

# Goa govt committed to enhance green cover: CM Pramod Sawant

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PANAJI: In the wake of the recent fire incidents in the forests of the state, Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant on Friday said that the state government is committed towards enhancement of forest cover and strengthening biodiversity in the state.

“The Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 report denotes an increase of 7sqkm of forest cover in Goa compared to ISFR 2019,” Sawant said.

“Goa is committed to implementing various programmes to enhance forest cover and strengthen biodiversity in the state. As much as 60.6% of the land in Goa is under forest cover and with the implementation of CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning

Authority) scheme and various initiatives of the state government, it is increasing consistently,” the CM said.

The state government has estimated that around 418 hectares have been affected in the recent forest fires from Sattari to Canacona.

“Over the past five years, approximately 587 hectares of land have been affected due to forest fires. All of us should be concerned,” forest minister Vishwajit Rane had said. Speaking about this year's fires, Rane said that it is an “area of concern” and “has been tackled by the government.”