

[Home](#) / [India News](#) / Alappuzha: Three generations of family help develop, preserve forest

Alappuzha: Three generations of family help develop, preserve forest

India News

Published on Oct 09, 2022 11:44 PM IST

At 88, Devaki Amma has an undying passion towards conservation of environment. Her daughter professor Thankamony D, granddaughter Saranya and other family members help her in cataloguing the precious collection of trees and plants for the generation next.



the area. (Vivek K Nair/HI Photo)

Follow Us

By [Ramesh Babu](#), Alappuzha (kerala)

In Tapovanam — a mini man-made forest spread across five acres in Kandaloor in Alappuzha district — a post-graduate student is busy explaining a group of school children about the rich source of medicinal, exotic plants and rare trees in the area.

Advertisement

D Saranya is the third generation of the family who toiled to turn a dry land into a serene forest.

Home to over 650 species of trees, chattering birds, occasional appearance of small creepers and colourful butterflies only add to Tapovanam's beauty. The trees have been named and a footpath has been earmarked for visitors with cloth pieces. "Three generations toiled to build this. I want to keep the flame alive," says Saranya.

At 88, Devaki Amma has an undying passion towards conservation of environment. Her daughter professor Thankamony D, granddaughter Saranya and other family members help her in cataloguing the precious collection of trees and plants for the generation next. Despite her failing health she makes a couple of rounds to the forest every day.

[Trending](#)[Quickreads](#)[Daily Digest](#)[India At 75](#)[Festivals](#)[Quiz](#)[Videos](#)[Phot](#)

PROMOTED



How Do You Change
The Mindsets Of...

The Actual Price of
Whole Mouth Dental...

“Devaki Amma has been relentlessly working towards protecting the biodiversity by bringing and nurturing plants from across India. Her contribution toward the environment has been a driving force of change,” former President Ramnath Kovind had said in 2018 while presenting her Nari Shakti award.

Even though, the discussions around topics like carbon emission and climatic change have been gaining traction recently, but Devaki Amma has been talking about neutralising carbon footprints and expanding green cover four decades ago.”My love for planting trees blossomed in 1980 after I was injured in a car accident which restricted my movement. When I started planting saplings, people mocked saying it was a futile exercise as the soil near coast was sand-laden and ground water was also salty. I took it as a challenge and nurtured my trees,” she explained.

Advertisement

Her daughter who is a retired environmental engineering teacher from the College of Engineering in Thiruvananthapuram, said whenever relatives and others come from foreign countries her mother asks only for saplings. "Mother's undying spirit and enthusiasm forced me to take environmental engineering, a new subject those days," she explained. "My mother taught us nothing is impossible if you really care for a cause. Now, Tapovanom is home to more than 3000 different varieties," she said. Thankamony also holds seminars to uphold the green cause and make people aware.

Mahogany, tamarind, gulmohur, pine, silver oak, bamboo and many medicinal plants and creepers form part of the lush forest and Amma uses only organic manure for farming. A couple of ponds, an old kavu (temple) and a big cattle shed are also a part of the man-made forest. "Planting trees is an effective way of minimising carbon foot print. My mother popularised the concept long back and continues to strive for green cause," she said adding, people will have to "change their concept about preservation and development".

Advertisement

"For many, a vacant land is a favourite dumping yard. At times, even water bodies were not spared and sewage waste was often dumped at my place. Nature belongs to all and everyone are duty-bound to protect it," said Devaki Amma. She said that she was not against cutting trees but at the same time one should plant at least double the number. She said "like planting, preserving also matters a lot".

"Due to lush forest many water bodies in the area rarely gets dry and quality of water has also improved," said N Rajagopal, a lawyer and former panchayat vice president of Kandaloor.

[Trending](#)[Quickreads](#)[Daily Digest](#)[India At 75](#)[Festivals](#)[Quiz](#)[Videos](#)[Phot](#)

Devaki Amma is also a recipient of several honours, including Indira Priyadarshini, Vrikshamitra and the state government's Vanamitra awards. However, more than awards, what makes Devaki Amma happy is that the young generation of her family is keeping the spirit alive.

Get [Latest India News](#) along with [Latest News](#) and [Top Headlines](#) from India and around the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ramesh Babu

[Follow](#)

Ramesh Babu is HT's bureau chief in Kerala, with about three decades of experience in journalism.

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

 **Hindustan Times**

World Post Day-2022:
Week-long events on
'Post for Planet' the...

 **Hindustan Times**

Ludhiana MC's
General House meet:
3.6k sanitation...

 **Hindustan Times**

Dalit woman gang-
raped by priest, aides
in Rajasthan

 **Hindustan Times**

Fifteen booked for
usurping 20 gunthas of
land in Dighi



P
Z
cc



[Trending](#)[Quickreads](#)[Daily Digest](#)[India At 75](#)[Festivals](#)[Quiz](#)[Videos](#)[Phot](#)

Reset Of Habits In Bali That Will Save Mother Earth

Reset Of Habits In Bali That Will Save Mother Earth

Our Better World

Learn from IIT Madras Faculty & Industry Experts.

Starts at Rs 4688/month. Without Quitting Your Job Get 68% Salary Hike.

Intellipaat

[Learn More](#)

Build a Website with React - Free Masterclass

MORE FROM THIS SECTION

 Hindustan Times

 Hindustan Times

 Hindustan Times

 Hindustan Times

 H



Trending

Quickreads

Daily Digest

India At 75

Festivals

Quiz

Videos

Phot

Manarashtra

Covid-19

Coronavirus

Narendra Modi

Monkeypox