

# Forest dept launches green initiative in BRT Tiger Reserve

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MYSURU: Ahead of the onset of monsoon, forest department has launched a drive to sow seeds to celebrate World Environment Day, observed on June 5, at BRT Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district.

The drive that began on Monday will continue for two weeks. The initiative was undertaken by the Forest department simultaneously at all its ranges, including Punajanur, Yelandur, Kollegal, K Gudi, Byalur and Chamarajanagar.

As part of the campaign, 200 kilos of seeds of local plant species, fruit and flower-bearing trees and grass are being planted to improve the green cover in the district and ensure fodder for animals.

Apart from forest department officials, local tribal communities, members of non-government organizations, volunteers, members of village panchayats and Rotary Club and students of nearby government schools were involved in the drive.

As most of the lakes in the area and Bellatta Dam were filled with water, following the recent heavy pre-monsoon showers, it only served as a boon for the volunteers and forest department officials for sowing the seeds. Wet conditions help in better germination and ensure growth of the plants.

The forest department has also initiated measures for protection of the saplings.

“During the drive, more than ten varieties of seeds were sown, which were collected by the department officials,” K Gudi forest range officer Vinod Gowda told TOI.

BRT project director Deep J Contractor said the forest department is not only sowing the seeds ahead of this monsoon season, but is also looking to spread awareness among the public about the need to end the plastic menace. Apart from the planting of saplings, plastic waste was also collected along the highway near Punajanur and in other areas.



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