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## Forest dept starts sale of saplings

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Aurangabad: Coinciding with the onset of monsoon, the social forestry department of Aurangabad has started offering discontinued sale of saplings — Rs 11 charged for every plant.

The sale, in which selected saplings with large containers are also offered at a discounted price of Rs 40 per plant, is taking place at the government nursery located on Osamapura Road.

Divisional forest officer Kirti Jamdade-Kokate has appealed to the citizens to increase the green cover in their nearby areas by buying saplings offered by the forest department at discounted rates.

"The period from June 15 to September 30 is celebrated as "Van Mahotsav" every year in India since 1950 with mass plantation drives and other main events getting lined up in the first week of July. Considering the importance of trees from the ecological point of view, every citizen must plant trees during the rainy season," she said.

As per official plans, the social forestry department will plant over 5 lakh trees in different identified areas including a stretch of 103 km of roads and 318 hectare of 'Gayran' land. Besides, around 61,000 saplings will be planted with the help of farmers from Aurangabad division. In addition, authorities have decided to plant over 1.27 lakh trees using 'Miyawaki' method in Katpur village from Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district.

Meanwhile, the official plantation drive began recently by planting 16,000 saplings at Bhambarda village in Aurangabad district in presence of senior officials and staff from the forest department along with the locals.