Periyar varsity launches Miyawaki forest project on campus

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Perhaps for the first time in Tamil Nadu, a State-run university -- Periyar University in Salem -- has set up a Miyawaki forest on its campus. University authorities said the initiative was taken up as part of its efforts to improve green cover on the campus.

Launching the initiative recently, Vice-Chancellor P. Kolandaivel distributed saplings to students and these were planted on an area of about 5,000 sq.ft. University officals said 1,350 saplings of 55 varieties were planted.

University officials said the project was being implemented under the corporate-social responsibility initiative of First American India firm, with non-governmental organisation Say-Trees as the nodal agency. Mr. Kolandaivel said the NGO would take care of growth and maintenance of the forest and the university would provide the required amenities. "The initiative was taken up as part of our efforts to improve the green cover within the campus.

Volunteers planting saplings in the Miyawaki method on Periyar University premises in Salem.

Besides, such activities would also help in creating awareness among students about the neet to increase green cover and protect nature. Students can also learn these techniques", Mr. Kolandaivel said.

Based on the progress of the project, the university would include more areas under the Miyawaki project. "The NGO informed us that it would take two years for the forest to develop. Based on its progress, we are planning to include another 20 cents of land in the campus under the project. We are also planning to take it to potential colleges under the university", Mr. Kolandaivel said.