

Gurugram lost over 10K acres of green cover in 15 years

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A report of the Town and Country Planning Department to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) revealed that green cover of around 10,000 acres was lost in the past 15 years to build the millennium city.

The figures have left the environmentalists fuming. Reportedly, area under the national conservation zone (NCZ) has reduced from 47,980 acres in 2005 to 37,270 acres in 2020 which was 47,481 in 2012.

The NCZs are the locations which receive protection because of their recognised natural and ecological values. As per the mandate, no non-forest activity or construction that disrupts the character of the place is allowed in these zones.

Gurugram since last two decades has been under the scanner owing to rampant loss of forest and green cover to aid unchecked commercialisation and industrialisation process. The state government has been drawing flak for non-finalisation of the NCZ and alleged attempts to keep parts of the Aravalis out of it.

The report states that while the NCZ area stood at 3,01,747 in 2005 and now it is 2,23,338 . The authorities argued that the 2005 figures were satellite based and the present figures had been submitted as per the ground report. To clear the ambiguity, the NGT has formed a four-membered committee to comprise of experts from the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, and Ministry of Forests and Revenue Secretary, to examine the report. The committee shall also probe validity of the reasons behind the reduction in the area. Environmentalists meanwhile demand strict exemplary action against the concerned to save forests from further damage.

“It will take decades to naturally replenish the loss done to the environment. Man-made green belts or zones can never replace natural zones. Despite the loss, the authorities are still trying to keep the Aravalis out of the NCZ and turning a blind eye to the constructions being done here,” said Sanjay Bhadana of Save Aravali Trust.

Source:<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/gurugram-lost-over-10k-acres-of-green-cover-in-15-years-127559>