

Massive plantation drives bear fruit: UP green cover expands

TNN | Jan 14, 2022, 04:17 AM IST

Lucknow: The state government's massive plantation targets in recent years have led to an increase of over 91 sq km of green cover across the state. Green cover includes forest cover and tree cover.

The state of the forest report (SoFR) 2021 released by the Forest Survey of India on Thursday shows the status of green cover in all states and Union territories of the country.

Uttar Pradesh's green cover has increased from 9.20% to 9.23% in the latest report.

The report is based on satellite assessment and is released every two years.

The 2021 report is based on satellite data from October 2019 till January 2020 and includes the green cover raised due to the plantation exercises taken up by the state governments in the past.

According to the 2019 report, the forest cover (on forest land) in the state was 14,806 sq km.

It increased to 14,818 sq km in the 2021 survey. Similarly, tree cover, which includes green belts outside the forest area, has increased to 7,421 sq km from 7,342 sq km in 2019— an increase of 79 sq km.

The SoFR also gives an assessment of very dense forest (VDF), moderately dense forest (MDF) and open forest (OF) depending on the density of the canopy.

VDF has recorded an increase of 10 sq km and OF has shown an increase of 53 sq km in this report. MDF has shown a decrease of 51 sq km. It is because of decrease in MDF that there has been an increase in OF.