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TREE PLANTATION: A GREENER WORLD! WHY AND HOW?

Anything which contributes towards the well-being of mankind is synonymous to life. We all intuitively know that being in nature makes us feel connected, alive, part of something greater and more but despite our reverence for nature, there is a reality that we all must face: that the natural world is in jeopardy.

Earth is experiencing climate change of a scale and pace never seen since our species has been on the planet and we are causing it more by pumping more heat trapping carbon into the atmosphere than earth's natural system can take out. Now fixing a problem as massive as climate change is going to take a ton of different solutions, one of which is trees. From past 370 million year or so, they've been one of the major ways earth sucks excess carbon out of atmosphere and stores it away, but deforestation is clearing earth's forest on a massive scale, at current rate of destruction the world's rainforest can completely disappear within 100 years. India itself has lost tree cover of 16 lakh hectare in last 17 years. The effect of deforestation is grave but not irreversible, planting new tress can help us to combat deforestation.

In India the increase of population in our country has led to the shrinking of the forest area. India has experienced effects of this when deforestation in its northern parts and Himalayan region had resulted in soil erosion, unprecedented floods and landslides. In 2013, Uttarakhand was devastated by floods. Experiments at the IISC Bangalore have shown that deforestation in higher latitudes affects rain fall in tropical areas. The whole monsoon system will migrate and this can lead to 18% decrease of rainfall in India, couple this with rising temperature. Therefore, there's an urgent need for plantation of tress for securing the future of the country.

The government has put great emphasis on growing more tress and has pledged to get 33% of its geographical area under forest cover by 2022, compare to the existing 24%. Apart from this, many social activists run campaigns for saving trees but individual contributions are lacking behind due to lack of awareness. There are various drives but the survival rate is poor due to lack of care. Each of us has an individual and collective responsibility to reforest our planet.

Well...the question rises how can tree plantation can be made successful. To answer this, I have highlighted some points.

- Initiative has to be made to increase awareness in schools and colleges of the state.
- Objective of tree plantation in villages should to plant such trees with which they can generate earnings.
- Events like Van Mahotsav should be encouraged.
- To encourage environmental studies and make environmental studies practical.
- Saplings should be easily available.
- Like corporate sponsored marathon, we should promote plantation programs.
- Schools should have annual plantation program, creating a sense of responsibility in students.