



A COMMUNIQUE FROM FORESTS DEPTT, CHANDIGARH

EDITION: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT, Chandigarh, I am delighted to present the next edition of our quarterly newsletter.

Chandigarh, the city beautiful is also the city enriched with huge forest cover as well as precious wildlife. The year 2020 has taught us many things. One of the most significant among them is the nature conservation. The human interference with nature if not kept in check can cause havoc in life of every living being as we have witnessed on so many occasions now.

The forest department has the utmost responsibility of protecting the forests and the wildlife. I feel proud to state here that this year we have successfully rescued a leopard and a python and rehabilitated them to their natural habitat. Also, we have saved a monkey kept in captivity illegally by a local and have taken strict action against the offender.

The frequent plantation drives have been conducted with great results throughout the city. It is very important that we understand the dire need of planting trees. Every human being understands it but what's required is that everyone must take action to repair the damage already done.

We are focused on encouragement of more and more participation of the residents of city for the preservation of the fauna and flora of Chandigarh and surrounding areas. It's a task which is best executed as a team with every resident involved as a member.

I am profoundly thankful to all the members of my team for their immense contribution to the growth and success of the various conservation projects and activities.

I look forward to seeing increased participation of citizens in the coming year in the nature conservation. The close knit between the department and the residents will not only bring environmental prosperity but also will leave a tall legacy for future generations to follow.

Happy New Year!!

Debendra Dalai
CCF

FLOATING ISLANDS FOR FLYING GUESTS

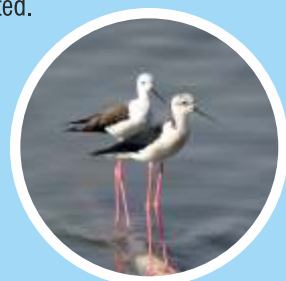
Winter is the season when the avian guests halt at in Chandigarh on their way to other hot places.

These avian guests are the migratory birds that start their journey from far off countries and reach here during the winters. To perch on during their winter sojourn, the Department of Forests and Wildlife has crafted floating islands at Sukhna Lake. Five floating islands in Sukhna Lake have been created for the winged guests to bask, rest and sleep during their winter journey.

On an experimental basis, a bamboo raft was pushed into the lake last year which was used by a large number of birds which encouraged the department to add on 4 more this year. Due to the depth of water, birds need mudflats for resting and hence artificial islands for the birds are also created.

As the mercury dipped further, winged guests like bar-headed geese from Siberia have started arriving at the Lake after flying over the mighty Himalayas. Bar-headed geese, ruddy shelduck, common pochard, common coot, grey heron, mallard, pintail duck, etc. are a few of the species that have arrived at the lake. Due to these efforts, the number of birds has increased this year. During a survey conducted, on the birth anniversary of ornithologist Late Dr Salim Ali, the Bird Club identified 34 species of waterfowl in the Lake and the adjoining areas.

Migratory birds that were spotted included blackwinged stilt, Eurasian coot, great cormorant, Indian spot-billed duck, Northern pintail, White-breasted waterhen, white-browed wagtail, Pied kingfisher, Citrine wagtail and Common kingfisher were spotted.





SAVE SMART

Department of Forest and Wildlife launched a smart phone app to rescue the wildlife in Chandigarh for rescue of the wildlife in the city. The App works on all Android supporting phones and can be downloaded from website chandigarhforest.gov.in.

The interface will enable the users to click photo, share location and help the animal in need by sharing the information with the department.

PROUD PET OWNERS BEWARE!

While it can be debatable that whether humans are the destructors of nature or lovers, it is pretty sure that we humans end up hurting nature unintentionally even when we think it is our way of loving nature. Being close to nature is not only our natural instinct, it also helps us being better individuals. On one hand, having a loving dog around is healthy for your heart, it is also beneficial to go around for bird watching. However, petting a dog is not similar to petting a bird or other species. With evolution, human invasion, deforestation, global warming, smuggling, poaching and other reasons, many of the species have gone into the danger zone of extinction. To curb this harm to nature, government has compiled the list of birds and animals in different schedules that is a ready reckoner for pet lovers.

Department of Wildlife and Forests, Chandigarh Administration, has released a newspaper advertisement recently for the citizens to check and register their pets if they are the list of exotic species. Exotic species are the species that belong to other geographical regions. It is good to know and legal duty to register with the local body of forest and wildlife department. All citizens are directed to register before 31 March 2021 to avoid any legal action.



PROUD PET OWNERS BEWARE!

Do you own a pet (exotic species)?

If found in the appendix I, II & III of CITES, get it registered with Forest Department at parivesh.nic.in latest by **15 March 2021**.

Check the Link to know how to register?

http://environmentclearance.nic.in/willereaddata/EXOTIC_LIVE_ANIMALS_SOP_omended_1stJune2020.pdf

Failing to fulfill will attract legal action against the miscreant.

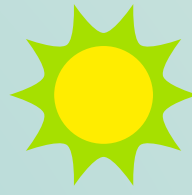
Scan the QR code to check the list of species covered in CITES:



ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY
FORESTS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
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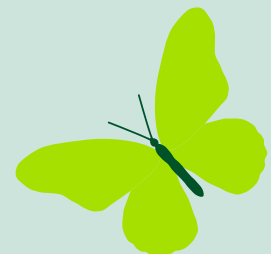
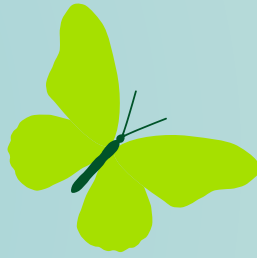
HOW TO PREPARE YOUR GARDEN FOR WINTER



As autumn turns to winter, many of us reduce our attention to our gardens until spring. However, even in the depths of winter, our gardens should be bustling with life.

Gardens can look a bit dull in winter, but they don't have to. In fact, the harsher the weather and the less food there is, the more important gardens become for our feathered friends. Feeding birds throughout the winter is important, because it increases their breeding success the following year.

-  Pay special attention to your flowerbeds and hedges – it's time to single out the plants that do not contribute very much.
-  Plant new hedges or replace some of your existing ornamental species. Doing this gives the plants time to establish roots.
-  Spread fallen leaves over your flowerbeds.
-  Leave dry plant stems standing in the garden.
-  Avoid cutting hedges until the end of winter to provide valuable shelter for birds.
-  These small steps will help in providing a lifeline for many of our native species.





DID YOU KNOW?

INDIAN GREY MONGOOSE STATE ANIMAL OF CHANDIGARH

The Indian Grey Mongoose is the State animal of Chandigarh. It is an omnivorous that preys on rodents, reptiles, invertebrates, birds' eggs and hatchlings, fruits, berries, and roots. Best known for its capability of fighting and winning against venomous snakes, it is commonly found in open forests, scrublands and cultivated fields, burrows, hedgerows and thickets, groves of trees, under rocks or bushes, drains. Otherwise wild, it is also kept as pets to keep the snakes & rodents away. Its agility, thick coat, and specialized acetylcholine receptors that render immunity to snake venom makes them deadly even for the deadliest reptiles like black cobra.

PLANT OF THIS EDITION GILOY:

Also termed as 'Heart-leaved moonseed', the Giloy plant is a well-known herbal, climbing vine. This herbal plant has been used as medicine in Ayurveda since ages for its wide range of medicinal properties. In Sanskrit, Giloy is known as 'Amrita', which literally translates to 'the root of immortality'. Its benefits and uses have even been approved by the FDA. Adding Giloy to your daily habits would act as a boon. Giloy is well known as immunity booster. Apart from this, it treats chronic fever, improves digestion, treats diabetes, fights respiratory problems, good for arthritics, reduces asthmatic symptoms, reduces signs of aging and reduces mental stress as well as anxiety. Chandigarh is blessed with the plant and you can find it somewhere near you. Find one, plant one, use and gift one. It is one of best gifts that nature has given to mankind that is capable of enriching our lives with its health-related benefits.

