

Plant-nurturing lesson finds spot in Maha syllabus

28 October 2020

SSC, HSC students will now need to take care of a sapling for a year, and will be graded accordingly

In a bid to generate awareness among the youth on nature and its conservation, the state government has decided to put lessons on tree plantation and maintenance in the curriculum of both school and college students, and grade them based on their performance related to nurturing plants.

The agenda was discussed a couple of months ago in a meeting, which was attended by deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and forest and environment officials. There, the latter reportedly expressed their interest in adopting and implementing the idea floated by Sahyadri Devrai, a non-profit organisation (NGO) that works for environmental causes.

The state government is at present working on the roadmap to introduce a system wherein students from both secondary school certificate (SSC) and higher secondary certificate (HSC) courses will be gifted a plant/sapling at the start of the new academic year.

Pupils will be required to take care of the plant handed to each of them for the entire scholastic year and will be evaluated based on their execution of the task.

Lessons on tree plantation and conservation are also likely to be incorporated as a new subject, for which students will be graded.

Deputy CM Pawar, in a written statement, said, "Rapid urbanisation is taking a toll on the environment. To strike a balance, it's extremely important that massive tree plantation drives are conducted and, more importantly, the trees are conserved. The initiative needs public involvement."

"We have already been stressing on planting native trees, which are best for our soil. It's imperative that every individual, especially schoolchildren, understand that caring for the environment and nature are essential for sustainable living.

We have chalked out certain initiatives in this regard for the kids, which will be imbibed as part of their academic curriculum," the account further mentioned.

A letter elaborating on the initiatives and the road ahead has been handed over to the forest officials and others who are part of the project.

Forest officials, state authorities and schools/colleges will be working collectively over the next three months to realise the programme.

Sayaji Shinde, founder of Sahyadri Devrai, added, “Student participation plays a crucial role in conserving the nature as children are our future.

Pupils will be given a plant to nurture for a whole year and evaluated accordingly.”

Speaking about the contribution of the forest department and initiatives undertaken, Vivek Khandekar, additional principal chief conservator of forests (Pune division), shared, “Our department will oversee the programme of planting saplings. At present, we are in the initial phase of planning out the drives. However, we will be able to help the children in setting up nurseries by providing plants/saplings as and when needed.”

Source: <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/other/plant-nurturing-lesson-finds-spot-in-maha-syllabus/articleshow/78904655.cms>