



Gzb residents come together to plant 20,000 saplings

29 June 2021

Ghaziabad: Amit Agarwal (41), an IT professional and a resident of Kaushambi in Ghaziabad, tested Covid positive in April this year. When many people were struggling with post-Covid complications, Agarwal found motivation and purpose in a plantation drive. Soon after his recovery in May, he decided to volunteer in a plantation drive in Vijay Nagar – the location for an upcoming urban forest. Working professionals like Amit from all over Ghaziabad have joined hands to contribute time and effort to develop a forest in a one-acre plot at Pratap Vihar in Vijay Nagar. The forest is being built in the Japanese Miyawaki style to create a dense habitat for birds, as part of GMC's drive to check air pollution in the city.

Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. It helps build dense and native forests. The system helps to ensure plant growth 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual. It involves planting dozens of native species in the same area and becomes maintenance free after the first three years. At the Pratap Vihar forest, 71 varieties of saplings, including shrubs and climbers are being planted. The drive is being conducted by NGO, Safe Earth, and is supported by the civic body. Around 20,000 saplings will be planted in 18 square patches at this spot. The forest is being built after the success of a pilot plantation drive carried out at Sai Upvan near the Hindon Metro Station where a plot of 1700 sq ft forest ground has been successfully developed as an urban forest.

"I volunteered for Sai Upvan project prior and when this was announced, I joined. I had Covid but since this is for the environment, I was drawn to it. The work starts around 9am and the volunteers join whenever they can," Agarwal said.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/gzb-residents-come-together-to-plant-20000-saplings/articleshow/83939045.cms>