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Geotagging of Miyawaki forests undertaken to study impact

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Mangaluru: The geotagging of nearly 600 saplings that were planted at the Government Higher Primary School Golihattu near Nelyadi last month, was completed on Friday. This is part of a study to compare a normal forest with the Miyawaki forests, or the urban forests that are gaining in popularity across India.

Geographical tagging, also known as geotagging, is the process of adding geographical identification data. This data consists of latitude and longitude coordinates. The coordinates could then be used to identify the geo-tagged tree, and monitor them through satellites.

Durga Singh, a Mescom employee, has initiated the development of Miyawaki forests in schools in rural areas. Out of the four projects taken up by him, this year he has completed two projects in Government Higher Primary School Golihattu near Nelyadi and Government School Alanthaya in Puttur. Durga Singh reached out to plant biotechnologist Smitha Hegde, and she along with her team, geotagged 570 trees in six hours.

Smitha Hegde told TOI, "We have already geo-tagged two Miyawaki test sites near Kottara and Mangaladevi, and two regular forests developed in crematoriums at Pachanady and Ullal. Since these sites are in the urban area, when Durga Singh approached us, we decided to take up the geotagging along with a normal forest, so that we have a comparison of the urban and rural areas."

"The purpose is to see if Miyawaki forests actually grow faster and suit the Indian condition. Since they are planted so close together, I am interested in understanding their synergy and the tree-to-tree talk, how different species behave when they are together or apart. Maybe, in the future, if someone wants to develop a Miyawaki forest, we can give them data on the species that grow well. We are trying to generate some data, and find out if it truly works and if it works, what is the right combination for it," she said.

Currently, she has data of more than 3,000 trees. "I would like to see a comparison for a period of 10 years," Smitha added.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/geotagging-of-miyawaki-forests-undertaken-to-study-impact/articleshowprint/85956681.cms>