

Kerala Tourism launches micro forest project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: In a major green initiative, Kerala Tourism has launched a project to create Miyawaki model micro forests at 22 tourist spots in 12 districts across the state.

Inaugurating the project by planting a sapling at Shanghumukham here on Thursday, tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran said that more than 30,000 saplings would be planted in about two acres identified for the scheme.

Creation of micro forests would make the tourist destinations in the state, especially those in urban areas, environment friendly, said the minister.

Pioneered in 1970s by botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki of Yokohama National University, Japan, the micro forestation model seeks to expand the green cover on the earth by nurturing



Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran inaugurates the project by planting a sapling at Shanghumugham in T'puram on Thursday

mostly indigenous species of plants in small patches of land.

A Miyawaki model forest can attain growth within five to ten years, whereas a natural forest takes 25 to 30 years to gain the same level of growth.