



NEWS BULLETIN

# Plants and Pollution

## ENVIS RP-NBRI

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Vol. 01, January 2021

## Plantation: Creating a Greener World

CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

### Delhi govt to set up cell to monitor tree trans-planting

[The Indian Express, 7 January 2021](#)

Delhi's tree transplantation policy has received flak from several quarters, who say that transplantation should be a rare exercise and development projects should be built around existing tree cover so that an area is not suddenly devoid of its green cover.

The Delhi government will set up a dedicated Tree Transplantation Cell to help agencies with the process, after it passed the Tree Transplantation Policy.

Under the new policy, 80 per cent of all trees to be affected by a development project will have to be mandatorily transplanted.

The process, however, is complex, with several transplanted trees either not surviving beyond two years and others achieving only stunted growth.

Environment minister Manish Sisodia met officials of the Environment and Forest Department Wednesday and passed directions to initiate work on setting up the Cell and build technical know-how of the transplantation process.

He also directed the Forest Department to initiate the process of empanelment of agencies that have the experience of tree transplantation, a government statement said.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has also been formulating a separate policy for dust control at construction sites bigger than 20,000 metre square.

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### 50 million trees by 2030 for green cover towards clean coal initiative: Eco Survey

[The Economic Times, 29 January 2021](#)

NEW DELHI: Plans are afoot for plantation of 50 million trees on 20,000 hectare of land by 2030 as part of clean coal initiatives, the Economic Survey for 2020-21 said on Friday. Under the initiative about 54,500 hectare land has been brought under green cover by planting 132 million trees, the Survey for 2020-21 laid in Parliament said.

For creating a carbon sink "about 54,500 ha land has been brought under green cover by planting 132 million trees - estimated carbon sink of 2.7 lakh tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent/year. Plan to cover 20000 ha of additional area by plantation of around 50 million trees by 2030," the Survey said.

The survey further noted that two Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Projects with considerable potential for carbon footprint reduction are in the pipeline. Further, surface coal gasification projects involving 100 million tonnes (MT) coal by 2030 with relatively lesser carbon footprint are on the anvil.

Underlining that several amendments were brought into the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 through the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020, the Survey said that a total of 11 coal blocks are allocated under Mines and Minerals(Regulation and Development) (MMDR) Act.

"Further, directions had been issued to the Nominated Authority for allocation of 25 coal blocks by auction for sale of coal. Of the auction of 38 coal mines for commercial mining in June-2020, 19 were successfully auctioned (a success rate of 50 per cent as compared to 30 per cent in the past)," it said. In FY20, the production of raw coal in India was 729.1 million tonnes (MT).....

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### Only 2.8% plantation target achieved under Green India Mission: Economic Survey

*Down To Earth, 29 January 2021*

World The central government's afforestation scheme, Green India Mission (GIM), was able to only achieve 2.8 per cent of its plantation target, according to the Economic Survey released by the Ministry of Finance on January 29, 2021. The target of the 10-year scheme flagged off in 2015 is to increase forest/tree cover on 5 million hectares (m ha) of forest/non-forest land and improve the quality of forest cover on another 5 m ha area. However, as of March 2020, plantation under the scheme was undertaken only over 0.14 m ha land.

"The various afforestation activities, including tree plantation, were taken up over 8.49 m ha area from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under the various schemes of the Central Government, inclusive of 0.14 m ha under this mission," the survey says. A 2018 parliamentary committee report on GIM found that the scheme was grossly underfunded.

"The scheme is proposed for 10 years with an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore. During 2017-18, Rs 47.8 crore was allocated for the scheme which is grossly insufficient as the committed liability for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is Rs 89.53 crore which is much more than the budget allocated," the report titled Performance of the National Action Plan on Climate Change pertaining to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change' said.

The report found that the scheme had also missed its targets by 34 per cent in both 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years. Instead of the targeted 67,956 ha, only 44,749 ha land got green cover each year.

The committee also pointed out that the afforestation done under the mission was only aimed at increasing tree count without considering the soil and weather conditions. "Trees like eucalyptus were planted which make environmental problems worse rather than..... [Read More...](#)

### Large scale plantation drive launched

*The Times of India, 30 January 2021*

CHENNAI: Bobble AI, a conversation media platform that offers engaging smartphone keyboard solutions and personalised content, joined hands with the volunteer-based organisation, Robin Hood Academy and announced a new campaign, Academy Greens – #Treesfor2050.

Robin Hood Academy, an education initiative of Robin Hood Army that works with street children, aims at planting 200,000 trees with the academy students across various nations and create awareness about the repercussions of losing green cover in urban spaces. The idea of the campaign is to instil a sense of responsibility towards the environment in the minds of people through the usage of conversational stickers.

Bobble AI has created a special sticker pack for the campaign and tapped the total number of #Treesfor2050 stickers shared through the Indic keyboard by its users and then planted the same number of saplings on Republic Day.

"The issue of environmental protection is of great relevance in current times, especially after the COVID 19 pandemic when the world had to pay the price for being negligent. We have taken this initiative to inspire companies at large and individuals, in particular, to be more mindful of the environmental issues that we are facing today," said Ankit Prasad, founder, and CEO, Bobble AI.

"We are looking forward to a large-scale plantation through the hands of our little Robins. We urge all the users of Bobble AI to share as many #Treesfor2050 stickers as possible so that we can spread the word ..... [Read More...](#)