

# Neem, mango... Noida airport to have forest park






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NOIDA: As a part of the sustainable development and greenfield project, the private concessionaire developing the Noida International Airport in Jewar has announced several initiatives, including creating a forest park and using electric vehicles on the premises.

The Jewar airport is being built on over 5,000 hectares in several phases. For the first phase of the airport, 1,334 hectares have been acquired from six villages in Jewar.

# ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES TOO

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| <b>Project</b>   Forest park at airport  | <b>Area</b>   8 acres  | <b>No. of trees</b>   7,000 (500 in the reserved area) |  |
| <b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Increase green cover at the airport </li><li>➤ Give space to passengers to spend leisure time</li><li>➤ Serve as area for health and fitness activities </li></ul> | <b>Other green plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Introducing 100% electrically-powered vehicles at the airport in a phased manner </li><li>➤ Procurement of solar, wind and hydroelectric power</li><li>➤ Rehabilitation of animals and birds in the area </li></ul> |  |   |

The forest park has been planned on eight hectares.

It is part of the environmental management plan to increase the green cover of the area.

According to NIA officials, work on the plan had already been going on. For this, NIA started a tree plantation programme last year, under which about 70 trees of neem, mango, and sheesham were transplanted. Many trees were transplanted near the site office and they are flourishing now.

The forest park will serve as a space for passengers to spend their leisure time and will be promoted as a destination for health and fitness activities as well.

“This will be a sustainable green space for the airport. NIA plans to preserve native species and be nature-positive throughout its development. Over 7,000 trees will be preserved at the site, with around 500 of them in the forest reserve. The forest reserve will see the transplantation of over 20 native species of trees,” said NIA chief executive officer Christoph Schnellmann.

The airport has also been seeking Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) platinum ratings in four categories. They are the environment (green new building), people (health and well-being), low carbon (net-zero energy) and sustainable campus (green campus).

“In line with its aspirations to be a green airport, NIA is committed to providing infrastructure and facilities for 100% electrically powered vehicles at the airport in a phased manner. NIA will produce or procure power from sustainable sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric,” added Schnellmann.

A biodiversity conservation plan has also been prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India to rehabilitate the wild animals and birds residing in the acquired area. At present, black bucks, nilgais and sarus cranes roam in the acquired area. Officials said these animals would be rehabilitated in phases.