

JUNGLE BOOK

A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH



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SAVE TREES. SAVE LIFE

Deforestation affects the people and animals not only where trees are cut, but also the wider world. More than 250 million people living in forest areas depend on them for subsistence and income—many of them among the rural poor. Eighty percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests, and deforestation threatens many species of animals and the birds. Removing trees deprives the forest of portions of its canopy, which blocks the sun's rays during the day and retains heat at night. That disruption leads to more extreme temperature swings that can be harmful to plants and animals.

Yet the effects of deforestation reach much farther. The loss of clean water and biodiversity from all forests could have many other effects we can't foresee, touching even your morning cup of coffee.

In terms of climate change, cutting trees both adds carbon dioxide to the air and removes the ability to absorb existing carbon dioxide. If tropical deforestation were a country, according to the World Resources Institute, it would rank third in carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions, behind China and the U.S.

The numbers are grim, but many conservationists see reasons for hope. A movement is under way in the city beautiful to preserve existing forest ecosystems and restore lost tree cover. Organizations and activists are working continuously. In Tanzania, the residents of Kokota have planted more than 2 million trees on their small island over a decade, aiming to repair previous damage. And in Brazil, conservationists are rallying in the face of ominous signals that the government may roll back forest protections.

Following the Chandigarh Green Action Plan, city beautiful is also following the same route in which contribution and participation of general public is always sought for.

BEATING MONDAY BLUES WITH THE GREENS

On the bright sunny morning of summer of July, the Department of Forests and Wildlife was honored to host the worthy advisor of Chandigarh Mr Dharam Pal, IAS to the rejuvenating tour to Sukhna Nature Trail. The worthy advisor enjoyed the trail studded with natural flora and fauna. The soft cool winds made it even more enjoying while cycling on the track. The advisor shared his joy

and appreciated the department for its constant efforts to maintain the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. He said that it is always a pleasure to be in the nature and weather never bothers when one finds peace and solace in nature. He also suggested the department to encourage more and more people to establish deeper connect with the mother nature. Sh Arun Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Forest, Sh. Debendra Dalai, CCF, Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, DCF & SH Praveen Yadav, Range Forest Officer accompanied the worthy advisor for the walk.



VAN MAHOTSAV

Inauguration of Van Mahotsav, 12th July, 2021

The festivity of Van Mahotsav is the celebration of Forests for their most significant role in the life of each and every living thing on the plant as well as on the atmosphere. Celebrated in the month of July every year, Van Mahotsav is celebrated by tree-plantation ceremonies and by inculcating the need for growing trees and nurturing them among the general public.

This year's Van Mahotsav was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, the then Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, who planted tree sapling at Reserve Forest area near Police Line, Sector-26, Chandigarh on 12 July 2021.

Thereafter, the Chief Guest also launched the Van Mahotsav-2021 by planting a 'Jamun' sapling during the ceremonial plantation done in presence of Senior Officers of the Administration, Forest Department employees and NCC cadets. During the occasion, Shri Dharam Pal, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, UT Chandigarh, Shri Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Home Secretary-cum-Principal Secretary (Forests), Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests and other officers of the Administration also planted saplings to commemorate the Van Mahotsav-2021. The aforesaid events were held by following all COVID safety protocols.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dharam Pal, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator congratulated the efforts of the Department in creating public awareness towards plantation of trees in the City Beautiful. Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, CCF informed that as per "Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2021-22", total 1,75,000 saplings will be planted in a phased manner on government and available private land.



Plantation at Tarkhawala Choe, 12th July, 2021

The green signal to the caravan of Van Mahotsav celebrations took it to the Tarkhawala chow where the earliest plantations of this year's celebrations happened. The Forest Department and the team of ITBP collaborated to undertake the plantation task. Various species of indigenous trees were planted. The Chief Guest Mr Debendra Dalai, CCF adorned the drive with his gracious presence where he shared that he has high expectations from the people involved in plantation drives throughout the celebrations and the positive outcomes of these selfless efforts put in by hundreds of people of the forest department as well as other bodies and institutions.



Van Vibhag Aapke Dwar, 12th July, 2021

During the occasion of Van Mahotsav, the Chief Guest, the then Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh Shri V.P. Singh Badnore flagged off vehicles designed for free distribution of saplings by Forest Department, Chandigarh titled "वन विभाग आपके द्वार" (Forest Department at your Door Steps). Under this, 80,000 saplings were distributed by Forest Department to the citizens of Chandigarh city as well as the villages in the city. These saplings were distributed not only without any formal application but also free of cost where the city residents could pick any five saplings of their choice at their doorstep. It has proven as a noteworthy step towards easing the governance in forest. Three dedicated vehicles were designed for the distribution that covered lengths and breadths of the city beautiful for 18 long days door-to-door.



Plantation at Ambika Beat

In the row of plantations through the city beautiful and areas around, plantation at Ambika Beat was held on 13th of July with the invaluable support from 51 BN CRPF team who stood tall during the complete drive. As described by the member, serving the nature is serving the nation on a platform which is higher as the sun and air do not favour the areas on either side of any border. Mother nature loves everyone unconditionally so we should, too, serve her unconditionally.



VAN MAHOTSAV

Plantation around the Lake along Kaimbwala

Further in the drive of greening Chandigarh on the occasion of Van Mahotsav, the caravan of plantation drive reached near the lake along Kaimbwala where trees of Jamun, Amla and many more species were planted. The Forest Department is grateful to the HDFC Bank for its contribution and efforts as a partner in this drive.



Plantation behind Police Lines, (Manimajra)

The stretch behind the Police Lines in Sector 13 of Chandigarh was also greenized this July as a part of plantation drive. More than 200 trees were planted which will soon clean the air of the area which is been compromised by pollution and complex concrete structure built around in the area. The much-required plantation is a boon to the people residing in the vicinity.



Plantation in sec 56 near Power House

13th Battalion CRPF, Sector 43 and the Department of Forests & Wildlife organized the plantation drive wherein more than 300 plants were planted. The planted species were Mango, Shisham, Jamun and Amla. On the occasion Mr Debendra Dalai, CCF, Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, DCF, Range Officers Devendra Chauhan, Praveen Kumar and Jitendra Singh. From CRPF, Mr Jaswinder Singh, Police Inspector, Neelam Kaninwal, Dy. Comdt, Inspector Amrik Singh, Ashok Kumar Bharti, LOASI Ashwani Kumar were present to support the drive.



VAN MAHOTSAV

Plantation behind PEC

Forest Department and CRPF-5 Signal utilized the beautiful day of 19th July to plant trees behind the Punjab Engineering College. The otherwise open area is known for being education destination, so attracts lots of crowd, thus makes it prone to pollution and carbon footprint. Plantation in the PEC locality is actually equipping the nature to combat the effects of human civilization on her face. Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, DFO said that we should consider these plantation drives as small but meaningful steps for the better planet that we should be handing over to the generations to come. He also said that we should continue to plant trees beyond any occasion because pollution and global warming do not wait for yearly events to deteriorate the planet.

Plantation of the State Flower Dhak

Under the umbrella of Van Mahotsav, the Department of Forests & Wildlife organized the plantation of Dhak in the Botanical Garden. The objective of the drive was to sensitize the general public about the State flower of Chandigarh as well to plant as many saplings as possible in the blooming season.

Mr Debendra Dalai, CCF was the Chief Guest at the occasion. He said that Botanical Garden is spread across 176 acres and serves as the lifeline to its connecting villages of Khuda Lahora, Dhanas, Sarangpur and Nayagrao and sees the footfall of around four thousand people every day. As rightly said by Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, DCF, the declining presence of the state flower in Chandigarh compels us to plant more and more of Dhak plant.

More than 50 schools & eco clubs participated in this plantation drive & Mr Promod Sharma from Yugsatta also supported the cause.

It is also known as flame-of-the-forest, palash and bastard teak.

Dhak tree is used for timber, resin, fodder, medicine, and dye. Due to its water resistance, it is used for well-curbs and water scoops.



VAN MAHOTSAV

Concluding Function of Van Mahotsav 2021

After painting the city green with the successful series of tree plantation at various locations, the Van Mahotsav was concluded with the crescendo at the office of the Forest Department in sector 9. Acknowledging the commendable efforts of the forest department, Sh. Debendra Dalai stated that nothing is impossible if like-minded people dedicate their time and honesty for a common goal and it is a blessing to have such a strong internal and external support.



Media Makes Merry

The day spent with media fraternity was the day spent well. The Van Mahotsav celebrations became special when media personalities came together for the sake of healthy natural environment with the benign intention to use their sword in favour of it. They were sensitized on the benefits of planting more and more of native trees species and their role on the healthy and balanced habitat for the biodiversity of the region. With such prowess on side, the forest department shows gratitude on behalf of the nature.

Plantation in Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, August 2021

The department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh strengthened the green cover in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary by planting tree of indigenous species. Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary plays the role of lungs for the city as it is the source of fresh oxygen because of dense green forest cover. The drive to add more trees is not only going to make sanctuary look better, give more oxygen but also nurture the wildlife by providing better & healthier environment to the biodiversity. In this plantation drive, four hundred new trees were planted of indigenous species like Mango, Jamun, Imli, Pipal and many more. These trees are further safeguarded with the tree guard which will protect them against climatic conditions like winds as well as animal attacks.





Kansal block, Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

The block that belongs to Kansal area adjoining the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, was also one of the areas where plantation of trees happened. Around 150 trees were planted in a single day that included the state tree of Chandigarh Mango as well as other species like Jamun and Amla



Award to Forester Mr Jitendra Singh

The makeover of waste land of Janta Colony behind Punjab Engineering College is a perfect example of vision, intention, dedication and hard-work. Once stinking site filled with garbage was a home to stray animals that was a soar not to the eyes only but also for the overall health the neighborhood. The 3000-acre land under the possession of Forest Department is a beautiful site after the plantation of green trees of various indigenous species. Thanks to the phase wise toiling work of cleaning the land, evacuating of stray animals and plantation of saplings over the period of a couple of months. Over 6000 new saplings have been planted by the efforts of the staff of the department under the selfless initiative of Forester, Mr Jitendra Singh. He has been awarded for this commendable act on the occasion of Independence Day 2021 by the then Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh Shri V.P. Singh Badnore. The Department is proud to have him in the team and congratulates him for this success.





**Plantation in
St. John's High School, Sector 26**

Celebrating the 75 years of Independence, St. John's High School invited the Forest Department for the meaningful celebrations for the plantation of trees inside the school premises. On the eco walk way, Sh. Debendra Dalai, CCF, Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, DCF and Sh. Pramod Sharma from NGO Yugsatta planted the saplings of Mango trees. The principal of the school expressed gratitude to the department for the relentless steps taken to gift the city residents clean air through rigorous plantations everywhere.

