

Free saplings to farmers & others in plantation drive

Going all out to achieve the ambitious plantation targets, the state government distributed free saplings to government departments, farmers and other stakeholders in the campaign

The decision on free distribution of saplings to state departments, farmers and others under 'Vriksharopan Janaandolan 2021' was taken by the state government recently, to ensure the success of the massive green drive across Uttar Pradesh. The plantation drive is one of the ways of the government to help farmers create an additional source of income. By planting timber-yielding, fruit-bearing or fodder-giving varieties, farmers can earn extra income.

The forest department has provided free saplings to government departments, various court premises, farmers, institutions, indi-

UP government's emphasis is more on the environmentally significant trees and the ones that boost immunity like *peepal*, *banyan*, *paakad*, *sahjan*, *neem*, *aonla*, mango and other desi varieties along with the ones that find mention in the religious and mythological scriptures.

Along with these, '*Gareeb ka bhojan*' (food of the poor) or the *mahua* tree will be a special addition to the list this year, to curb malnutrition, which is one of the emphases of the plantation drive. The poor inhabitants of rural and backward areas or the tribal population have depended on this tree for ages for their dietary



■ Forest department has raised as many as 42 crore saplings in 1,755 nurseries to meet the demand of the farmers and the target set by the government

■ Plantation would be done along the Ganga and its tributaries to conserve the catchment area of the rivers, raise green belts, check soil erosion and maintain the ecological flow of the rivers

viduals, private and government schools, central government undertakings, local bodies, railways, defence, industrial units and cooperative societies, as before. Eucalyptus and Poplar, however, would be an exception, as were in 2020, too.

requirements. The tree has been included in the list to boost immunity and check malnutrition among women and children of extremely poor families.

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