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Fisheries dept warns agency after tree loss at Nalban

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KOLKATA: A day after the TOI reported that about 20 to 25 large trees were cut down in Nalban fisheries area off Sukantanagar under East Kolkata Wetlands, the state fisheries department on Monday claimed that the trees accidentally fell in natural course of action during desiltation work conducted by the State Fisheries Development Corporation (SFDC) with the help of an agency. The department also stated that the agency that had executed the work had also been cautioned to prevent any further damage. "The agency was called for an explanation. They said the trees were not cut but fell in a natural course of action during the work. The forest department authorities also enquired about the matter and we have communicated to them on what exactly has

happened," said a fisheries department official. The authorities will also conduct a plantation drive at the affected spot to compensate for the loss .

The TOI report had highlighted that the members of the Paschimbanga Vigyan Mancha had raised an alarm over the issue. They had met the officials of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority, forest department and West Bengal pollution control board on Monday to share their concerns. "The loss of such large trees can never be compensated," said Paschimbanga Vigyan Mancha assistant secretary, Saurav Chakraborty.