



Tribal dept to implement forest teachers scheme

24 March 2022

Nagpur: After the Nagpur zilla parishad introduced the 'Van Adhyapaks' (forest teachers) scheme in all its 1,500 schools in the district, now the additional tribal commissioner has decided to launch it in all the ashram shalas (residential schools) to sensitize tribal students about forest and wildlife. The scheme is also in force at schools in Ramtek and Parsheoni tehsils surrounding Pench Tiger Reserve. Buoyed by the success, the additional tribal commissioner has written to all the in-charge officers of Integrated Tribal Development Projects to implement the scheme.

Tribal department sources said, "The Van Adhyapak scheme is already being effectively implemented in schools on the fringes of the park. To make it more effective, it should also be implemented in ashram shalas to strengthen the bond between young minds and forest staff. These students are the future of the forest and wildlife."

The sources added, "The essence of the scheme is that the uniformed frontline staff, right from forest guards to higher officers, will regularly visit the ashram shalas and educate them on the importance of wildlife, forest, environment and its conservation. They will also train the teachers who will later carry forward the sensitization work."

Chief conservator of forests Ravikiran Govekar, now posted as joint secretary at Mantralaya, was the first to initiate the scheme in 2016-2017 at Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, but it was not implemented on a full scale. The scheme should be implemented in all the tiger reserve areas, he feels.

Govekar said, "The approaches for the conservation of wildlife and nature have been shifting from stringent protection to co-management and co-creation. Change in the mindset of citizens at a very early age will have long-lasting impact."

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/tribal-dept-to-implement-forest-teachers-scheme/articleshow/90426944.cms>