



News

Bamboo plantation for clean Ganga, uplift of poor farmers

As many as 1,038 village panchayats across 27 districts of UP have been earmarked for promotion of bamboo plantation on the banks of river Ganga under Namami Gange flagship scheme, National Baans (bamboo) Mission Yojana. According to officials, the bamboo plantation is aimed at augmenting income of marginal farmers. Each district has been allocated Rs 91 lakh and a target of bamboo plantation has been set by the forest department. The forest department in each district will provide bamboo saplings for sowing to village panchayats. Giving details, Bijnor divisional forest officer M Semmaran said, "The government is pushing for organic farming in the Ganga basin to make it pollution-free. Farmers are being trained on how to practice bamboo farming."

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** February 17, 2021**Source:** The Times of India**Experts identify 'super-plant' that absorbs roadside air pollution**

Bushy, hairy-leaved cotoneaster is a "super plant" that can help soak up pollution on busy roads, horticultural experts have said. Scientists at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) looked at the effectiveness of hedges for soaking up air pollution, comparing different types of shrubs including cotoneaster, hawthorn and western red cedar. The study forms part of work by the charity to ease environmental problems such as air pollution, flooding and heatwaves, boosting the benefits of gardens and green spaces. On roads with heavy traffic, the denser, hairy-leaved Cotoneaster franchetii was at least 20% more effective at soaking up pollution compared with other shrubs, the researchers said, though it did not make a difference on quieter streets. The lead researcher, Dr Tijana Blanusa, said: "On major city roads with heavy traffic, we've found that the species with more complex, denser canopies and rough and hairy leaves such as cotoneaster were the most effective."

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** February 18, 2021**Source:** The Guardian**Hyderabad plantation drives to curb pollution fell flat: Study**

The 43 plantation drives conducted under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in Hyderabad in 2019 to curb air pollution have proved ineffective as they were poorly planned, claims a study by the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE). In January 2019, the NCAP launched time-bound action plans for mitigating pollution from various sectors. Under this, 122 non-attainment cities, including Hyderabad, were identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) where the permissible National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were violated. To control the air pollution in these cities, an extensive plantation drive was planned as trees mitigate air pollution by absorbing pollutants via leaf stomata. Some gaseous pollutants are also removed via plant surface.

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The Seoul Metropolitan Government has announced a plan to plant as many as 400,000 trees along 68 tree-lined streets and unused road spaces as part of efforts to reduce fine dust as well as to create rest areas for citizens. Unlike the past when the same trees were monotonously planted in a row, the city government intends to create more dimensional tree-lined streets by arranging a variety of short and tall trees in a mixed manner. Street green belts will be newly created for the pedestrian spaces adjacent to five trunk roads in downtown areas, while about 40 places with outdated green belts will be newly renovated. For four elementary school walkways, a variety of shrubs, arborescents and ground cover plants will be planted in a compact and dense manner. For 17 unused road spaces,

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** February 25, 2021**Source:** Korea Bizwire**Tree plantations for clean air, curbing toxicity ineffective in most cities**

Though the aim of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was to curb toxicity in the country, tree plantations done under it in most cities have been ineffective. This was revealed in a recent study done by Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), which analysed the work done under plantation initiative of NCAP. Fifteen out of 122 non-attainment cities were identified for the analysis out of which seven — Korba, Hyderabad, Delhi, Agra, Chandigarh, Varanasi and Guwahati — responded to Right to Information (RTI) queries. The plantation locations shared by authorities were plotted using Google Earth and superimposed on pollution hotspots of the city, using maps from APnA city programme of Urban Emissions. Analysis showed that in most cases,

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** February 26, 2021**Source:** The Times of India

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