



# Government Plans to Turn South Haryana Greener

## Why in News?

According to the forest department, **Six districts in south Haryana** are prepared to **plant 2.4 million saplings** in the 2024 monsoon season.

## Key Points

- **Faridabad** will lead the initiative by planting **5 lakh saplings**, followed by **Mahendergarh with 4.9 lakh saplings**.
  - **Palwal** and **Gurgaon** will plant **3.7 lakh and 3.4 lakh saplings**, respectively, while **Nuh and Rewari** are planning to plant **3.3 lakh saplings each**.
- The **Gurgaon's urban area** has a **forest cover of less than 1%** despite yearly large-scale plantation efforts. 2024's extensive plantation campaign is focused on boosting the green cover.
  - To ensure the success of the plantation drive, the forest department plans to **involve local communities and raise awareness** about the significance of trees.
  - The planting initiatives will probably be paired with **educational initiatives to raise awareness** about the benefits of preserving and safeguarding the newly established green areas.
- This project aims to improve the air quality of Gurgaon which is one of the most polluted according to **IQAir**, a Swiss company.
  - According to the report by this firm, the **PM 2.5 concentration** in the city rose by 11% in 2021 compared to 2020.
- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** indicates a **decline of 2.47sq km of forest cover between 2019 and 2020**.
  - However, simply planting a large number of trees without ensuring their survival is not an effective solution. The survival rate of saplings in the region stands at only 10 to 20%, underlining the insufficiency of mass plantation drives.
  - Environmentalists stress the need for plantation drive audits and the revival of native species to enhance biodiversity in the area.

## Forest Survey of India (FSI)

- FSI was **founded in June 1981** and **headquartered at Dehradun** in Uttarakhand.
- It is under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- This organisation conducts **forest surveys, studies and researches** to periodically monitor the changing situations of land and forest resources.
- It presents the data for **national planning, conservation and sustainable management of environmental protection** as well as for the implementation of social forestry projects.

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# Air Pollutants

## Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

**Impact:** Causes respiratory problems.

## Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC) under the action of the sun.

**Impact:** Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

## Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

**Impact:** Chronic lung disease.

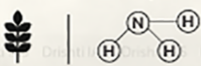
## Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

**Impact:** Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

## Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

**Impact:** Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

## Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

**Impact:** Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

## Particulate Matter (PM)



**PM10:** Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

**PM2.5:** Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

**Source:** Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

**Impact:** Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

**Note:** These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



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