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About 1 lakh students from about 1000 colleges in the state will participate in a massive sapling plantation drive on September 17th

: ACS Shri Sahu

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Mother and trees are very important to us. Just as children worry about their mother's health, they should also worry about the saplings until they grow into trees, Additional Chief Secretary Shri Satyabrata Sahu has appealed.

Today, a high-level meeting was held with a view to involve college and university students in the massive sapling plantation drive on September 17th under the 'Ek Peed Maa Ke Naam-2.0'. Presiding over the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department Shri Sahu said that a massive sapling plantation drive is being organized in Odisha on September 17th. The main objective of 75 lakh sapling plantation drive on the 75th birthday of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is to protect the environment, conserve nature and make the Prime Minister's beloved state of Odisha a green Odisha. College students are the youth of today and the builders of the future. Their role is very important in this plantation drive. Every college student plants a sapling and saves it, out of which lakhs of trees can be grown. These will provide us with shade, water, oxygen and environmental health in the coming days. The healthy environment of the next generation is in our hands. Therefore, let us all conceive the idea, "Plant trees, save trees – create a green Odisha." At least one lakh students from one thousand colleges will participate in this plantation drive. Till today, 40 thousand places have been identified at the panchayat level. Saplings of fruit and other useful trees will be planted free of cost from 966 nurseries of the forest department and plantation drive will be held at 7 thousand places identified at the panchayat level. He said that one lakh students and 30 thousand employees of colleges will participate and make the plantation drive a success.

Commissioner cum Secretary , Higher Education Shri Arvind Agarwal said that this sapling plantation program should be turned into a mass movement. One lakh students and 16,500 Myi Bharat volunteers will join hands and play an important role in this sapling plantation program. Saplings will be planted in the college campus and in designated places within three to four kilometers. These saplings are six to eighteen months old and the students will also take responsibility for their protection. They will be uploaded on the Meri Life portal.

In this meeting, among others, Director of Higher Education Shri Kaliprasanna Mohapatra, Chief Executive Officer of CAMPA Shri G. Rajesh, Director of Environment Shri K. S. Pradeep, Vice Chancellor of Utkal University Shri Yagneshwar Dandapat, NSS Coordinator Shri Ramesh Chandra Behera and other departmental officials were present and gave thoughtful suggestions.

More than 600 college presidents joined the meeting virtually and discussed the preparations for the sapling plantation.



Manas Ranjan Khuntia
Information Officer