

● TOWARDS A GREENER GLOBE

Vice-Chancellor launches mega afforestation prog

A record was set by planting 1.04 lakh saplings in 250 villages by 20,000 students of various affiliated colleges in eight districts

S J Michael Collins | ENS
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BHARATHIDASAN University Vice-Chancellor Dr M Ponnaivaikko suggested planting of more trees to control the ill effects of global warming, here on Tuesday.

Inaugurating a mega afforestation programme, tagged "One lakh saplings in one hour", organised jointly by the NSS unit of the university, Isha Foundation and Tiruchy Premier Lions Club, Ponnaivaikko said, the latest threat to mankind was global warming.

"We have only one way to overcome this threat. It is planting of more trees". The threat affected not only human beings, but also other creatures. Several species of animals are extinct. When the mega afforestation programme was planned, a discussion meeting was held. Based on the deliberations at that meeting, the university adopted 250 villages, he said.

On Tuesday, a record was made by planting 1.04 lakh saplings in the 250 villages by 20,000 students of various affiliated colleges in eight districts. "Within five years all the eight districts would go green", Ponnaivaikko hoped and praised the students for the social service and assured them that society would duly recognise them.

Offering felicitations, P Panneerselvam, Lions District President, said, in India 34 per cent of the total landscape should be forest area but this had shrunk to 22 per cent at the national level and 17.5 per cent in Tamil Nadu.

The programme was implemented to increase the forest cover. The districts of Tiruchy, Tiruvavur and Pudukkottai were distributed 10,000 saplings each, Ariyalur and Perambalur 8,000 saplings each, Thanjavur 26,000 saplings, Nagapattinam 12,000 saplings and Karur 5,500 saplings.



EXPRESS

M Ponnaivaikko, Vice-Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, planting a sapling on the university campus as part of the mega afforestation programme. Also seen are P Panneerselvam, District Lion's Club president, K Kanagarasu, NSS Coordinator and Anand of Isha Foundation

K Kanagarasu, NSS Coordinator, Bharathidasan University, welcomed the gathering.

Periyar EVR College Programme Officer Manivannan proposed the vote of thanks.