

## Now, locate nurseries on forest department website

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PATNA: In a bid to give an impetus to the state government's sapling plantation drive and ensure involvement of masses in the initiative, the state environment, forest and climate change department will display a list of all government nurseries on its website from Monday. People can buy saplings of their choice from these nurseries.

Forest department principal secretary Dipak Kumar Singh said the saplings and small plants are available at a uniform rate of Rs 10 at all 150 government-owned nurseries across the state. The sapling prices at government-owned nurseries, according to Singh, are much cheaper than the actual market rate.

"Many people don't know about the location of government nurseries. The list on the department's website will make it easy for the people to locate them. Small plants of Neem, Gulmohar and Amaltas are available at these nurseries," Singh said.

There are two major nurseries in Patna – one at Eco Park and another at Kaushal Nagar behind Patna airport. One customer can buy five plants at a time from these nurseries. Singh said saplings were initially free of cost, but it led to their misuse. "Since plants are now available at a much cheaper rate, people can use them for commercial purposes too," he said.

Singh said the department has around 40 lakh small plants measuring up to three feet and 60 lakh saplings measuring up to eight inches. "Small saplings are used for plantation in forest areas and plants up to three feet are planted along roads and on the premises of different institutions," Singh said.

The department is also planning to take land on lease to develop nurseries across the state. "We have relatively less plants in nurseries than our requirement. Hence, we need more land to develop nurseries," Singh said.

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