

FOREST & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2018-19

- **Plantation Activities:**

Chandigarh takes pride in having preserved about 41% of the total area under forest and green cover. To increase green cover in U.T. Chandigarh, "Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2018-19" was prepared for implementation by all greening Departments i.e. Forest Department, Horticulture Wings of Engineering Department, UT and Municipal Corporation. Against the target of **63,000 saplings**, Forest Department has planted **68,300 saplings** and apart from this, against the target of **55,000 saplings**, the Forest department has distributed **59,602 saplings** free of cost to the citizens of Chandigarh, NGOs, Schools, Colleges etc., to contribute their part in the maintenance of the Green Cover of the City. Against the target of **20,000 saplings**, Engineering Department (Horticulture), UT has planted **33,960 saplings**. Municipal Corporation (Hort. Wing) has planted **42,352 saplings** against the target of **40,000 saplings** to increase the Green Cover of the City.

- **Heritage Trees Of Chandigarh:**

With a view to sensitize the people towards tree preservation and conservation and to promote Eco-tourism, Chandigarh Administration has recently notified 31 no. of trees existing in Chandigarh since more than 100 years as 'Heritage Trees of Chandigarh'. The Forest Department has been asked to preserve and conserve the tree and the Tourism Department to organize Heritage Walk to educate and sensitize the people of Chandigarh.

- **Inauguration Of Nagar Van (City Forests)**

Chandigarh inaugurated '**Nagar Van (City Forests)**' on **24th April, 2018** spread over an area of 100 Hectare has been developed behind Sukhna Lake, under the Central scheme called Nagar Van Yojna "Ek Kadam Haryaliki Aur" launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi. Under Nagar Van, various recreational facilities have been created like water bodies, visitors shed, meditation huts, walk ways, cycle treks and Open air Gym for providing healthy living environment to the residents and to contributes towards making this city smart, clean, green and healthy city.

- **Release of Book "Birds of Chandigarh"**

A book '**Birds of Chandigarh**' was released on **24th April, 2018** at Nagar Van (City Forests). The Forests & Wildlife Department, UT Chandigarh in association with Chandigarh Birds Club has attempted to bring this guide book for the benefit of residents. This guidebook will help to draw the attention of amateur bird watchers, environmentalists and ornithologists to this planned urban city, where visitors can enjoy diverse birds and other faunal life of this city and its forest

areas and this will help the government as well as civil society to protect the Bio-diversity of the region as well as Sukhna Lake.

- **Celebration of World Environment Day, 2018**

World Environment Day, 2018 was celebrated on **05th June, 2018** at entrance point on the ground floor of Elante Mall in Industrial Area, Chandigarh on the theme of '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'. This was organized by Department of Environment & Forests in collaboration with YUVSATTA –an environmental NGO.

- **Celebration of Vanmahotsava-2018**

Vanmahotsava-2018 was celebrated on **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.

- **Celebration of Palash Day-2018**

Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with Yuvsatta – an NGO organizes '**Palash Day Celebrations**' on **24th July, 2018** at Forest Area behind Police Lines, Sector-26, Chandigarh. Around 150 students from different schools and colleges in UT Chandigarh were participated in the endeavour. About 400 saplings of palash were planted on this occasion. During the event, students of aforesaid school/college also participated in the 'Plantation Drive' carried out by the department by planting saplings and spent time in nature and learn about an importance of greenery.

- **Wildlife Week Celebration-2018**

The Wildlife Week-2018 was celebrated from 2nd to 8th October, on **02nd October, 2018** by the Department of Forests and Wildlife, UT Chandigarh by organizing a 'Walk for Wildlife' trekking at 700 hrs on 2nd October, 2018 at Nepli Gate of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, UT Chandigarh. Around 1800 people participated in the trek which included School children, general public and large no. of people from Press & Media and other nature enthusiasts.

The 'Valedictory Function' on Wildlife Week Celebration-2018 was organized on **9th October, 2018** at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur. On this occasion, 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. During the occasion, '**Best Eco-Club Award of UT Chandigarh**' for the year 2018 was also announced and the prizes for their commendable work in the field of Environment Conservation were distributed by the Chief Guest.

- '**Nature & Wildlife Awareness Treks**' are being organized every month by Forest Department at Nepli Forest as per calendar of event published on website in which upto 500 number of citizens participated in such treks every month. During the trek, the visitors are educated regarding the importance of nature

and nature conservation. All logistics arrangement is done by the department for smooth conduct of trekking.

- **'Nature Bird Walk'** in the Bird Park area on monthly basis started from the month of August, 2018. Nature Bird Park shall be conducted on every 3rd Sunday of the month in association with Chandigarh Bird Club as per Calendar on website in Nagar Van (City Forests) behind Sukhna Lake, to aware about the different species of birds amongst the general public.
- **Management of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and Sukhna Catchment:**
Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and Sukhna catchment was managed by taking up soil and moisture conservation activities to check siltation of Sukhna Lake. Plantation has been done in the catchment to arrest soil erosion and eventually checking siltation of Sukhna Lake.
- **Wildlife Rescue:** To reduce man wildlife conflict, a 24X7 Wildlife Rescue Squad is operational in the Department. The Squad act promptly and attends to any such call and rescue the wildlife in distress or entering human habitation area. Snakes, Monkeys etc entering human habitation are rescued and released back in the Wildlife Sanctuary area. During this period, many wild animals like Snakes, Monkeys, Sambhar, Nilgai and other wild animals have been rescued by the department. The protection of forest has been further stepped up by keeping a strict vigil on any illegal activities in the area.

ONGOING PROGRAMMES 2018-19

- **Forest Conservation & Development**

This scheme is for the soil and water conservation works in the catchment of Sukhna Lake to reduce the silt inflow into the lake. With the implementation of this scheme the average siltation/sediment rate has drastically come down.

- **Plantation Scheme (Hilly Catchment)**

Although extensive plantations have been undertaken but there are some blank patches on the top hills which require to be planted with indigenous trees species and grasses. This sort of Plantation is termed as enrichment planting. The plants will be planted in the contour trenches, to retain maximum moisture & soil, on slopes and in the pits in the plain area.

- **Greening of City Beautiful**

The areas outside the Sukhna Lake Catchments which constitute the green belt around the city are prime land. Inside the city of Chandigarh also forest area available in patches. Some blank patches in the City Forest area may be taken up for plantation of fruit bearing species to improve the overall quality of the Forest. At the same time, these areas are open to encroachment and biotic interferences. To sensitize and aware the residents of Chandigarh, saplings are distributed free of cost by the department. This will also help in increasing the Green Cover in the city. Forest Department is also managing 100 ha. of land in the Southern Sectors of the city.

- **Communication and Buildings**

Forest Department has got few buildings for forest Administration in the Botanical Garden and other forest areas. There are two Rest Houses and 2 Inspection huts under the management of forest department. These buildings being very old and need regular maintenance and upkeep.

- **Preservation of Wildlife**

Wildlife is a great natural heritage & is a joy for everyone. Sukhna Lake Catchment Area has already been declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1977 for the Protection, preservation and conservation of different wildlife species. The existing fauna includes Sambar, Wild boar, Jungle fowl, spotted deer, pangolin, porcupine and many more habitat improvement. Creation of water hole, erection of watch tower& maintenance of rescued animal enclosures are utmost important work to be carried out in Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary.

- **Acquisition of Land**

Chandigarh city is well wooded towards its north but it is enclosed by two choes namely Patiala-ki-Rao choe and SukhnaChoe along its two different sites. While planning the city itself it was conveyed to establish permanent green belt around the city to avoid desiccating and dusting winds as well as to reduce the industrial and other pollution. Further the department is in the process to acquire land for Wildlife corridor between Lake Reserve Forest &Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary over 400 Acre of land in village Kaimbwala.

- **Forestry Research Extension and Training**

For improvement in the Knowledge & skills of Forest staff & for acquaintance with the latest advancements in the field of Forestry and Wildlife Management, various trainings may be attended by the Forest Officials as well as the Field staff from time to time. Also to generate more awareness among masses about Forest & Wildlife various Brochures, Booklets etc. are being published by the department.

- **Administrative Set-Up**

The Department of Forest & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration is responsible for implementation of Indian Forest Act, Wildlife Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act and rules made there under in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. It is also the Nodal Agency for formation and implementation of Greening Chandigarh Action Plan. Around 41% of the total area of Union Territory is under Green Cover. The department functioning with very low staff strength and other limitations but despite the limitations, the mandate of the department is being achieved with the existing staff and officers.

- **Establishment of Botanical Garden**

Chandigarh Administration has established a Botanical Garden near village Sarangpur, KhudaLahora&Dhanas over 176 acres (approx.) of land. A seasonal rivulet 'Patiala-Ki-Rao' flows along the southern boundary of the proposed Botanical Garden. This will be a special garden where plants including trees of different geographical regions are being raised, maintained and managed on

scientific lines with the collections being systematically labelled. This garden will have both scientific & recreational value.

PROPOSED PROGRAMMES 2019-20

• **Forest Conservation & Development**

Following soil & moisture conservation measures are proposed to be undertaken in 2019-20. Physical and financial targets proposed are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No	Description	Approved	Physical	Financial
		Phy. target for 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2019-20
1.	Soil & Moisture Conservation works to be carried out in the Diversion Channel.	--	-	--
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance of Diversion Channel • SMC structures 	3 km	3 Km	55.00
2.	Soil & Moisture Conservation works to be carried out in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary Area	--	--	--
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spurs/Revetment (Masonry) 	500 cum	250 cum	40.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of grade stabilizers. 	2 Nos.	2 Nos.	40.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of live-hedge of Nara & Bamboo 	1500 RMT	1000 RMT	30.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of choe-bed 	15000 cum	15000 cum	100.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maint. of Fire Line 	100 km	100 km	70.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification of Silt retention Dam to optimize Rain Water Storage 	3 No.	As per requirement	80.00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of toilet block, building for protection etc 	--	As per requirement	--
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desiltation of Silted up Dams 	--	As per requirement	--
3.	Maintenance of SukhnaChoe for smooth flow of water i.e. opening, cutting of grasses & picking of plastic each years.	7 KM	7 KM	70.00
Total				485.00

A sum of Rs. 390.00 lacs was approved in 2018-2019 to achieve the targets and for 2019-20 Outlay of Rs. 485.00 lacs is proposed to achieve the proposed aforementioned physical targets for 2019-20.

• **Plantation Scheme (Hilly Catchment)**

Following works are proposed to be carried out under this scheme:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr.No	Description	Approved	Physical	Financial
		Phy. target for 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2019-20
1.	Enrichment/ bio-diversity Richness Plantation	35000 Nos.	35000 Nos	60.00
2.	Patch Sowing	300000 Nos.	300000 Nos.	30.00
3.	Maint of Old Plantation	100 ha	100 ha	40.00
4.	Plantation of Fruit bearing species for	4 ha	4 ha	80.00

	Habitat improvement including maintenance of last year plantations			
5.	Stabilization & Beautification of Seasonal Choe /Nallahs through plantation of Forestry/Horticulture tree shrubs & stabilization of slopes through soil conservation measures	--	--	60.00
6.	Removal of harmful weeds like parthenium, lantna, subabool (Prosopisjuliflora) etc from sanctuary area	25 ha	25 ha	30.00
Total				300.00

A sum of Rs. 250.00 lacs was approved in 2018-2019 to achieve the targets and for the 2018-2019 an outlay of Rs. 300.00 lacs have been proposed to achieve the proposed physical targets.

- **Greening of City Beautiful**

Following works are proposed to be carried out during the 2019-20:

(Rs. In lakh)

Sr. No	Description	Approved Phy. target for	Physical Target	Financial Target
		2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
1.	Enrichment/ Bio diversity Richness Planting in Sukhnachoe, Patiala-Ki-Rao & Lake beat forest areas.	25000 Nos.	25000 Nos.	60.00
2.	Plantation of Fruit bearing species for Habitat improvement including maintenance of last year plantations	2 ha	2 ha	45.00
3.	Purchase of Chain link & installation around forests	2 km	2 km	110.00
4.	Removal of Lantana from the Forest area.	200 ha	200 ha	30.00
5.	Plantation Maint. Of Southern Sector Plantation area	100 ha	100 ha	60.00
6.	Plantation and maint. Of fine grass on the slopes and lawn areas in SmritiUpvan	10 ha	10ha	20.00
7.	Plantation and maint. Of hedge plants/ flowering plants along the walkway in SmritiUpvan.	3Km	3KM	25.00
8.	Creation & Maintenance of Sewage water channels in SmritiUpvan	2000 Mtrs	2000 Mtrs	20.00
9.	Maintenance of existing water bodies in smritiupvan	3 Nos.	3 Nos.	20.00
10.	Making of channels for drainage of sewage water from the forest area behind rock garden from kansal to SmritiUpvan	2000 Mtrs	2000 Mtrs	40.00
11.	Levelling and clearance of the area of dried trees and preparing the same for plantation work	6 Ha	6 Ha	20.00
12.	Biological treatment of the sewage water flowing in the channels for reduction of BOD/COD	---	--	10.00
13.	Watch & Ward duty at various sensitive areas from Forest Protection point of view in the City.	--	--	70.00
14.	Maint of old plantation including Thematic plantation.	50 Ha	50 Ha	40.00
15.	Free distribution of seedling	50000 Nos	50000 Nos.	20.00
16.	Maintenance of city Forest Area/ Peacock Park and City Bird Sanctuary	--	--	20.00
17.	Creation & Maintenance of Nursery	300000 Nos.	300000 Nos.	30.00
Total				640.00

A sum of Rs. 550.00 lacs was approved in the 2018-2019 to achieve the targets and for the 2019-20 an outlay of Rs. 640.00 lacs have been proposed to achieve the proposed physical targets.

- **Communication and Buildings**

Following works are proposed to be carried out during the year 2019-20:-

(Rs. In lakh)

Sr. No	Description	Approved Phy. Target for	Physical Target	Financial Target
		2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
1.	Repair of causeway	4 Nos.	4 Nos.	50.00
2.	Retaining wall	500 cum	500 cum	50.00
3.	Maintenance of Daria Forest Guest House.	1 No	1 No	30.00
4.	Maintenance of Nepli Inspection House.	1 No	1 No	40.00
5.	Maintenance of Kansal Log Hut.	1 No	1 No	40.00
6.	Maintenance of Lake Beat Inspection House.	1 No	1 No	30.00
7.	Improvement of Roads/Tracks (8 no.) after Rainy Season.	30 KM	30 Km	80.00
	Total			320.00

A sum of Rs. 220.00 lacs was approved in 2018-2019 to achieve the targets and for 2019-20 an outlay of Rs. 320.00 lacs have been proposed to achieve the proposed physical targets.

- **Preservation of Wildlife**

Following works are proposed to be carried out during the year 2019-20:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr. No	Description	Approved Phy. target for	Physical Target	Financial Target
		2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Suppression of Lantana	400 ha	400 ha	35.00
2.	Establishment of Butterfly Park	1 No	1 No	50.00
3.	Raising, dressing of Maint. of Nature Trail in Lake Reserve Forest	10 Km	10 Km	30.00
4.	Control of Monkey Menace in the city & Rural areas and other main animal conflict	--	--	35.00
5.	Survey and preparation of alternate track for trekkers	1 No	1 No	10.00
	Total			160.00

A sum of Rs. 150.00 lacs was approved in 2018-2019 to achieve the targets and for 2019-20 an outlay of Rs. 160.00 lacs have been proposed to achieve the proposed physical targets.

- **Acquisition of Land**

A provision of Rs. 500.00 lacs for the acquisition of 400 Acres as mentioned above is being made in phases over 5 years plan period. A sum of Rs. 18.00 lacs was approved in 2018-19 to acquire land for Wildlife Corridor payment of enhancement of compensation for acquisition of land and for 2019-20 an outlay of Rs. 150.00 Lac as token provision have been proposed for the acquisition of land. The additional funds if required by Land Acquisition Officer, U.T. Chandigarh may be demanded separately.

- **Forestry Research Extension and Training**

For carrying out the Scientific studies on the Hydrological investigation of Sukhna Lake & its Catchment, Setting up a State of Art Interpretation Center at Botanical Garden, services of Consultant may be hired so as to assist the Department in completion of the project successfully in time bound manner. A token provision may be kept for this purpose. Monthly trekking, bicycling etc are to be organized to sensitize the public towards nature.

(Rs. 15.00 Lakh)

Sr. No.	Name of Work
1.	Training of officials of Forests Deptt. At Forest Survey of India, ICFRE Institute etc.
2.	Extension activity like Publication of Brochures, Books, Celebration of Wetland Day, Forestry Day, Environment Day, Vanmahotsava, Wildlife Week, Screening of films, organizing Nature Camps, Extension Advertisement etc.
3.	Participation of Forest Department officials in All India Forest Sports Meet.
4.	Research & Studies
5.	Consultancy for Interpretation Centre at Botanical garden etc.

A sum of Rs. 30.00 lac was approved in 2018-19 to achieve the above activities and 2019-20 an out lay of Rs. 15.00 lac have been proposed to achieve the proposed Targets.

- **Administrative Set-Up**

There are 52 nos. of vacancies of the Department of Forest & Wildlife, UT Chandigarh. The process for recruitment of the posts of Forest Guard and Forester are under process. To meet the field requirements, the department has recruited a few ex-servicemen against the vacant posts of Forest Guard and Forester for carrying out the duties of watch and ward and other developmental works in the field. A sum of Rs. 317.32 was approved in 2018-19 and for the year 2019-20, a sum of Rs.404.00 has approved. The detail of which has been prepared for meeting the expenses on approved posts.

- **Establishment of Botanical Garden**

Following works are proposed to be carried out during the year 2019-20:-

(Rs.400.00 Lakh)

Sr. No	Description	Approved Phy. target for	Physical Target	Financial Target
		2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
1.	Establishment of Botanical Garden	1 No	1 No	400.00
	Name of Work in Botanical Garden			
a	Maintenance of fine grass lawn in Botanical Garden Chandigarh			
b	Maintenance of Doob Grass Lawn in Botanical Garden			
c	Maintenance of Tree Plantation in Botanical Garden			
d	Maintenance of flowering beds both side of the road in Botanical Garden			
e	Maintenance of Cactus Rockeries, Cactus Plant and Plants inside of poly carbonate house in Botanical Garden			
f	Watch & Ward duty in Botanical Garden			
g	Maintenance of Pedestal Path & Plantation of hedge plants both side of path in Botanical Garden			
h	Plantation work including replacement in Botanical Garden			
i	Maintenance of Aquatic Section & Cleaning of toilets in Botanical Garden			
j	Labour engaged for maintenance of Botanical Garden			
k	Sweeper engaged for cleaning of roads, pedestal path & collection of garbage in Botanical Garden			
l	Watch and ward duty on new entry gate towards Village Sarangpur			
m	Removal of weeds			
n	Labour engaged to operate the 6 no tubewell			
o	Cutting of grass on lake slopes			
p	Clearance of roads and tracks in Botanical Garden			
q	Plantation work on lake slopes			
r	Maintenance of shrubs & herbs plantation in Botanical Garden			

MAJOR CHALLENGES 2018-19 & 2019-20

- **Man-Wild Animal Conflict**

Since the forests are located in close proximity of urban habitations, there are instances of straying out of wild animals like Sambar, Neelgai, Monkey, Snakes etc. to the nearby human settlements. The department makes effort to capture them and release them back in forest areas/Wildlife Sanctuary of Chandigarh. At times, these animals come across speeding vehicle and results in fatal accidents. Since the department has a 24x7 Wildlife Rescue Squad operating in the department, these cases on many times handled very promptly to mitigate/minimum the problem.