

**Department of Public Relations  
Chandigarh Administration**

Press Release

**Celebrations of Van Mahotsava 2017**

**Chandigarh, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017:** On the occasion of Van Mahotsava 2017, a ‘Paudhmela’ was inaugurated by the Chief Guest – Sh.V.P. Singh Badnore, the Governor of Punjab & Administrator, UT Chandigarh in the presence of Smt. Kirron Kher, Member of Parliament, UT Chandigarh today at parking place near Sukhna Lake Club.

The two day Paudhmela will display three Stalls of Forest Department, Municipal Corporation, Horticulture wing of Engineering Department, Chandigarh at the venue where Forest Department will be distributing saplings free of cost and other departments will be selling these planters at nominal rate depending on the species. A Stall of Acacia Eco Club of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sec 16-D, Chandigarh will distribute herbal plants and Giloy stems to the interested people.

After the inauguration of Paudhmela, the Governor launched the ‘**Plantation Drive-2017**’ at IRB Complex, Sarangpur, Chandigarh and planted ‘**Rudraksha**’ sapling.

After the plantation programme, he also inaugurated the 300 kWp Grid tied Rooftop Solar Power Plant installed on 39 Portal Cabins in IRB Complex, Sarangpur, Chandigarh; phase II of the project. Two years back the 200 kWp rooftop SPV Project was already installed on 22 Portal cabins. Now IRB Complex has 500 kWp Rooftop Solar Plants and it is generating about 6.5 lakhs units of Solar electricity every year.

Shri Parimal Rai, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, Shri Anurag Agarwal, IAS, Home Secretary-cum-Secretary (Forests & Sci.& Tech. & RE), Sh. T.S. Luthra, IPS, DGP, Shri Santosh Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Sh. Alok Kumar, DIG & Shri Birendra Choudhary, IFS, DCF(HQ) and other senior officers of the Administration also planted saplings during the celebrations of Van Mahotsava.

Sh.V.P. Singh Badnore requested the citizens of Chandigarh to take part in this Van Mahotsava with full enthusiasm and to make Chandigarh a clean & green city. He urged that if we adopt ‘Each One Plant One’ theme then the Chandigarh is going to be a greener place.

Shri Santosh Kumar, CCF informed that Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration has planned series of days celebrations so as to involve all stake holders in the following manner as part of Van Mahotsav-2017 celebrations :-

1. **Eco-Club Day (06<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017):** All Eco Clubs of UT Chandigarh will plant saplings on this day.

2. **NGO Day (07<sup>th</sup> July, 2017):** NGOs registered under PIP with UT Forest department will plant saplings at various locations in Chandigarh.
3. **Herbal Day (8<sup>th</sup> July, 2017):** Schools & Colleges of UT Chandigarh shall carry outv Herbal plantation in their premises.
4. **Resident Welfare Association Day (10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017):** Resident Welfare Associations will plant saplings in their jurisdiction.