

### **138 mini-forests created on 290 acres of vacant land in Punjab's Sangrur district**

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The Amrit Van campaign, an initiative of the Sangrur district administration to create mini-forests on vacant panchayat and government land, has started giving satisfactory results in nine months. Deputy commissioner Jitendra Jorwal said that 138 mini-forests of traditional trees had been developed on around 290 acres of area under the scheme.

Jorwal said that people were getting clean oxygen naturally from these mini-forests. This was a special effort under the supervision of additional deputy commissioner (development) Varjeet Walia in association with the Round Glass Foundation to provide a pollution-free and green environment to the people.

Jorwal said that the mini-forests were created and taken care of under the national rural job guarantee scheme to make villages greener because forests were disappearing. He said the initiative would enable future generations to have a close relationship with nature.

Under the campaign, about 3 lakh trees of various species have been planted in villages on an area starting from 1 kanal to 10 acres, Jorwal said, adding that these trees had grown to a height of about 6-8 ft.

Jorwal said there were also possibilities of increasing the income of people and panchayats under the campaign with the help of traditional trees as well as fruit gardens. He said that Van Mitras had been assigned the task of the safety, maintenance and the replacement of dead plants, helping them earn a remuneration under the MGNREGS.

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