

**APPEAL OF THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
FOR VAN MAHOTSAV, JULY 1 TO JULY 7, 2018**

Van Mahotsava is an annual tree planting festival celebrated in the month of July. During this festival thousand of trees are planted all over India. In 1950, it was started by K. M. Munshi, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, to create awareness in the mind of the people for the conservation of forests by planting of new trees. Van Mahotsava is celebrated as a festival of life to save mother earth. The festival was simultaneously celebrated in a number of States in India. Since then, thousands of saplings of diverse species were planted with energetic participation of the locals and various agencies like the forest department

Every citizen of India is expected to plant a sapling during the Van Mahotsav Week and also create awareness through campaigns about benefits and protection of trees. The Van Mahotsav festival of trees is a beautiful initiative to save the environment, to which we owe a lot. The native trees are planted as they readily adapted to the local conditions, integrate into eco-systems and have a high survival rate. Besides, such trees are helpful in supporting local birds, insects and animals as well.

Planting of trees also helps to avoid soil erosion which prevents floods. Also, planting trees can be improve our air quality by filtering harmful dust and pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulphur dioxide from the air. Planting trees, it is helps to mitigating climate change as these actions increase the rate and quantity of carbon sequestration in biomass Local Government and civic bodies supply saplings to schools, colleges and academic institutions, NGOs and welfare organizations for planting trees.

Department of Environment taking measures to plant native trees to conserve the environment throughout the state. Let us join hands and save mother earth by planting a native species tree to protect environment and to have a clean environment. On this occasion, to create awareness of trees among people and portrays the need of planting and tending of trees, as trees are one of the best ways to prevent global warming and reduce pollution.

Director
Department of Environment