

Lush green forest gifted!



Oxygen to Aravallis' lungs

This new 'forest' has been planted with 500 saplings indigenous to the region like Ronj, Bel, Dhak, Dhok, Shisham, Amla, Imli, Gular, Chilbil, Pasendu, Jamun, Arjun, Bahera, Ber, Amaltaas, Karonda, Shiris and Shehtoot.



By the people, for the people?

This budding forest is nurtured by 15-20 people who water it day and night. But none of them are from the nearby village. Do the locals know that a 'green lung' has been crafted out of the wasteland in their backyard? If not, they should be told.

Between devil and the deep green cover



This World Environment Day (June 5), the Delhi Government and the Union Ministry of the Environment and Forests took a step ahead of the rest. To mark the International Year of Forest, hosted by India, they jointly gifted a new 'forest' to the nation. Nestling in the foothills of Aravalli, this 84-acre Jaunapur forest is the government's first effort towards reversing the environmental degradation that the 1,500-year-old hills have seen in the recent past. Intrigued, the GT team went to see the forest and instead, stumbled upon the other side of the "line of the peaks" where mining activities have devastated the region. Here, see the stark contrast for yourself.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY



Pretty little lake?

No, you can't go here for a picnic

It may look serene but this site on the Surajkhund-Badkhal road has been mercilessly mined to the extent that the water table has been 'breached' and the water has been pushed to the surface. Please note that the Supreme Court banned mining in this area in 2009.



Scraped to the very last piece of stone

Rajesh Kalra, Chief Editor, Times Internet spotted illegal quarries when his group, the Pedalyatri, went on cycling trips to enjoy nature, right in Delhi's backyard. "We are killing it (the Aravallis) and may not leave anything for our children to see," he says. The picture here is a mining site in Mangar village, on the Faridabad-Gurgaon hill road.