

Celebration of Van Mahotsav Week 2025

Organized by NSS, Raidighi College

Organizing Body: NSS Unit 1, Raidighi College

Venues: Giribala Adarsha F.P. School and Raidighi College campus, Raidighi, West Bengal

Duration: One-week observation during Van Mahotsav Week, July 2025

1. Introduction & Context

Van Mahotsav, the national tree-planting festival initiated in 1950, serves to foster mass awareness for tree planting and environmental conservation. Mirroring this ethos, Raidighi College's NSS Unit 1 conducted an impactful week-long observation at two strategic local venues: the Giribala Adarsha F.P. School and the main college campus. Their activities were designed to deepen ecological consciousness among students and the local community, aligning with national environmental objectives.

2. Objectives

Raidighi College NSS Unit 1 pursued multiple goals throughout the week:

1. **Awareness:** Educate school and college peers about trees' ecological importance, native species, and environmental balance.
2. **Participation:** Encourage active participation in tree planting and care.
3. **Community Engagement:** Foster environmental responsibility through direct involvement in community-based activities.
4. **Education:** Integrate environmental learning with hands-on actions and citizen science.

These goals were realized by combining outreach at the school with tree-planting, interactive camps, and environmental surveys at the college.

3. Activities Overview

A. Giribala Adarsha F.P. School

- **Awareness Campaign:** NSS volunteers delivered interactive sessions, using visual aids to explain the ecological and social benefits of native trees.
- **Tree Plantation Drive:** Students and volunteers planted saplings together, encouraging ownership and long-term care.
- **Eco-pledge Ceremony:** Participants recited a pledge to nurture planted saplings and maintain a clean environment

B. Raidighi College Campus

- **Plantation Event:** Volunteers planted additional native and fruit-bearing saplings—mango, neem, and banyan—across the college grounds.
- **Educational Outreach:** Short presentations and leaflets were shared with college students on topics such as urban greening, biodiversity, and tree maintenance.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Volunteers recorded sapling survival rates and conducted weekly checks to report growth and health.

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4. Participation & Collaboration

A cohort of NSS Unit 1 volunteers, comprising both students and faculty, took part in all events. Collaborating with **Mukti Service Civil Society** and **local school staff**, they received logistical and material support—saplings, gardening tools, and informational resources—for the successful execution of plantation events.

5. Impact & Observed Outcomes

Short-Term Results:

- **Over 50 saplings planted**, covering both school and college premises.
- **Active engagement** of more than 100 students across both venues in eco-drives and pledge activities.
- Increased environmental awareness, especially among school children, as observed by teachers.

Medium-Term Prospects:

- **Structured monitoring** of planted saplings by NSS volunteers.
- Strengthened **school–college bond**, opening pathways for joint ecological projects in local communities.
- Student motivation for data-driven projects such as sapling survival surveys, environmental documentation, and awareness campaigns.

6. Feedback & Reflections

Feedback from participants and stakeholders was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers at Giribala Adarsha remarked on heightened student curiosity and enthusiasm for environmental stewardship. College volunteers expressed pride in contributing tangibly to their campus landscape and local ecology. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of continued monitoring and community dialogue to reinforce long-term environmental impact.

7. Recommendations & Future Strategy

Drawing from observations of the week-long initiative, the following strategy is recommended:

1. **Bi-annual Green Audits:** Document campus biodiversity and plant health regularly.

2. **Educational Integration:** Embed environmental monitoring and conservation projects in NSS and academic modules.
3. **Community Outreach Expansion:** Introduce tree-planting activities in nearby villages and public spaces.
4. **Partnership Building:** Formalize collaborations with NGOs and local authorities for broader environmental interventions.
5. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Extend environmental literacy through college radio, print media, and local events.

8. Conclusion

Raidighi College NSS Unit 1's Van Mahotsav Week observation exemplifies a well-rounded model of environmental action—blending education, hands-on engagement, and community collaboration. Conducted at both a local school and the college campus, the week's initiatives achieved immediate ecological benefits and laid foundations for continued environmental stewardship. This event reaffirms the vital role academic institutions and youth volunteers play in nurturing sustainable, green futures.

