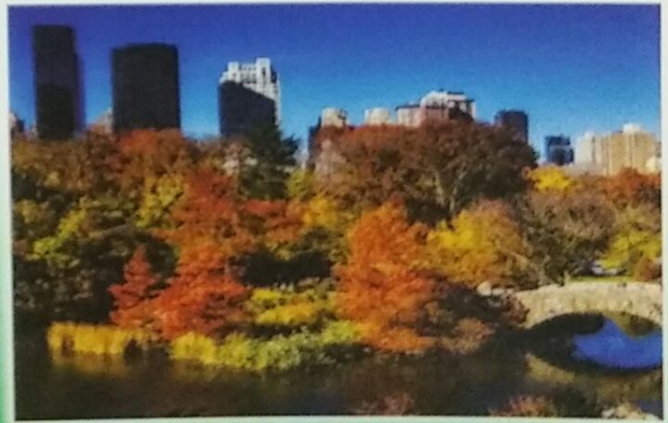




**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board
Government of India**



NAGAR VAN YOJANA
(Revised Guideline Version)



**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board
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जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली॥

NAGAR VAN YOJANA

(Revised Guideline Version)

About Implementation Guidelines

The Pilot Scheme of Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) was started in 2020 with some modifications in existing Nagar Van Udyan Scheme launched in 2015. From the experience gained in its implementation and discussion held with the States/ UTs from time to time, it has been observed that it is very difficult to find forest land within Municipality limit and that too in the extent of minimum 10 ha, which resulted in slow implementation of Scheme.

The Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) has, therefore, been reviewed to bring more area under the scheme and to reach out to all cities with Municipality. The Revised Nagar Van Yojana aims at developing 400 Nagar Van and 200 Nagar Vatika with the objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover in cities leading to better environment, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers.

The salient features of the revised scheme are as under:

1. All cities with Municipal Corporation / Municipalities/Urban Local Bodies (ULB) are proposed to be covered under the scheme.
 2. For Nagar Van minimum area limit is 10 ha to any size, but the grant will be limited to a maximum of 50 ha.
 3. In congested part of the cities minimum 1 ha to 10 ha can be taken up as Nagar Vatika.
 4. Nagar Van site can be up to 5 km distance from the city limit, taking into account future expansion of cities and provide greener surroundings.
 5. Area other than forest land can also be considered.
 6. The Scheme proposes development of 400 Nagar Van and 200 Nagar Vatika in four years i.e. 2021-22 to 2024-25.
 7. Municipal Corporation/ Municipalities/ULBs and other Land owning agencies can also submit proposals through concerned State Forest Department for financial assistance.
 8. Development and Management of Nagar Van and Vatika should encourage PPP mode with active participation of people, students and other stakeholders.
 9. Selection of trees should be from the species best suited for local conditions with emphasis on enriching biodiversity, planting of fruit bearing, medicinal plants species to attract birds, butterflies etc., enhancing ecological values and pollution abatement.
 10. All Nagar Van/ Vatika must be open to public subject to suitable restrictions.
 11. At least two third area of Nagar Van/ Vatika must be under tree cover/ wood lands. Nagar Van/ Vatika may include components of Biodiversity Park, Nakshatra Van, Butterfly Conservatory, Waterbody, Smriti Van and Herbal Garden etc. to attract people and help in in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
 12. The financial assistance component remains the same i.e. Rs. 4 lakh per Ha.
- The above modifications have been incorporated in the guidelines appropriately.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
CER	Corporate Environmental Responsibility
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
GPS	Global Positioning System
KML	Keyhole Markup Language
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NA	National Authority
NAEB	National Afforestation and Eco Development Board
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NVY	Nagar Van Yojana
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PMU	Project Management Unit
RC	Regional Centre
SFD	State Forest Department
ULB	Urban Local Bodies
UT	Union Territory

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Introduction

The forests of India constitute the first line of defence against pollution resulting from economic activity, whether of agricultural or industrial origin. So there is a need to preserve this line with adequate policy interventions for protecting and enhancing India's forest cover and to counter the perils of climate change.

Urbanization is a global phenomenon, the degree of urbanization and the rate of urban growth varies in different parts of the world. This uncontrolled urbanization resulted in deterioration of natural resources and environment in urban areas in many of the cities in India as well as in the world. Nearly two third of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas by 2025. Increase in population has adversely affected the green cover in urban India. Due to this urbanization trend, distance between city inhabitants and nature is increasing. Rapid urbanization has led to severe depletion of forest cover in the last few decades. The depletion of forest cover has in turn adversely affected the ecological balance and the economic stability of the society. The health of the people has been affected as well.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is focused on enhancing forest quality and increasing tree cover for maximizing carbon stock as well as to tackle the ill effects of urbanization. With a view to achieve these objectives, Ministry has taken many initiatives to bring out transformational changes in our policies and programmes and implement several initiatives with the peoples' participation.

The Nagar Van Scheme was initiated during June, 2020-21 during 'World Environmental Day' Celebrations. The implementation of the revamped "Nagar Van" Scheme, from the Nagar Van Udyan Yojana implemented during 2015, aimed to develop 'Nagar Vans' across the country in next five years. The Scheme is revised with a renewed focus on peoples' participation, and is to be implemented in collaborative mode by various agencies. The primary objective is to create forest/green spaces in urban areas, by protecting forest/non-forest land within cities/towns or its vicinity from degradation and encroachment. The scheme is designed to actively engage local residents and different agencies in developing bio-diverse forests for social and environmental benefits in an urban landscape.

The efforts so far made towards ameliorating the ill effects of climate change through afforestation/tree plantation programmes of the Ministry have succeeded to certain extent. Considering there is a need to move towards a holistic approach, necessary modifications in the existing interventions are inevitable. The implementations Guidelines of NVY have been revised based on the feedback from the implementing agencies. These implementation guidelines are expected to give clear idea of the scheme and to expand its benefits by covering more area under the scheme.

NAGAR VAN YOJANA (NVY)

नगर वन योजना

“एक कदम हरियाली की ओर”

Urban forests are green infrastructure in an urban landscape where trees and associated vegetation provide an assortment of environmental services like cleaning the air, improving local environment, recreational and aesthetic value.

A. Vision: To create *Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika* in each City having Municipal Corporation/Municipal council/Municipality/Urban Local Bodies(ULBs) for providing wholesome healthy living environment for the residents and thus contributing to growth of clean, green, healthy and sustainable cities.

B. Objectives:

1. Creating green space and aesthetic environment in an urban set up.
2. Creating awareness about plants and biodiversity and developing environment stewardship.
3. Facilitating in-situ conservation of important flora of the region.
4. Contributing to environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, providing cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect.
5. Extending health benefits to residents of the city and
6. Helping cities become climate resilient.

C. Guidelines for implementation of Nagar Van/Vatika Yojana

A Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika is/will be a forested area in the city or in its vicinity. Nagar Van/Vatika should be accessible to the city

dwellers/general public, and will be suitably managed for providing wholesome natural environment for recreation, education, biodiversity conservation and supported services like water and soil conservation, pollution abatement, reduction of heat islands effect of the city with the essential elements for regular use.

C 1. General:

1. The scheme is proposed to be implemented for a period of five years starting from 2020-21 to 2024-2025.
2. The scheme aims at developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the country in cities having Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Municipalities.
3. Nagar Van may be developed over a minimum area of 10 ha and a maximum of 50 ha within 5 km limits of Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Municipality.
4. Nagar Vatika may be developed in an area of minimum 1 ha and maximum of 10 ha within the city limits.
5. The Scheme aims at development of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika primarily on forest or other land available for greening/tree planting within the limits of municipalities or in its vicinity located within 5 km limit. The purpose will be to improve the density of vegetation by planting judicious mix of different locally appropriate species of shrubs and trees as per local site conditions and protection of forest lands within and in the vicinity of cities which are getting affected/ degraded and are facing the threat of encroachment.
6. Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed on forest or other vacant non-forest public land.
7. The area selected shall be accessible to city dwellers/general public.
8. Nagar Van should have minimum of 2/3rd area under woodland/ tree cover and may be considered on lands other than forest land for expanding green cover in urban spaces.

9. **Implementing agencies other than Forest Departments such as Municipalities may also be considered for development of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika based on recommendations of State Governments.**
10. **Educational institutions, Universities, Government/Non-Government organisations/ULB may also take up 'Nagar Van/Vatika' on land owned by them and the proposals are to be routed through State Government.**
11. **Participation of local people, students in plantations may be encouraged to create a sense of ownership. Innovative concepts like creation of Panchvati, Aushadhi Vatika, Nakshatra Van, Oxyzones etc. may be taken up to attract people in plantation activities.**
12. **The financial modalities of the scheme will be as follows:**
 - a. **The Ministry will provide one time development and non-recurring grant to the implementing agency for creation of an area of Nagar Van/Vatika to a maximum extent of Rs. 2.0 crores for 50 ha. Balance cost will be met by the implementing agency through its own resources.**
 - b. **Financial assistance from Govt. of India under this scheme shall be provided as a grant to State Forest Department (SFD), and the SFD further release the portion of the grant meant for an implementing agency within a period of seven (7) days.**
 - c. **The Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed in a collaborative mode involving forest and other departments of the State/UT Government, NGOs, Industries, Corporate bodies, Civil societies etc.**
 - d. **The Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may be developed with a participatory approach, adopting a PPP model, to ensure public participation in planning, implementation and management of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika. An agreement**

between different stakeholders should be signed as may be needed.

- e. For raising of plantations and developing other components of a Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika, NGOs, Corporate bodies, Industries, civil society, ULBs and other institutions may be involved.
- f. The Implementing Agency of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika may levy user fee, receive grants from other agencies etc. from Year-1 of the scheme itself.
- g. A Corpus of the entire funds received by the implementing agency shall be maintained as an interest bearing account in a government/ public sector bank.
- h. Financial assistance will be provided under this scheme to each Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika for the first two years only.
- i. Detailed account of receipts and Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika wise expenditure shall be maintained by each implementing agency. Likewise, the SFD shall maintain an account of receipts, and implementing agency wise expenditure from its Corpus.
- j. All funds received by implementing agency shall be subject to annual audit by a chartered accountant.

C.II Components of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika

Following items of work may be undertaken in a Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika -

1. Fencing of the area.
2. Establishment and maintenance of woodlots/tree cover with emphasis on locally appropriate tree/shrub species.
3. Theme based plantations, like Smriti Van, Rashi (Nakshatra) Van, etc.

4. Plants to include ornamental trees, shrubs and climbers, medicinal plants, flowering plants, fruit trees etc. to represent floral biodiversity.
5. Irrigation/ rain water harvesting facility.
6. Establishment and maintenance of public conveniences, drinking water facilities, benches, walkways/ footpath, jogging and cycle track etc.
7. Establishment and maintenance of Information and extension centre including I&E kiosk, display boards, signage, information brochures etc.

C.III Formulation of proposal & its approval

1. A detailed project proposal for establishment and maintenance of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika shall be formulated by the concerned implementing agency having possession of the proposed land.
2. The implementing agency shall submit the proposal to State Forest Department (SFD) and the SFD after due scrutiny will forward the proposal to National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, for further consideration.
3. The proposal should include:
 - a) Details of land identified for Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika, along with KML Map of the area on 1:10,000 or larger scale with clear boundary description (GPS coordinates).
 - b) A development cum Management Plan with year wise details of works under different components along with item-wise cost.
4. Implementation of the scheme and its monitoring at state level shall be the responsibility of the SFD.

5. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up in the NAEB, MoEF&CC for coordinating, monitoring, publicity and training of staff in urban greens management under the Scheme.



D. Targets under the scheme

1. The scheme envisages development of 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. An endeavour would be made to identify 400 such Nagar Vans/Vatikas by 2023 as a part of Bharat Ka Amrit Mahotsava.
2. Project proposals from SFD will be considered on a first come first serve basis. However, efforts would be made to spread the Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika at least one in each city of the country.



E. Fund transfer mechanism under the scheme

1. NAEB, on receipt of project proposals for establishment of Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika from SFDs, will examine the same, and present it to the National Authority for release of funds. Each SFD project may be serially numbered. National Authority shall release funds as grant, as per Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and Rules made thereunder, directly to respective SFDs.
2. The Ministry will provide one time grant to the concerned State Government / land owning implementing agency based on the work requirement to the maximum Grant of Rs. 2.00 crores per Nagar Van/Vatika and @Rs.4.00 lakhs per ha.
3. The grant will be released in two instalments, first instalment of 70% of the sanctioned amount will be released to SFDs after the approval of the project by National Authority (NA) and remaining second instalment after 60% utilization of the first instalment and on submission of utilisation certificate and progress report.
4. For meeting the requirement of additional funds, the respective Agency should make necessary provisions for funding in advance. State/ UT Governments/ implementing agency can arrange funds from various resources including CER/CSR funds. Each implementing agency will, however, maintain record of funds received from various agencies and expenditure incurred against that. A commitment to bear the balance cost of the Project should be enclosed with the proposal.
5. Funding Pattern:
 - (a) The funds of Rs. 2.0 crore will mainly cover the following:
 - i. Cost of fencing

- ii. Soil-moisture conservation measures and related activities
 - iii. Administrative cost
 - iv. Plantation and Maintenance cost of plantation
- (b) NGOs, Corporate bodies, Industries, Civil Societies, urban Local Bodies may also be involved and contribute for developing other components, like:
- i. Plantation including raising of nursery/sapling, composting, landscaping and tree planting and its maintenance.
 - ii. Other essential items including Public convenience, Signage, Jogging Track, Nature trail / Footpath, Benches.
 - iii. Special components like arboretum/bamboosetum/ herbal/medicinal plants, etc.
6. Use of locally available material, energy conservation and waste recycling will be encouraged.
7. The M & E cost will be released to SFD for monitoring of the progress of the project. Each SFD will be allowed to engage one technical consultant at a cost of Rs. 40,000/- per month till the completion of the project for monitoring and other works and will also be given Rs.50,000/- per project as lump sum grant for M&E and meeting overhead expenses.
8. The implementing agencies may ensure sufficient revenue generation for maintenance and upkeep of the Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika. For revenue generation economic activities like sale of seedlings/saplings, value added/processed forest products, sale kiosks, recreation facilities, organizing fairs and festivals etc. with the involvement of local people may be promoted.

F. Monitoring

1. The agency involved in developing Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika will furnish Quarterly progress report and will also prepare comprehensive annual report of all activities, accompanied with photos, every year by December and submit it to the SFD for monitoring. These reports will also be sent to NAEB through PCCF/ SFD for further evaluation and consideration for release of funds for the next year. A completion report of the project also to be sent to NAEB through the same channel for monitoring and evaluation.
2. SFD will also carry out monitoring of the progress and completion of activities under the scheme and submit report.
3. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up in NAEB, MoEF&CC for coordinating, monitoring and publicity of the Scheme by engaging technical consultant and attendant to operate the PMU. The PMU operation, third party monitoring and evaluation, preparation and publication of documents/ films etc. will be done through empanelled agencies of NAEB. The expenditure on the aforementioned functions of PMU will be met from the National Fund. NAEB may engage empaneled Regional Centres (RCs) of NAEB for monitoring and evaluation, for facilitating operations of PMU etc. The funds required for PMU operations may be routed through RC as and when required for ease of disbursement.

G. Scheme Budget

The scheme will be fully funded by the National Fund under CAMPA, and its implementation will be governed by general and specific conditions (to this scheme) for similar works undertaken

from the National Fund under CAMPA. The tentative cost of the scheme (2020-21 to 2024-25) is given below:

Total Cost

Sl. No.	Item of Works	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	Nagar Vans (Total 400 in number) Nagar Vatikas (Total 200 number)	800.00 80.00
2	Grants to States/ SFDs (engagement of technical consultants, lump sum grant for monitoring and overhead expenses)	9.54
3	Operations of Project Management Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation, Workshops/Seminars, Publicity, Publication of report, Films and other Administrative expenses etc. for NAEB.	5.00
	Total	894.54 Crore (Say Rs. 895.00 crore)

Annual requirement of funds shall depend on the proposals received from states however it is expected to be about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 crores for the above scheme.

H. Expected Scheme Outcomes

A Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika is expected to have following outcomes:

1. Improved air quality, pollution abatement, carbon sequestration, reduction in temperature and urban heat island effect, water and soil conservation.
2. Creation of a green space having aesthetic value with cooling and calming effect on the minds of people.
3. Development of green spaces may also make cities climate resilient besides providing ecosystem services.
4. Indirect effects could be promotion of tourism and expansion of business and trade thus improving local economy.
5. Urban forests could offer several positive community physical and mental health benefits.

