



Proposal for Mangar Bani forest demarcation

Bagish K Jha | TNN | Feb 4, 2016



The forest department's move to suggest the state government to demarcate 1943 acres of land in the Aravali hills, located along Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, as Mangar Bani forest. Less

GURGAON: City-based environmentalists have welcomed the forest department's move to suggest the state government to demarcate 1943 acres of land in the Aravali hills, located along Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, as Mangar Bani forest. They hope the move is the first in a series of decisions, to protect the Aravalis in Haryana.

Environmentalist Chetan Agrawal, who has been fighting for the protection of Mangar Bani for years, hailed the forest department's move, saying it gives a clear message that environment and forests are also important along with development.

"Mangar Bani is very important for Gurgaon and the entire NCR. It now seems that the state government, too, has understood the importance of this eco-sensitive area in the Aravalis," said Agrawal. "Mangar Bani, along with the Aravalis, plays an important role in the recharge of groundwater. Protection of this area is also important for conservation of water," he added.

Agrawal said the Mangar Bani forest area was actually a panchayat land. By all dubious means, these lands were transferred in the names of private people. "This caused the entire problem. People started purchasing this land for constructing farmhouses and other purpose," he said.

Welcoming the move, Vivek Kamboj of Haryali, a city-based NGO, said amid the dark cloud of destruction of forests and the environment, the move has come as a silver lining for conservation. "This is just a beginning and we hope the government build on this to protect our forest," he said. "The move will be helpful in sustainable development and act as a long-lasting step for ecology of the area. Development without environment will not survive," he added.

Colonel (retired) S S Oberoi, a city-based environmental activist and legal expert, said, "The decision was taken along expected lines. It's a welcome move. This seems to be just the first in a series of decisions to protect the Aravalis in Haryana for future generations."

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Proposal-for-Mangar-Bani-forest-demarcation/articleshow/50845886.cms>