



GREENING CHANDIGARH ACTION PLAN 2015-2016 Chandigarh Administration

CHAPTER-I INTRODUCTION

CHANDIGARH AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Chandigarh is a modern city with prehistoric past. The city beautiful is designed by famous French Architect Le Corbusier and is known for its unique Architecture and well planned landscaping, the city derives its name from a 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; the northern edge of the city is the Capital 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 perhaps 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 which has been declared as 'Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary' on 06th March, 1998 acquired for soil conservation works.

UT 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 11,09,377 lakhs as per 2013 population census and the number of vehicles including the floating vehicles is more than 9.00 lakhs approx. 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. 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 strategies effectively, The Greening Task Group came out with a Greening Chandigarh Action Plan in the Year 2001. This plan was

"There is a Treasure Save it for pleasure"

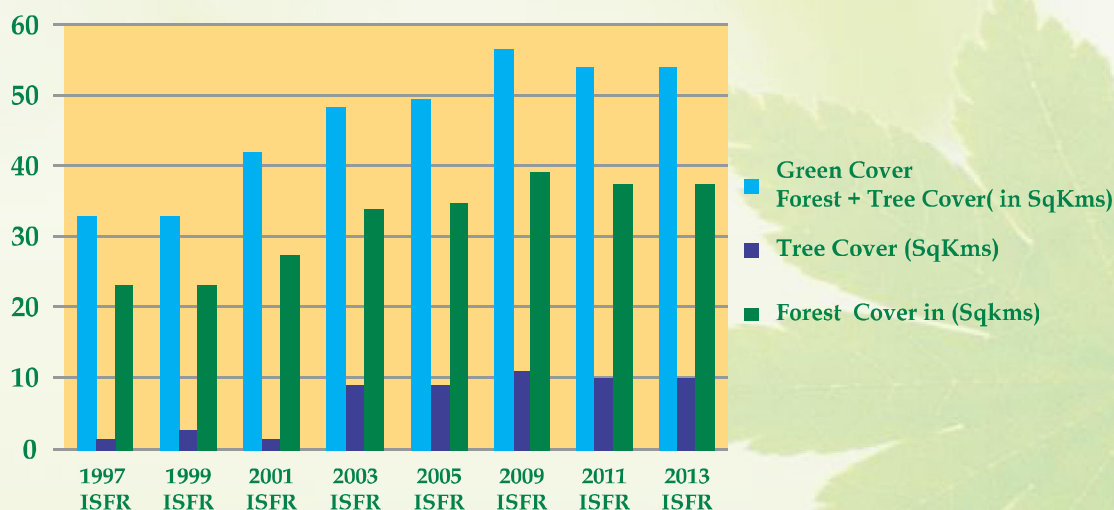


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the guiding tool for all the greening agencies to live up to the expectations. Since then this Action Plan is being published annually.

As per monitoring data of Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee, SO₂ and NO_x 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 Residual Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) levels. One of the main reasons for Check on air pollution is the increasing green cover of the city during the last decade.



India State of Forest Report by FSI Dehraun

On the Path of Achievement

- Chandigarh bestowed with Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award-2010
- Forests of Chandigarh has been assigned the Rank 1 on Planning Commission's Environmental performance index
- The forest cover in U.T. Chandigarh is 43 sq km and another 10 sq km area is under tree cover.

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, forests & trees play an important role in amelioration of environment due to their tremendous potential to act as:

"Tree in the world we depend upon ! Where will we go when tree is gone"?



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1. 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.
2. Storehouse of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) by assimilating the carbon dioxide in the form of sugar.
3. Natural air conditioners as well as purifier of air.
4. 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.

Studies show that one well grown Peepal tree of 162 sq.m. crown area can absorb 2252 kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere and give out 1712 kg of O₂ in one hour.



"What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"





A Panoramic View of a Silt Retention Dam Inside Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

STATE ANIMAL, BIRD, TREE AND FLOWER OF CHANDIGARH



FOREST & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION



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