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High school and higher secondary school students to participate in massive tree plantation drive on September 17

: ACS Shri Sahu

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On the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Odisha will set a rare record by planting 75 lakh saplings on September 17 and this will be a unique birthday gift to the Prime Minister. Students of all high schools and higher secondary schools of our state will participate in this massive plantation drive, said Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department Shri Satyabrata Sahu.

Presiding over a high-level meeting today, A.C.S. Shri Sahu said that students are the beacons of green consciousness. With their potential, enthusiasm and collective strength, this massive tree plantation drive can truly succeed and long-term environmental protection can be ensured. Students have a vital role to play in environmental protection. Students can inspire others in their area to join the massive tree plantation drive. They can act as "green ambassadors" for this purpose. The tree plantation programme on 17th September is not just about increasing the number of trees in our state; it will be a guide to a large-scale mass movement for environment protection. Being the most vibrant section of the society, students are the focal point of this mission. The massive tree plantation programme on 17th September in Odisha is not just a programme - it is a green revolution and the torchbearers of this revolution are our students. With their energy, determination and sense of responsibility, they can turn this one-day programme into a long-term mass movement for a green, safe and healthy Odisha. 15 lakh students from around 40,000 schools, led by 2 lakh teachers of the state, will plant saplings at pre-designated places on 17th September. The programme will be organised under the guidance of the District Education Officers. Additional District Education Officers, Block Education Officers and Headmasters will be involved in this, said Additional Chief Secretary Shri Sahu.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department Dr. Arvind Padhi said that students can play a very important role in the tree plantation drive and tree conservation activities. Students can participate in tree plantation drives in villages, cities, schools. They can nurture and take care of a tree as their personal responsibility. Planting a sapling is not enough - students can take the responsibility of watering, protecting and taking care of the tree till it grows. The Horticulture Department will provide free indigenous fruit saplings for this September 17th event. Not only the saplings, but their maintenance for the next three years is also important. Various competitions will be organized at the high school level on the importance of tree plantation and environmental conservation and prizes will be given to the winners on September 17th. This will send a message for environmental protection, said Dr. Padhi.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary of School and Mass Education Department, Mrs. Shalini Pandit said that the Community Development Officers and Education Officers will decide in advance which school children will plant trees at which place.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Shri Girish S.N. said that 37,000 places have been decided for planting of saplings at the Panchayat level across the state. Banners will be put up at all those places. The school authorities will contact the Community Development Officer and Block Development Officer in advance and get informed about the places of planting sapling. This planting of saplings will be done on September 17 from 5 am to 5 pm. Photos of

saplings planted will be uploaded on the Meri Life portal. Training related to uploading these photos will be provided on September 11 at 11 am.

In this high-level meeting, Chief Executive Officer, KAMPA, Shri G. Rajesh highlighted the details of Ek Peed Ma Ke Naam 2.0, especially the details of the plantation of sapling on September 17 through Power Point presentation. Among others, Ananya Das, State Project Director, OSEPA and Shri K. S. Pradeep, Director, Environment were present and gave thoughtful suggestions. District Education Officers of all the districts participated in the meeting through video conference and provided information about the preparations.



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