



Two urban forests to come up in Gurugram's Sector 10

05 February 2022

GURUGRAM: The forest department has shortlisted two barren areas in Sector 10, which will be turned into urban forests using an afforestation technique developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.

The Miyawaki method, largely dependent on enriching the soil quality by digging up a small area and then putting a lot of water-retaining compost and natural material such as rice husk and straw, has been gaining popularity across India.

In this technique, saplings get scattered close together, forcing plants to compete with one another for space and sunlight, resulting in a green cover that can be up to 30 times denser and ten times taller than traditional plantations.

The plots in Sector 10 measure two and two-and-a-half acres, respectively, and comprise barren land where waste gets dumped routinely. "We have selected two areas in Sector 10. The plan is to ensure that people get involved in the project so that they take care of the forest," said a senior forest official. The project will start this month.

Gurugram lost a maximum of its forest cover in Haryana between October 2019 to February 2020, according to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), 2022. Of the 21 districts in the state, Gurugram lost 2.47 square kilometres of forest cover during this period, which, said experts, is a cause of concern. So, looking at the present scenario, the department is planning to increase tree cover in the district with the help of citizen participation. "Our officials will carry out the planting, but the locals will then manage the areas," the official added.

After witnessing success in a similar project in the Rewari district, forest officials planned these new projects in Gurugram. "We created two city forests in Rewari with the help of citizen participation. The completely barren land is now a full-grown forest," said Sunder Sambharya, divisional forest officer, Rewari. In Gurugram, the plan is to plant native vegetation, at least four to five dominant species in the areas, as per the Miyawaki method. The plots also need careful and close monitoring and regular maintenance of plants for the first three to four years.