

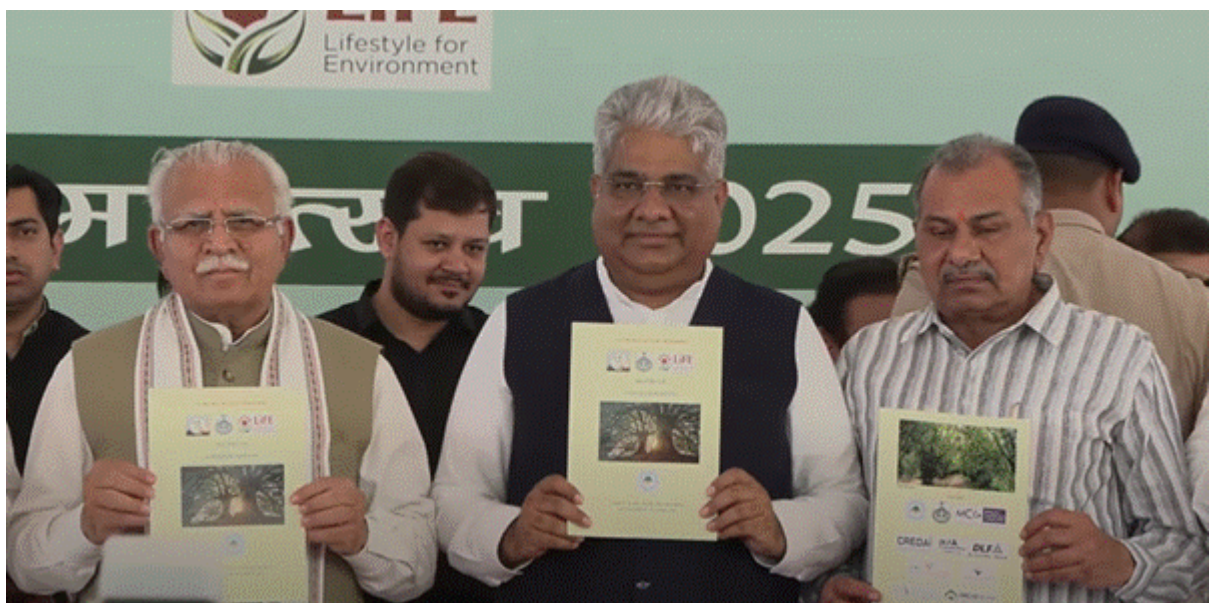
Union Ministers Shri Manohar Lal and Shri Bhupender Yadav preside over the Launch of 'Matri Van' Initiative in Gurugram - a theme-based Urban Forest spread over 750 acres in the Aravalli Hill area

'Matri Van' Green Cover will act as a Heart and Lung for the whole of Delhi NCR: Shri Bhupender Yadav

Shri Manohar Lal encouraged citizens to imbibe the tradition of Preventing Deforestation and Planting more Trees to become Van Mitras

Posted On: 02 AUG 2025 1:48PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, along with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs; and Power, Shri Manohar Lal, presided over the ceremonial launch of the 'Matri Van' initiative - a green legacy symbolizing ecological preservation and community participation - under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Programme of Government of India. The event was organized by the Forest Department of Haryana as part of the Van Mahotsav 2025, in Gurugram today. The occasion also saw participation of other dignitaries including Shri Rao Narbir Singh, Minister for Industries and Forest (Haryana), along with senior public representatives and officials from the State Government, were also present during the programme.



The 'Matri Van' initiative - a theme based urban forest dedicated to nurturing generations through mother-nature-inspired green efforts - would be developed in an area of 750 acres in the Aravalli Hill area, along the

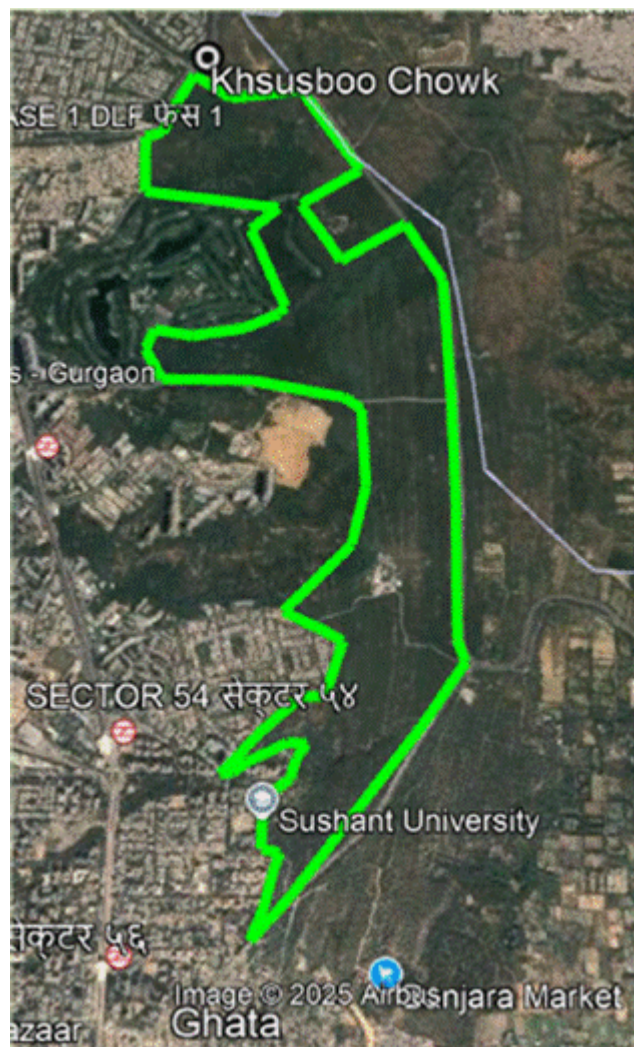
Gurugram-Faridabad Road. It is envisioned as a unique ecological and cultural space that will contribute to biodiversity, public well-being, and urban sustainability. This vision would be achieved through a multi-stakeholder collaboration involving CSR partners, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), NGOs, multinational corporations (MNCs), school children and government organizations.

Addressing the event, Shri Manohar Lal talked about how Carbon emissions have become the foremost global challenge for mankind. Besides using carbon capture technology to fight this challenge, the Minister encouraged citizens to imbibe the tradition of preventing deforestation and planting more trees to become Van Mitras. He laid stress on how India's increasing share of non-fossil fuel based power generation is going a long way in reducing carbon emissions. He informed that the share of renewable energy sources has already crossed 50% in the energy mix of the country. Further, the Minister added that metro cities like Gurugram must become an example for others in pioneering initiatives like green buildings, eco-tourism through wildlife safaris, theme-based biodiversity parks etc.

In his address, Shri Bhupender Yadav noted that the 'Matri van' green cover will act as a heart and lung for the whole of Delhi NCR. He thanked the Haryana Government for playing a huge role in providing this forest land, which is currently covered with thorny bushes, and developing it as a 'Matri Van', by planting tree species endemic to Aravallis. This project would provide the public, including young and senior citizens alike, a serene environment to lead a healthy and stress free life. Gurugram would become a clean and green City that would be the foremost example of an 'Ideal Millennium City' for others, Shri Yadav added.

The Minister thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his vision of greening Aravallis to rejuvenate the hill range by planting local tree species. He also noted the important role of Mother Nature in nurturing the human race, and how the 'Ek Ped Ma ke Naam' initiative is a pioneering effort under PM's vision to express gratitude towards Mother Nature. On the same lines, the Minister brought out different components under Mission LiFE - Save Food, Save Water, Save Energy, Solid Waste Management, e-waste Management, Ban on Single Use Plastic, follow Healthy Lifestyle - a vision that the Prime Minister has presented to the World.

‘MATRI VAN’ Initiative in Gurugram



The main components of the ‘Matri Van’ would include removal of existing bushes like Kabuli Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) and plantation of Dhak/Amaltash Trees along Gurugram-Faridabad Road, while creating theme-based Plantation Groves to restore local ecology in the Aravallis. It would include plantation of long rotation trees like Bargad, Peepal, Gullar, Bael Patra, Imli, Pilkhan, Neem, Dhak, Semal, Khirni, Desi Kadam, Amaltash, Bamboo, Aravalli species like Dhauk, Salar, Kullu, Khairi and shrubs like Goya Khair, Gangeran, Marod falli etc.

The theme-based Plantation Groves would be carved out in the Maitri Van, as follows:

- **Bodhi Vatika:** Grove of Bargad, Peepak, Gullar, Pilkhan
- **Bamboosetum:** Group of Bamboo species
- **Aravalli Species Arboretum**
- **Pushp Vatika:** Group of Species of Flowering Trees
- **Sugandh Vatika:** Group of Species of fragrance
- **Medicinal Plants vatika**
- **Nakshtra Vatika**
- **Rashi Vatika**
- **Cactus Garden**
- **Butterfly garden**

The Matri Van would further include nature trails, cycle track, yoga places, sitting places/gazebos, public facilities, parking at four corners, treated water irrigation system/misting/sprinkling, waterbodies at selected locations for conservation of water and to check urban flooding.

Earlier in the day, the dignitaries also reviewed the Aravalli Jungle Safari Park and participated in sapling plantation at IMT Manesar on 5 locations identified by HSIIDC.



VM/SK

(Release ID: 2151693)