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## Chhattisgarh to promote tree plantation through 'Krishna Kunj'

TNN | May 9, 2022, 07.29 PM IST



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel announced of developing 'Krishna Kunj' in all the municipalities in the state on a land of at least one acre which would have trees like Peepal, neem and banyan and would signify the cultural importance in the lives of people. The chief minister has directed all district collectors to initiate the allocation of land to the forest department at the earliest for tree plantation. He said that the trees will be planted at Krishna Kunj, from Janmashtami this year.

Promoting tree plantation as a public campaign, chief minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "India has an ancient tradition of worshipping trees like Banyan, Peepul, Neem, Kadamb, etc. which have their place in the cultural history of our nation.

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However, the rapid cutting of trees in urban areas in the name of development is endangering the existence of these trees. "If this situation continues for long, our future generations will be unaware of their cultural values. Therefore, every citizen must preserve the precious heritage of trees. It's crucial to plant and protect trees of medicinal importance in urban areas." CM Baghel said that developing 'Krishna Kunj' will help people remain connected to trees and plantations besides, conserving the cultural heritage. A designated land where such tree saplings would be planted will be named 'Krishna Kunj'.

Efforts should be made to develop the land allocated to the forest department in such a way that tree plantations in all the Krishna Kunjs can start on Janmashtami statewide.