



पारि-पुनर्स्थापन वन अनुसंधान केन्द्र प्रयागराज FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ECO-REHABILITATION PRAYAGRAJ

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS AND PLANTATION ACTIVITY FOR CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD PARK / ALFRED PARK AT PRAYAGRAJ

In its relentless efforts to spread green cover in the region for the second year in succession, FRCER Scientists gifted hundreds of saplings of ornamental and other useful trees to *Supdt. Govt Gardens* (SGG) Dr. Seema Singh Rana.

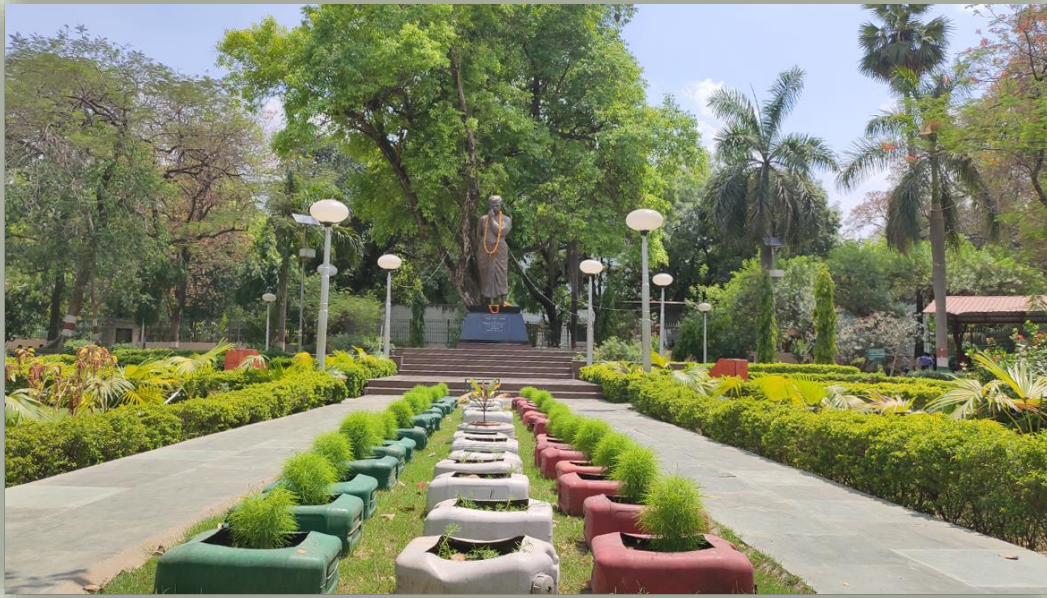
SGG under the Horticulture Department, Government of U.P., is entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep of India's second largest public park measuring 133 acres located in the heart of the city known as *Chandra Shekhar Azad Park*, famously known as *Company Bagh* or *Alfred Park*.

Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, Prayagraj has played a very pivotal role in changing the face of India's history when during the uprising of 1857 which was leading to the famous mutiny, British forces led by a certain Col. Neil surrounded eight heavily populated villages in the city and with his forces massacred thousands of people which not only included fierce Mewati warriors who resided in these villages but also innocent men, women and even children. The killings in Allahabad in June 1857 greatly outnumber the massacre of the much-talked firing of Jallianwala Bagh and Col. Neil went down in history to be known as the "Butcher of Allahabad". All eight villages were simply wiped out and the entire area flattened to teach a lesson to rebel soldiers and this changed the history of the revolt. This park that we now see was built on the remains of those villages in the year 1870 to commemorate the visit of Prince Alfred (son of Queen Victoria) to the city. The park bears its name because late freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad was martyred in an encounter with British police forces in 1931 within the premises of this Park.

The park premises has the longest jogging track in India (3.7 kms) and houses the Allahabad Museum (Govt. of India) and the Thornhill Mayne Memorial built in 1864 which now has the U.P State Public Library, is considered a remarkable

example of Scottish Baronial Revival architecture, one of the finest of such monuments in India. On an average an estimated 10000-12000 people daily visit the park which not only includes tourists but also morning and evening walkers and a very large number of students who come to study. It was therefore felt that this Park needed more of green cover than cemented and stone structures so that it continued

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lungs of Prayagraj, like it has been for ages. The Park, in recent years had fallen prey to unplanned cutting and felling of trees and shrubs for beautification by the local



development authority, more as an amusement park rather than its original look as a nature park and the citizens of the city longed to have that greenery in abundance again. This is where FRCER stepped in to help with distribution of ornamental as well as multipurpose plants. For this purpose two events were organized by FRCER.

EVENT 1: Seedlings distribution by FRCER for Van Mahotsav at Azad Park

On 14th July 2020, in a trifling formality FRCER under the guidance of Head, Dr. Sanjay Singh handed over saplings of *Cassia nodosa*, *Tecoma stans*, *Delonix regia*, *Stereospermum suaveolens* etc. to Supdt. Govt Gardens (SGG) Dr. Seema Singh Rana

Dr. Kumud Dubey handed other useful trees like *Madhuca longifolia*, *Syzygium cumini* and Sh. Alok Yadav handed *Santalum album* to Supdt. Govt Gardens (SGG).

Dr. Anita Tomar gifted numerous *Poplar deltoides* tall plants for park boundary. The ceremony was attended by staff and students of FRCER along with few Park staff as per social distancing norms. FRCER also received invitation by Supdt. Govt Gardens (SGG) for Van Mahotsav ceremony to be held on 17th July 2020 at Azad Park.



EVENT 2: Participation in plantation activity at Azad Park

On 17th July 2020, FRCER planted saplings in Azad Park, led by Head FRCER, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Botanical Survey of India, North Central Region, Prayagraj led by Officer Incharge, Dr. Gopal Sinha, Scientist F and Dr. A.N. Shukla, Scientist C and the UP State Horticulture Dept. led by Dr. Vineet Kumar, Dy. Director Prayagraj region and Dr. Seema Singh Rana SGG and Park Supdt in a small gathering. The Event was also attended by Dr. Kumud Dubey, Dr. Anita Tomar, Sh. Alok Yadav, Dr. Anubha Srivastav and Ratan Gupta.

Much as the citizens wanted to participate too, adverse weather conditions and the fear of Covid pandemic resulted in a thin attendance but on the whole the programme was a great success. Over 300 plants were planted.



CORONA KAVACH – An Initiative by FR CER



FR CER started self-care initiative for its staff and officers to protect them from COVID-19 by manufacturing face-shield, *Corona Kavach*, at its centre. As temperature in Prayagraj is too high and due to increased humidity wearing facemask in sun causes rashes on face. Corona Kavach is best suited for the region and provide overall protection from head to neck. The aim is to protect not only the nose and mouth but entire face including eyes. Corona Kavach is planned, designed and developed by Dr.Anita Tomar, Organizer of the events.

FR CER distributed these masks to the distinguished guest present during all plantation drive carried by FR CER in the month of July 2020.

