

# MIYAWAKI ON MGU



Once we thought of trees in terms of timber, medicine, fuel and the like. Today viewing from different angles- particularly from urban heat chambers, we think of them in terms of our very survival mechanism. It all began with increased concentration of human activities in urban spaces. Life on urban islands is not new to this era. But the tragedy is that these islands are turning to heat chambers offsetting all our claims on developments and realization of the much hyped urban dreams. The enormity of the problems that knocks at our doors cannot simply be drawn using expressions like loss of green cover or climatic fluctuations. The life-threatening changes we are through are almost unscalable. Countries like ours are facing nothing short of climatic breakdown. Between 2001 and 2018 what India has lost is about 1.8 million hectares of tree cover, that is four times the geographical area of Goa! India's commitment to UNFCCC to cover 33% of its geographical area with forest cover by 2022 may be viewed in this context.

One widely discussed method in recent times to achieve this golden goal is potted seedling method or Miyawaki method of afforestation. This is the method of creating multi-layered forest using native saplings.

Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist is the pioneer of this method. In fact he had created his own four layered system of planting trees.

Unlike solo tree plantations, Miyawaki system of forest houses trees exactly as seen in natural settings with no reservations.

Mahatma Gandhi University campus which spares no chance to celebrate the green colour has welcomed a project for Miyawaki model of islet last year. The project is supported by the Directorate of Environment and Climate change. The 3.5 cent of land earmarked for this project has been meticulously filled with a blend of scientifically chosen varieties of indigenous saplings. The mission of the team of researchers under Asst. Prof. Dr. Mahesh Mohan behind the implementation of this project is to evolve the right approach for the Miyawaki model in Kerala. As the project picks up more colleges affiliated to the University are expected to emulate this globally acclaimed green model.

