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# Gurugram: Aravali Biodiversity Park hits a conservation milestone

Ipsita Pati (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Ipsita-Pati-479253023.cms) / TNN / Updated: Feb 3, 2022, 11:29 IST



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GURUGRAM: The Aravali Biodiversity Park on Wednesday received the country's first other effective areas-based conservation measures (OECM) recognition for its 392-acre sprawl of lush green on rocky terrain that has been conserved with great effort as Gurgaon has developed and grown rapidly around it.

The OECM recognition from the ministry of environment, forest and climate change

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(MoEFCC) and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India was bestowed on the occasion of World Wetland Day on Wednesday and takes the park into the database of the [United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#).



The MoEFCC, NBA, United Nations Development Programme and other agencies are engaged in the process of identifying, mapping and documenting OECMs across India and sending their details to the centre for inclusion in its database.

OECM is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests. The park, which once was an abandoned mining pit, was transformed into a lush green forest patch in 10 years. Now, it has about 400 native species of plants.

“Aravali Biodiversity Park in Haryana has been identified as an OECM,” said [Vivek Saxena](#), MD of the Haryana Forest Development Corporation.

According to MoEFCC, the OECMs are a new conservation approach separate from protected areas, where conservation is achieved mainly as a by-product of other management. OECMs are recognised rather than designated, ie they are existing management systems that already provide effective biodiversity conservation.

A wide range of sites in India have the potential to become OECMs, which can be managed by the government, communities or privately. According to experts, there is a growing support for

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conserving at least 30% of our planet by 2030 to halt biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems. "To achieve this target, we need to find land apart from already-protected areas like sanctuaries and national parks. These areas have a lot of restrictions which are not accepted by many people. Thus, we need to redefine the objective of conservation. Now, we are finding areas and declaring them as 'conserved sites' without putting too many restrictions," NBA chairperson Dr VB Mathur said.

Asked what the site or the agency managing it gains from the OECM tag, Mathur said, "They get benefits in terms of reputation. They can spread the word that they work to conserve the environment in an effective manner. This is a win-win situation both for other private players and for the environment.

In the recent past, a proposal for a road project that would have to cut through a section of the park triggered protests by several residents' groups who were concerned that construction work would damage a portion of the park. The proposal has been put on hold.

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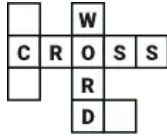
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**GURUGRAM:** The 392-acre Aravali Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, once an abandoned mining pit, has come a long way over the past ten years. It is now a growing forest patch and home to at least 400 native plant species.

The curator of the Aravali Biodiversity Park, Vijay Dhasmana, said that its journey encourages ecological restoration of other damaged or degraded forest zones.

After the area hit a conservation milestone on Wednesday, he said, "It is a welcome step, a recognition that the area needs to get protected for its biodiversity. The story that goes around the world is about how a mining pit got restored, encouraging eco-restoration."

Dhasmana said that in 2009, Atal Kapoor, an architect, identified the land. "In 2010, the park was mostly barren and whatever vegetation we saw was young 'vilayeti keekar' (Prosopis juliflora) —an invasive alien species that had been colonising the area. At the start in 2011, we identified rootstocks of native plants and gave them protection and removed the non-native species."

The area was a large canvas to paint on with plants, said Dhasmana. It took several visits to Mangar Bani, Sariska and other forests to develop the area. "We took then MCG Commissioner Sudhir Rajpal to see Mangar Bani, so he could see what we meant when we spoke about native wilderness," Dhasmana said.

From 2012-20, NGO IamGurgaon was tasked with conservation work in the area, including setting up a nursery of native plants. "We were given eight years to implement several tasks," Dhasmana, who is with the NGO, said. Hero MotoCorp took over the work in 2021, and Dhasmana remained the curator.

Recalling the first steps, he said, "We made a list of at least 200 plant species native to the rocky Northern Aravalis. Then, we had to get hold of

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their seeds and take complete charge of rewilding the landscape. When the fruiting season came, we mounted a massive collection drive for seeds and vegetative cuttings.”

Later, citizens and children planted the seeds on the rocky slopes, Dhasmana recalled. Over 50 school kids, 68 corporate volunteers and thousands of individuals planted 1,45,000 seeds in the area over the past ten years.

The area also needed monitoring and irrigation. “We set up a drip irrigation network in some areas, where irrigation by our gardeners was not so easy. We irrigated areas with water from the sewage treatment plants of DLF and Hotel Le Meridien,” said Dhasmana.

After that, it was about patience. “Things are slow in dry, rocky places. We knew that we had to hold out for a few more years before we could offer clear evidence that our approach was paying off. Today, the area showcases over 400 plant species and has become a haven for birds, animals and insects,” he added.

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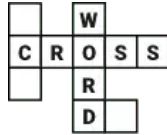
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# CIMS Super Speciality Hospital is the one-stop solution for all heart problems: They restore, repair and replace hearts

SPOTLIGHT / Feb 9, 2022, 08:51 IST



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Most patients who are considered for heart transplants are at a possibility of end-stage heart failure. This is a condition where the patient's heart is severely damaged or weakened or in people on whom other options of treatment have been unsuccessful. More than 20% of the population is diagnosed with Heart Failure in India, and patients here are ten years younger than the global average.



Statistics show that more than 50,000 persons suffer from Heart Failure annually, but only about 50 to 100 heart transplants are performed every year in India. However, since 2016, improved

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coordination between donation, retrieval and transplantation has led to a 10-fold increase in heart transplantations.



At a time when transplants are becoming an increasing challenge due to the paucity of donors, CIMS has achieved a milestone in heart transplants, having just completed the 25 transplant surgery. In a significant achievement in the medical history of Gujarat, CIMS Super Specialty Hospital, Ahmedabad, (A Marengo Asia Network Hospital) has become the first and only hospital in Gujarat and among the few in the country to have reached the landmark. With four heart transplants carried out in the last fortnight of December 2021, CIMS has garnered great prestige for its already renowned cardiac department. It will be remembered that Gujarat's first successful Heart Transplant surgery was also at CIMS Super Specialty Hospital in December 2016.



## 25th Heart Transplant | CIMS Hospital

CIMS Super Speciality Hospital Ahmedabad has completed 25 heart transplant surgeries in five years, of which the last 14 have been in the past one year and the last 8 in just two months and 4 Heart Transplants were performed in the latter

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part of December 21. It might be important to note that this successful number can be attributed to an increase in Gujarat's Organ Donation awareness rate.

CIMS has a strong team of Cardiac Sciences experts who are armed with global expertise to bring clinical excellence to the most complex and challenging heart surgeries. With the requirement of robust teamwork, CIMS is well equipped with the best of Anesthetists, Infectious Disease experts, Nephrologists, Immunologists, Pathologists – Microbiologists, Radiologists, Hematologists, Intensivists, Gastrophysicians, and Nursing teams and Physiotherapy teams - urgently required for successful outcomes in Heart Transplantations.



CIMS is reputed to establish new benchmarks for optimised quality in medical care. The milestones achieved by the hospital have been repeatedly recognized by International bodies like the American College of Cardiology that accredited CIMS as the first hospital in India as a 'Center of Excellence'; the distinction of being the first centre to establish an ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation) program in Gujarat for Heart and Lung Failure patients; the only centre to have implanted LVAD (permanent heart support machine) and proficiency in planting artificial Hearts. Also, CIMS holds the distinction of being the only multi-speciality hospital of Ahmedabad to be internationally accredited for quality care and patient safety by Joint Commission International (JCI), USA.

The Hospital's exclusive Heart Failure Clinic has enrolled almost 2500 patients and performed a

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complete evaluation of the condition in accordance with international guidelines and protocols as followed in leading hospitals in the USA.



CIMS takes pride in reporting a high success rate in the transplant surgeries conducted by their team of doctors. All their transplant patients are living a healthy and everyday life - going to work, carrying out household chores, experiencing excellent mobility - of course, with the support of their doctor's advice, diet, and exercise. Being a frontrunner in the philanthropic arena, CIMS has been imparting significant awareness about organ donation and has recently transplanted a heart for an underprivileged 14 -year old patient & a 19-year-old female patient whose surgery funds were secured through crowdfunding platform.

Although challenges to long-term survival remain, the outcome among transplant recipients has improved over several decades due to the careful recipient and donor selection, advances in immunosuppression, and the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections.

This is nothing short of a medical marvel in witnessing such recovery of patients from surgeries such as these complex ones.

Although barriers to long-term survival remain, the outcome among transplant recipients has improved over several decades due to the careful recipient and donor selection, advances in immunosuppression, and the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections. It's a matter of giving a valuable one to two decades of life to a person who otherwise would not have survived even 2 years. This is the medical marvel that has

been brought to the state of Gujarat by CIMS Hospital. one to two CIMS can help you get a new heart and take care of it.

***Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed are their independent professional judgment of the doctors, and we do not take any responsibility for the accuracy of their views. This should not be considered as a substitute for medical advice. Please consult your treating physician for more details. This article has been produced on behalf of CIMS Hospital by Times Internet's Spotlight team.***

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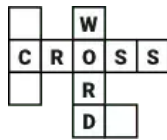
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Gurgaon: Union environment minister Bhupender Singh Yadav has said the persistent issue of waterlogging in Najafgarh will be resolved within six months.

The minister was speaking on the occasion of World Wetland Day in Sultanpur on Wednesday.

"We have already constituted a committee which will submit a report on the Najafgarh lake. The issue of waterlogging in nearby areas will be solved within six months," he said.

Both Delhi and Haryana have already submitted environmental management plans to the National Green Tribunal, which has forwarded it to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change for the formulation of a joint plan.

The 7sqkm water body is important for Gurgaon as it acts as a large aquifer for groundwater recharge. Many creeks in the Aravalis flow into the Najafgarh jheel, which is further connected to the Yamuna.

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) had filed a petition in NGT for protection of the water body in 2018.



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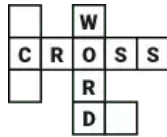


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