

# JUNGLE BOOK

A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH

EDITION: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

Grow Grew  
Grown Green



Forests “outside recorded forest area” that account for 28% of India's forest cover are mostly plantations of horticulture, pulpwood species as well as rural and urban greens.

Most of the increase in forest cover of 0.22% between 2019 to 2021 has been outside recorded forests which is mainly plantations and orchards.

Forest cover figures are divided as '**Inside Recorded Forest Area**' and '**Outside Recorded Forest Area**'. Those inside RFA are basically natural forests and plantations. Forest cover outside RFA are mango orchards, coconut plantations, block plantations of agro-forestry and are automatically separated out. In ISFR 2021, it can be seen that 72% of forest cover figures given in the report pertain to recorded forest area and only 28% of forest cover is outside the forest area.

Designed by Le Corbusier, Chandigarh- The city beautiful, is known for its unique architecture and well-planned landscaping. The trees have been planted along roads, in parks and gardens and due regard has been given to beautiful shrubs and climbers. A number of beautiful avenues with conspicuous tree species, green belts running across the length and breadth of the city impart unique aesthetic beauty to the city, hence the name city beautiful.

The city however, is now facing lot of challenges. viz migration of rural poor to fringe areas of the city, who still continue with rural life, and are more concerned with the economic value of trees than their aesthetic sense; widening of roads for accommodating vehicular traffic; demand for parking space and tiling & concreting. These are all putting lot of pressure on existing vegetation. As a result, the urban forestry scenario is changing in the city. The biggest hurdle are the overhead electricity wires. The branches are regularly chopped off to prevent short circuits. In view of these challenges, species occupying less space and possessing shade and sun considerations need to be explored. Most affected will be Wavy Leaved Fig (*Ficus virens*) as many roads have been identified with it. People's response to existing species, emerging new pests and possible future species for different landscapes have also been discussed.

According to the latest Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019, prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Chandigarh's green cover, consisting of area under tree cover and forest cover, has increased by 49.01%.

The city's green cover has witnessed a sharp increase from 31.56 square km in 2017 to 47.03 square km in 2019.

The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is a biennial exercise that covers an inventory of forest, tree cover, bamboo resources, carbon stock and forest fires. The forest cover, which is 22.03 square km, in Chandigarh, is 19.32% of the UT's geographical area (114 sq km).

The report further states, "In terms of forest canopy density classes, the UT Chandigarh has 1.36 sq km under very dense forest (VDF), 14.24 sq km under moderately dense forest (MDF) and 6.43 sq km under open forest (OF). Forest cover in the UT has increased by 0.47 sq km when compared with the previous assessment reported in 2017.

The city has witnessed a sharp increase in tree cover too, from 10 sq km in 2017 to 25 sq km in 2019.

To plan the plantation works within the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the Greening Chandigarh Task Group was constituted. The Greening Action Plan (GAP) is an attempt to combine the interests and concerns of all the sections of the urban community into an overall planned, integrated and a systematic strategy for better management of the urban forestry. GAP describes the plantation targets of the various departments and strategies to achieve the desired results by streamlining and unifying the efforts and inputs of all the stakeholders - departments, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, resident welfare associations and individuals. Each year, Greening Chandigarh Task Group has over achieved its aimed target.

# WILDLIFE WEEK 2021



## Inauguration of Wildlife Week

OCTOBER 2, 2021

Wildlife Week is celebrated to honour the wildlife and spread the awareness about it amongst the public. This year, the 'Wildlife Week' was inaugurated by Mr. Debendra Dalai, Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration, at Sukhna Lake. He waved a green flag to a colourful group of 100 School children who were dressed as birds and animals and walked alongside the lake carrying placards of animal rights and spreading the message of living in harmony with many and nature.

The programme started with a 'Jungle Dance' by students of Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Dhanas jointly organized by the Department of Forests & Wildlife in collaboration with Yuvsatta-NGO, Eco Clubs of Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Dhanas, Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 18C & St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Chandigarh.

Prominent amongst those who participated in the endeavor included Dr. Abdul Qayum, Dy. Conservator of Forests and Pramod Sharma, Coordinator of Yuvsatta.

Quoting the famous message of 'Be the Change', Mr. Dalai said, "we're growing up in a world with increasing habitat loss, deforestation and overexploitation, which is threatening mother earth's rich biodiversity." He added that today's 'Wildlife Week' message for young ones is that they should become animal rights advocates and also advocates for Biodiversity Conservation. As animals have the right to exist without the fear of being mistreated, exploited or exterminated. And at the same time biodiversity of existing flora and fauna is also conserved.

Mr. Dalai also shared that "Wildlife conservation is ingrained in our ethos and has always been an integral part of our tradition and culture. Our holy Constitution also enshrines this philosophy by including conservation of forest and wildlife as one of the fundamental duties of every Indian."



## चेहरे पर पेंटिंग, हाथ में वन्य जीवों की तस्वीर के साथ दिया दोस्ती, प्यार व शांति का संदेश



सुखना लेक पर वन्य जीवन सप्ताह के तहत अपने हाथ में बाघ का पोस्टर लेकर सुखना लेक पर वॉक करती एक लड़की। अमर उजाला

चंडीगढ़। 'वन्यजीव सप्ताह' के तहत चेहरे पर बच्चों ने पेंटिंग बनाकर और वन्य जीवों की तस्वीरों को साथ लेकर दोस्ती, प्यार और शांति का संदेश दिया। यह कार्यक्रम शनिवार को सुखना लेक पर मनाया गया। कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन यूटी प्रशासन के वन और वन्यजीव विभाग के मुख्य वन संरक्षक देबेंद्र दलाई ने किया। उन्होंने सुखना लेक पर पक्षियों और जानवरों के रूप में सजे 100 स्कूली बच्चों के एक समूह को हरी झंडी दिखाई। ब्यूरो



## Photography Exhibition on Birds

October 3, 2021

On the 2nd day of Wildlife Week, an exhibition of Photography was organized which was dedicated to the avian beauties. A large number of Wildlife Photographers came forward and made their contribution of Photographs in this exhibition. The Bird Photography Exhibition was held at Sukhna Lake which witnessed flocks of interested people throughout the day. The sharp and professional photographs of birds like Hoopoe, Flamingo, owl, sunbird made the day of passers by at the lake.



## Photography Exhibition on Butterflies

October 4, 2021

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Wildlife Week, a Photography exhibition was organized dedicated to butterflies. Held at Sukhna Lake, the photographers presented their best work on this beautiful and colourful species of insects. Butterflies seem colourful to our eyes due to the pigmentation in their wings which depicts various colours and shades when comes to contact with sunlight.

# Exploring Human Animal



**WILDLIFE  
WEEK 2021**

## Concluding function

12th October, 2021

Wildlife Week is observed during the first week of October all over the country, with the objective of raising awareness among masses for conservation of wildlife and its habitat. The theme of the World Wildlife Day-2021 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", which is a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas.

# WILDLIFE WEEK 2021

The Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration organized various programmes from 02nd October, 2021 to sensitize and generate awareness among the masses for the protection and conservation of wildlife, nature and natural resources. In this series, the Concluding Function of “Wildlife Week Celebration-2021” was organized on 12th October, 2021 in Paryavaran Bhawan of Chandigarh. During the function, the winners of various competitions held in different schools of Chandigarh during the Wildlife Week were felicitated by Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Chandigarh.

Under the “Extempore on Exploring Human-Animal Relationship” competition, the First Prize was bagged by Jasmindeep Kaur, Class-11th, St. Joseph Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44-D, Second Prize went to Faham, Class 12th, Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sec-18, and Nidhi Kamboj, Class 11th, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector-33, got the Third Prize. Whereas, the Consolation Prizes were bagged by Kafi, Class-9th, Institute for the Blind, Sec-26, Sneha Raju, Class-12th, Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sec 20B, and Suhani, Class 12th, KB DAV, Sec-7B, Chandigarh.

Under the “Nests Making Competition”, the First Prize was bagged by Jasmine Saini, Class-7th, St. Joseph, Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44D, Chandigarh, Second Prize went to Lucky, Class 8th, Govt. Model High School, Sec-26, and Mahima, Class 8th, Govt. Model High School, Sec.35D, Chandigarh got the Third Prize. However, the Consolation Prizes were bagged by Maitreyee, Class-8th, Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Sec.26, Vijay Luxmi, Class-6A, Govt. Model High School, Mauli Colony, and Shiva, Class-6th, Govt. Model High School, Sec.41A, Chandigarh.



# Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations

8 October 2021

On the occasion of 75 years of Independence, the whole nation is celebrating Amrit Mahotsav where India and her gems are being celebrated. One such gem is the forests and nature that make it a land worth nurturing. Thus, forest department celebrated Amrit Mahotsav by planting saplings of various indigenous trees in Chandigarh. Trees of Mango, Peepal, Ashoka and many other species planted. Chief guest Sh Debendra Dalai, Chief Conservator of Forests was accompanied by Sh Abdul Qayum, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh.



## Tete-a-Tete with Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

8th November, 2021

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is an asset to be proud of and to flaunt. Department of Forests and Wildlife had the amazing opportunity of escorting Honorable Advisor, Sh Dharam Pal, IAS to Sukhna Forests and talking nature in detail. A day filled with fresh air, musical bird calls and breath-taking sightings of peafowl, golden jackal and Sambar Deer will always be cherished by Sh Debendra Dalai, CCF, Sh Abdul Qayum, DCF, SH Praveen Yadav, RO who accompanied Mr Advisor to the log hut.

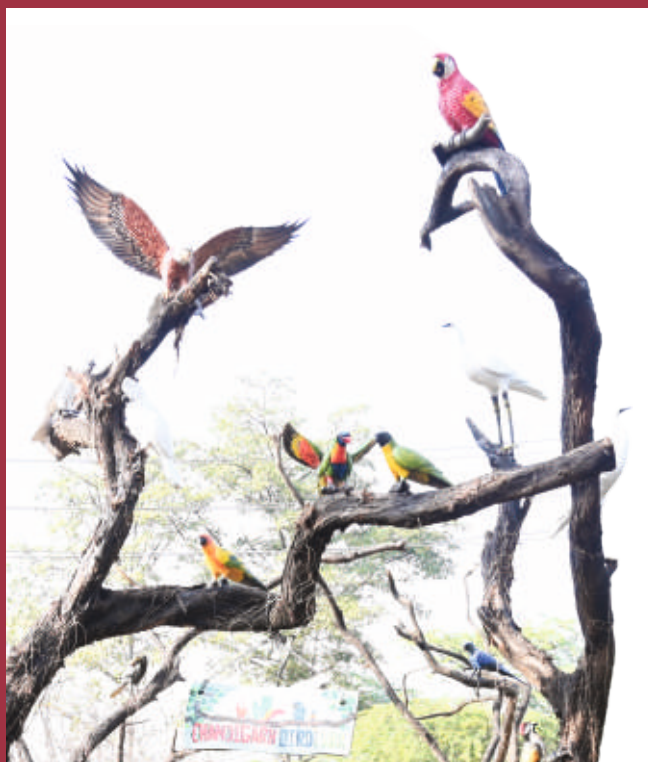


## Chandigarh gets its own Bird Park

16th November, 2021

The Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh has developed Bird Park at Nagar Van behind Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh for creating awareness among general public towards bird conservation especially the young minds on nature education and conservation. These Aviaries have been created for the exotic birds which are commonly bred in India.

Inaugurated by the Hon'ble First Lady of India, Savita Kovind on 16 November 2021, Chandigarh Bird Park is an ideal place for weekend trip or educational visit, especially for the nature lovers, conservationists, students as well as the educators.



The Walk-through Aviary which provides plentiful space for all the birds individually has 58 feet flying height with total ground area approx. 200x150 feet each for terrestrial birds and aquatic birds.

Main Attractions of this Bird Park are African Love Birds, Budgerigars, White Swan, Black Swan, Wood duck, Golden Pheasant, Yellow Golden Pheasant, Green Wing Macaw, Sun Conures, African Grey Parrot, Finches and Melanistic Pheasant. The park's lush green spaces are covered by terrestrial plants, ferns, shrubs, bushes, aquatic plants, trees and creepers to provide every bird with an environment that is perfectly suited to its unique needs. The Bird Park will help to draw the attention of amateur bird watchers, environmentalists and ornithologists to this planned urban city where visitors can enjoy the nature amidst the winged friends.

The function was attended by Sh. Dharam Pal, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, Sh. Nitin Kumar Yadav, IAS, Secretary (Environment & Forests), Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Sh. Mandip Brar, IAS Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Nitika Pawar, IAS, Director (Tourism), Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ms. Jaswinder Kaur, MD CITCO and other officers of Chandigarh Administration.



A new University of Michigan study has found that the higher levels of biodiversity appear to reduce extinction risk in birds. Prior research has established that diverse systems are less prone to invasion, have more stable productivity and can be more disease resistant. According to the study, as published online in Ecology Letters, rich bio-diversity is associated with lower levels of contemporary extinction risk in birds by providing a safe harbor to the species that are at risk of extinction. Thus, conservation of biodiversity is an economically sensible approach for effective prevention of extinction.



## Plant of the Edition

### Bottle Brush

**Botanical Name :** *Callistemon*

It is a shrub which is called so due to its flowers' close resemblance to the traditional brush used to clean bottles. This ornamental tree can be seen throughout the city beautiful on road avenues. Native to Australia, this evergreen tree has drooping branches and bears cylindrical shaped flowers. Its nectar attracts various butterflies, insects, and birds. The wood from the bottle brush tree is hard and durable, making it good for crafting things like furniture or musical instruments.



**International Day of Forests**  
21st March



**World Water Day**  
22nd March



**World Atmosphere Day**  
10th April



**World Migratory Bird Day**  
14th May



**World Environment Day**  
5th June



**UPCOMING GREEN DAYS**