

24 acres in Gurgaon village notified as protected forest

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CHANDIGARH: In a significant development, the Haryana forest department has notified 23.80 acres in Naharpur Kasan village, located in Manesar tehsil of Gurgaon district, as a protected forest with effect from Tuesday.

This was done as part of an afforestation scheme to compensate for 11.9 acres of forest land that divested for setting up of a Maruti plant last year in Sonipat.

A notification in this regard was issued on Tuesday on behalf of the Haryana governor under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. According to the notification, issued by Vineet Garg, additional chief secretary, department of environment forests and wildlife, all trees standing or planted in or upon the village land on

the protected forest have been declared to be reserved.

Compensatory afforestation is required in case of transfer of forest land for non-forestry purposes such as development of dams, mining and construction of industries or roads. According to rules, the user agency pays for planting forest over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.

“As land was not available in Sonipat, it was carried out in Manesar in a degraded area which is twice the size of the lost forest area,” said a forest official. The notification closed the protected forest for a period of 30 years and all rights of private persons, if any, over the said land shall be suspended during this period. With this, quarrying of

stone, burning of charcoal, collection, subjection to any manufacturing process or removal of any forest produce in the protected forest and the breaking up of clearing for cultivation, for building, for herding cattle or for any other purpose of any land in such forests has also been prohibited.

Haryana department of environment, forests and wildlife also notified some rules with regard to this land which make it clear that no person shall cut, fell, saw, convert or remove any tree and timber for any purpose, whatever, collect or remove any forest produce from the said protected forest without the prior permission in writing of the divisional forest officer (DFO) in charge at that time of forest division in which the land is situated.

The DFO would also be empowered to examine any timber or forest produce passing out of the forest at any time to ensure that the timber of the forest produce has been lawfully obtained.

Other rules provide that no person can herd, pasture, graze or retain any cattle on this land. However, the DFO may permit grazing by a limited number of cattle.

“No person shall set fire to grass, trees or timber or kindle a fire on such land and shall not cut and remove grass without obtaining a permit from the DFO or his authorised representative. No person shall hunt, shoot or fish on the said land without obtaining permission from the DFO,” the rules added.

(With inputs from Ipsita Pati in Gurgaon)