

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Kerala: INS Venduruthy to develop second Miyawaki forest

TNN | Feb 28, 2021, 04.48 AM IST



KOCHI: INS Venduruthy, which bagged the Vanamitra Award for Ernakulam district in January this year, is setting up a second Miyawaki forest within its premises.

In 2020, the Naval Base depot had created a Miyawaki forest in a 10-cent plot near the Navy Children School with help from Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), which successfully piloted urban micro-forest project in 10 districts in the state.

“The second Miyawaki forest, to be developed with help from private institutions, would be inside Katari Bagh and would have a concentration of plants and trees of medicinal value,” the Navy spokesperson said.

“The first set of saplings are planned to be planted in March along with Butterfly Garden, which is an in-house project undertaken by the residents inclusive of the women and children of Katari Bagh. The project is being funded by IOC as part of the corporate social responsibility,” the official said.

In 2020, K-DISC had also partnered with the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) at Kalamassery to set up a Miyawaki stretch — a miniature but dense plantation of native species using potted seedling method.

Miyawaki forests help lower the temperature, make the soil nutritious, enhance the capacity for retention of water and carbon sequestration.

“In INS Venduruthy, they have maintained the first plantation well but it has not grown on expected lines. There are around 1,800 plants in ten cents and they have been all labelled to create awareness among school children,” said a K-DISC official. The second plot is the Navy’s own initiative. “The Miyawaki forest at Cusat campus has also registered good growth,” she said. “The fastest and most dense growth was seen at Government High School at Chalai, Thiruvananthapuram, Munakkal beach at Azhikode and Cusat,” she said. While planting in 10 Miyawaki forests have been completed, two projects at Malappuram and Kozhikode would be completed in a month or two. “We are also planning to undertake an environmental evaluation of these sites, including their impact on air quality and sound pollution, next year,” she said.