

## **YUVATHA NADIYODOPPAM**

Rivers are considered as the lifelines of a nation. Rivers are rich sources of fish and other edible aquatic life and major sources of freshwater, which can be used for drinking and irrigation. They have a big role in the emergence of civilizations in ancient times. Today many major cities find its place on the banks of rivers. Rivers have been used for navigation for thousands of years. They are natural habitats for many organisms. They also promote the growth of thick vegetation in their banks, creating rich biodiversity.

There are 44 rivers in Kerala. Among them 41 flows westward and 3 flows eastward. The rivers in Kerala are facing challenges due to high density of population, unscientific development, encroachment, sand mining, pollution etc. The educated Youth of Kerala have a vital role to play in this context especially for the protection of our rivers.

By understanding the grave situation, the NSS Cell of the University of Kerala in association with the Department of Revenue, Government of Kerala initiated *YUVATHA NADIYODOPPAM* as its flagship programme. As part of the programme, NSS units of various colleges under the University of Kerala organized several activities such as ‘puzha nadatham’, cleaning of rivers, planting of trees in the river banks etc.

The NSS units of Govt. College also organized a program for conservation of rivers. Fiftyone volunteers under the leadership of Programme Officers visited the starting point of Vamanapuram river in Thellikachal, Pullampara, near Venjaramoodu on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019. A meeting was arranged near the river at 10.15 am which was inaugurated by the Panchayath Vice- President Sri. Sreekandan Nair. An awareness class was also conducted by Sri. Balakrishnan, an environmentalist. After the class, the volunteers planted 200 mangrove saplings along the riverbanks. They also conducted a rally along the riverside carrying placards and banner. Popular leaders and the local people joined hands with the volunteers for the success of the programme. It was very memorable to the young volunteers.

**Inauguration Function of *nadiyodoppam* programme at Pullanpara panchayath, Vamanapuram**



**Interactive Session about Vamanapuram River and its protection**



**Cleaning and planting of bamboo saplings along the banks of Vamanapuram River**



**Valedictory Function of *Nadiyodoppam* Program at Phoenix Club Auditorium, Vamanapuram**

