

Forest dept will distribute saplings through app to increase green cover

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Jaipur: Aimed at increasing green cover, the forest department will distribute over 165 lakh saplings through its newly launched mobile app.

People can download the app from Playstore and check saplings of their choice.

A senior official said the department will link the data of 565 nurseries which are situated across the state. The app will also provide information on 125 varieties of saplings, including fruit, medicinal plants, tree, timber, ornamentals and shrubs. “We have designed a forest management and design support system (FMSM) app. The data of all the nurseries will be uploaded till June 20. From the app, buyers can learn about the quantity and species of plants available in any particular nursery.”

The department aims at reaching maximum people for plantation as the moderate forest cover area and open forest cover area have declined in the last two years in Rajasthan. An official source said, “Rajasthan is a forest deficient state, according to India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019. Although the state’s forest cover had seen marginal increase of 57.51sqkm as compared to 2017, the moderate forest cover area and open forest cover area shrank.”

Tree cover of the state had decreased by 154sqkm as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR 2017. Tree cover in Rajasthan is estimated as 8,112sqkm. “Every year, there is need to plant a minimum 75 lakh sapling across the state. Public participation is very important to improve green cover,” said an official

The official further claimed, there are constant efforts to improve the green cover in the state. However, more is required to increase the green cover.