

'One Child, One Tree' says Yoganathan, Tree Man of India



Bangalore: 'Those who are born in June, please raise your hands,' said Yoganathan from Coimbatore, popularly known as the Tree Man of India. Speaking on the occasion of World Environment Day at People's Trust's Sai Shankar Vidyashala at Sriramanahalli, Yelahanka, Yoganathan said that he had planted more than 3 lac saplings in the last 38 years and nurtured them also. The collective work of Green Circle, People's Trust, and Jeevan Mukthi Foundation was lauded by him. Earlier, while introducing the Chief Guest, Dr. V Selvarajan recollected his long association with him. He remembered how Yoganathan, in his early days, struggled to manage his family expenses when he worked as a Bus conductor, after allotting 30% of his salary for tree planting every month. Speaking on the occasion, Yoganathan thankfully remembered Green Circle's financial support when he was seriously hospitalised. He also advised the students to plant at least one tree on their birthdays. He said that each tree should be treated as one's brother or sister. He also requested that the school implement the one child, one tree norm soon. Earlier, Harish Uthaiyah, Managing Trustee of People's Trust, thanked him for taking the pains to come all the way to meet the school children. Providing free saplings, Rupasri of Jeevan Mukthi Foundation said she was

happy to join the Tree Man of India in the Green Circle tree planting drive. Students staged a dance program titled 'Ending Plastic Pollution', the theme of World Environment Day, choreographed by Shyna, the dance teacher. A slogan writing contest was held, and judged by Kumar Kalyandurg, Secretary of Green Circle, Neetha Uthaiyah, Trustee, People's Trust, and Director, Admn, and Ganga Bhavani, HM of Sai Shankar Vidyashala. The award winners of the slogan writing contest were Lekhana V(first), Chaitra M (second), and Dhanush R(third). Consolation prizes were given to Kavya S and Prarthana G Gowda. Students managed the entire event. Likitha AG and Kavya S anchored the program, while Thanushree and Varshitha R recited the Ganesh Vandana. Prarthan G Gowda welcomed the gathering, and Shamitha KR proposed the vote of thanks. After the program was over, all children walked to Nanaiah Vana where they planted 50 fruit-bearing trees under the guidance of Yoganathan. School teachers Aradhya, Manjunath, Venkatesh, Elizabeth and Chalapati helped the students to plant trees. Sandip Kumar, Thiyyagaraj, Vijayanthi, Manju, Vindhya, Green Circle, Manjunath, Raju Ramanna, Advocates, Paramaguru, Suresh, Rotary Oasis, and Chandrakala, Manohar, Natesh of Jeevan Mukthi participated in the program.

