

HP to restore degraded forests, identify land banks

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Shimla: New initiatives for restoring degraded landscapes will be taken up under Himachal Pradesh State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (HP Campa) in the entire state in this fiscal, chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Monday late evening. Instead of raising plantations in a sporadic manner, it should be done in a planned manner on barren hills and other large open patches, keeping in mind climatic conditions and dedicated staff would be deployed to take care of plantations in a responsible and accountable manner, he said while presiding over the first meeting of the governing body of HP Campa).

Reiterating that the state government was working towards 'Vyavastha Parivartan', he said the campaign would be more focused to achieve the goal of a green state. The forest department has identified such areas in all 12 districts, covering more than 256 hectare of barren forest land along with a five-year maintenance period with an outlay of around Rs 8.83 crore. tnn