authorities have conducted awareness campaigns in the villages adjacent to the sanctuary.

Wildlife officials said in the sanctuary adjoining villages, the authorities identified 7,000 mahua trees and put green nets around them. Some women volunteered their used sarees. Women mostly burn the fallen leaves (two to three ft high heaps of dry leaves) on forest floor, and from the ashes it becomes easy for them to collect mahua. This kind of collection is a major cause of forest fire, which spreads very fast from these points.

“The green net method has reduced the forest fires in the peak of summer to zero. Also, we sensitised the women to burn the dry leaves in advance. The two-pronged strategy is being adopted in clusters with high mahua tree concentration apart from other measures,” said Anshu Pragyan Das, divisional forest officer, Hirakud wildlife division.

She said fire squads with blowers accompany women groups to douse preventive fires. Around 500 km fire lines have been created in and around the sanctuary. Fire lines means separating the dry leaves creating lines (gaps).

Mancha (platforms) have been created for early detection and checking of matchstick taken by firewood collectors entering the sanctuary. "Villagers and shopkeepers have been adequately sensitized not to take matchsticks inside," said the wildlife officer.

Nearly 100 women have been engaged as camp attendants along the adjoining anti-poaching camps of the sanctuary for village-level sensitisation meetings, officials said.

We also published the following articles recently

Rahul Gandhi speaks to women collecting 'Mahua' flowers in Madhya Pradesh
Rahul Gandhi engages with women gathering 'mahua' flowers in Madhya Pradesh. He faces travel delays, spending the night in Shahdol district due to a grounded helicopter. Shivraj Singh Chouhan humorously comments on the situation.109155044
Israel: Cease-fire, get hostages, leave gaza, rethink everything
Israel confronts complex decisions in Gaza, balancing internal and external pressures. The path chosen could have significant implications for regional stability and future peace efforts.109184026

Aquarius, Horoscope Today, April 14, 2024: Strengthen bonds and build sanctuaries
Aquarius, focus on nurturing personal space and relationships for stability. Prioritize emotional health and career alignment. Strengthen ties with loved ones and create a sanctuary. Balance work-life and well-being for overall success.109276713