

## Bengaluru teens spend pocket money to plant saplings

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BENGALURU: While most teenagers are hooked to gaming and social media, there are some who are more rooted; who use the money and resources they have to plant trees and help save the environment. A group of 28 former students of Vijaya PU College met through the NSS (National Service Scheme) and set up an organization called Vanya, with the sole objective of saving the planet.

The students, currently in their first year of university, have decided to plant 30 saplings every month; 365 saplings a year. Abhiman Jois, 19, who brainstormed Vanya, said, "The idea came to me when I visited Bugle Rock, Basavanagudi, with friends. Instead of feeling happy after a fun-filled time at the park, we felt incomplete. So we decided to do something for humanity."

"We have resources and our pocket money. Rather than wasting them on parties, we decided to invest them in something that will give meaning to our lives, and in a way, complement nature. We began our initiative by planting trees in neighborhoods," he added.

"We collect Rs 30 to Rs 100 from every team member to buy seeds. We then plant trees, water them and pay regular visits to make sure they are in good

condition," said Abhiman. The seeds are ordered from a nursery in Kengeri. Team Vanya has planted 35 trees in Basavanagudi, Vijaya College campus and Netkallappa Circle.

"We received a good response from residents when we began and have been invited to plant saplings in Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Kengeri. We received a special invite to Kathriguppe, Banashankari, where we will plant trees on June 5, World Environment Day" said Abhiman. ,, - Alisha Deshmukh

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