

Experts call for steps to increase forest cover

06 June 2019



Over 80 children take part in contest organised by The Hindu and Essar.

The Hindu, in association with Essar Foundation (the CSR arm of Essar Group), organised a poster designing competition for students of Classes IV to X in two categories to mark World Environment Day at Visakha Public Library on Wednesday.

Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Director Prof. V.S.R.K. Prasad spoke of the need to conserve forests. "At the start of the 20th century, 80% of India was covered in thick forests. Now, the forest cover has dropped to a mere 17%. The

younger generation needs to step up and combat pollution and save the environment,” Mr. Prasad said.

“We have already used up most of our natural resources, degraded most of the environment and have left a planet which is on the verge of its end,” Mr. Prasad said at the prize distribution ceremony.

Essar Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ravindranath sought to dispel the misconception that only industries were contributing to air pollution. “In reality, burning of fossil fuel, vehicular density and low usage of green energy such as solar and wind power are other contributing factors,” Mr. Ravindranath said.

Over 80 children in junior and senior categories participated in the competition.

“I believe we need to take small steps like planting more trees, using public transport, reducing unnecessary wastage of fossil fuels would go a long way towards conserving the environment,” said B. Sony Deepthi, a ninth grader from DAVC Public School. “I believe these competitions will inspire my peers and my juniors to work harder towards curbing air pollution.”

D.S. Varma of Essar attended the event while the competition was judged by artist C. Sandhya Shankar Patnaik.

Earlier, Prof. Prasad, Mr. D.S. Varma and Mr. Ravindranath participated in a tree plantation programme on the library premises.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/experts-call-for-steps-to-increase-forest-cover/article27527964.ece>