



JUNGLE BOOK

A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH

EDITION: APRIL - JUNE 2021

FOREST - A COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM

The forest is a complex ecosystem consisting mainly of trees that buffer our city beautiful and support a myriad of life forms. The trees help create a special environment which, in turn, affects the kinds of animals and plants that can exist in the forest. Trees are an important component of the environment. They clean the air, cool it on hot days, conserve heat at night, and act as excellent sound absorbers.

Plants provide a protective canopy that lessens the impact of raindrops on the soil, thereby reducing soil erosion. The layer of leaves that fall around the tree prevents runoff and allows the water to percolate into the soil. Roots help to hold the soil in place. Dead plants decompose to form humus, organic matter that holds the water and provides nutrients to the soil. Plants provide habitat to different types of organisms. Birds build their nests on the branches of trees, animals and birds live in the hollows, insects and other organisms live in various parts of the plant. They produce large quantities of oxygen and take in carbon dioxide. Transpiration from the forests affects the relative humidity and precipitation in our city.

Forest is basically a land with tree crown cover of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 hectare. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity. Forests are further subdivided into plantations and natural forests. Natural forests are forests composed mainly of indigenous trees not deliberately planted. Plantations are forest stands established by planting or seeding, or both, in the process of afforestation or reforestation.

Forests can develop wherever the average temperature is greater than 10°C (23.2) in the warmest month and rainfall exceeds 200 mm (1110.7 mm) annually. Chandigarh's average temperature is 23.2°C and average rainfall in an year is 1110.7 mm. That is why there exists a variety of tree species grouped into a number of forest types that are determined by the specific conditions of the environment there, including the climate, soil, geology, and biotic activity.

Chandigarh has a long history of traditional conservation and forest management practices. The Indian National Forest Policy of 1894 provided the impetus to conserve India's forests wealth with the prime objectives of maintaining environmental stability and meeting the basic needs of the fringe forests user-groups.

Soon after independence, rapid development and progress saw large forest tracts fragmented by roads, canals, and townships. There was an increase in the exploitation of forest wealth. In 1950 the Government of India began the annual festival of tree planting called the Vanamahotsava in the month of July every year. However, it was only in the 1970s that greater impetus was given to the conservation of India's forests and wildlife. India was one of the first countries and Chandigarh was one of the first cities in the world to have introduced a social forestry programme to introduce trees in non-forested areas along road sides. It is our duty to help maintain the ecological and environmental balance of the city beautiful.

“GREENING CHANDIGARH ACTION PLAN 2021-22” RELEASED



Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh released the 'Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2021-22' prepared by the Department of Forest & Wildlife, Chandigarh at Punjab Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh. This Plan has envisaged 1,75,000 saplings to be planted during 2021-22. The target of plantation assigned to Forest Department is 75,000 saplings, Horticulture Wing of Engineering Department is 40,000 saplings and Municipal Corporation is 60,000 saplings, along with the targets of free distribution of saplings to the general public in the city.

On this occasion, Hon'ble Governor appreciated the work done by the Department. He said that the people of Chandigarh, who are traditionally nature lovers, would whole-heartedly support and participate in the endeavour of the Forest Department in preserving the ecological wealth of the city. He further added that restoring degraded land brings economic resilience and increases food security. It helps the biodiversity to recover.

On this occasion, Adviser to the Administrator, Chandigarh added that in recent years, the global warming is showing its adverse effects on us. Due to this the importance of trees has been understood and acknowledged manifold. With the invaluable contribution of nature loving residents of Chandigarh and other stakeholders, the Chandigarh has been able to maintain the balance between the nature and the technological advancements.

Principal Secretary (Forests), Chandigarh added that the forests are the source of wellbeing and recreation. In Chandigarh, a forest conserves a variety of flora and fauna, which forms a rich biodiversity and plays a vital role in the environmental stability.

Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, CCF, Chandigarh informed that the City Beautiful Chandigarh boasts to have preserved 46% of its geographical area under forest and green cover. To further increase green cover in UT Chandigarh, "Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2021-22" has been prepared for implementation by all the greening agencies. Life has offered us a chance to recognize that land degradation neutrality is achievable through strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. It helps in reducing the impact of climate change and underpins a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Five Prominent Schools Bestowed with CovidTimes Peace Prizes

Department of Environment & Forests, Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPC) along with CREST of Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with an Environmental NGO organized various programmes to promote the spirit of mental well-being, brotherhood and positivity around, especially among young minds-the future of our nation.

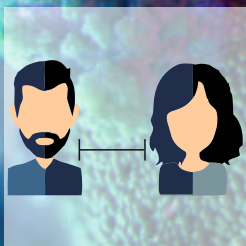
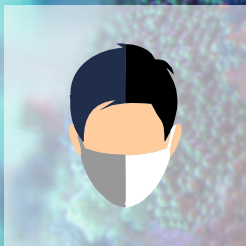
Giving information about the initiative, Sh. Debendra Dalai, CCF-cum-Director, Department of Environment & CEO, CREST, Chandigarh Administration, shared that it seems in the present COVID pandemic situation, fear of COVID has overpowered people more than the fight-back spirit of courage of conviction, for which we Indians are known for around the world. One should be aware of Corona and never panic or be fearful. As soon as one feels any symptom, immediately go for testing, take medical advice. As they say prevention is better than cure, so we all should adhere to time and again repeated instructions of wearing masks, hand-washing, social distancing and in routine to stay at home.

He further stated that various Environment Awareness Programmes have been conducted through online mode during last one year to engage the young minds in creative and positive thinking. This has contributed enormously in keeping the young children away from the stress of negative impact of Covid-19 all-around. Such kind of Green Initiative Programme shall be conducted and he urges all the Principals and Eco-Club Teachers to ensure engagement of maximum number of children in such activities in order to get a



positive output. Challenges come with opportunities and it is a positive thinking and way of looking at the things. So we all stay positive to overcome the current crisis situation. Thus, the department invited entries from Schools for a unique 'COVIDTimes Peace Prize', for Schools who had done the most to boost morale and mental well-being of young kids in the last academic year of Corona times.

The five prominent Schools Principals who were honoured today by Sh. Debendra Dalai were Mr. Jagannath Singh Jayara of Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh, Seema Rani of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Dhanas, Monica Chawla of St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Pooja Prakash of KBDVA Sr. Sec. Public School & Taruna Vashisht of Manav Rachna International School.





Webinar on 'Turning Challenges into Opportunities'

As part of month long 'Positivity Campaign', initiated by Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration, a Webinar on 'Turning COVIDTimes Challenges into Opportunities', was organized, in which over 100 Principals and Eco Club In charge Teachers participated from various Government and Private Schools. Prominent speakers included Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Dr. Jayati Simlai, Head of Psychiatry, RINPAS, Ranchi, Ashish Shah, Director, Wild Ecologues and Ajatshatru, Play for Peace. Two special invitees Mr. Kim Singh & Ms. Marga, insurers and educationists based at Mainz, Germany also joined with activity ideas on disaster management. The main highlights of the webinar were that no doubt these COVIDTimes are full of difficulties. But we can overcome the challenges with networking, smart thinking, out of box ideas and winning attitude. The corona virus crisis has turned us all into learners. Neither this is first global crisis nor it will be the last. We all should see young students as whole persons, they are more than just their grades. By re-evaluating the role of the teacher, by establishing a relationship based on trust between the teacher and student, by focusing on relevant topics from real life issues instead of the traditional curriculum-based core competencies and by building the bridge between students and the world outside of the school building is the key to success. Moreover, learning is about discovery, asking questions and openness towards new things. That's what we ask from our students. Let's all go back to that. The rest will follow.

The programme ended with the release of a beautiful video by Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, on 'MEDICINAL PLANTS OF CITY CHANDIGARH', launched by Medicinal Plants Board of Chandigarh. He said that designed and maintained as a clean and green city, Chandigarh is a natural hub of medicinal plants, of gardens and parks, of important trees with healing properties. So give health your time, embrace nature and you will heal. Herbal plants are free from side effects, eco-friendly and locally available.

Earth Day Creative Photo Challenge 2021

Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration celebrated 'World Earth Day' on 22 April. An 'Earth Day Creative Photo Challenge-2021' competition was organized on this occasion. During the event, the participants were asked to click pictures or selfies on themes of recycling a daily use item, gifting an herbal plant or overcoming COVID-19, post the same on any social media account and share the link with the organizers. More than 350 students, teachers, housewives and working professionals participated in this event.

Sharing his concern, Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director Environment, Chandigarh Administration said that theme for this year's Earth Day 2021 is 'Restore Our Earth' and for many people, participation in Earth Day is the first action they take on their path to environmental activism. He said the three themes of this year's Earth Day Contest clearly spells the need for recycling more and achieve Swachh Bharat Abhiyan objectives.

Healing with medicinal plants is as old as mankind itself and now the biggest challenge before all of us overcoming COVID pandemic for which we all must lead by personal examples of wearing masks, properly maintain of hygiene and social distancing. He emphasized that every student has to be a Green Warrior in order to save this Earth and make Mother Earth liveable for all living beings.

On this occasion, Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director Environment, Chandigarh Administration also planted a sapling of 'Sita Ashoka' in the Botanical Garden, Sarangpur, Chandigarh.

Sixteen winners of Earth Day Contest got a merit certificate, a trophy and one thousand rupees. The winners of the event are as under;

School students, upto Class VI (Six Best Entries): Kyna Tandon, Vivek High School, Khushi Goyat of Adarsh Bal Vidyapeeth, Tejasv Partap Singh of St Joseph School Sr. Sec. School, Sumer Gakkhar, Sambhav Garg & Rishaan Sethi of Bhawan Vidyalaya Jr., Chandigarh.

School students, Class VII-XII (Five Best Entries): Agadh Uday Gupta of St. John's School, Avani Goyal of AKSIPS-41 Smart School, Devishi Manhas of Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Arpit Dhang of KB DAV Sr. Sec. Public School and Raman, MRA Sr. Sec. Model School, Chandigarh.

General Category (Five Best Entries): Mrs. Anuja Sharma, Principal, DAV Model School, Sector-15A, Mrs. Seema Rani, Principal, GMSSS Dhanas, Mrs. SitaKushwah, Teacher at GMSSS, Sector 8B, Mrs. Subalakshmi P Durga, Principal, Adarsh Bal Vidyapeeth and Ms. PurvaSingal student of Biochemistry, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



World Environment Day

Today, celebrating the World Environment Day 2021, Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration, observing all Covid Protocols honoured Principals & Eco-Club Incharge teachers with 'BEST ECO CLUB AWARDS -2020'.

Appreciating the inspiring work of Eco Clubs in Schools Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, CCF cum Director, Department of Environment said that such green initiatives empower students to participate and take up meaningful environmental activities and projects. It is a forum through which students can reach out to influence, engage their parents and neighborhood communities to promote sound environmental behavior. Eco Clubs also empower students to explore environmental concepts and actions beyond the confines of a syllabus or curriculum. While everyone, everywhere, asserts the importance of 'learning to live sustainably,' the environment remains a peripheral issue in the formal schooling system. It is not just an extracurricular activity but a must for all the people at all times, if we have to live a healthy and peaceful life.

Sh. Dalai also added that the theme of World Environment Day-2021 is 'Ecosystem Restoration with the slogan Reimagine, Recreate and Restore' as this year marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Now, obviously the contribution, commitment and concern of each one of us is important to reverse the damage already done to nature and to heal it.



The winners of State Level Best Eco Club Awards – 2020 are:-

Primary/Middle School –Category (Best Eco-Clubs Award - 2020)

Vasundhara Eco Club of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans, Bhavan Vidyalaya (Junior) Sec.33, Chandigarh

Dhara Bhushan Eco-club of Govt. Middle School, Pocket No.6, Manimajra

Prakrit Sanstha of Govt. Model Middle School, MHC, Manimajra

High/Sr. Sec. School – Category (Best Eco-Clubs Award - 2020)

Green Saviours Eco Club of St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Sector-44-D, Chandigarh

Cassia Eco Club of Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sec. 18-C, Chandigarh

Go Green Eco-club of K.B. DAV Sr. Sec. Public School, Sector 7-B, Chandigarh

Planet Pals Eco Club of Ajit Karam Singh International Public (AKSIPS), Sector 41-B, Chandigarh

Young Environmentalist Eco Club of New Public School, Sec. 18-B, Chandigarh

College – Category (Best Environment Society Award - 2020)

Prakriti Environment Society of Post Graduate Govt. College for Girls, Sector-11, Chd

Environment Society of SGGGS College, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Srishti Environment Society of Post Graduate Govt. College for Girls, Sector-42, Chandigarh

A ceremonial plantation was also done by Forest Department, UT Chandigarh at City Forests Chandigarh to commemorate the World Environment Day.



**Biodiversity Day
July 28, 2021**





Tree Treasure of Chandigarh Released

Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh released the book 'Tree Treasure of Chandigarh' in Punjab Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh. The book has been published by the Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh and authored by Professor R.K. Kohli, Vice-Chancellor of Amity University, SAS Nagar, Sh.Vikas Kahol, Dr.Navdeep Kahol, Assistant Professor and Professor H.P.Singh. The book compiles the diverse avenue trees of the city and also profiles a number of old and majestic heritage trees.

On this occasion, Hon'ble Governor appreciated the efforts of the Department and the Authors in publishing this book that will help the people to develop a shared vision and understanding of the real treasure of the city especially for the people of Chandigarh, who are traditionally nature lovers and who would wholeheartedly support and participate in the endeavour of the Forest Department in identifying and preserving the ecological wealth of Chandigarh.

Speaking on the occasion, Adviser to the Administrator, UT Chandigarh congratulated the efforts of the Department and contributions made by the Authors. He said efforts made in bringing out this book will go a long way in creating awareness and attraction towards the preservation of trees of City Beautiful.

Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, CCF, Chandigarh informed that UT Chandigarh takes pride in having preserved about 46% of the total area under forest and green cover. The City has preserved a large number of trees so as to harmonize with the built-up surroundings. There are a number of old and majestic trees in City Beautiful which serve as important green landmarks. These are the rare assets for any urban city.

The Book is a visual delight to all the tree lovers and provides useful information about the green wealth of the City Beautiful. It is a matter of great pride that Chandigarh is known as the 'Greenest City of India' owing to an abundance of greenery in the form of parks, gardens and green cover. Being a resident of this city, it is our responsibility to aware the general public to protect and conserve these natural resources.

Among the prominent persons attending this event were Dr Abdul Qayum, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh, Professor R.K. Kohli, Sh.Vikas Kahol, Dr.Navdeep Kahol, Assistant Professor and other senior officers of the Administration.