THE TIMES OF INDIA

Residents come together to plant a lakh trees in and around Gurgaon Sector 83

Pics: Samik Sen

School students also participated in the drive

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While Gurugrammers are protesting the proposal to cut 1,300 trees in the Old Gurgaon area, other groups and residents of Gurgaon have decided to extend the green cover of their city through the launch of a massive tree plantation drive at Vatika INX, Sector 83. The plantation drive, started by Enviro, the facilities management wing of Vatika, saw local residents, members of Hope NGO, and students from Matrikiran School plant several hundred trees, shrubs, and saplings in the gardens of Vatika INXT. Residents will be planting a total of one lakh trees in the sectors of New Gurgaon over the next two months as part of the drive.

"While Delhi is trying to save its existing trees, we have decided to increase our green cover to make sure the city is green and clean for the coming generation," said ecologist Dr Prasoon Kumar. He said that the trees they were planting were mostly fruit trees like mango. "This will attract more birds as they will come for both food and shelter. That will help us create a nice ecosystem similar to the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary nearby. In the coming years, we want this side of Gurgaon to be the next Sultanpur," Dr Kumar added.

Suhas, a Gurgaon resident, said, "Taking such a step is important. While our generation did get to climb on trees and play under them, the next generation will see even lesser trees." Apart from local residents, about a dozen students from Classes VI-X of Matrikiran School also joined the drive. Sejal Lochan, a Class X student, said, "It was great fun and also something that made us understand our responsibility towards the environment. Hopefully, we will plant more trees in the coming time."

Dr Prasoon Kumar, ecologist

Viren Khanna, New Delhi Nature Society