

CHIEF MINISTER YOGI URGES PEOPLE TO PLANT TREES IN THE MEMORY OF PEOPLE, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO COVID

A GREEN TRIBUTE TO COVID VICTIMS

The Covid pandemic took a hard toll on humans, with many people losing their lives to it. In a moving gesture, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath urged people to plant trees in memory of the Covid victims. "Trees should be planted in gram panchayats in the memory of those who have died due to Covid-19," he said, while marking the start of the Van Mahotsav in the state by planting a *peepal* sapling on the premises of CMS, Gontinagar Extension.

The CM said that it was under the *peepal* tree that lord Buddha attained knowledge, and thus it symbolises lord Vishnu and is also called the Bodhi tree.

In 2017, the state government had decided to take up plantation as a campaign every year. Since then, the plantation numbers kept increasing manifold. This year, the state government is in the process of planting 30 crore trees in July. In fact, on a single day on July 4, 25 crore trees were planted in the state.



The forest department has established 18, 878 Smriti Vatikas in the state, in the memory of those who died due to Covid or non-Covid ailments

Proving naysayers wrong, of the total trees planted in the past four years, 75% to 90% are still surviving. The CM said that more and more people should participate in the plantation drive, following Covid-19 protocol.