ITANAGAR SELECTED FOR URBAN FOREST SCHEME

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development, and EIA

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. File photo

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCC) has selected Arunachal Pradesh capital for implementation of the 'Nagar Van' or Urban Forest scheme.

The 'Nagar Van' is a scheme being launched by the Ministry that envisages creating forests in 200 urban cities across the country on public-private-partnership basis.

Watch | World Environment Day 2020: Time for nature

The Ministry would offer an initial grant of 2 crore for fencing, maintenance and administrative costs of the earmarked land to be developed.

Attending a meeting of the Ministry chaired by EFCC Minister Prakash Javadekar through video-conferencing on Monday, Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, informed that as there are only two urban cities in the State Itanagar and Pasighat the State capital has been selected for implementation of the scheme this year.

Also read | During lockdown, MoEFCC panels cleared or discussed 30 projects in biodiverse forests

He said the state Environment and Forest Department has already earmarked the land measuring about 20 hectares for creation of an 'Urban Forest, a communique from the CMO quoted Mr. Khandu as saying.

Mr. Khandu, who is also the Minister in-charge of Environment and Forest, informed Mr. Javadekar that the Ministry's Nagar Van scheme would be dovetailed with the Smart City project so that the objective of the scheme is achieved in toto.

Giving details of the action taken by the State government in implementation of various Central government schemes regarding environment and forest, the Chief Minister said that 100 schools across the State are being identified for the scheme 'School Nursery.'

Also read | World Environment Day 2020: how wildlife conservation organisations are finding unique ways to stay afloat this lockdown

Under the scheme, students would grow their own trees in a chosen place within the school premises and care for it and at the end of the year, they would take the sapling and plant it on their own premises.

The Union Ministry plans to cover 1000 schools this year with a target of covering 5,000 schools by the year 2024 -25.

Mr. Khandu said that under the 20-point programme of the Union Ministry, the State had planted 6 lakh trees surpassing its target of 1 lakh saplings.

He assured that by the end of this year, 12 lakh saplings would be planted across the State.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of getting onboard the Centres National Transit Pass System in context of Arunachal Pradesh, where stretches of forest land are owned by communities as well as individuals.

Also read | World Environment Day: Amid mining, dam issues in Northeast, conservation group banks on 'rural futures'

As the system (through a portal) ensures a seamless movement of forest produce across the country giving farmers economic right over their forest land, Mr. Khandu observed that in such a situation farmers will get motivated to plant trees of their choice increasing the forest cover of the State.

He directed the State officials to get on board the portal as soon as possible and create awareness amongst the farmers, the communique said.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for EFCC Babul Supriyo and Forest Ministers of 30 States and UTs, discussed in detail all the six schemes being launched by the Union Ministry.

Besides the Nagar Van, School Nursery, Plantation and National Transit Pass System, the Ministry is also implementing Water and Fodder Augmentation in Forest Land and Rejuvenation of 12 major rivers schemes in coordination with the States and Union Territories, the communique added.

a request for those who can afford to subscribe: please do. As we fight disinformation and misinformation, and keep apace with the happenings, we need to commit greater resources to news gathering operations. We promise to deliver quality journalism that stays away from vested interest and political propaganda.

Dear subscriber,

Thank you!

Your support for our journalism is invaluable. It's a support for truth and fairness in journalism. It has helped us keep apace with events and happenings.

The Hindu has always stood for journalism that is in the public interest. At this difficult time, it becomes even more important that we have access to information that has a bearing on our health and well-being, our lives, and livelihoods. As a subscriber, you are not only a beneficiary of our work but also its enabler.

We also reiterate here the promise that our team of reporters, copy editors, fact-checkers, designers, and photographers will deliver quality journalism that stays away from vested interest and political propaganda.

Suresh Nambath

Please enter a valid email address.

Subscribe to The Hindu now and get unlimited access.

Already have an account? Sign In

Start your 14 days free trial **Sign Up**

You can support quality journalism by turning off ad blocker or purchase a subscription for unlimited access to The Hindu.

Sign up for a 30 day free trial.