



1<sup>st</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> July

# HARIYALI SAPTAH Week VAN MAHOTSAV

1<sup>st</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> July



## PUDUCHERRY ENVIS HUB

(Environmental Information System)

Host Centre : Puducherry Pollution Control Committee  
Funded by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Government of India, New Delhi

**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**

# Van Mahotsav

## Van Mahotsava means “Tree Festival”

### History Of Van Mahotsav

Day by day cutting down of trees has been increasing in the name of urbanization for constructing flyovers, roads, buildings, etc. which is reducing the purity of air. If this continues, there would be a heavy loss to us and the earth. People need to know the importance of preservation of forests and increase the trees on earth.

In 1950, Sri K. M. Munshi the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food has launched the program Van Mahotsav. Van Mahotsav means 'the festival of trees'. During this program Saplings are planted. Monsoon in India begins in the first week of July. It is considered as the ideal time for planting saplings. Saplings that are planted during this time have more chances of survival. So, they have chosen July first week for the celebration of Van Mahotsav.

Van Mahotsav is considered as the annual tree planting festival. It is celebrated in all parts of India between 1st July and 7th July. Van Mahotsav is originated in July 1947 after a successful tree plantation drive that was held in Delhi. Our national leaders like Abdul Kalam Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad have participated in it. This program has gained significant importance throughout these years. Millions of trees are planted during this program across India. This program has raised the awareness of conservation of trees and highlights the need for planting trees.





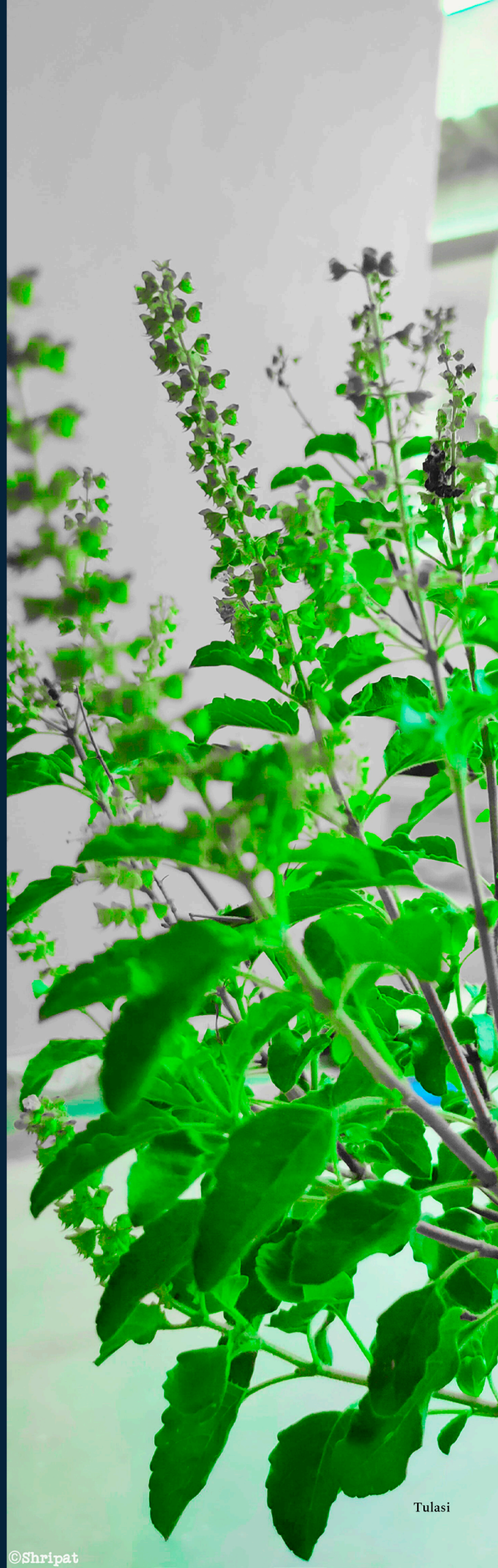
# How is the Van Mahotsav Celebrated?

Generally, native trees are planted during Van Mahotsav owing to its ability to adapt to the local conditions better and because these trees have a high survival rate. Additionally, native trees are also believed to support birds, insects and animals. As the onset of monsoon in India usually begins in the first week of July, it is considered an ideal choice of conducting the festival. Also, it has been observed that most sapling planted during this time have more chances of survival than those planted during other times of the year.

State Governments and civic bodies supply saplings to schools, colleges and academic institutions, NGO's and welfare organizations for planting trees during this week-long festival of life.



Neem



Tulasi



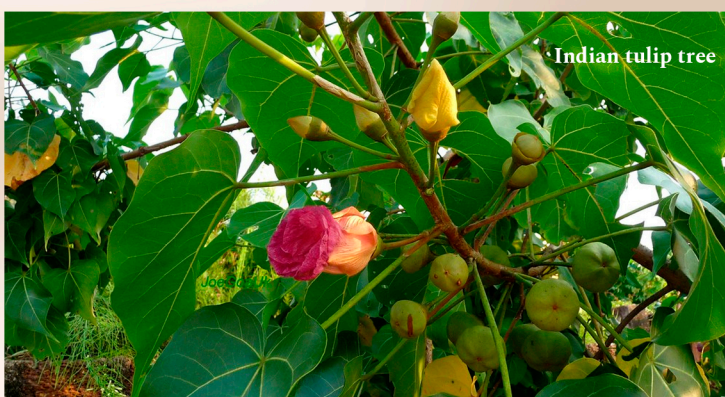
# “Van” literally means Forest & “Mahotsav” is a Festival

## Some of the Effects of Deforestation:

Air would become a pollutant. That pollutant air would not be suitable for breathing. People would have to develop gas filters to separate the oxygen left in the air. Deforestation also affects the soil. Soil becomes lifeless, pollutant and dangerous with all the chemicals that are filtered by trees. It also leads to drought. Those lands will not be suitable for cultivation. It may also lead to top soil erosion. The areas that have no trees will not have moisture in the air.

Tree-based products will be decreased. We get many products from trees namely paper, bats, books, benches, coffee filters, guitars, grocery bags, pencils, pine oil, billboards, buttons, fuel wood, charcoal, industrial round wood, candy wrappers, chewing gum, rubber, tires, waxes, toilet paper, etc. All these products production will be decreased which will reduce our economic opportunities. This may also lead to a scarcity of food.

Due to deforestation, the level of freshwater resources available will become scarce in the future. This may lead to water wars. These are some of the harms that are caused by cutting down trees. So we need to stop deforestation. With this point of view, Van Mahotsav program continued every year.





# What are the advantages of Planting Trees?



- It prevent global warming.
- It prevent soil erosion by holding a large amount of soil to one place.
- It increase awareness about deforestation and its causes.
- It reduce air pollution.
- It increase the production of fruits and food resources of our country.
- It improves the air quality.
- It support wildlife.
- Rains are more obvious.
- It increase the economic opportunities.
- It improve water quality by planting trees near the lakes and rivers.
- It gives oxygen and reduce Carbon dioxide..etc.,

So we need to save trees and spread the importance of trees and harms that are caused by deforestation. We must also participate in the celebration of Van Mahotsav every year by planting trees around us. Not only planting trees, but it is also our responsibility to take care of them. We must also encourage our neighbors and people around us to participate in Van Mahotsav. So let's make our earth green and live a happy and peaceful life by increasing trees. Planting a tree today makes the life of the earth much longer.

## Think Green & Live Green



