

On Earth Day, green brigade to drop seed balls in Sattari forest

TNN | Apr 22, 2023, 04.59 AM IST

Keri: April 22 is World Earth Day and events to create environmental awareness are held around the globe. In Goa, Keri-based Vivekanand Environment Awareness Brigade (VEAB) has planned to help young people appreciate the natural wonders nourished by the Mhadei river.

The Mhadei, also known as the Mandovi, is the biggest river in the state that provides drinking water to a majority of Goans. Originating in the Western Ghats in the forests of Karnataka's Degao, the Mhadei enters Goa in Cadval, a village situated between Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary and Mhadei Sanctuary.

"Sattari, home to 78% of the forests of North Goa, quenches the thirst of the largest population group of the state," said Vitthal Shelke, the organiser of the nature trek. "We have organised a nature trek from morning to evening to make the young people aware of the ecological significance of the lifeline."

Earth Day, 2023, seeks to urge people to invest money and time to protect and conserve the planet. The Mhadei river not only provides water for drinking and irrigation but also supports a wide range of biological elements. Wildlifers will help the young people understand the marvels of birds, butterflies, fishes, reptiles, and other species found in the area.

This year, Sattari suffered huge losses due to forest fires and hence VEAB has decided to drop seed balls to spur sustainable plantation of indigenous species. Volunteers have made the seed balls with students. Awareness on renewable energy and global warming will be created by taking the participants into the green corridor which lies near the Mhadei river.

Suraj Malik, a wildlifer, said, "Unbearable heat and humidity have been affecting us in urban areas. Lush green

forests with a varied species of birds and butterflies can offer a spectacular break.” Malik added, “We will help the participants connect with the wildlife and ecology of the area.”