

Urban forest to come up near Sambalpur

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SAMBALPUR: A 'Nagar Van' or Urban forest will be developed over 50 hectare in the Laxmidungri reserve forest here.

Divisional forest officer (Sambalpur) V. Neelannavar said, "A major component of the project is fencing of the identified area and it is going on in full swing. It will be called Samlei Van".

The site identified for the urban forest is a hilly terrain with moderate slopes and plains. The vegetation comprises of teak, bamboo, gambhar and sissoo.

Under the programme, apart from maintenance of the existing vegetation and plantation at Laxmidungri, a khusboo van and a sanskritik van have also been proposed to be developed inside the urban forest here.

In khusboo van, trees and shrubs that give out strong fragrance will be grown over two hectare. Similarly, the sanskritik van will be developed over 3 hectares to create awareness about the rich cultural values and cultural association with trees.

The sanskritik van will have a specific rashi van, where trees associated with various zodiac signs will be planted at Rashi Van. Trees, shrubs and herbs that have medicinal values will be planted in arogya van, which will also be part of sanskritik van. Three water bodies, interpretation centre, watch shed, public conveniences like drinking water facility, signages, jogging tracks, watch tower and nature will also be developed.

Income-generating activities like bee keeping, nursery raising of aromatic and medicinal plants have also been proposed to be carried out to sustain the project.

"The DMF will provide the funds for developing the gardens and other components of the project. We are hopeful that the 'Nagar Van' will be ready within the next six months," said the DFO.