

Publication	The Times of India
Language/Frequency	English/Daily
Page No	03
Date	13 th Nov 2018



Students unite to spread 'save biodiversity park' message

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Gurgaon: As many as 4,000 school students from across the city will meet at Aravali Biodiversity Park in the city this Children's Day to spread a green message. They don't want the authorities to build a road through the park, which they believe would destroy the city's lone "urban forest".

The move comes following the announcement made by NHAI on the alignment of a new road proposed to be built from NH-8 to Gurgaon-Faridabad Road that passes 20-25 metres inside the compound of the Aravali Biodiversity Park.

On Monday, a few students from Ajanta Public School went to the biodiversity park, and raised questions over the NHAI's road plan "that would destroy the park". Vaibhav Kapoor, principal of Ajanta



Students of Ajanta Public School went to the biodiversity park and raised questions over the road plan

Public School, Sector 31 said, "Preserving every scrap of this park is very important as it is a priceless commodity for humanity. It is a great responsibility of the youth today because we will have to value these landscapes, ecosystems

and make sure that nobody is harming the natural resources."

"We can't allow a road to go through the park. This is insane. This is a national park and a consistent effort to safeguard mother nature is the ne-

ed of the hour," said Ansh, a class 9 student of Ajanta Public School.

Students of over 10 city schools have planned to visit the park on November 14 to express their concerns over the preservation of nature.

Chandan Dhawan, principal, Blue Bells Model School in Sector 4 said, "Our school students are participating in the biodiversity park campaign on November 14 with the motto to request our chief minister and Prime Minister not to destroy the park by constructing the road through the park. Let's us join hands in creating awareness towards a pollution-free environment and unequivocally voice our concern against the construction of 6-lane highway at the cost of destroying the park."

School authorities have alleged that a road through the biodiversity park can completely damage the ecological balance of the area. "Decision-makers worry a lot about economic recessions, but an ecological recession could have even worse consequences and the biodiversity damage we have had means we're at risk

of that happening," said Kanika Ghai, vice-principal of Suraj School in Sector 75.

Rupa Chakravarty, principal, Suncity Schools said: "Without management of the environment there will be no economic growth; so we must look at risks and impacts before taking any decisions. The world banks on environment and social framework should be perused to develop the right and sustainable environment policies but with a local approach."

Rashmi Malik, principal of Salwan Public School, said: "The city is already choking for breath, the road through the biodiversity park will puncture the lungs of Gurgaon."

The Aravali Biodiversity Park, located near the Delhi-Gurgaon border, was originally a stone quarry area spanning 380-acres.