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Students to create on campus forest in Kolkata school

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A forest within a school. Students of Future Campus school (FCS) at Sonarpur embarked on a unique project called on campus forest, first of its kind in eastern India using the Japanese Miyawaki method of forestry in its sprawling campus.

As climate crisis assuming serious proportion, Kolkata, one of the most climate vulnerable cities in the world, needs many such forests. The bomb is ticking on our future. Global studies show that there are only 3 trillion

trees left on the planet. "3 trillion might seem like a high number to most of us. Until we realise that we cut down 15 billion trees every year. If things don't change immediately, we might become completely treeless in 300,"

said Mousumi Ghosh, founder of Team Future, parent body for FCS.

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In this Miyawaki technique, various native species of plants are planted close to each other so that the greens receive sunlight

only from the top and grow upwards rather than sideways. As a result, the plantation becomes approximately 30 times denser, grows 10 times faster and becomes maintenance-free after a span of 3 years.

Tollywood actor Tanusree Chakraborty supported this much needed initiative. Celebrated interdisciplinary artist Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee came as a mentor for the event. The event was followed by a comprehensive

discussion on eco-efficiency. "The main objective of this initiative is to kindle the love for green cover which will have a positive impact on their mental health," added Ghosh.

Students are being trained and hand-held by Hari Mitti, a movement to attain the dream to replenish the earth with lush nature. They believe in bringing some method to madness. If pesticides are poison, then organic is its remedy. In their nursery off the New Town approach road, seedlings of joy have been planted to delight everyone.

Benefits of this method are as follows:

- A minimum of 300% more species in the same area as compared to conventional plantation species.
- A substantial 3000% increase in noise and dust isolation.
- Up to 30 times or more Carbon-dioxide absorption as compared to conventional forest.
- Guaranteed growth of at least 1 metre every year, in tree height.