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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Students pledge to protect nature, sow seeds at Nagarahole forest

Jun 15, 2022, 08:19 AM IST

Milton.Lawrence

Mysuru: Nagarahole foresters celebrated the week-long World Environment Day events in a meaningful way by sowing seeds in the tiger reserve. Over 150 kilos of seeds of local plant species, fruiting trees and grass seeds were sowed inside the forest at different ranges.

The interesting part of the drive which commenced on June 5 and culminated on Sunday is the involvement of government school students in the forest region. Students were educated about the importance of protecting and increasing the green cover and conserving the wildlife during the week-long drive.

Even villagers from nearly 30 villages and members of non-governmental organizations joined the forest department in the seed sowing festival.

Ahead of the monsoon, the forest department takes up sowing seeds. This season, the drive has been successful and maximum areas were covered in Nagarahole, said an official.

Hunsur wildlife subdivision assistant conservator of forest AV Sathish told TOI that seed sowing was done for eight days inside Nagarahole forest. Different varieties of seeds like 'honne,' 'halasu,' 'nelli,' 'tare,' and fruit-yielding trees were sowed. Division-wise sowing festival was celebrated during the week involving students, local dwellers, and NGOs.

Foresters have sowed grass seed after removing Lantana Camara shrubs, a weed, to increase the grassland area.

Students were educated and involved in conservation activities and more learners joined the drive this season, said the officer.

Naturalist HP Ashwin said sowing seeds is a good initiative and it would be helpful when done on a large scale and ensure follow-up action.

Hunsur block education officer SP Nagaraju said forest department has requested to send students from the block for the drive to sow seeds and for awareness programme and accordingly students participated in the event as part of World Environment Day.