

## RAMANUJAN COLLEGE TAKES A GREEN LEAP FORWARD WITH MIYAWAKI FOREST PATCH PLANTATION



In a significant stride towards a greener and more sustainable future, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi took a momentous step by initiating the planting of a Miyawaki Forest Patch within the college premises on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

This Environmental Initiative was the result of a collaborative effort by Ramanujan College and the Shri Hara Kasturi Memorial Trust of the Merino Industries located in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. The Miyawaki Forest technique, named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, is an accelerated reforestation method that focuses on creating dense, diverse, and self-sustaining forests in a relatively short span of time. This groundbreaking approach involves planting a wide variety of native plant species closely together in a small area, mimicking the natural growth patterns found in undisturbed forests. This results in a forest patch that grows faster and denser than conventional reforestation methods, making it a powerful tool for biodiversity restoration and combating climate change.

Drawing inspiration from Shri Prakash Lohia, Managing Director of the Merino Industries, Ramanujan College decided to create a green area using the Miyawaki technique. Merino Industries provided not only expert advice but also 120 saplings, quality manure, rice husk and saw dust for the proper preparation of the plant bed. The gardeners of the college, assisted by teachers and students enthusiastically created the Miyawaki Forest patch. With proper care and nurturing, we hope that in a few months flourishing dense forest area will be created.

One of the key advantages of the Miyawaki Forest technique is its ability to sequester carbon dioxide at an exceptional rate. The densely packed trees and plants facilitate efficient carbon absorption, helping to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases and contributing to the college's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. Additionally, the diverse array of native plant species fosters a thriving ecosystem that supports local wildlife, improves air quality, and enhances the overall well-being of the campus community.

The planting event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of the college's dedicated team of professors, all of whom share a collective vision for a greener and more sustainable environment. With plant saplings in hand in hand and determination in their hearts, the professors planted a variety of native saplings, marking the commencement of the Miyawaki Forest Patch project. The planting process is not only a symbolic gesture towards environmental conservation but also an embodiment of the college's commitment to being a responsible steward of the planet.

As the Miyawaki Forest Patch takes root and flourishes, it will serve as an inspiring example for other institutions and communities to follow. Ramanujan College's endeavour exemplifies the power of collaborative efforts and innovative thinking in addressing pressing environmental challenges. The college is excited to witness the growth of this unique forest patch and anticipates a future where it becomes a thriving hub of biodiversity, tranquillity, and ecological restoration.

The journey towards a greener tomorrow has just begun at Ramanujan College, and the Miyawaki Forest Patch stands as a testament to the institution's dedication to a sustainable future. As the forest takes shape and evolves, it will be a living reminder of the profound impact that a united community can make in nurturing the environment for generations to come.