

MCG kicks off drive to reclaim water bodies

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

GURGAON: As part of its efforts to save the city's shrinking water bodies, the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) on Saturday started work on rejuvenation of the pond in Basai village. The plan is to revive 12 ponds starting with the one in Basai.

The pond revival project has been designed by Future Institute, a non-profit, open-source applied urban research organisation based in New Delhi.

Inaugurating the project, MCG acting commissioner TL Satyaprakash said, "We want local people to understand the benefit of the project as it is for them. They should get involved in keeping the water body alive. Currently, we have a plan to restore 12 water bodies in a year and, very soon, we will carry out a similar plan for other ponds as well. The plan is to clear encroachments from the

IT HAS STARTED THE DRIVE WITH BASAI POND. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY NGO FUTURE INSTITUTE IN NEW DELHI

catchment area and clean these water bodies."

Future Institute member Swati Sharma said, "We will help MCG in reviving two ponds – Basai and Begam Khatola. We will take around six months to revive them and 24 months to monitor the changes."

The project is important as the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) had in 2008 categorised Gurgaon as 'over exploited'. In 2013, it further reported that around 886 tubewells in the district had stopped working because of lack of water. Following this, the Punjab and Haryana high court imposed a ban on groundwater extraction in the district.