

Green warrior who targeted to plant one crore saplings

He launched 'Green Kalam', a massive tree plantation drive

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Actor Vivekh was known for his environmental activism as much as his acting prowess. He had taken up tree planting as his life mission to fight global warming, in deference to the wishes of his friend and former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

He had launched 'Green Kalam', a massive tree planting drive, in 2011 and planted nearly 33.23 lakh saplings. He had targeted to plant one crore saplings through the Sai Prasanna Foundation that he had started in his son's name. Vivek travelled across the State and spread awareness of global warming and environmental protection, especially among students.

One of his recent tree plantation activities was on



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the premises of the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Government Estate, in December last.

Recalling his association with the late actor, V. Anandakumar, nodal officer,

TNGMSSH, said, "He called me up one evening in September last year to appreciate my work in the fight against COVID-19. He immediately agreed to our invitation to the inauguration of the Miyawaki urban forest on the Omandurar estate. He was an enthusiastic and down-to-earth person."

His activism did not stop with tree plantation. Vivekh was also involved in health awareness campaigns, including those against dengue, after his son died of a dengue complication, he said.

V. Ponraj, scientific adviser to the former President, said, "He truly lived up to Swami Vivekananda's words on dreams – 'Make that one idea your life – think of it, dream of it, live on that idea'."