

Plant for the Planet

Padma Shri **Jadav Payeng**, a forestry worker from Jorhat, Assam is an environmental activist. He turned an area of 1360 acres of barren land into dense forests on a sandbar of the river Brahmaputra over the course of past three decades. He is being esteemed as **‘Forest Man of INDIA’**. His axiom of working is that one should produce oxygen sufficient for one selves by planting trees.



Trees are the important elements of nature, which have been serving the living beings in many ways since the earliest times of existence of life on the earth. Societies today are often too unkind in their attitude towards nature with little knowledge of the limits and constraints on using nature. The advancement of technologies at a remarkable pace is a standing witness of how restlessly human beings strive to reach new heights. In the process of new inventions they should reflect on their knowledge and train themselves to shape tools and technologies which are in harmony with nature.



One can appreciate nature and use it sustainably only when one gets connected with the unconditional and unquestioning disposition of Mother Nature. **VNR Student Force**, taking the responsibility of disseminating Jadav Payeng’s message, launched a program **“Plant for the Planet”**.

Preparation of saplings:

As a part of the program the members of the VNR Student Force observed the ecology of various plant species in their surroundings and gathered seeds such as neem, peepal, etc. which play a principal role in **augmenting the levels of oxygen** in the atmosphere.



The seeds then have been nurtured till they germinated into healthy seedlings. This is done predominantly to establish a bond of love between the nature and one selves.



Plantation at Vipassana International Meditation Center:

A total of 130 saplings were taken to Vipassana International Meditation Center, located near Sangareddy district and were planted there. This work had substantiated the saying “**Actions speak louder than words**”. Team hopes that this event will stimulate the society to love and not to live off nature.



Distribution of Saplings:

Team also distributed about **450 saplings** including Amla, Tamarind, Guava, Jamun etc., among the public with an idea of inculcating, the feelings of worship towards nature. People who voluntarily asked for the saplings were appreciated by the team and an acknowledgement i.e a picture showing the planted sapling, has been sought from them.



Though a modicum of endeavor, it can be seen as the cusp of a new beginning. Thanks to the tenacious forester, Jadav Payeng who proved to the world that nothing is impossible if we set our mind to it.