



A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH

EDITION: JANUARY - MARCH 2022



## WILDLIFE-A PERPLEXED PIECE OF PUZZLE

Turn on the news and you will see the effects of climate change playing out in real time in the country and across the globe. We see rampant wildfires, coastal flooding, increased severity and frequency of hurricanes, and record high temperatures. All these events have one thing in common: climate change. Climate change increases the intensity and frequency of weather events, and will continue to wreak havoc unless we do something about it. Most widely talked about, reducing greenhouse gas emissions would require transformative changes in energy, transportation and food production, along with changes in social behaviours. But another major solution to consider is nature's ability to absorb and store carbon.

**'Wildlife and the diversity of species within an ecosystem increase an ecosystems ability to store carbon**, making wildlife's role in the fight against climate change indispensable. Levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are balanced by the natural movement of carbon through certain ecosystems, during which CO2 is absorbed by plants, sediments or the surface of the water bodies. From there, it is stored for long periods of time. Forests absorb enough carbon to **decrease emissions by 11%**. But without wildlife, ecosystems cannot operate at the maximum level to fight climate change.

Species both big and small support the important roles of ecosystems, but new research is highlighting how those at the top of the food chain have outsized influence on the structure of an ecosystem.

Overall, biodiversity is extremely important within every ecosystem. A lack of species diversity can have a ripple effect throughout the rest of the ecosystem, and in turn, reduce the ability of the ecosystem to capture and store carbon. Our planet is on the verge of a sixth mass extinction. As we learn more about the roles species play in combating climate change and creating healthy ecosystems, protecting wildlife is imperative.

## Tamil Nadu Forest Academy- RFOs Training at Bird Park 23.03.2022



Newly recruited Forest Range Officers from Tamil Nadu Forest Academy visited Bird Park in March. Dr Abdul Qayum, DCF welcomed them and briefed them about the various forestry and soil & moisture conservation works carried out in Chandigarh. After brief introduction about the urban forestry, RFO trainees saw Chandigarh Bird Park and appreciated the contribution made by the department for the education and awareness of general public towards the exotic birds and their habitat. Post the visit, Sh. Debendra Dalai worthy CCF, Sh. Arulranjan.P, DCF and Dr. Abdul Qayum, DCF shared their experience of working in different areas.



# PAINTING THE TOWN GREEN

## The Forest and Tree Cover of UT Chandigarh crosses

# 50%

Forest Survey of India (FRI), in its recent report of India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021 showed that the Green Cover of UT Chandigarh has increased, from 46.25% in 2019 to 50.05% in the year 2021. As per the Report released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India, there is a jump in the Forest Cover in Chandigarh by 85 hectares. It also mentions that the Open Forest area has also increased by 158 hectare that signifies more non forest area has been brought under Green Cover.

In its self-monitoring tool, Greening Chandigarh Action Plan (GCAP) which is developed and published by the Forest Department not only records the growth of the last year but also sets targets for the upcoming year for all greening agencies i.e. Forest Department, Horticulture Wings of Engineering Department, UT and Municipal Corporation, UT Chandigarh for maintenance of the Green Cover of the City. Further, the Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh is making sustained efforts in improvement of the quality of the forest by planting indigenous species such as Shisham, Shahtoot, Khair and Babul etc. and no exotic species are being planted for last couple of years. Saplings are also distributed free of cost to the local residents to add to the total greenery.

The combined effort by the department and the greening agencies has starting paying and it is motivating to see that initial milestones are crossed in this long journey and many are yet to be achieved.

## ICONIC EVENT- MARCH, 2022

Department of Forests & Wildlife started the iconic event, "Special Guided Forest Tour for Public" from Parayavaran Bhawan. Total participants were 12 persons first day, 16 second day and 31 third day, who visited to City Bird Wildlife Sanctuary, Peacock Park, Botanical Garden, Nature Interpretation Centre and ended at Butterfly Park. Participants were accompanied by forest Officials. During the field visit, they were educated about the Birds, Butterflies and aromatic and medicinal plants of Chandigarh and their importance for ecology, environment, conservation and protection measures undertaken by Forest department Chandigarh.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS CELEBRATED

Celebrating the International Day of Forests, Department of Forests & Wildlife in collaboration with Yuvsatta-NGO organized a 'Jungletrek' for 100 students of Dev Samaj College of Education and Government Home Science College, Chandigarh. Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Department of Environment flagged-off the initiative at Nepli Reserve Forest area.

Extending his warm wishes on International Day of Forests Sh. Debendra Dalai said that forests are home to around 80% of the terrestrial biodiversity of the world. After Oceans, Forests are the world's largest storehouse of carbon – thus known as carbon-sinks. They contribute to climate change mitigation, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing them in wood, leaves and soil and producing oxygen for people to breathe. They have an important role in the Global Water Cycle, as well.

Mr. Dalai further added that realizing these facts, greening has been made an integral part of Urban Planning in UT Chandigarh. The two Wildlife Sanctuaries, green belt on the periphery as well as crisscrossing the length and breadth of the city speaks volume of visionary approach of the planners and active implementation and execution of the plan by various stakeholders.

And for the participants found this over 5 km trek was both fun and a learning experience to know more about the forests and trees. The programme ended with a pledge by all participants that 'Let's protect this easily renewable resource with a sustainable management of forests.'

A green-quiz on the importance of forests and trees for mankind was also organized on the occasion and twelve winners of the same were also honoured on the occasion.



**DID YOU KNOW?**



Dogs have the capability of sniffing out the medical condition and thus they are used to diagnose conditions and to alert if medication or more medication is required. Bizarre it may sound but some dogs have been trained to sniff Covid 19. As per Animal psychologists, dogs dislike being hugged as find it a sign of dominance having an arm thrown over them. As a result, they start licking their lips, looking away, or folding their ears.



## PLANT OF THE EDITION

Bougainvilleas first came from South America. Bougainvillea flowers were considered a symbol of passion to the Victorians. In other cultures, they symbolize welcome, peace, and the promotion of free trade. It was first discovered by the French botanist Philibert Commerson in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in the 1760s. The name Bougainvillea was named after his friend sailor Louis de Bougainville. The bract color for bougainvillea may come in various shades of pink, red, purple, yellow, and white. And they can change color without warning.



## “UPCOMING GREEN DAYS”



**WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> MAY**



**INTERNATIONAL**  
**BIODIVERSITY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY**



**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



**WORLD NATURE DAY**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



**WORLD OCEANS DAY**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**