



SHE'S NOT ALONE. Prasiddhi has received a lot of recognition and support from several communities, organisations and NGOs

She's really 'rooting' for Mother Nature!

Prasiddhi Singh also inspired her classmates and school principal to join her fight towards a better world, finds **Shreesha Ghosh**

green
girl

Birthday tree

While every other child her age eagerly waits for a gift on their birthday, Prasiddhi gives to the environment by planting a sapling every single year. She likes to call them green birthdays

Trees never stop providing us with oxygen, so how can we stop planting more trees?

When seven-year-old **Prasiddhi Singh**, asks us this question, it sort of hangs in the air. The youngster, who has already planted over 13,000 trees, claims to have created 12 entire fruit forests in Tamil Nadu and is now on a mission to plant one lakh trees in the next two years. Though these words ought to come up in her school books much, much later on, she tells us that "biodiversity is relentlessly invaded every day and the environmental balance of life cycles broken by human beings" thus leading to the impending environmental crisis across the globe.

The little eco-warrior's stint with planting saplings began after witnessing the massive loss of trees in the 2016 cyclone Vardah that left a trail of destruction in the state. Couple that with how she has been close to nature since her childhood and it was just meant to happen, "I have been inspired by nature's bounty, how creatures collaborate with trees, flowers such as honeybees collecting nectar from plants etc. I have always been fascinated by these phenomena and felt connected to nature," says Prasiddhi.

A student at the **Mahindra World School** near Chennai, she has also inspired her classmates



Prasiddhi is also planning to plant trees in Puducherry and has spoken to Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi about it

and the school principal to take part in her endeavours to make the world a better place. "At first, my friends were not too keen on helping me out but eventually they supported me. Now, they also help me plant trees, make pencils out of eco-friendly materials like paper and collect funds to plant trees after selling those," she adds. "I want every other classmate of mine to be a part of this initiative and so I am really thankful to our principal," she says.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she used to go out every Saturday to plant trees. However, things have become quite difficult since then for her. Doing whatever she could in the meantime, Prasiddhi began conducting online sessions with children her age to create awareness about the positive results of planting trees. She did all of this to raise funds to use for her plantation drives eventually. "I like to focus on what is in front of me, what I need to do now. I like to go with the flow and see what the future holds for me," adds Prasiddhi, who is also the Youngest Fruit Forest Creator in India according to the India Book of Records. Aside from this, the young environmentalist also likes to paint, do crafts, sing and dance during her leisure time.

Prasiddhi Forest

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Prasiddhi Singh

