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### **135 government schools in Vellore raise 2.6 lakh saplings through Isha's GSM project**

**10 December 2019, Vellore:** 135 government schools in Vellore have raised 2.6 lakh saplings through Isha's Green School Movement (GSM). An event to mark the beginning of transplanting these saplings into the community was held at the Voorhees College today. The event was inaugurated by Shri. K.C. Veeramani, Minister, Commercial Tax and Registration who planted the first sapling on the college campus. District Collector, Shri Shanmugasundaram; Chief Education Officer, Shri. Mars and Director of Pharmcel India, Shri. Manoharan also participated in the event.

Addressing students, Shri. K.C. Veeramani said, "Oxygen from trees is a necessity for a human being's survival. They are also the only source of fresh air for us. I appreciate Isha Green School Movement's efforts to inculcate the habit of planting trees in the student community...I would also like to appreciate the progressive steps taken by Sadhguru in leading many such social outreach activities."

"This movement, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu education department, was started in Vellore in the year 2018," said Chief Education Officer, Shri. Mars and added that last year, more than 3 lakh saplings were prepared and distributed by students.

Isha Green School Movement coordinator Swami Rabhya says, "This movement cultivates a culture of planting trees and developing awareness towards of the environment. The movement was started in the year 2011 in 8 districts: Erode, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Trichy, Puducherry, Salem, Villupiram and Kanchipuram. Till date, we have trained around 52,000 students from 2880 schools who have planted 46

lakh saplings in the community. We have been active in Vellore since June 2018. 165 schools were trained in the academic year 2018-19. The students planted 3 lakh 11 thousand saplings. This year, we trained 135 government schools and the students will plant 2.6 lakh saplings.”

Muslim Government School, winners of the environment themed drawing competition conducted this month, were felicitated at the event.

### **Green School Movement**

The Green School Movement (GSM) was conceptualized by Project GreenHands, an environmental initiative of Isha Foundation. It is being implemented in hundreds of schools each year in association with the Tamil Nadu Education Department. The objective is to instil green consciousness in students so that caring for the environment becomes a natural part of their lives.

GSM is launched in a new district every year and is active for a period of 3 years in every district. So far, it is active in 9 districts - Coimbatore, Erode, Krishnagiri, Trichy, Puducherry, Salem, Vizhupuram, Kanchipuram, and Vellore.

Students in these districts have raised, cared for, distributed and planted nearly 46 lakh saplings.

**If you would like to know more about this, please write to [mediarelations@ishafoundation.org](mailto:mediarelations@ishafoundation.org).**