



EDITION - APRIL - JUNE 2020

02

WELCOMING
MONSOONS

02

FOREST DEPARTMENT
AT
YOUR DOORSTEP

03

DID YOU
KNOW ?

04

A WORD OF
THOUGHT

EDITOR'S NOTE

There was a story of a little boy who survived in the jungle, thanks to his natural instincts, primitive grooming & selfless animal friends like Raksha (Indian Wolf), Bagheera (Black Panther), Baloo (Bear), Akela (Lone Wolf) & so on. They all collectively made his survival possible in harsh dense forests, if not easy! At least, they taught him to be self-dependent. Growing up watching & listening to the story conditioned our minds that forests are definitely not a place to be but it taught many other aspects also. Firstly, Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling teaches us that the planet belongs to all kinds of species and man is just one of them. Thus, we should understand the concept of biodiversity & respect the space of all creatures. Secondly, it is very essential for human beings to understand the way of forest life. Just because we have found our comfort in Urban jungles, we just cannot turn our backs to the forests around us. The story not only takes one into the virtual jungle without risking the safety, it also gives a closer look into the mysterious world of animals. Last but not the least, the legends may fade in the due course of time, nature is here to stay. Thus, it becomes all the more imperative that we develop our bonding with it.

So, taking inspiration from these learnings, the department is happy & thrilled to launch this 'Jungle Book', a quarterly newsletter from Wildlife & Forest Department, Chandigarh. The Newsletter 'Jungle Book' may have nothing to do with its original story but is filled with a variety of information like facts, events & important areas that need special mentions. We intend to share all kinds of information with you to not only keep you posted but also to amplify the emotion of joy & pride for your very own city beautiful, Chandigarh.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my entire team to take such an important step in the direction of lodging & writing the golden chapters of Chandigarh's environment history.

Get ready to dive in to this stunning experience, lose your soul & find serenity.

Debendra Dalai
CCF

LAUNCH OF GCAP 2020-21

GCAP 2020-21 is the 4th edition of the series and is a document of great importance for the nature & city lovers. Launched by honorable Governor of Punjab & Administrator Chandigarh, Sh VP Badnore on 27 May 2020 on the occasion of Earth Day, it is a reader's delight. Greening Chandigarh Action Plan is an annual Coffee Table Book which is a true mirror of the city's green development & report card of the efforts made by the forest department with the help of horticulture department, NGOs & other greening agencies. Not only it points out the areas to work on, the strategies, action plan for current year, it also mentions the steps taken in the previous year and their impact.



WELCOMING MONSOONS

Chandigarh is all set to welcome the monsoons this year. The city is blossoming with beautiful flowers all around and the roads are ready to take the shower of nature. It has become a great deal to save rain water and Chandigarh is one the cities which enjoys infrastructure to be able to execute it. Trees around the city roads have gripped the soil effectively which the ground will be prepared for following dry seasons. However, its not enough. All the residents & organisations are advised to take steps to collect rain water so that it can be used to the benefit of human usage. We also suggest you to plant saplings in your locality or any place you find empty or hotter than other surroundings.



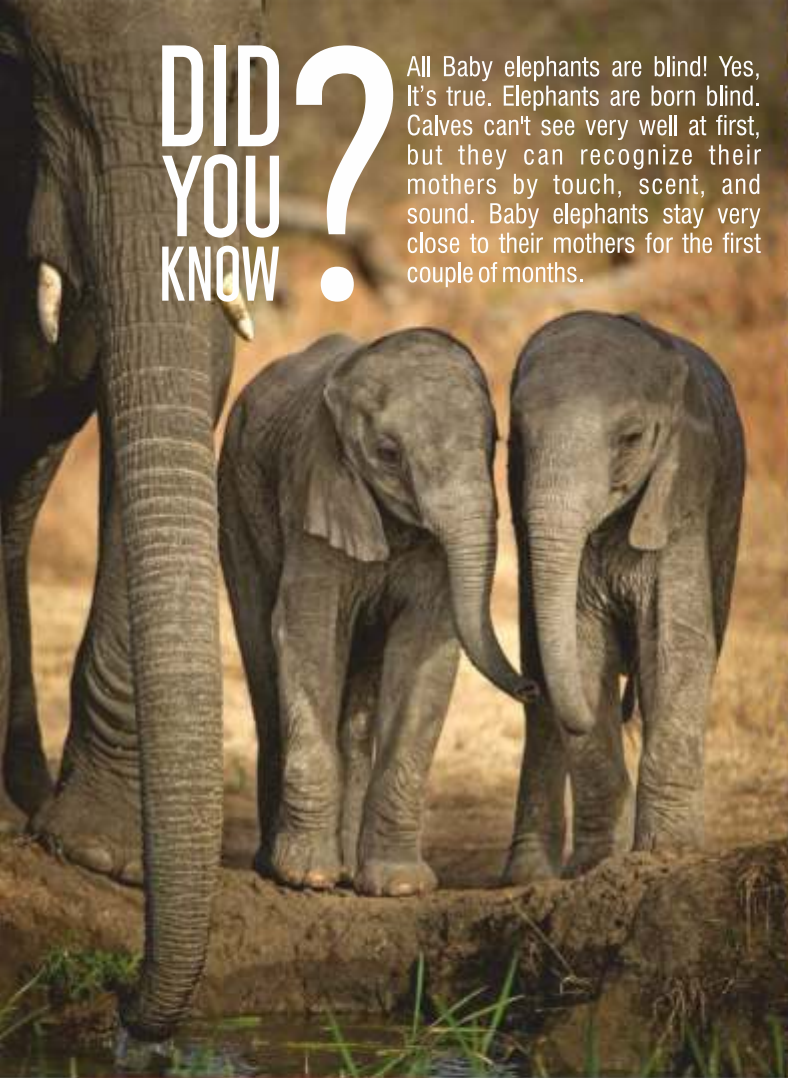
FOREST DEPARTMENT AT YOUR DOORSTEP

On the Occasion of 'Van Mahotsav-2020', the forest department is all set to distribute free medicinal plants at the doorstep of the people of the city in the second edition of the series. Approximately 75000 plants of 45 species have been shortlisted for the purpose. This activity is planned for the monsoon season as the longevity of the saplings increases during this time of the year. The vehicles of the department will visit across the sectors starting 10th till the end of July. The door to door visit of the vehicles shall facilitate the residents to freely pick & choose the plants. Detailed plan of the dates corresponding to the sectors has been shared on the website. This unique step is being taken in order to encourage people's inclination towards nature & make the city greener for the times to come.



DID YOU KNOW ?

All Baby elephants are blind! Yes, It's true. Elephants are born blind. Calves can't see very well at first, but they can recognize their mothers by touch, scent, and sound. Baby elephants stay very close to their mothers for the first couple of months.



PLANT OF THIS EDITION

AMALTAS:

This beautiful plant is also called Golden Shower because of its golden yellow flowers that fall on the ground making it a beautiful sight. Apart from its alluring view, Amaltas has many health benefits too. Amaltas fruits are used in the treatment of diabetes. It is antipyretic, abortifacient, demulcent, decreases inflammation and heat of the body useful in chest complaints, throat troubles, liver complaints and diseases of eye and gripping. The pulp of the fruit around the seeds is a mild purgative. So, find one in your locality and enjoy the fruits of God. However, better idea is to plant one for yourself.

OWN YOUR GREEN SPACE

This is an invite to all amateur bird watchers, nature lovers & budding photographers. Click the beautiful images around the city & share with us through email along with your name & photograph. The best images will be featured in the upcoming editions of Jungle Book – the Chandigarh forest newsletter.



A WORD OF THOUGHT

In the recent times, we have experienced once in a lifetime turmoil in the wake of Covid 19 outbreak. Amidst the chaos, confusion & misinformation, we all have faced some sense of insecurity, danger & uncertainty. While many of us have learnt to live with the situation, a few are still struggling with the atrocities of life either due to the very said disease, other ailments, financial crisis or mental struggle. An increase in number of people dealing through mental illness has come to light. While some have their genuine reasons, others are still fighting to find their reasons. Its just because mental illness may or may not arise due to any strong trauma or experience. All okay situation can also trigger depression. However, if you are a territorial animal who hunts during the day and rests at night, anything shaking like Covid-19 can surely affect your mental health as you just faced an intervention of an unknown danger in your natural habitat. We humans just got acquainted with the phenomenon that other animals have been facing since eternity due to the human interference. Although there have been innumerable instances of wild animals taking over the urban areas during the lockdown period, this however, is no sign of healing of nature. The bad impact by humans on the planet is too huge to be recovered in a couple weeks. As it is a well-known fact that nearly all animals are scared of humans, they tend to stay off our sight for their own safety. So, when they saw no human activity around, they expanded their borders believing that they are left alone, which was actually meant to be temporary.

A leopard in the sectors of Chandigarh was found and we all thought that it wanted to take over our space. No, it did not come to claim the territory. It was rather a victim of illusion like blue bulls, deers & other wild animal across the city.

This clears another aspect that human actions are an integral part of eco system. How we move, or rather how far we move, gives a clear signal to the wildlife that how much their space is shrunk. But the important concern here is that why have humans posed as a threat to nature? Why can animals not accept us as their planet mate? Why do they want to change ways as soon as they see us? It is because we humans have taught them so by always being a threat to them; killing them either for a benefit or out of sheer fear.

It's a lesson that we should take a closer look at our own actions, our ideologies, our intentions and the adverse effects that it is going to have on our own future. Lets keep our compassion, love & care for nature intact & in execution because they say *"as you sow, so shall you reap."*

