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Eco-battalion starts plantation

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Aurangabad: The ecological task force battalion of the Indian Army has started fresh plantation at Sirasmal in Khuldabad taluka of Aurangabad district.

Battalion Commanding Officer Colonel M A Khan said the project site has 121 hectare of land which is devoid of any plantation and has rocky surface without any water source.

“Providing tree cover on this land will help in increasing the forest cover, and thereby ensuring environmental protection and assisting retention of groundwater,” he said.

The plantation drive at the new site began on June 22 in presence of chief conservator of forest for Aurangabad division Satyajit Gujar and deputy conservator of forest Suryakant Mankawar along with soldiers from the battalion.

Started as pilot project in December 2017, the battalion so far has carried out plantation on 672 hectare of land in the region by planting more than seven lakh trees. The battalion carries out plantation and maintenance of saplings in areas identified by the state forest department and the ministry of environment and forests and climate change.