

Mumbaikars take part in a huge tree plantation drive at Aarey

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Participants plant trees during the #pedlagao campaign at Aarey

Over 500 Mumbaikars made their way to Aarey with a 'green purpose', on Sunday morning. They took part in a tree plantation drive there, to help create awareness about the value of greenery in the forest. Says co-organiser Sanjiv Valsan, "The event took place around the New Zealand hostel area. While they were handed out saplings, some people had even brought their own seed balls and saplings. But the majority of what we planted is peepal, as the species give out the most oxygen and it supports life, including birds, which come in and do a lot of the planting for us. So, each peepal or banyan tree that you create goes into a multiplier effect and results in hundreds of other lives. In the event, to get so many people to know each other and form groups was really nice. Everyone was bonded by a common desire - to make Aarey green and to fight climate change and pollution. We are in the middle of a climate crisis and we cannot afford to not do something like this."

'This was a short to contribution to increase the tree count and an opportunity for people to know Aarey'

For the participants, it was a novel, learning experience. Says Niklaus Anthony, a student from Fr Agnel's Navi Mumbai, who was present there, "I came all the way from Navi Mumbai for the tree plantation drive after my friend told me about it. I think there are just a few green pockets left in Mumbai and we need to save them. Navi Mumbai also has is facing

such similar issues so I found it to be a nice idea to contribute this way, in order to understand things better. It is our duty as Mumbaikars to try and do so.”



Adds Tanmay Shinde, second-year Bsc IT student at St Xaviers College, Mumbai, and co-organiser of the event, “We wanted Mumbaikars to have a forest bathing experience in Aarey along with the plantation drive. Monsoon is considered an apt season to plant trees. So, this was a short to contribution to increase the tree count and it was also an opportunity for people to get to know Aarey better. The response to it was overwhelming and we are planning more such drives in future.”

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/mumbai/on-a-forest-bathing-and-tree-plantation-experience-at-aarey/articleshow/70246618.cms>