



# Van Mahotsav Programme

## Why in News?

Recently, The Chhattisgarh Forest Department organised a **Van Mahotsav programme** in the **Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district** by planting saplings using the [Miyawaki method](#).

## Key Points

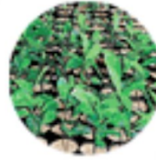
- Around 6,000 seedlings were planted at five distinct locations. The **primary aim** behind adopting the Miyawaki technique is **to mitigate [urban heat islands](#) and [pollution](#)**.
- **Miyawaki method:**
  - It was **named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki**, this method **involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees** within every square metre.
  - The **methodology was developed in the 1970s**, with the **basic objective to densify green cover** within a small parcel of land.
  - In this method, **the trees become self-sustaining and they grow to their full length within three years**.
    - The plants used in the Miyawaki method are mostly **self-sustaining and don't require regular maintenance like manuring and watering**.
  - **Significance:**
    - The **dense green cover of indigenous trees plays a key role in absorbing the dust particles of the area** where the garden has been set up. The plants also **help in regulating surface temperature**.
      - Some of the common indigenous **plants that are used for these forests include Anjan, Amala, Bel, Arjun and Gunj**.
    - These forests **encourage new biodiversity and an ecosystem which in turn increases the fertility of the soil**.

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# The Miyawaki method for restoring tropical forests



Germinate the seeds in a nursery, When two to three leaves have sprouted, move the seedlings to pots, Cultivate the seedlings in pots until their root groups generally fill the containers,



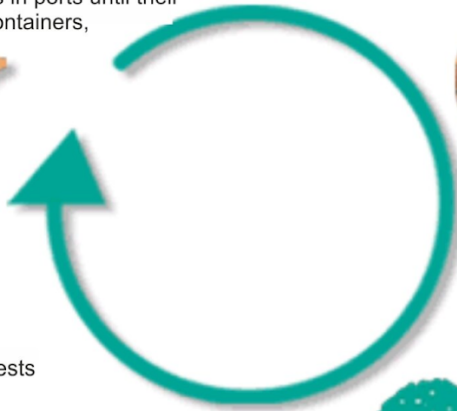
Cultivate under nets designed to cut out 60 percent of the sunlight for one to two months



Cultivate under nets designed to cut out 40 percent of the sunlight for one to two months.



Obtain seeds from natural tropical forests



## "No management is best management"



Plant and conduct maintenance for one to two years, From the third year entrust the trees to natural management At this point the rule is "No management is the best management"



Adapt to the natural environment in an existing forest (period of between one week and one month).