

# GREENING CHANDIGARH

ACTION PLAN 2014-15



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION



*"The Seed of Chandigarh is well sown. It is for the citizens to see that the tree flourishes"...*

*Mon Le Corbusier*







A HERD OF SAMBAR DEER IN LAKE RESERVE FOREST

**JOIN THE RACE TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE..**

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*Delonix regia* (Gulmohar)



## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION

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## GREENING CHANDIGARH ACTION PLAN 2014-2015 Chandigarh Administration

### CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION

#### CHANDIGARH AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Chandigarh, 'the dream city of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, is a modern city with prehistoric past. Known for its unique architecture and well planned landscaping, the 'City Beautiful' was designed by famous French Architect Mon Le Corbusier. Picturesquely located at the foothills of shivalik, it is known as one of the greatest experiments in Urban Planning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Chandigarh derives its name from the temple 'Chandi Mandir' located in the vicinity of the site selected for the city. It is a modern city, housing the Capital of two States Punjab and Haryana and the seat of 'Union Territory' Administration.

The City is bounded on two sides by two seasonal rivulets, Sukhna Choe and Patiala Ki Rao, the northern edge of the city is the Capitol Complex against the panoramic backdrop of the Shivalik hills. A harmonious blend of buildings, trees and other landscape elements enhances its aesthetic value. The most fascinating feature of the City's landscaping is the "Tree plantation" along avenues, open spaces and around building complexes.

A number of beautiful avenues with conspicuous tree species, well wooded forests along the periphery, 'Sukhna Lake' against the backdrop of Lake Reserve Forest, green belts running across the length and breadth of the city and beautiful 'Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary' on its periphery, further enhances the ecological, environmental and aesthetic richness of the city. Geographical area of U.T. Chandigarh is 139.92 sq. km which includes

25.98 sq. km. of hilly area acquired for soil conservation works in the catchment of Sukhna Lake, which has been declared as Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1998.

U.T. Chandigarh has 43 sq km area under forest cover and another 10 sq km area is under tree cover. A recent study of tree census in Chandigarh carried out by Punjab University has shown that there are 87 major avenue tree species in Chandigarh. The agencies responsible to maintain the legacy of well planned landscape are Forest Department, Horticulture wings of Engineering Department & Chandigarh Municipal Corporation & its caring Citizens. To fulfill its commitment to maintain and improve the greenery of the city and to have a better co-ordination among these different stakeholders & to chalk out the planning of plantation works, its implementation & to look into all aspects of Silvicultural/Horticultural operations, Chandigarh Administration formed a Greening Chandigarh Task Group in the year 2001.

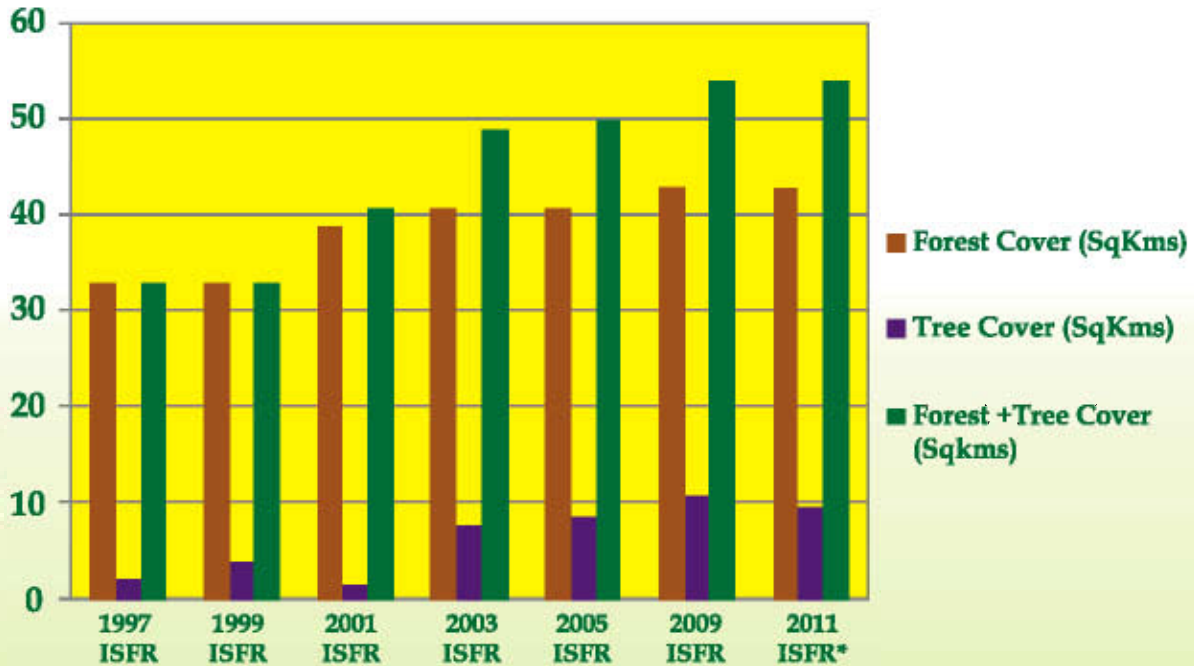
The responsibility entrusted upon the Greening Chandigarh Task Group is a challenge. The population of the city is about 13.0 lakhs and the number of vehicles including the floating vehicles is more than 9.00 Lakhs. The galloping increase in population and rapid increase in the number of vehicles, have led to a rising trend in pollution levels in Chandigarh. This increase in pollution levels has posed a challenge before the Greening Agencies.

However to counter the problem and to



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### Trend of Increase in Forest & Tree Cover of UT Chandigarh



\*India State of Forest Report by FSI Dehradun

strategies effectively, The Greening Task Group came out with a Greening Chandigarh Action Plan in the Year 2001. This plan was the guiding tool for all the greening agencies to live up to the expectations. Since then this Action Plan is being published annually.

As per monitoring data of Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> levels in Chandigarh are very low, though, Residual Suspended Particulate Matter

(RSPM) levels are matter of concern. However it is significant to mention that despite of remarkable increase in number of vehicles, which are the main source of air pollution in Chandigarh, in previous years there is no major change in RSPM levels. One of the main reason for Check on air pollution is the increasing green cover of the city during the last decade.

### On The Path of Achievement

- Chandigarh has been bestowed with Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award-2010
- Forests of Chandigarh has been assigned Rank 1 on Planning Commission's Environmental Performance Index-2012





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### ROLE OF THE FORESTS IN AMELIORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Rising pollution level and degrading environment of the city particularly by vehicular pollution highlights the need for remedial steps to combat pollution. Though the best way to reduce pollution at source is by adoption of clean technology and clean fuel, proper maintenance of roads & vehicles, maximum use of bicycles, strict enforcement of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 etc. Yet another effective way to reduce air and noise pollution is through a well planned and realistic afforestation strategy. Apart from giving shade, aesthetic beauty, recreational spots and playing host to a wide variety of birds and insects, trees play an important role in amelioration of environment due to their tremendous potential to act as:

- Source of vital oxygen.
- Organic sponges to absorb gaseous pollutants via their leaf stomata (the tiny pores on the leaves) breaking them down into less harmful molecules during the process of Photosynthesis.
- Storehouse of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by assimilating the carbon dioxide in the form of sugar.
- Natural air conditioners.
- Vegetative measures for Soil and water conservation

In the city, Trees enhance its visual character by adding variety and richness to urban

landscape with their different foliage and blossoms. They provide habitat for the wildlife, improve microclimate. Green Cover significantly affects the building heating budget. It helps in reducing the noise pollution to the acceptable level.

Plants play an important role both in reducing the environmental pollution load as well as acting as pollution indicator. Vegetal cover is, therefore, a pollution scavenger as it absorbs gases and gathers particulate matter through leaves having large surface areas. The green portion of the trees and plants has the capacity to filter dust, smoke and other pollutants in the air. Some species like Ficus, Mango, Neem etc. also act as good dust collectors.

Well laid out gardens and parks with selected ornamental and shady trees provide good recreational spots and enhance the beauty of the city. Well-designed green belts prove to be very effective wind break and help in soothing the microclimate of the surroundings.

