

*Dated the 05<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

**Press Note**

As part of the month long celebration of 69<sup>th</sup> Van Mahotsav, an awareness rally was organized on 05<sup>th</sup> July 2018 by the Department of Environment & Forests to create awareness among the students and general public of these islands about the importance of forest. The rally was flagged off by Shri D. M. Shukla, IFS the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Principal Secretary (Tribal Welfare) from Van Sadan, Haddo in the presence of Senior Officers of the Department. The awareness rally was enthusiastically participated by a large number of school students from KV-I Port Blair, Hindi and Tamil medium school, Haddo, teachers, staff and officers of the Department of Environment & Forests and people from other walks of life, which covered the area from Haddo, Delanipur, Goalghar, Middle Point, Bengali Club and finally culminated with mass tree planting at Kendriya Vidyalaya No I, Port Blair.

Addressing the students and participants at the culmination of the rally, Shri S.K.Bhandari, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests appreciated the Principal, teachers and students of the School for showing so much interest in welcoming the awareness rally and planting trees in the school campus with the active participation and involvement of students which will inculcate the habits of planting trees in the students. He highlighted the need to protect trees since the island territory is more susceptible to the negative impact of global warming. He appealed to all to Plant Trees and Protect Trees for leading a healthy life. He appreciated the role of students and teachers in spreading the messages for a healthy environment. He insisted them to take care of the saplings and nurture them so that it grows properly.

Earlier, Shri Raj Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of forest welcomed the Chief Guest, Senior officers and the gathering. He also highlighted the beginning of Van Mahotsav by Late K.M Munshi, the then Union Minister for food and agriculture, who launched the programme in 1950. He asked the students to inculcate the habit of protecting and conserving the environment not merely during these celebrations but throughout the year. He emphasized the need to grow more and more trees for checking the ill effects on environment. He thanked the Principal for maintaining a green environment in the campus.

Earlier speaking on the occasion, Smt. C Raji, Principal Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, thanked the Forest Department for taking up the mass tree planting activity and for extending help in maintaining green cover in the school campus. She also reminds the slogan of Late K.M.Munshi "Tree means water, water means bread and bread means life". Finally, the programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Shri Ayyub Hassan, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Extension & Publicity Division, Port Blair.

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Divisional Forest Officer







