

UP records 2nd highest increase in green cover

UP TURNS GREENER

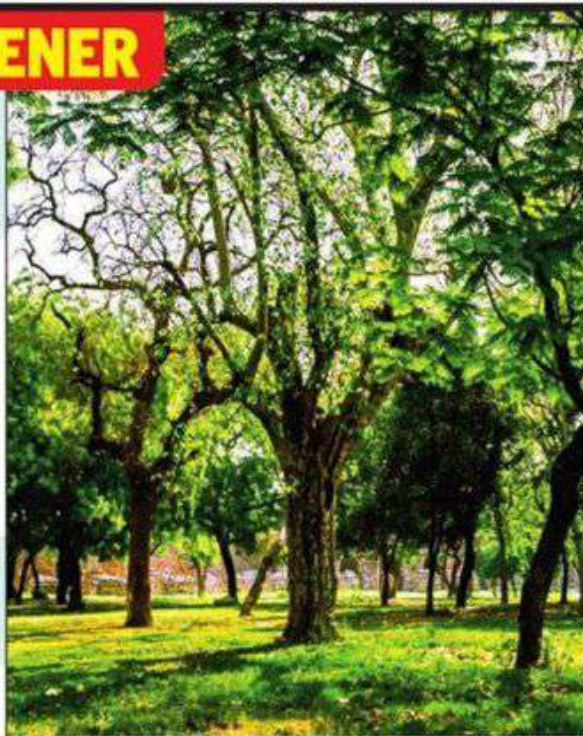


2,40,928 sq km
Geographical area
of Uttar Pradesh

➤ Comparison of **ISFR-2021** and **ISFR-2023** reports shows an increase in forest cover from **14,927.37 sq km (6.2%** of state's geographical area) in **2021** to **15,045.80 sq km (6.24%)** in **2023**

➤ Tree cover increased from **8,510.16 sq km (3.53%)** to **8,950.92 sq km (3.72%)**

➤ Consequently, green cover (forest cover + tree cover) increased from **23,437.53 sq km (9.73%)** to **23,996.72 sq km (9.96%)**



➤ Max increase in forest and tree cover reported in **Chhattisgarh (683.62 sq km)**, followed by **UP (559.19 sq km)**

➤ Forest cover outside **Recorded Forest Area (RFA)** showed max increase in **Gujarat (241 sq km)**, **Bihar (106.8 sq km)**, **Kerala (95 sq km)**, **UP (79 sq km)**, and **Assam (74.9 sq km)**

➤ Max tree cover found in **Maharashtra (14,524.8 sq km)**, **Rajasthan (10,841 sq km)**, and **UP (8,950.9 sq km)**

➤ Top five districts of **UP** in terms of increase in green cover in **2023** report: **Jhansi (8,597 acres)**, **Amroha (7,769 acres)**, **Etawah (7,127 acres)**, **Kanpur City (6,249 acres)**, & **Bijnor (3,343 acres)**

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Lucknow: The state govt's continuous efforts through massive plantation drives, coupled with strict vigilance to protect trees, led to an increase in the state's green cover, which is the second highest in the country after Chhattisgarh.

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, released on Saturday, showed an increase of 559.19 sq km, or 138,179 acres, in the green cover, which comprises forest and tree cover, of UP, which is the second highest nationally.

The state's forest cover increased by over 118 sq km in 2023 compared to the ISFR 2021. Similarly, tree cover increased by around 441 sq km.

The state's green cover is now 9.96% of its total geographical area.

The ISFR 2023 also places UP among the top five states to have recorded the maximum increase in forest outside the Recorded Forest Area (RFA). UP recorded an increase of 79 sq km in forest outside the RFA. The Recorded Forest Area refers to all the geographic areas recorded as forest in govt records.

It is also among the top three states with the maximum tree cover, following Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The report also stated, "The maximum positive change compared to ISFR 2021 has been observed in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and UP," with respect to tree cover. The tree cover re-

fers to the area covered by trees outside the RFA. These areas may have a single tree or patches of trees less than 1 hectare. It includes block plantations, linear plantations, and scattered trees not delineated as forest cover. The planting of more than 210 crore trees in the last seven years of the Yogi govt contributed extensively to the increase in the state's tree cover.

Forest cover, on the other hand, refers to all lands, more than one hectare, and with a tree canopy density of 10% or more, irrespective of ownership, legal status, and use.

Sources in the forest department said that, besides plantation, the emphasis on the protection of trees added to the results.