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100th batch drops its roots at IISc campus on green note

DNA / Bosky Khanna / Thursday, July 29, 2010 9:27 IST

The centenary celebrations of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) kick-started on a green note on Wednesday.

The fresh batch of 850 students — the 100th batch of the institute, in fact — planted saplings of native trees at Jubilee Gardens on the campus. They will take care of the trees during their study at IISc. Interestingly, Jubilee Gardens is celebrating its silver jubilee this year. Most students said they had planted a sapling for the first time in their life. “It is a nice feeling,” Devendra Prakash, a chemical engineering student, said. “I will take care of it as I would myself.”

The event was organised by the student council and Green Gang of the IISc, in association with the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) and Centre for Infrastructure and Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning (CISTUP).

The novel orientation programme was inaugurated by IISc director Prof P Balaram by planting a sapling.

Jubilee Garden, with lots of Australian acacia trees, is spread across 16 acres. “Our aim is to develop a moist deciduous forest on the campus, and most saplings have been obtained from north Karnataka,” TV Ramachandra, energy and wetlands research group, CES, IISc, said.

Three engineers from the BMTC and two from KSRTC have enrolled for the master’s programme at the IISc. “The officers will attend the MTech programme,” BMTC managing director Syed Zameer Pasha said. “An MoU has been signed with CISTUP to train them.” This is for the first time that officers from the transport corporations have joined IISc.

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