
SOCIALSTORY

Prabha Devi who has planted an entire forest of 500 trees in her village in Uttarakhand

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Climate change is upon us. Citizens and governments are now grappling with the far-reaching consequences of pollution, including plastic use, felling of trees, and other harmful practices that wreak havoc on the environment. In India, too, people are not sitting back. Take the Aarey Forest protests, for example. A countrywide furore has taken on the Maharashtra government to decry the felling of 2,000 trees for development work in the area that is called the 'last lung' of Mumbai.



trees are important for future generations, and no one knows this better than Prabha Devi. The 76-year-old has planted an entire forest in her village in Uttarakhand. The green cover includes more than 500 trees of different species, including oak, rhododendron, cinnamon, soap nut (reetha) and more.

Hailing from Palashat, a village in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand, Prabha Devi took up this initiative in her early years and still continues at it. Speaking to The Logical Indian, she said,

Prabha was married off at the early age of 16 and received no formal education. She may not be educated, but she is bursting with knowledge on how to take care of trees. Having learnt all the methods of plantation by herself, she is an expert on the terrain conditions and other details critical for tree growth.

Her efforts have earned Prabha Devi the moniker of 'Friend of Tree' in her village. The depletion of underground water table was a major concern in her village. As a solution, she suggested planting trees of local species like Baanj in nearby regions to enhance the water holding capacity. Besides, these trees also provide fodder for cattle or can be used in agro-based activities that many locals rely upon.

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