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Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2019-20

Review of GCAP 2018-19

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Chandigarh Forest



CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF GREENING CHANDIGARH ACTION PLAN 2018-19



TARGET ACHIEVEMENTS

Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT of Chandigarh repeatedly & very beautifully committed towards greener and cleaner Chandigarh. The hard work supplemented by sustained campaign and much needed technical inputs have yielded commendable results.

During the year 2018-19, the Greening Agencies have made all out efforts to achieve their plantation target i.e. 2,43,000 (No. of Saplings), 1,50,000 no. of stem cutting of Arundo-donax (a soil binder plant) and 3,00,000 number of Patch-sowing were carried out as per details given in Table-1.

It will be very appropriate to mention that the institutions namely Forest Department, Municipal Corporation, Engineering Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh, NGOs, Resident Welfare Associations, Educational Institutions & farmers and above all, the strong will and farsightedness of the Administration contributed a lot towards the success of this programme. The contribution, dedication and genuine concern of the proud citizens of the 'City Beautiful' to make the city greener needs special mention. Encouraged by the previous year's results, the Forest Department, Chandigarh in collaboration with Municipal Corporation and Engineering Department, Chandigarh had chalked out a programme to continue the efforts with the renewed zeal during year 2018-19. The achievement is 116% as detailed below:

| S.N. | Department/ Organization | No. of saplings planted | | No. of stem cuttings of Arundo-donax plants | | No. of patch- sowing (seed sowing) | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| | | Target | Achieve- ment | Target | Achieve- ment | Target | Achieve- ment |
| A) 1. | Forest Department | 63,000 | 77,120 | 150000 | 150000 | 300000 | 300000 |
| 2. | Municipal Corporation, | 40,000 | 40,684 | - | - | - | - |
| 3. | Horticulture Division, Engineering Department | 20,000 | 48,254 | - | - | - | - |
| B) i) | Free distribution of saplings by Forest Department to Educational Institutions, Religious Institutions, NGO's etc | 1,20,000 | 55,000 | 59,602 | - | - | - |
| ii) | Selling of saplings by Hort.Wing of Municipal Corpn | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | - | - | - |
| iii) | Selling of saplings by Engg. Department | 40,000 | 32,162 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | | 2,43,000 | 2,82,822 | 1,50,000 | 150000 | 3,00,000 | 3,00,000 |

Table 1 : Plantation achievements during 2018-19



OTHER ACTIVITIES

INAUGURATION OF NAGAR VAN (CITY FORESTS)

Adding more serenity to Chandigarh, the city forest also called as Nagar Van, which spread over a sprawling 100 hectares and it is situated near the heart of City Beautiful i.e. Sukhna Lake. City Forest has been established under Nagar Van Udyan Yojana, which is an urban forestry scheme of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It was inaugurated by Sh. V.P. Singh Badnore, the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh on 24th April, 2018.

To attract the visitors many facilities like earthen tracks, shallow water bodies for avifauna, open air gym, kids play section, Meditation Hut, etc. has been provided. Interpretive signages showing information



Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh inaugurated Nagar Van (City Forests)



Walkways / Jogging Trails / Nature Trails

about the local flora and fauna installed along the tracks to sensitize the visitors about the environment. Natural looking wooden benches have been made by using dead and dry trees and placed along the tracks. This place is heaven for bird watchers due to the presence of more than 65 species of birds. Department also holds various events in this park with the collaboration of NGO's/Eco-clubs in which efforts have been made to create awareness about the conservation of natural resources amongst school/college students.

Nagar Van is part of Lake Forest which provides ideal habitat to the vast variety of flora and fauna. Visitors can easily spot Sambhar (*Rusa unicolor*), Chittal (*Axis axis*), Neelgai (*Blue bull*), Wild Boar etc. moving along the walking trails. Animals like Jackal, Indian civet, Porcupine, Common mongoose etc. also found in this forest area. Vegetation mainly includes Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Dhaak (*Butea*



monosperma), Kikar (*Acacia nilotica*), Musquit (*Prosopis juliflora*), Amaltash (*Cassia fistula*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Semal (*Bombax ceiba*), Shahtoot (*Morus alba*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) etc.

Being close to the city, the Nagar Van acts as good place for both recreation, relaxation and nature education.

UT ADVISER VISITS NAGAR VAN

In January, 2019 worthy Adviser to the Hon'ble Administrator UT Chandigarh Sh Manoj Parida, IAS visited the Nagar Van to take stock of the area and facilities available. His visit boosted the morale of field staff. He appreciated the effort of the Department in creating Nagar Van in so close proximity to the urban area of Chandigarh. The natural ambience of the City Forest Complex with free ranging of wild animals and chirping of birds are the major attractions.



Shri Manoj Parida, IAS, Adviser to the Hon'ble Administrator UT Chandigarh visited the Nagar Van (City Forest)



Nurture a tree for the better future of your kids.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

'World Environment Day' was organized on 5th June, 2018 at entrance point on the ground floor of Elante Mall in Industrial Area, Chandigarh in collaboration with YUVSATTA – an environmental NGO.

The theme of the World Environment Day-2018 was 'Beat Plastic Pollution' which is a call for action to come together to combat one of the greatest environmental challenges of our times.

On this occasion, the 'Best Eco-Club Award of UT Chandigarh' were announced by Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration for the year 2017, and the prizes for their commendable work in the field of Environment Conservation were distributed. The 1st prize of Best Eco Club this year was bagged by St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44-D, Chandigarh which was received by Principal of the School Monica Chawla alongwith her students and Eco-Club incharge/teachers. First prize carried a cash prize of Rs.10,000 plus a trophy and certificate. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 33-D won the second prize and third prize was bagged by Gurukul Global School, Manimajra, Chandigarh. Two consolations Eco-Club awards were also there and same went to Eco Clubs of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 37-B and Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 20-B, Chandigarh.



Shri T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, CF & Member Secretary CPCC during the celebration of 'World Environment Day'



'Best Eco-Club Award' on occasion of 'World Environment Day' on 5th June, 2018 at Elante Mall, Chandigarh



On this occasion, the Department also distributed Herbal Plants to students to promote green Chandigarh and also cloth made 'jholas' to the people present there to promote non-use of polythene/plastic bags. A Stall was erected where Film on Solar was displayed. Short Play Contests on the theme of 'Polythene Bags Free Chandigarh' were played. Quiz sessions were held on the matters relating to Environment, Forests & Renewable Energy. An Inter-School Poster making/ Slogan Writing Contests were held there and prizes were given to the winners.

On the occasion, Quiz Sessions were also held on the theme of Environment, Forests & Renewable Energy. Inter-School Poster making/ Slogan Writing Contests also marked the day. An Inter-School Short Play Contest was also organized on the occasion in nine School teams participated from St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44-D, St. Stephen's



Distribution of Herbal Plants to students to promote Green Chandigarh on 5th June, 2018



School Teachers and Students during the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June, 2018



School, Sector 45, Chandigarh, Gurukul Global School, Manimajra, Alliance International School, Banur, Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 20B, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 37-B, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 33D, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Khudda Ali Sher, Chandigarh and Kitabhar, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

In the end the winners of the Inter-School Short Plays were honoured. The first prize was bagged by St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, second prize went to team of St. Stephen's School and students from Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 33-D got the third prize. The function was attended by various Eco Club Incharges, School Principals & Teachers of Schools of Chandigarh.

On this day Nukkar Nataks were performed at various location of U.T. on the theme of **"Beat Plastic Pollution"**



On the Eve of day; the building of Paryavaran Bhawan was illuminated with green LED lights.

VANMAHOTSAVA & PAUDH MELA

Vanmahotsava 2018 was celebrated from 02nd July, 2018, to create awareness among the local people, students, officers and employees of Chandigarh Administration about the importance of tree plantation and save Environment in a befitting manner by all the Greening Agencies. Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh organized various plantation programmes to mark the event and to sensitize the masses for protection and conservation of trees.



A state level plantation programme was organised at parking place near Sukhna Lake Club which was attended by many dignitaries including - Smt. Kirron Kher, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, UT, Chandigarh. Three Stalls of Forest Department, Municipal Corporation, Horticulture wing of Engineering Department, Chandigarh were set up there. Forest Department distributed saplings free of cost whereas other departments are selling at nominal rate.



Stalls of Forest & Wildlife Department, Engineering Department, & Municipal Corporation during Paudhamela on 2nd July, 2018



Smt. Kirron Kher, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, UT Chandigarh, distributing saplings during the occasion of 'Paudh Mela' on 2nd July, 2018

After inauguration of Paudhmela, Chief Guest also flagged off the 'Mahindra Scorpio Getaway' - a Pick-up Van vehicle for rescuing wild animals and bringing to health care facility or for release them in forest area. The vehicle was donated by Smt. Kirron Kher, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, UT, Chandigarh under MPLADS Scheme.

A ceremonial plantation was also held behind Rock Garden on Kaimbwala Road, Chandigarh where Chief Guest Smt. Kirron Kher launched 'Plantation Drive-2018' and planted 'Jamun' sapling.



Smt. Kirron Kher, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, UT Chandigarh flagged off the 'Mahindra Scorpio Getaway' for rescuing wild animals

On this occasion, Shri Santosh Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, Conservator of Forests and other Senior Officers of the Administration also planted saplings. On this occasion speaking to the media, Chief Guest – Smt. Kirron Kher requested all citizens of Chandigarh to take part in this Van Mahotsava-2018 with full enthusiasm so as to make Chandigarh a clean & green city. She urged that if we adopt 'Each One Plant One' theme then the Chandigarh is going to be a more greener place.

Van Mahotsava was celebrated involving all the stake holders as per the following programme :-

Eco-Club Day (3rd July, 2018): Eco Clubs of UT Chandigarh planted saplings on this day

NGO Day (4th July, 2018): NGOs registered under PIP with UT Forest department planted saplings at various locations in Chandigarh.

Herbal Day (5th July, 2018): Schools & Colleges of UT Chandigarh carried out Herbal plantation in their premises.

Resident Welfare Association Day (06th July, 2018): Resident Welfare Associations planted plant saplings in their jurisdiction.

During Van Mahotsava a ceremonial plantation has been carried out behind Rock Garden area which has been reclaimed from sewerage water destruction leading to drying of many trees. Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh organized various plantation programmes to mark the event and to sensitize the masses for protection and conservation of trees.



WORLD HERITAGE DAY

Department of Tourism celebrated the second anniversary of the World Heritage Day at Capitol Complex on 17th July, 2018 with a series of initiatives to make a visit to the complex more comfortable and enriching for tourists.

A tree plantation drive was organized to enhance the green cover of the Capitol Complex.



Sh. Jitender Yadav, Director, Tourism, UT Chandigarh planting saplings 'Silver Oak tree' on the occasion of 'World Heritage' at Capitol Complex, Sec. 1, Chandigarh on 17th July, 2018

PALASH DAY

Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with Yuvsatta – an NGO organized 'Palash Day Celebrations' on 24th July, 2018 at Forest Area behind Police Lines, Sector-26, Chandigarh. Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Home Secretary-cum-Secretary (Forests), Chandigarh Administration was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Around 150 students from Delhi Public School, Sector-40, Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 18-D, St. Stephen's School, Sector 45-B, Guru Gobind Singh College for Women, Sector-26 and Chandigarh Institute of Hotel Management, Sector-42 were participated in the endeavor. About 400 saplings of palash were planted on the occasion.



Chief Guest Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Home Secretary-cum-Secretary (Forests) UT Chandigarh planting sapling during the occasion of 'Palash Day Celebration' on 24th July, 2018



ECO CLUB

TEACHERS OF 149 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN ECO CLUBS TRAINING PROGRAMME

An orientation programme for Eco Club incharge teachers was organized by Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration and Yuvsatta-an NGO on 2nd August, 2018 at New Public School, Chandigarh. Representative teachers from 149 Schools where Eco Clubs are already established participated in the same. Mr. Santosh Kumar, IFS, Director, Department of Environment & Chief Conservator of Forests & Wildlife was the Chief Guest and prominent other participants included Dr. Abdul Qayum, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Mr. RD Singh, Principal of New Public School, Chandigarh and Mr. Pramod Sharma, Coordinator, Yuvsatta.

This day long orientation included interactive sessions on different themes by experts on biodiversity and water conservation, Climate change and UN Sustainable Development Goals, Solar & renewable energy, making Chandigarh Zero percent waste and plastic pollution free city with active and vibrant involvement of Eco Clubs in educational institutions for which resource persons like Ashish Shah founder of Wild Ecologues, Great Himalayan National Park at Himachal Pradesh, Narbir Kahlon & Sarbjeet Kaur, from Avian Habitat and Wetland Society (AHWS) & Kulbhushan Kanwar-the butterfly man from Yuvsatta had detailed interactive sessions with participating teachers.

Eco Club incharge teachers from five winner Schools of annual Best Eco Club awards constituted by Chandigarh Administration, like St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 33D, Gurukul Global School, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 46D & St. Stephen's School also made presentation on how they organize their activities among young students to involve and inspire them to think, eat and act green.



Shri. Santosh Kumar, IFS, Director, Dept. of Environment & Chief Conservator of Forests, UT, Chandigarh, addressing at Eco clubs training programme at New Public School, Chandigarh on 2nd August, 2018



CELEBRATION OF WORLD OZONE DAY

Department of Environment and Forests, Chandigarh Administration, in collaboration with NGO – Youth Innovative Society, celebrated World Ozone Day on 16th September, 2018 by organizing a painting and Slogan Writing competition and Quiz Competition for various schools. Around 300 Students Participated in both events in botanical garden.

The theme for world ozone day of 2018 was “Keep Cool and Carry On”. The theme is accompanied by the tagline: The Montreal Protocol. This protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer (ODS) has so far been successful in phasing out 99% ODS globally. This special day is held to mark the day when the Montreal Protocol was signed in



Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on the occasion of 'World Ozone Day' at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur, Chandigarh



Sh. T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, Conservator of Forests, distributing saplings during the occasion of 'World Ozone Day'

1987. The aim of this is mainly intended to spread awareness about the depletion of the ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.

The topic for both the Painting Competition was 'Caring for all life under the Sun' which is in tune with this year's theme. Teachers interacted with students and explained how depletion of ozone layer affects living beings and nature.

Range Forest Officer Sh. Pradeep Gulia and other officials of the department of environment and ENVIS Hub, Chandigarh were also marked their presence in the programme. Students were awarded in the painting and Slogan Writing, and Quiz competition respectively. St. Josephs Sr. Secondary School bagged first prize, IS Dev Samaj bagged second prize and Govt Model Senior Secondary School 38 (West) DMC bagged third prize in quiz competition. Aastha of Govt model Senior



Eco Clubs Training Programme at New Public School, Chandigarh



Secondary school Ramdarbaar (Karsaan) begged first prize, Yasmeen of Govt Girls Model Senior Secondary School Sector 18 begged second prize and Chhavi of St. Josephs Senior Secondary School begged third prize in Painting and Slogan Writing Competition. Department of Forests & Environment, Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with Environmental NGO – Youth Innovative Society celebrated 'World Ozone Day' on 15th September, 2017 by organizing a Painting Competition on the theme of the day by school students of various Schools i.e. Government Model High School, Sector-32 and St. Joseph Sr.Sec. School, Sec.44 in the Conference Hall of Botanical Garden at Sarangpur, Chandigarh. On this occasion, Sh.Santosh Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director Environment, UT Chandigarh was the Chief Guest.



Distribution of prizes of painting, Slogan Writing and Quiz competition on the occasion of 'World Ozone Day' at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur, Chandigarh

WILDLIFE WEEK 2018

The week long celebration of Wildlife Week, 2018 was inaugurated by the Department of Forests and Wildlife, UT, Chandigarh on 2nd October, 2018 by organizing a 'Walk for Wildlife' trekking at 700 hrs which was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Finance Secretary, UT Chandigarh at Nepli Gate of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, UT Chandigarh. This trekking event was started from Nepli and culminated at Kansal Log Hut covering a distance of approximately 9.5 Km in length. Around 1800 people participated the trek which included School children, general public and large no. of people from Press & Media and other nature enthusiasts.



Flagged off by Shri Ajoy Kumar Sinha, IAS, Finance Secretary, at Nepli Gate of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary during Wildlife Trekking Event



Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Chandigarh flagged off 'Walk for Wildlife' during Wildlife Week Celebration on 2nd October, 2018 at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh

A Walkathon on the theme of 'Walk for Wildlife' at 900 hrs was organized at Sukhna Lake. This was flagged off by Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Chandigarh. This event was organized in collaboration with NGO – Yuvsatta, Chandigarh, in which large number of International and National youths participated to spread the message of importance of Wildlife conservation.

The Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration organized various programmes all throughout this week such as drawing/painting competition, photography exhibition, trekking to wilderness etc. to raise the awareness amongst all the stakeholders to join hands together for conservation of wild flora and fauna for posterity.

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF WILDLIFE WEEK 2018

A 'Valedictory Function' on Wildlife Week Celebration 2018 was organized on 9th October, 2018 at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur. Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh was the Chief Guest and Sh. Parimal Rai, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, UT Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour. On this occasion, the Chief Guest inaugurated a 'Fern House' inside the Botanical Garden. The Fern House has been established by the Department for the ex-situ conservation of Fern plants found in the region. The same shall help the students and researchers during their educational trip to this place for botanization.



Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh inaugurated a 'Fern House' at Botanical Garden



Planting sapling of 'Rudraksha' at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur, Chandigarh on 9th October, 2018



Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Home Secretary-cum-Secretary (Forests) UT Chandigarh planting sapling of 'Dhak' at Botanical Garden

During the valedictory function, the winners of 'Inter-School Painting/Drawing Competition' held in different schools of UT Chandigarh during the Wildlife Week given the prizes by the Chief Guest. Under Junior Wing Category, the First Prize was bagged by Miss Shagun Maurya of Class VIII of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Khuda-Ali-Sher, Chandigarh, second prize went to Miss Aanya Bindlish of Class VI of Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh and Miss Harvallav Kaur of Class VIII of Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh got the third prize. Under Senior Wing Category, the first prize was bagged by Mr. Aman Mittal of Class XI of Govt. Model Sr.Sec. School, Sector 37-B, Chandigarh, second prize went to Miss Kumkum of Class IX of Govt. Model High School, Dhanas, Chandigarh and Mr. Rohil of Class XI of Delhi Public School, Sector 40, Chandigarh got the third prize.

The 'Best Eco-Club Award of UT Chandigarh' for the year 2018 were also announced and the prizes for their commendable work in the field of Environment Conservation were distributed by the Chief Guest. Under High/Senior Secondary School Category, the First Prize was bagged by Cassia Eco-Club of Govt. Girls Model Sr. Sec. School, Sec.18-C, Chandigarh, second prize went to Green Saviours Eco-Club of St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44-D, Chandigarh and Young Environmentalist Club-Eco-Club of New Public School, Sec.18-B, Chandigarh got the third prize. Under Primary/ Middle School Category, the First prize was bagged by Green Corner Eco-club of Govt. Middle School, Burail, U.T., Chandigarh, second prize went to Amrita Eco-club of Government Middle School, Sector-33-B, Chandigarh and Vasundhara Eco-club of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans, Bhavan Vidyalaya (Junior) Sec.33, Chandigarh got the third prize.



Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh distributed prize of 'Best Eco-Club Award'

Among prominent persons attending the function were Shri Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary (Forests), Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director Environment and other senior officers of the Administration. The function was attended by various Eco-Club Incharges, School Principals & Teachers, member of Chandigarh Bird Club, local public and persons from electronic and print media, etc.

At the end, the Chief Guest Sh.V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & the Administrator, UT Chandigarh appreciated the effort of the Department in conducting various programmes organized during the Wildlife Week.

COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE TO FOREST OFFICIAL

Front line staff of Forests & wildlife Department is continuously working for the protection and conservation of flora and fauna. Chandigarh Administration had appreciated the working of the department and presented Commendation Certificate to Sh. Pradeep Gulia, Range Forest Officer on 15th August, 2018 for his outstanding services in the Department.



Sh. V.P. Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Administrator of UT Chandigarh, Honouring Sh. Pradeep Gulia, Range Forest Officer with Commendation Certificate for his outstanding services in Forests & Wildlife Department, UT, Chandigarh on the eve of Independence Day-2018 on 15th August, 2018



WELCOMING MIGRATORY BIRDS IN SUKHNA LAKE

Department of Forest & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration alongwith Yuvsatta-an NGO launched a fortnight long 'Migratory Bird Watching Fest' on 3rd December, 2018 for local School students. On day one 100 students of Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh enjoyed the bird watching fest. Prominent amongst those who were present on the occasion included Mr. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Department of Environment, Mr. TC Nautiyal, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh Administration, Mr. Kulbhushan Kanwar, Environmentalist & Pramod Sharma, Coordinator, Yuvsatta.



Distribution of prize of Inter-School Painting Competition during 'Migratory Bird Watching Visits' at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh on 3rd December, 2018

Mr. Debendra Dalai inaugurating the initiative said that "Nobody is allowed to play loud music or burst firecrackers near the lake and the sanctuary as that might disturb their lifestyle. And migratory birds come from places like Siberia, China and Afghanistan. These are brahmi ducks, common pochards, red-crusted pochards, grebes, geese, shell ducks, marsh ducks, diving ducks, rails, coots, stilts, hill kingfisher, mallard, pintail, cormorants, Siberian ducks, cranes, storks and sandpipers. He further emphasized on need for conservation of nature and responsibility of the entire society towards nature and nature conservation.

He further added that migratory birds start arriving in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary from early November and their stay lasts till March or April, depending on the climatic conditions. And these birds are very sensitive; so Department has made arrangements to make the environment conducive for them.

Regular bird watchers like Kulbhushan Kanwar explained to the kids about hundreds of migratory bird who travel every year thousands of miles to reach Sukhna Lake, to escape the harsh cold of their habitats. According to forest officials, the winged visitors have been congregating here for the last over three decades as conditions in the region are very hospitable for them. They will be in their full strength by December end. On this occasion, the winners of recently organized Inter-School Painting Contest on the theme of 'Biodiversity Conservation' were also honoured.



WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

Human-Wildlife Conflict has become one of the serious problems. Due to loss of Habitat, Habitat degradation, some of the wild animals i.e. Monkeys, Sambhar, Neelgai, Biju etc. are coming out of forest area and invading in city area.

To manage this problem, Department of Forests & Wildlife has constituted a full time wildlife squad operating **24 × 7**.

During rescue operation, for the injured animals a hydraulic based lifting of animals is adopted by the Department in order to reduce the stress level of the animal. A hotline **(0172-2700217)** is maintained for wildlife rescue towards efficient information dissemination and better handling. It is claimed that not a single call can go unreported. In case of emergency, senior officials including other Wildlife team members also join, as per the charter of task group recently constituted.



Rescue Team

CHANDIGARH SAYS GOOD-BYE POLY BAGS

Department of Environment, UT, Chandigarh in collaboration of Yuvsatta-an NGO and with participation of Chandigarh Traders Association organized a 'Chandigarh Says Good-bye Poly Bags' campaign on 1st January, 2019 at Sector 17 Plaza, Chandigarh. Mr. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Director, Department of Environment & Vice-Chairman, Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Director, Dept. of Environment, UT, Chandigarh, during the occasion of 'Chandigarh Says Good-bye Poly Bags' at Sector 17 Plaza, Chandigarh on 1st January, 2019



Prominent amongst those who were present on the occasion included Mr. T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, Member Secretary, Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee, Mr. Kamaljit Singh Panchhi and Mr. Sanjiv Chadha of Traders Association, Kulbhushan Kanwar, environmentalist and Pramod Sharma, Coordinator, Yuvsatta.

Addressing the gathering Mr. Debendra Dalai shared that Chandigarh administration had banned the use of polythene bags in the City Beautiful almost a decade ago in 2008. Still one finds widespread use of polythene/plastic carry bags, other single-use plastic and thermocol/styrofoam cutlery and containers, which poses a serious risk factor to the general health of the population in both short-term and long-term, and leads to continuous deterioration of the environment inflicting irreversible adverse impact on all forms of life. He further added that these deadly items are difficult to recycle and end up in landfill sites where they can take up to 500 years to degrade, while a vast number of them are non-biodegradable.

A street play 'Poly-Raja' by volunteers of Yuvsatta was also staged. And over 500 cloth bags were distributed free to the public to promote the initiative.

On the occasion the office bearers of Chandigarh Traders Association, Sector 17 & Progressive Traders Welfare Association were also honored by Mr. Debendra Dalai for their support and cooperation to further strengthen the 'Chandigarh Says Good-bye Poly Bags' campaign in Chandigarh.



A drama played during 'Chandigarh Says Good-bye Poly Bags' on 1st January, 2019 at Sector 17 Plaza, Chandigarh

NATURE CAMPS AT CITY FOREST FOR BIODIVERSITY WALKS

Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with an NGO-Yuvsatta organized biodiversity walks on 14th February, 2019 at Nagar Van (City Forest) behind Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh for 50 Eco Club students, NSS Volunteers, teachers and Principal Dr. Sudha Katyal of Government Home Science College, Chandigarh.



Inaugurating the Nature Walks at City Forests Sh. TC Nautiyal, Conservator of Forests said to students that if you want some quiet time in the woods free from the noise and pollution of urban life, step into the newly minted city forest aka 'Nagar Van' in Chandigarh. Spread over 100 hectares in and around the lake reserve forest area, this oasis of calm broken only by the cries of peacocks and birdsong, was inaugurated in April, 2018. And here tall green trees and brightly coloured flowers border a giant green gate that leads you to an open air gym to the right and a children's park to the left. An array of colourful birds, such as grey hornbill, peacocks, parrots, parakeets and junglefowl keep you company as you walk along. On a good day early in the morning or at dusk, you might also spot barasingha (swamp deer), neelgai (blue bull), sambar



Sh. T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, Conservator of Forests, on the occasion of 'Biodiversity Walks' at Nagar Van (City Forest)



College Students during the Biodiversity Walk at City Forest, Chandigarh on 14th February, 2019

deer, wild boar, jungle cat, and even hyena. But generally, these animals steer clear of humans. The forest is a wild-life habitat, and the track circles it in a way so as not to disturb the animals.

On the occasion Mr. Kulbhushan Kanwar, environmentalist, who has single-handedly discovered and photographed over 100 species of butterflies of Chandigarh explained to young students about how butterflies plays an important role in keeping all humans alive. "It is a popular myth that butterflies only suck nectar out of flowers as many of them never sit on flowers but instead they draw their food from overripe foods, bird droppings, damp patches and dead animals. He also added that studies suggests more than 70% pollination happens due to butterflies and bees and hence they are essential to our eco-system.



PEEPAL & BANYAN TREE PLANTED AT CITY FOREST

Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration and Yuvsatta-an NGO organized a Nature Camp for Girls of Guru Gobind Singh College for Women, Chandigarh on 18th February, 2019 at Nagar Van (City Forest) behind Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh. And almost all 50 participating students and teachers discovered for the first time that such a beautiful and green mini-forest full of rich flora and fauna of this region exists amidst the hustle and bustle of Chandigarh city.

Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Department of Environment and Dr. Abdul Qayum, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh Administration also joined on the occasion and together along with the young students they planted a Peepal & Banyan



Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Director Environment planting saplings of 'Peepal & Banyan Tree' at Nagar Van (City Forest) on 18th February, 2019

Tree at City Forest.

Addressing the gathering Sh. Debendra Dalai shared that in rural areas, people often consider it auspicious by planting banyan and peepal side by side. And in Hinduism Peepal (Aswatha) and Banyan are considered the most sacred trees, otherwise besides providing shade, habitat, fruits to large number of birds, birds, squirrels, insects, flying foxes etc. they're rich source of oxygen and of medicinal value for humans.

The programme ended with a Pledge led by Prof. Savneet the teacher Incharge of SGGGS College for Women, where in the participating students and teachers promised on promoting the spirit of green living by saying no to single use plastic and increasing consumerism, walking or cycling for shorter distances, not wasting waste, segregating the waste, recycling, promoting solar and renewable energy.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

A training programme on 23rd February, 2019 at New Public School Chandigarh, the theme of 'Water & Wetlands Conservation' for Eco Club incharge teachers was organized under the Environment Education, Awareness and Training Scheme, of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration along with Earth Day Network India, New Public School and Yuvsatta-an NGO. Mr. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Director, Department of Environment was the Chief Guest on the occasion and teachers from over 75 prominent Schools and Colleges of the city participated in the same.



Sh. Debendra Dalai, IFS, Director Environment, during the Training Programme of 'Water & Wetlands Conservation' at New Public School, Sec. 18, Chandigarh

Addressing the gathering Mr. Dalai motivated the teachers to lead the young students with personal example, designing small & practical environmental interventions which can lead to bigger change towards sustainable life-style and Eco club activities. He also shared that Chandigarh Administration has started the process to declare the lake a wetland under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, notified by the Centre. And the rules have strict provisions to protect the wetland.

Mr. Dalai further added that most of the wetlands in the urban areas are under threat. With the level of urbanization likely to increase from 30% to 50% in the next decade, a legal framework to protect these wetlands and their catchments are urgently needed. He also announced that from this year, along with State Level Best Eco Club Awards for Schools, there Department will also present the Best Eco Club Awards annually to best three Colleges too.

A resource person for the workshop Mr. Kulbhushan Kanwar, started the morning by stating the importance of wetlands in nature. He wove an interesting story by narrating his personal observations, interesting facts of butterfly and bird species he had observed the wetlands in and around Chandigarh. He stated how difficult it was to capture moods and behaviour of birds and butterflies? The long hours he had to wait in one position without moving to capture the beautiful pictures.

Emphasizing on important of Water conservation-the elixir of life, the main speaker of the day was Mr. Ashish Shah, Director, Wild Ecologues at Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal Pradesh, said that the importance of water as an element cannot be understated in today's world. It permeates the essence of being and touches every aspect of our life. It is important that students try and fathom the importance of water from the personal as well as community perspective. Sustainability of water as a resource rests upon the difference between the quantity and quality of water we withdraw from nature and the quantity and quality we dispose in it.

A framework for assessing the quantity of water for individuals and communities was provided to participating teachers to enable their students to assess consumption and at the same time compare that to



the ideal levels of consumption. It is important that the young people look at examples of use of water by nature and learn sustainability from them.

The programme ended with concluding remarks by Mr. SK Setia, Former DPI (Schools), Chandigarh Administration, who asked teachers to follow Mahatma Gandhi and become the Change agents in their respective educational institutions inspiring the green and sustainable living further. Later participation certificates were distributed by Pramod Sharma, Coordinator of Yuvsatta-NGO.

NATURE BIRD WALK

'Nature Bird Walk' in the Bird Park area on monthly basis started from the month of August, 2018. It is conducted on every 3rd Sunday of the month in association with Chandigarh Bird Club as per Calendar provided on the website, in Nagar Van (City Forest) behind Sukhna Lake. It is aimed to raise awareness about the different species of birds amongst the general public. Anyone can participate in this walk by applying online or through submitting the registration form manually in the office. Department conducts this activity with the support of Sh. Narbir Singh Kahlon and local bird watchers. Forests Department provides spotting scope and binoculars facility to the visitors to see the birds closely. Interpretive boards are also installed along the track to educate the visitors. Birds like Common pochard, Tufted pochard, Rudy shellduck, Northern pintail, Northern shoveller, Mallard, Greylag goose, Bar headed goose, Gargney, Teal, Dartars etc. can be easily seen in the Nagar Van area and facilities provided by the Department serves a great purpose in educating local youth & college going students, especially.



Visitors watching the birds during Bird Walk



Bird walk in the City Forest



Red Wattled Lapwing

Golden Oriole



Indian Peafowl



Black Rumped Flameback



Rufous Treepie



State Bird of Chandigarh



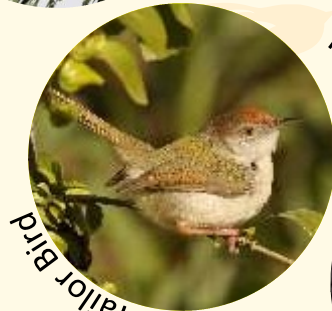
Grey Francolin



Black Francolin



Indian Grey Hornbill



Tailor Bird

Black Drongo



Greater Coucal



Spotted Owlet



Blue Whistling Thrush



Some of birds clicked during 'Bird Walk'