

Greening of S. Gurgaon Planned

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After the success of the 'Selfie with tree' campaign, the NGO Niswarth Kadam has planned to make South Gurgaon greener and better by showering seeds in the Aravali area from a helicopter before the monsoon sets in.

Pramod Raghav, an NRI based in the US, started Niswarth Kadam to bring greenery to Gurgaon and make the city more livable.

At present the Aravali has a rocky terrain and few trees which will be made greener by showering seeds of trees like neem, peepal, banyan and sheesham from a helicopter. The seeds if showered before/during monsoon will grow naturally as the rains will help them to bud.

According to the institution, there are plans to make the Aravalis (protected forest) much greener so that its beauty increases. "They are waiting for heavy rainfall or the onset of monsoon. Even the forest department has given its support to the NGO for this project and is guiding them for the final step," said, Arvind, spokesperson of Niswarth Kadam.

Arvind told *The Statesman* that in the first phase, an aerial survey will be conducted to mark the patches with least number of trees. In the second phase the seeds of various plants will be dropped from helicopter for natural growth.

Arvind said being a pilot project if even only 30 per cent of the trees survive it would be good enough to make the Aravalis greener. "The route will be decided in accordance with the officials of the forest department starting from Bandhwari. Aravalli in Gurgaon will be covered and a similar drive would be carried out in Nuh, Rewari and Narnaul for planting trees," said Arvind.

At a meeting between the NGO and the forest conservator, it was suggested that the institution should also adopt green patches in the Aravalli to check the survival rate of the trees. Pramod has been working for the environment in the US and he returned to India with a dream for a clean and environment friendly city. His aim got a kick after the prime minister called for the 'Clean India -Healthy India' project.

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