**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**

Press Release

**Valedictory Function on Wildlife Week Celebration 2018**

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 9: Wildlife week is observed during the first week of October all over the country, with the objective of raising awareness among masses for conservation of Wildlife and its habitat. The Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh organized various programmes during the week to sensitize and generate awareness among the masses for the Protection and Conservation of Wildlife, Nature and Natural resources.

Today, a Valedictory Function on Wildlife Week Celebration 2018 was held at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur. Sh. 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. A ceremonial plantation was also held where the Chief Guest and other dignitaries planted saplings.

During the valedictory function, the winners of **‘Inter-School Painting/ Drawing Competition’** held in different schools of UT Chandigarh during the Wildlife Week were 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 prizewas 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 was 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 byCassia 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.

              Among other prominent persons present during the function were Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary (Forests), Sh. 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 efforts of the Department in conducting various programmes during the Wildlife Week.