

Over 27 lakh saplings, palm seeds to be planted in Vellore and Tirupattur districts

Areas have been selected based on tree density and soil tests conducted to make sure saplings are suited to local weather conditions, say officials; green committees in districts will monitor the drive

The Hindu Bureau
VELLORE

Ahead of the north-east monsoon, more than 27 lakh saplings and palm seeds will be planted in the arid regions of Vellore and Tirupattur districts in the coming days as part of water conservation efforts by respective district administration.

Officials of the Directorate of Panchayats said that the green committees in these districts will monitor the drive. Areas were selected based on tree density. Soil tests were also conducted before planting these saplings in each area to make sure they were suited to the local weather conditions. "All 208 villages in Tirupattur district will be covered. In the first phase, around eight lakh palm seeds will be sowed in the coming days," Tirupattur Collector D. Bhaskara Pandian told *The Hindu*.

In Tirupattur, the green drive is mostly restricted to sowing of palm seeds in Jolarpet, Natrampalli and Alangayam. Areas where leather tanneries are located like Ambur and Vaniyambadi towns, will also be covered as waterbodies in these places are prone to contamination. Palm seeds were collected mostly from farmers and volun-



Collector D. Bhaskara Pandian sowing a palm seed along with students and teachers of Sacred Heart College as part of green drive in Tirupattur district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

teers, who collected them from river banks and other waterbodies.

Vellore district

In Vellore, Collector P. Kumaravel Pandian has instructed officials to ensure that at least 18 lakh saplings are planted by October 15. Plant varieties like vaagai (*Albizia lebbek*), vembu (*Azadirachta indica*), mantharai (*Bauhinia purpurea*), punnai (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), kalyana mu-

rungai (*Erythrina variegata*) and 'arasamaram' (*Ficus religiosa*) will be planted as part of the drive. Plant species like guava, rose wood, naval, izhupai, mango and gooseberry will also be planted. On an average, each sapling will be six to eight feet in height to prevent them from getting damaged.

Women workers enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Em-

ployment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme will be roped in for the exercise. Local bodies and NGOs will be responsible to maintain the saplings planted in these districts. Volunteers will be in-charge to water the plants twice a week for a period of one year. Tree guards, which will be removed after two years, will also be provided to prevent saplings from being damaged by the cattle.

Man held petrol bomb uncle's ho property

The Hindu Bureau
RANIPET

A 33-year-old man was arrested by Arcot taluk police near Ranipet on Tuesday for hurling a petrol bomb at his uncle's house over a property dispute.

The police said C. Murali, a wage labourer, was residing in Krishnapuram near Arcot town along with his mother for many years. He had a long-standing dispute with his uncle, M. Krishnan, 58, who lives in the same area, and has share in the two-acre ancestral property in Chittoor and Arcot towns.

Timings CHENNAI

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 04

RISE 05:59 SET 17:58
RISE 22:02 SET 10:29

THURSDAY, OCT. 05

RISE 05:59 SET 17:57
RISE 22:56 SET 11:27

FRIDAY, OCT. 06

RISE 05:59 SET 17:56
RISE 23:51 SET 12:21

| Vellore Weather | max | min |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Tiruvannamalai | 35 | 23 |
| Tirupattur | 33 | 23 |
| Vellore | 35 | 23 |

Vellore Today

35°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower is likely to occur.

Vellore Tomorrow

36°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm and humid. Night also will be comfortable.