

## Admn to plant 2.5 lakh trees this year for a greener Chandigarh

Monica Sharma, Chandigarh, Mar 21, 2015.

UT administration is all set to increase its target of planting trees to maintain the city's green cover. In its 2015-16 Green Chandigarh Action Plan, the administration plans to increase the green cover by planting 2.5 lakh plants as against 2.09 lakh plants last year.

The forest department claims the areas have been identified and the targets have been given to different departments such as municipal corporation, horticulture department and even some non-government organisations.

The administration's annual plan reveals different strategies adopted to make Chandigarh cleaner and greener. The plan also elaborates on tips for protecting the existing plantations and information on common medicinal plants and their benefits. The green action plan will be launched by the UT adviser on Saturday as a part of world forestry day celebrations.

Giving a brief overview of the plan, UT forest conservator Santosh Kumar said, "Last year the target was to plant 2.08 plants across the city and we planted 1,000 more than the estimated target. This year the target is to plant 2.5 lakh plants." Giving the break-up Santosh Kumar added, "The forest department will plant around 60,000 plants, the municipal corporation has been given the target of 40,000 and UT

horticulture department has been asked to plant 20,000. There are even targets set for the individuals and non-government organizations."

The sources in the administration claim that the annual plan has tips for upkeep of plants and details about different kind of plants. The sources claim that the areas all over the city will be explored for the plantations. The southern sectors have newly developed green belts and parks where more shrubs and plants would be planted.

In the recently prepared state action plan on climate change the UT administration has set a target to increase the city's green cover to 40% till 2020, 42% till 2030 and 45% by 2050. The city's green cover is currently 37.5%. Chandigarh will also work towards becoming a model for sustainable water management, use of renewable sources of energy and protecting the local ecology and environment. As per the plan, `17,500 crore would be spent over a period of 50 years to complete various activities to help Chandigarh cope with the climate change impacts.

### Source:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/admn-to-plant-2-5-lakh-trees-this-year-for-a-greener-chandigarh/article1-1328947.aspx>