



A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH

EDITION - JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE



You must have had your breakfast today. You must have been wearing the clothes washed with a detergent. You must have travelled by a bus or by car. You must have taken a parking slip. You might have blown your nose with a tissue paper or might have used it as a blotting paper in the kitchen. Products made out of forests are a vital part of our daily lives in many more ways than we can imagine.

Forests provide us with shelter, livelihood, water, food and fuel. All these things directly or indirectly involve forests. Some are easy to figure out like fruits, paper, furniture and so on. Others are less obvious, such as by-products that go into everyday items like medicines, cosmetics and detergents.

Looking at it beyond our narrow, forests provide habitat to diverse animal species. They are home to 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, and they also form the source of livelihood for many different human settlements, including 60 million indigenous people.

We don't underestimate the power of a common forest. We depend on them for our survival, from the oxygen we breathe to the timber we use. Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Yet, we are allowing them to disappear. We may not realize or face it at once but with every tree that is cut, we are left with less oxygen, deteriorated environment and compromised health of the planet earth. With the rise in populations, the need for deforestation becomes inevitable and we choose to let the forests die. Currently, there may not be solutions available in black or white, but certainly, there has come the situation that we should start digging for sustainable solution to this ever-growing problem. The parity between the green jungles and urban jungles is the direction that can be seen.

Till that time, we have got the collective obligation of being extra cautious of our habits and consumptions. We need to act smartly to distinguish between the wants and needs that have direct or indirect implications on the environment. We all need to be well informed and dedicated of how can we reduce our carbon footprinting. Starting from switching to eco friendly products to reducing the intake of synthetic and plastics, to reusing the limited resources like water, wisely utilizing the natural resources like solar energy, plants, to installing plants in unused or vacant spaces, this is going to be a continuous endeavor which will surely be moved in its desired direction with every single step of every human being. As rightly said by a spiritual leader, if you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with mosquitoes.

I would highly recommend everyone to be innovative in approach. It is generally undervalued the ripple effect of our actions in all directions. We need to enrich our lives with nature friendly lifestyle because it not only gives us peace of mind but also a healthier place to live.

Debendra Dalai  
CCF



Vanmahotsav is not just a yearly event for the department, it is a festival with a series of happy moments that we look forward to celebrating. It is a sentiment which is common for the those who are involved in various activities. But due to COVID-19 pandemic situation prevailing in the entire country, no major ceremonial plantation was done to avoid possible crowding by the public. However, to sensitize the citizens regarding the importance of tree plantation, Vanmahotsav-2020, was launched on 10th July, 2020 by planting tree saplings at Forest Area on IT Park Road between Railway Light Point to Kishangarh village chowk under Manimajra beat in association with Central Reserve Police Force. On this occasion, Officers and officials planted saplings there.

Apart from that, under the unique initiative of 'Forest Department at your doorstep', three special vehicles by the forest department were run through the city to distribute free saplings of herbal and ornamental plants to the nature lovers of the City Beautiful. A detailed plan was shared on public platforms where general public was informed about the schedule of these vehicles in different sectors. This piece of information helped the residents to plan the reception of their preferred plants. Five saplings per resident were distributed free to the people.



"Van Vibhag, Aapke Dwar" Vehicle carrying free saplings to distribute around the city.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE  
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION

Real photo of monkey being forcefully captivated

**STOP  
BEING  
WILD  
WITH THE WILD**

KEEPING ANY WILD ANIMAL AS PET IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE.  
BE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS & OUR DUTIES.

It is illegal to pet wild animal under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972  
If you want to rescue wild animal, inform forest department immediately at 0172-2700217

Animals/Birds banned under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.


Visit our official website [www.chandigarhforest.gov.in](http://www.chandigarhforest.gov.in) for more details on list of animals banned for petting

Inform the authorities about offender. Your name will be kept undisclosed & you will be suitably rewarded.  
E-mail: [forestchandigarh@gmail.com](mailto:forestchandigarh@gmail.com) | Ph: 0172-2700217

Thanks to vigilant PETA India as it all started when they informed the forest department about an offence by a city resident who had captivated a monkey and had been flaunting it through his Instagram posts. Petting a wild animal is serious and punishable offence, so the offender had to face legal action against him. However, with this incident, it became evident that general public is not aware of the rules of domesticating or petting the animals. Moreover, people are unclear about the animals' category that can or cannot be pet. Thus, to tackle this problem, the forest department has uploaded the list of wild animals that are prohibited to be kept as pets under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 on the official website. To support this and disseminate the information, forest department issued a 2-advertisement campaign in various publications of the city.

**STOP  
BEING  
WILD  
WITH THE WILD**

*"I know that this is not the start of the story nor is the end. We have many like him who knowingly or unknowingly harm the nature because of many reasons like fun, flaunting, décor, status etc. So, all I want to say here is that whatever your reason may be, an offense is an offense and it's high time that we stop this atrocity. We all need to be aware of the do's and don'ts and it is the responsibility of every individual to make oneself aware."*

**Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS**  
Deputy Conservator of Forests  
Forests & Wildlife Department  
Chandigarh Administration

# VRIKSHABANDHAN 2020



Rakshabandhan was celebrated with love extended for the nature by the Chandigarh residents, this year. The activity by the forest department intended to share the emotion of care and commitment towards the nature where the citizens were to tie Rakhi bands to the trees. The activity successfully ran at two significant spots in the city, one of which was most sort after and most visited attraction – Sukhna Lake and the other was Botanical Garden, Sarangpur. To our delight, the citizens participated in the activity in large numbers. Despite the fear of pandemic & selective lockdowns, the activity witnessed overwhelming participation from across the city as more than 1000 participants tied Rakhi on the trees and took the pledge to conserve the nature. To motivate and appreciate the participants for their involvement, the forest department conducted a lucky draw through which the winners were announced. These winners were invited to the forest department office in Sector 19 and were felicitated with prizes. The lucky winner were as follows:



*We are delighted to receive the kind of response Vrikshabandhan had because it gives a sense of relief & like-mindedness between the department & general public towards conservation of nature which further motivates us to come up different such activities in future as well. The present to winners is a small token of appreciation to a couple of individuals but we are thankful to each and everyone who tied rakhis & took pledge of conservation of trees.*

**Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS,**  
Chief Conservator of Forest  
Forests & Wildlife Department  
Chandigarh Administration



# DID YOU KNOW?

## GREY HORNBILL STATE BIRD OF CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh has got its own 'State Bird'? Yes! There is a bird called 'Grey Hornbill'. It is also known as *Ocyrceros birostris*. It Feeds on fruits, nuts, seeds, small insects, lizards, and small snakes and abodes on old tall dense trees like banyan, Goolar etc. Generally arboreal, it very rarely descends to the ground, just to pick up fallen fruits or dust bathe may be. It was considered as the State Bird because of its huge population in the city. Although as per IUCN Conservation Status, it is considered of Least Concern but there has been a decline in its population due to the habitat loss in the city by cutting down of large trees.

## PLANT OF THIS EDITION

### DHAK:

Also known as Flame of the Forest, Dhak flower is the State flower of City Beautiful, Chandigarh. It blossoms on a medium sized tree. The hindi phrase "Dhaak ke teen paat" comes from the prominent three leaflets of this tree. Flowers in orange and vermilion cover blossom from January to March. These flowers are also known as Palaash. These flowers are used to prepare a traditional Holi colour called "Kesari". It is used for timber, resin, fodder, medicine, and dye. It has got its space in religion as Spoons and ladles used in various Hindu rituals to pour ghee into the fire are made of this tree. Its leaves were used to serve food. The herbal medicine called 'kamarkas' in Hindi, is derived from the resin of a *Dhak tree*.

