

Forest department launched Project 'Vanikaran' in Kerala

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The Forest department in association with **Noolpuzha grama panchayat** has launched the **'Vanikaran' (afforestation) project** to root out invasive plants, especially *Senna spectabilis*, and restore natural forests. The project was being executed on 30 hectares of forestland under the Sulthan Bathery forest range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, where exotic invasive plants, including *Senna spectabilis*, *Eupatorium*, *Mikania micrantha*, and *Lantana camara*, were posing a serious threat to the local species of trees, S. Ranjith Kumar, Assistant Wildlife Warden of the sanctuary.

About the Vanikaran project:

- As many as 87 workers of Kadambakkad, Golur and Kalichira tribal hamlets had planted 3,000 bamboo seedlings and 1,000 fruit plant saplings on 3.5 hectares of forestland so far, said Ms. Satheesh.
- Apart from planting the saplings, the authorities ensure the protection of plants for the next five years under the project. The workers have also constructed soil bunds and pits for harvesting rainwater to ensure availability of water for the saplings.
- The department had proposed the expansion of the project to 200 hectares in Sulthan Bathery, Kurichyad, and Muthanga forest ranges under the sanctuary in the coming years, she said. The panchayat was able to provide 2,756 working days to tribal families under the project.

Source: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/forest-department-launched-project-vanikaran-in-kerala/>