

Collecting medicinal plants in Jammu and Kashmir's forests is banned

In the face of overexploitation of rare medicinal plants, the Jammu and Kashmir government has imposed ban on collecting minor forest produce from demarcated forestlands. It has prohibited people from collecting medicinal plants. But it is encouraging people to grow these plants on private lands and nurseries and has decided to provide technical guidance for this. " The reason for the ban was that most of the plants were over exploited, with the result that some of the species had become rare and bracketed as endangered," says P.Pattnaik State's chief conservator of forest. The fast disappearing plant species include Podophyllum hexandrum , used to produce cancer drugs, Colchium luteum and other plants used for making arthritis and epilepsy drugs.

Source: Down to Earth, October 15th 2004