

Sindhi community vows to plant 10 million trees

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Kolkata: Members of the Sindhi community launched one of the largest tree plantation drives in the city on Sunday. They pledged to plant 10 million trees across Kolkata as part of a mission called Mithri Mitti. The journey started off with plantation of 300 trees at Chowbaga in east Kolkata.

MLA Swarnakamal Saha and mayor-in-council member Sandipan Saha took part in the drive. “Trees strike a crucial balance between carbon dioxide and oxygen in the atmosphere. People must plant twice the number of trees against what they fell. The new generation is much more aware than us. I think such a movement will attract the attention of the current generation,” the MLA said.

According to a latest report published by the Forest Survey of India, an agency under the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, Kolkata has less than 1% urban forest cover among Indian metros. Moreover, Kolkata has lost about 30% of its forest cover during the last decade. The slide in forest cover within Kolkata is only second to Ahmedabad, where the cover has dwindled to about 47%.

“Only trees have the ability to produce oxygen. This is why each person needs to plant as many trees as possible. The earth we are leaving for the next generation is much degraded than what we got from our forefathers. We are ready to collaborate with anyone as far as tree plantation is concerned,” said Sanjay Jaisingh, the founder of Mithri Mitti.