



Mount Litera Zee School

Great School. Great Future

celebrates

VAN MAHOTSAV WEEK

National festival of tree planting (July 1-7, 2020)

We are all aware about the increasing problem of deforestation in India – across rural and urban areas. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) survey – over the last 30 years, nearly two-third of the forests the size of Haryana have been lost to encroachments (15,000 sq km) and 23,716 industrial projects (14,000 sq km). The total forest and tree cover is spread across 802,088 square km, which is 24.39 percent of the geographical area of the country.

According to the Indian forest department, for every tree fallen, ten tree saplings should be planted to make up for its loss. But this practice is rarely followed. We all know that, Forests help us maintain ecological balance and reduce carbon footprints. However, hectares of forests are cut down or burnt every milliseconds. Unimaginable, isn't it? Can we even exist in a world without trees and forests? NO!

Celebrating the importance of trees, Van Mahotsav was initiated in the year 1950 to celebrate the importance of growing and saving our forests and create awareness about the ill effects of deforestation. It is an annual tree planting festival in the month of July. During this festival thousands of trees are planted all over India. It was started by K. M. Munshi, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Food at that time to create awareness and the importance of the conservation of forests and planting of new trees.

The name Van Mahotsava means 'the festival of trees'. It began after the July 1947 tree planting drive in Delhi heralded by many prominent national leaders of that time like Dr Rajendra Prasad. The festival was simultaneously celebrated in a number of states in India. Since then, thousands of saplings of diverse species are planted with energetic participation of the locals and various agencies like the forest department.

Few of the other reasons which Van Mahotsav was visualized by Dr Munshi were :

- To increase production of fruits, which could be added to the potential food resources of the country

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- Help create shelter-belts around agricultural fields to increase their productivity
 - Provide fodder leaves for cattle to relieve intensity of grazing over reserved forests
 - Boost soil conservation and prevent further deterioration of soil fertility
- No doubt, Governments, non-profit organizations like The World Wildlife Fund and Amazon Watch etc, are working hard to fight deforestation and increase awareness. But to create a real impact, we all have to do our part. Here are few steps that every individual can take to make a difference –
- Plant more Trees
 - Encourage your friends in your community to plant a tree and help keep your local forest safe (If you have one in your area). Every patch of green is worth saving.
 - Put pressure on companies that are destroying forests to manufacture their products by not buying from them. Support brands with zero deforestation policies and environment friendly products and encourage people to do the same. Be aware and ask how the products you buy are being made. Go green.
 - Practice the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to lower the need for more raw materials from Trees.

Fast Forest Facts:

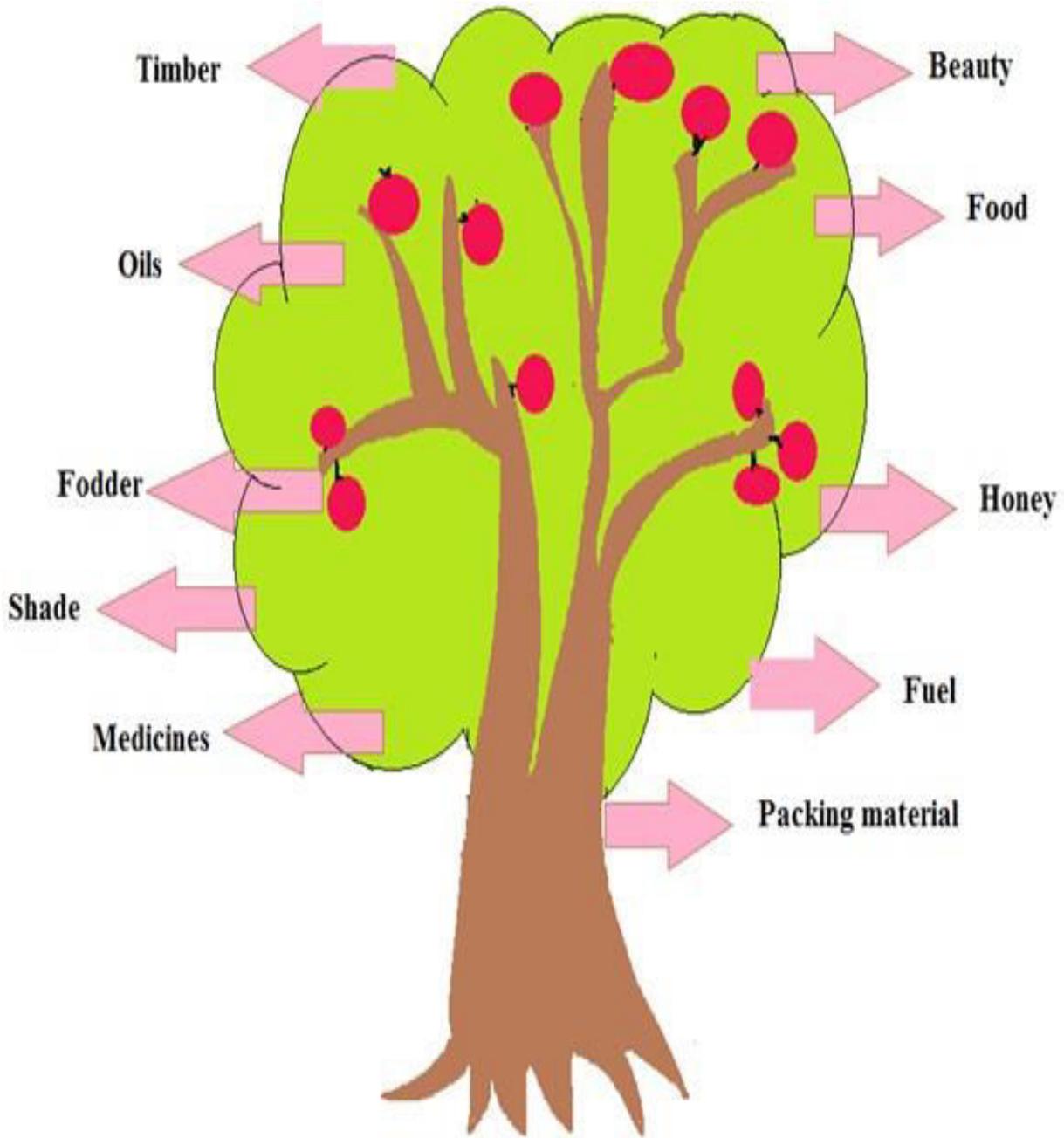
- 13 million hectares of forest have been converted for other uses or destroyed by natural causes.
- Up to 28,000 species can go extinct in the next quarter century due to deforestation.
- By the year 2030, we might only have 10% of Rainforests left and it can all disappear in a hundred years
- 10% of the world's forests are now protected areas. This is roughly the size of India.

Cures for diseases have been found in plants and the raw materials come from our tropical rain forest

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Utility of Trees



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<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Beauty</p> <p>These trees are also known as ornamental trees. Generally they look beautiful and attractive in all conditions of their growth and development.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Food</p> <p>Some of the trees provide food. They provide nutritious food to all, both human beings and animals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Honey</p> <p>Honey is one of the best sweetening agents that also has medicinal value. It provides refreshing drink, nutritive supplement, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Fuel</p> <p>It is needed for people who are dependent on forest trees for cooking of their meals and other warming.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Packing Material</p> <p>Wood is needed for the manufacture of packing cases, plywood, hardboard, match industry, paper industry etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Timber</p> <p>Timber required for most of the household, commercial and industrial uses.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Oils</p> <p>This includes oils meant for industrial uses, domestic uses for cooking and burning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Fodder</p> <p>Foliage of the trees can be used for feeding cattle and other animals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Medicinal Uses</p> <p>Some of tree species yield medicines of vital importance for the mankind and others. Roots, stems, leaves, buds, flowers, seeds and bark are used for preparing many medicines.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trees for Shade</p> <p>Apart from serving the purpose of a common tree, some trees provide sufficient amount of shade and shelter from hot sun and rain to some extent.</p>

Save Our Environment

Save Our Environment!

Tips for Children to follow, so that they too can help save our planet:

At Home



Get the children to help turn off all electrical appliances e.g. TVs, at the wall to save energy. This can also include watching less TV, so encourage them to play outside, read or play games

Use energy saving light bulbs or better still, instead of a night light in children's bedrooms, use glow-in-the-dark stickers instead

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Make sure children understand why we recycle and get them to help sort out their household recycling for collection, especially materials such as paper and card which they tend to waste easily

Composts are good ways to recycle unused food e.g. vegetable peelings, which also helps to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables

Don't waste water! Teach children to turn off the tap when brushing their teeth

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At School



Encourage children to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school instead of using the car. Some schools have even made a School Travel Plan, where 'walking buses' are arranged for children to walk to school together under adult supervision

Plant trees, hedges and wildlife in your school grounds to absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Allotments are even better, as they can also supply the school with vegetables

Set up recycling schemes at school as well as at home. Encourage the children to use a recycling bin in the classrooms for paper, and one for plastic bottles/ yogurt pots etc in the school dinner hall. You could also suggest the use of a compost for the school kitchens

Encourage the children to turn off computers at the wall when they've finished with them; don't let them leave them on standby

Encourage the children to use the school's library for class and homework. The reuse of books overtime and the use of the internet for research saves a lot of paper, so energy consumption is reduced