8.9L Trees Raise Hope Of Cleaner Future

The numbers are impressive. 5 lakh trees were planted this year in four cities, taking the total number since 2015 to 8.9 lakh. Beyond the figures, the Hero-TOI Green Drive is planting hope that our kids will inherit a future that’s cleaner and greener. Here’s a wrap-up of this year’s activities.

Green boost becomes inspiration for more

Chennai: More than 1,400 residents, students and employees of various corporations planted 1.6 lakh saplings between September 22 and 30 this year at the Mahindra World City Chennai campus.

The saplings were planted on 1.40 acres allotted by MWC, Chennai, which partnered Hero-TOI Green Drive in the city. Nearly 40 gardeners have been appointed to tend to the saplings until they grow into trees.

“The success of planting drives not just help reduce carbon footprint but create small urban forests that bring back the biodiversity including birds, insects and reptiles to urban areas,” said P Vijayan, Janarthanan, business head (residential) of MWC.

Ahmedabad: In the grey streets of Ahmedabad, the Hero-TOI Green Drive saw the idea of change in August this year, with chief minister Vijay Rupani and deputy CM Nitin Patel inaugurating the mission to plant 1.3 lakh trees at the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) green zone in East and on the closed-off interchange in Aishaj on SG Road.

The drive was partnered by the Gujarat urban development department, the roads and buildings department, the forest department, Gujarat Narayana Valley Fertilisers & Chemicals, and AUDA.

“Gujarat faces the problem of skewed rainfall,” Nitin Patel said. “South Gujarat gets heavy rain while the north, especially Ahmedabad and Surat, has dry spells. Trees can help close these rain gaps. We realise the importance of trees more than any other state.”

Native species planted to improve air quality

New Delhi: The Hero-TOI Green Drive partnered with the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation (SNCF) in plant close to 70,000 saplings at a site owned by the Foundation in Sarita Vihar, near Agrin, last month.

The location has characteristics of a Yamuna floodplain and the drive aims to not just revive the area, but also provide another green buffer to improve local air quality. The plantation was overseen by Faizan Khudair, scientist in-charge of Yamuna Biodiversity Park. He said around 20 species were chosen for the site—all native to the Yamuna floodplain. These included Kurkure, Balila, Asan, Janjua, Sissoo, Amaltas, Tota and Radish.

“This is a way to inspire others to not just plant more trees but also adopt them. We’ve ensured that saplings planted in the past have survived and are at a good height now,” said Bindu Chhabra, SNCF executive president. All spiritual organisations aligned with Spandan Tree have been contributing to the drive since 2015.