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Uttarakhand government has started process to create city forests in all its 8 municipal corporations

The municipal bodies have been asked to submit a proposal in this regard before August 30, 2020.

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DEHRADUN: On June 5, World Environment Day, Prakash Javedkar, Union Minister for forest, environment and climate change had announced 'Nagar Van' scheme under which 200 city forests



across the country will be developed in next five years of time.

"These forests, ranging 10-50 hectare will be created in the vicinity of the cities to provide the city much needed green cover. The proposals will be sent to the union government before August 30 for further

assessment and approval," said JS Suhaag, chief wildlife warden, Uttarakhand.

The municipal bodies have been asked to submit a proposal in this regard before August 30, 2020. The hill state has total of 101 municipal bodies out of which 8 are municipal corporations, 41 municipal councils, 43 nagar panchayats and 9 cantonment boards.

Last year in December, a report by Forest Survey of India titled 'Indian State of Forests Report (ISFR) 2019' revealed that forest cover in 10 districts of Uttarakhand has increased in last two years time while three districts have recorded decrease, stated biennial report of Forest Survey of India released. The report titled stated that the forest cover rose to 24,303 square kilometres (sq kms) forest area in 2019 from 24,295 sq kms forest area in 2017. Overall increase of 8 square kilometers of forest cover was registered this year while in biennial report of year 2017 registered increase of 23 square kilometers. The district which registered decline in forest area are Nainital (-6.44 sq km), Udham Singh Nagar (-4.21 sq km) and Haridwar (-2.75 sq km) while all other 10 districts registered growth in forest area. Maximum increase was registered in Uttarkashi (8 sq km), Dehradun with 3.69 square km followed by Pithoragarh (1.80sq km), Bageshwar (1.69 sq km), Champawat (1.55 sq km), Almora (1.14 sq km), Pauri (0.99 sq km), and Chamoli (0.43 sq km).

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/aug/04/uttarakhand-government-has-started-process-to-create-city-forests-in-all-its-8-municipal-corporation-2178698.html>