

Delhi: First tree census to be conducted next year

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NEW DELHI: The forest department is likely to start its first tree census next year with city forests, taking volunteers' help. TOI had reported on September 9 that the Tree Authority of Delhi recently passed the proposal of tree census and approved its methodology. Forest department will be conducting the census for the first time, while some tree activists and RWAs have conducted the survey in their neighbourhood in the past.

A forest official said, "As animals come out of hibernation in monsoon, it is not advisable to do the census in this season. It will be difficult to carry out the census during winter as Delhi is prone to cold wave conditions. We will start the tree census from next year beginning with the city forest."

However, activists said tree census should be the priority. Bhavreen Kandhari, an activist, said, "A tree census will help in controlling illegal tree felling and ensuring greenery of the city. However, such proposals were discussed several times in the past too, but no census was conducted. We want that the department along with volunteers should start the census soon."

The parameters for tree census include GPS coordinates of every tree will be recorded along with its location, land type (private or government), girth from ground and health of tree. The surveyor will also take pictures of tree, bark and leaves. "During the census, diseased, damaged or concretised trees will be marked so that corrective action can be taken," said another official.

A census is conducted to record the number of trees in a colony, their age, health, and conditions. It helps residents and authorities to understand, prioritise, plan and action what needs to be done.

TOI had earlier reported that a group of 13 residents in Saket's D block conducted a census in 2022, and by residents and activists in Vasant Vihar in 2016-17, Sarvodaya Enclave in 2016-17, Gulmohar Park in 2013 and GK-2 in 2015-16.



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