

First step towards urban forest

TNN | Jul 8, 2019, 04.28 AM IST

Margao: Deputy chief minister Vijai Sardesai on Sunday launched the concept of Nagarvan or urban forests by planting a variety of native trees at Sonsoddoo, Margao, on the occasion of Vanmahotsav, festival of trees. The urban forest will be developed in 30,000 sqm land in possession of the Margao Municipal Council (MMC).

On the occasion, Sardesai said saplings will be provided at forest department nurseries to encourage people to grow more trees. He also asked MMC to take a resolution to hand over the land to the forest department to turn it into an urban forest.

Sardesai had recently said Australian acacia plants were one of the reasons for human-animal conflicts in Goa. The government plans to phase out this species of plants from forest areas and replace them with local variety of trees in five years. Australian acacia do not contribute to food in forest, forcing animals to travel towards human habitations in search of sustenance.

The focus of the forest department will be on native varieties of fruit-bearing trees so that the animals can get food within the forest and not travel for it. tnn