

Miyawaki forest to boost green cover at Lake

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KOLKATA: With the aim to increase greenery in Rabindra Sarobar, Lake custodian Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), in association with Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), will develop a Miyawaki forest on a large patch on the premises.

JAPANESE METHOD



(L) Soil preparation for the Miyawaki forest that will come up near the spot where the old staff quarters used to stand (extreme left) at Rabindra Sarobar

Miyawaki forestry

A Japanese method of tree plantation in which different species are planted close to each other. The trees grow much

faster and become very dense. The method was developed by Japanese forester and botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980's. Compared to traditional

methods of developing mini forest pockets, areas developed using this method grow very fast with more biodiversity, thereby reducing more carbon emission

The authorities have started work to prepare the soil for developing the mini forest based on the Miyawaki method of urban forestry.

Miyawaki is a Japanese method of plantation, in which different species are planted close to each other and the trees grow much faster and become very dense.

The method was developed by Japanese forester and botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980's. Compared to traditional methods of developing mini forest pockets, areas developed using this method have been found to have more biodiversity and reduce more carbon emission. Trees also grow very fast.

“The Miyawaki forest will come up on a patch of land beside the previous staff quarters which was recently demolished as it was dilapidated. Soil preparation is going on,” said a KMDA official. Various indigenous species of trees and shrubs will be planted that will form a canopy and develop into a mini forest within eight to nine months.

Officials said KMDA has been working on development of greenery at Rabindra Sarobar, including landscaping and setting up green zones with different species, including medicinal plants. There are also permanent exhibits of plants along with an overall greenery development plan to increase the biodiversity of the area. Officials said at present, there are about 11,000 trees of 270 species in Sarobar.

In New Town, an NGO has developed a mini forest in a green verge in this method. “The aim behind adopting the green verges in New Town is to increase greenery. We followed the Miyawaki method. Within eight to nine months, many trees grew over 10ft. The aim was to increase the density of plantation and this has been successful,” said Suhrid Chandra, chairman of Hari Mitti Foundation.

