



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) UNITS
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE KARSOG
District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh



NSS REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

ACTIVITY REPORT

EK PED DHARTI MAA KE NAAM

Environmental Conservation & Tree Adoption Initiative

ONE VOLUNTEER - ONE TREE
FROM PLANTATION TO STEWARDSHIP



Saplings received from the Forest Department, Karsog and entrusted to NSS volunteers for long-term care

FOUR-STEP RESPONSIBILITY MODEL

01 - ADOPT

Take responsibility

02 - PLANT

Choose a suitable site

03 - PROTECT

Water and safeguard

04 - NURTURE

Support growth

DATE

16 September 2026

MODEL

Tree Adoption & Care

SCALE

Approx. 30-40 Saplings



Executive Summary

On **16 September 2026**, the National Service Scheme (NSS) Units of Government College Karsog organised an environmental conservation and tree adoption activity titled “**Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam**”, using saplings obtained from the **Forest Department, Karsog**. Conducted under the guidance and coordination of NSS Programme Officers **Ms. Sonia Chaudhary** and **Dr. Virender Thakur**, the activity was designed not merely to distribute and plant saplings, but to build a continuing relationship between each volunteer and the sapling entrusted to his or her care.

Approximately **30–40 saplings** were obtained from the Forest Department, Karsog and distributed among NSS volunteers at the College. Each volunteer was encouraged to take the allotted sapling to a suitable and accessible location near home or in the surrounding area, plant it carefully, and assume responsibility for its regular watering, protection, nurturing and growth.

The initiative represented a deliberate change from the earlier plantation approach. In previous activities, saplings were commonly planted collectively in forest areas, where subsequent survival depended more heavily on rainfall and local conditions and where regular follow-up by individual volunteers was difficult. In the present model, the sapling was placed within easy reach of the volunteer so that care could continue well beyond the day of plantation.

The central idea of the initiative

Planting was treated as the beginning of responsibility, not the end of an activity. Every volunteer was encouraged to keep the sapling alive, observe its growth and nurture it towards becoming a tree.

Programme Rationale

Tree plantation is meaningful only when the sapling survives, becomes established and continues to grow. The activity therefore focused on the stage that is often more difficult than plantation itself: **post-plantation care**. By linking one sapling with one responsible volunteer, the NSS Units sought to develop environmental responsibility through direct experience rather than through awareness alone.

The initiative also created an educational dimension. Volunteers were encouraged to observe their saplings periodically and understand how growth takes time, how it depends on local conditions, and how regular care can influence the development of a young plant. This approach connects environmental service with patience, observation, accountability and long-term commitment.

Why this model matters: a sapling planted close to a volunteer’s daily environment can be watered, protected and monitored more consistently. The activity therefore shifts attention from the number of saplings planted to the quality and continuity of care after plantation.



Objectives of the Initiative

The activity was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To develop a sense of environmental responsibility among NSS volunteers through personal responsibility for a sapling.
- To connect volunteers directly with the life and growth cycle of a plant through regular observation and care.
- To encourage plantation at accessible local sites where watering, protection and nurturing can be provided consistently.
- To move beyond a one-day plantation event towards long-term tree adoption and stewardship.
- To help volunteers understand the time, conditions and care required for a sapling to establish itself and grow into a tree.
- To extend NSS environmental action from the College into homes, neighbourhoods and local communities.

The Innovation: From Plantation to Stewardship

Dimension	Earlier Plantation Approach	Tree Adoption Approach
Planting site	Primarily collective plantation in forest areas	Home, nearby land or another suitable accessible site
Post-plantation care	Regular volunteer follow-up was difficult	Individual responsibility assigned to the volunteer
Watering and protection	More dependent on rainfall and site conditions	Can be provided regularly by the volunteer
Growth observation	Limited individual monitoring	Periodic observation of the adopted sapling
Sense of ownership	Collective	Personal and continuing
Core outcome	Completion of a plantation activity	Survival, growth and sustained care of the sapling

Innovation in one line: the NSS Units converted plantation from a one-time collective activity into a distributed care model in which each volunteer became personally responsible for the survival and growth of an adopted sapling.

Sapling Distribution and Adoption at the College

Saplings received from the **Forest Department, Karsog** were brought to Government College Karsog and distributed among participating NSS volunteers. The activity was coordinated under the guidance of the NSS Programme Officers, **Ms. Sonia Chaudhary, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science**, and **Dr. Virender Thakur, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics**.

Before taking the saplings, volunteers were briefed about the purpose of the initiative. They were encouraged to plant the saplings at locations where regular access was possible and where they could personally ensure watering, protection, nurturing and observation of growth over time.



Photo 1: NSS volunteers with saplings distributed as part of the “Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam” environmental conservation and tree adoption initiative at Government College Karsog.

From Distribution to Plantation

Following distribution at the College, volunteers carried their adopted saplings to suitable locations near their homes or in accessible local surroundings where continued care could be ensured. Plantation was undertaken individually and in small groups. The photographic documentation records volunteers preparing the soil, digging plantation pits, handling the saplings carefully, placing them correctly and firming the soil after plantation.

This stage translated the idea of responsibility into action. The sapling was no longer simply part of a plantation drive; it became a living responsibility entrusted to a volunteer who could revisit it, respond to its needs and monitor its condition.



(a) Preparing the soil and planting site.



(b) Preparing the pit for plantation.



(c) Carrying an adopted sapling to a suitable local site.

Photo 2: Volunteer-led plantation: site preparation, handling and responsibility at the local level.

A defining feature of the activity was accessibility. Volunteers were encouraged to plant where they could return regularly, observe the sapling and provide care whenever required.

Plantation at Volunteers' Local Sites

The photographs received from volunteers document plantation at different locations in and around Karsog. Volunteers selected sites where they could maintain a continuing connection with the sapling. The images show both individual and peer-supported plantation, while the underlying responsibility for care remained personal.



(a) Volunteers completing plantation together at a suitable local site.



(b) An NSS volunteer carefully securing the planted sapling.

Photo 3: NSS volunteers completing plantation and securing adopted saplings at accessible local sites.



(a) A newly planted sapling under the care of an NSS volunteer.



(b) Volunteer with the adopted sapling after plantation.

Photo 4: Plantation beyond the campus: environmental responsibility carried into local surroundings.



Continuing Care and Growth Observation

A defining component of the initiative is the post-plantation phase. Volunteers are expected to continue caring for the saplings through regular watering, protection from damage, basic soil maintenance around the sapling and periodic observation of growth. The purpose is not only to keep the sapling alive but also to allow students to learn from its gradual development.

By observing the plant over time, volunteers can understand that tree growth is a long process influenced by moisture, weather, soil conditions, protection and continued human care. The initiative therefore turns each planted sapling into a small, living environmental learning project.

From plantation to observation to responsibility

The volunteer is encouraged to remain connected with the sapling until it becomes established and grows into a tree.

Environmental and Educational Significance

The value of the programme extends beyond the physical act of planting. It develops environmental responsibility through direct participation and encourages volunteers to understand conservation as a continuing process. Rather than treating the sapling as an object planted for an event, the initiative asks the volunteer to recognise it as a living organism requiring time, favourable conditions and consistent care.

01

Responsibility

One volunteer is entrusted with continuing care of a sapling.

02

Observation

Growth is followed over time to understand plant development.

03

Continuity

Environmental service continues beyond the day of plantation.

Key Outcomes

- Approximately 30–40 saplings were received from the Forest Department, Karsog and distributed among NSS volunteers.
- Volunteers planted the allotted saplings at accessible local sites where continuing care could be provided.
- Each volunteer was given a clear responsibility to care for the planted sapling and pay attention to its growth.
- The programme created a direct link between environmental awareness and the practical process of sapling establishment and growth.
- The initiative encouraged periodic observation so that volunteers could understand how time, conditions and care influence growth.
- The activity shifted the emphasis from simply planting saplings to keeping them alive and nurturing them towards becoming trees.



Conclusion

The “**Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam**” **Environmental Conservation and Tree Adoption Initiative** marked a meaningful development in the regular environmental activities of the NSS Units of Government College Karsog. The saplings were obtained from the **Forest Department, Karsog**; the NSS Units created the organisational framework; and the volunteers carried the responsibility into their own local surroundings.

The distinctive value of the activity lies in what happens **after** plantation. By asking volunteers to care for their saplings, observe their development and remain responsible for their survival, the programme transformed plantation into an ongoing environmental commitment. It also helped students understand that a sapling does not become a tree in a day: growth depends on time, local conditions, protection and patient care.

The initiative therefore combines environmental conservation, experiential learning and voluntary service in a simple but replicable model. Its message is clear: **do not merely plant a sapling; keep it alive, help it grow and remain responsible until it becomes a tree.**

Plant a Tree. Adopt a Responsibility. Nurture a Future.

Media Coverage and Public Documentation

The activity received local press coverage in **Digital Samachar** on **16 September 2026**. The Hindi news report documented the environmental conservation activity at Government College Karsog under the title “**Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam**”. It recorded the distribution of saplings to NSS volunteers, the instruction to take them home or to another suitable location for plantation, and the responsibility assigned for regular care, watering and nurturing.

The coverage also highlighted the educational purpose of the activity: volunteers would observe the growth of their plants over time and understand how a sapling develops, how its growth depends on environmental conditions, and how appropriate care supports its progress. Importantly, the report reinforced the central message of the initiative - volunteers were encouraged not only to plant saplings, but to keep them alive and fulfil their responsibility until the plants grow into trees. The report also noted that the activity was successfully conducted with the guidance and support of the NSS Programme Officers.

Documentary significance: the press coverage provides an external documentary record of the core design of the activity - distribution, individual responsibility, continuing care and growth observation - and therefore strengthens the institutional documentation of the programme.



डिजिटल समाचार

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MY NET TV

Wednesday 16th September 2026

website: mynettv. online

करसोग महाविद्यालय में “एक पेड़ धरती माँ के नाम” अभियान के तहत पर्यावरण संरक्षण गतिविधि



करसोग, टी के एम 16 सितंबर 2026 को राजकीय महाविद्यालय करसोग की राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना इकाई द्वारा “एक पेड़ धरती माँ के नाम” अभियान के अंतर्गत एक पर्यावरण संरक्षण गतिविधि आयोजित की गई।

इस गतिविधि के दौरान एनएसएस स्वयंसेवियों को विभिन्न पौधे वितरित किए गए। स्वयंसेवियों को इन पौधों को अपने घर ले जाकर उचित स्थान पर लगाने तथा नियमित रूप से उनकी देखभाल, सिंचाई एवं पोषण करने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। प्रत्येक विद्यार्थी को यह जिम्मेदारी दी गई कि वह अपने द्वारा लगाए गए पौधे की निरंतर देखभाल करे और उसके विकास पर ध्यान दे।

इस गतिविधि का मुख्य उद्देश्य स्वयंसेवियों में पर्यावरण के प्रति जिम्मेदारी की भावना विकसित करना तथा उन्हें पौधे के जीवन और विकास की प्रक्रिया से प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जोड़ना था। विद्यार्थी समय-समय पर अपने पौधे की वृद्धि का अवलोकन करेंगे, जिससे यह समझने में सहायता मिलेगी कि एक पौधे को बड़ा होने में कितना समय लगता है, उसकी वृद्धि किन परिस्थितियों पर निर्भर करती है तथा उचित देखभाल से उसके विकास में किस प्रकार सहायता मिलती है।

इस पहल के माध्यम से स्वयंसेवियों को केवल पौधे लगाने के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि उन्हें जीवित रखने और वृक्ष बनने तक उनकी जिम्मेदारी निभाने का संदेश दिया गया।

यह गतिविधि कार्यक्रम अधिकारी प्रो. सोनिया चौधरी और डॉ. वीरेंद्र ठाकुर जी के मार्गदर्शन एवं सहयोग से सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुई।

Photo 5: Press coverage in Digital Samachar documenting the “Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam” environmental conservation activity at Government College Karsog on 16 September 2026.



Programme Officers

This report documents the “Ek Ped Dharti Maa Ke Naam” environmental conservation and tree adoption initiative undertaken by the NSS Units of Government College Karsog on 16 September 2026, using saplings obtained from the Forest Department, Karsog. It is based on the activity conducted, the photographic documentation received from volunteers, and the subsequent local press coverage of the programme.

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