

TNSTC conductor's drive for green cover

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UYIR VAZHA ORU MARAM: Yoganathan planting a sapling along with students on a school premises in Coimbatore

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YOGANATHAN, a TNSTC bus conductor and an eco-activist, is all set to launch a programme nonpareil to see his city grow greener all through the year.

Christening his pet project as 'Uyir Vazha Oru Maram', Yoganathan told Express that his sole intention is to create awareness among the school students on the importance of making the city green.

Elaborating on the green project, he said the students would be asked to plant a sapling on their birthday either on school premises or at home.

He said already 14,400 students drawn from different schools across the city have enrolled for the project and added that a database has been created containing details of students along with their date of births.

All they need to do is to plant a sapling on their birthday, he said and added he would distribute the saplings to the students even while informing them at least well in advance before their birthday.

"At least one lakh saplings would be planted during the first year of this mega project. Efforts would be taken to bring more school students under this project," he said, adding this would have a good impact among the students on protecting the environ.

Citing an example on how the district

Collector of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh took a drastic step on the need for planting saplings, he said Collector Mukesh Mesh after coming to know that the city is losing its green cover, issued a circular asking the employees to plant at least four saplings by August-end failing which their salary would be withheld.

In a step further, the district Collector had set up a vigilance panel to conduct surprise checks of areas to ascertain whether saplings have been planted, Yoganathan said and added it only showed his concern for afforestation.

As for his project, Yoganathan said two service-minded people - Kollywood film editor Suresh Urs and Avinashi Centurion Apparels owner Lilam Ruban -- have come forward to donate a two-wheeler and a laptop respectively to his 'Uyir Vazha Oru Maram' project work. The project is likely to be launched in another two months.

This, he said, would be a non-stop project as it is linked with the birthdays of the students who would make it a habit to plant saplings even after their higher studies and when they settle down in their life. Moreover, they would motivate their children on planting of trees.

Yet another silent work done by the eco-activist is to collect empty one litre milk sachets from hotels and tea-shops on every Sundays after his work which he uses for nursery purpose. This, he said, has been going on for the past three months.