

World Environment Day, 5th June 2016

On the occasion of World Environment Day, National Centre for Human Settlements & Environment (NCHSE) Help Line and Friends of Environment jointly organized a Tree Walk in Shivaji Nagar today , 5th June 2016. The Walk started at 7.30 AM after participants gathered below the vast canopy of Kadam trees growing in front of Mahila Chetna Manch Office in Shivaji Nagar and after covering a distance of about 1.5 Km end up at the starting point. The main objective of the Walk was to make the citizens aware about the green heritage of Bhopal and to encourage them to protect and enhance this wealth. More than 500 persons participated in the event.



During the Walk, tree specialists Dr Sudesh Waghmare, Dr Subhash Atre, Prof. Savita Raje and Dr Rashmi Jha explained the importance of trees growing in the premises of the government



quarters in Shivaji Nagar. The participants listened to the experts with great interest and learnt about trees like Neem, Sishho, Bahera, Bargad, Pipal, Kanak Champa, Simal, Jharul, Chandan, Jamun, Chillor, Chikoo, Chilbil etc and raise questions to know more. Dr Waghmare apprised the participants that the Bahera tree growing in the premises of E-type house near Saraswati Sishoo Mandir is of about 100-150 years old and represents the old forest

of Bhopal, which was spared from cutting when the new settlements were created in New Bhopal. That time experts felt that construction of new houses should be done in such a manner that trees could be spared from cutting. Prof Sabita Raje explained about the virtues of Mango , Burgad (Ficus) and Chandan trees. Dr Subhash Atre described one tree as Giri Puspa (Mountain Flower) and informed that this tree being very valuable for its fuel wood, was brought from abroad at the behest of Late Shri M N Buch. Dr Rashmi Jha explained the medicinal values of trees. Tree experts explained the young participants techniques of identification of plants and trees. During the walk, Participants walked through the lanes under the shades of trees like Mango, Jamun, Kathal, Amaltas, Gulmohar and learnt their importance.



While passing through the lane having mango trees, Dr Waghmare explained that it is a native species of Satpura jungle and has now spread world wide. Likewise Neem is also an Indian tree full of medicinal properties. Mr. Anil Gulati, who is well known for his photography on birds and butterflies, also explained the relationship between trees and butterflies.

On this occasion, a photographic exhibition of trees of Bhopal was also organized, wherein photographs of trees like Kalpbriksha, Rudraksha, Sisham, Roli, Gular, etc with their local and botanical names were exhibited. During the event children from “Arushi” sang group songs on trees and water



Special feature of the event was the participation of all section of the community from all over Bhopal, and included people from old and new Bhopal, Bairagarh, BHEL etc. People from all sections of society, including writer, artists, doctors, engineers, architects, town planners, senior citizens, students, differently abled persons and residents of Shivaji Nagar participated in the walk with great enthusiasm.

NCHSE Help Line soon become a Institution

On this occasion, the Charperson of NCHSE Mrs Nirmala Buch said that citizens of Bhopal should not only try to protect the green wealth of the city but also should make efforts to increase the green cover. She further said that Bhopal despite being one of the greenest cities of India, in the last two decades its green cover has reduced from 66 percent to 22 percent. There is possibility that due to rapid urbanization, the green cover may further reduce to mere 4 percent by 2030. It is necessary that we should resolve that we shall not allow further reduction of green over of Bhopal. She further said that recently in one place in Bhopal, tree cutting continued for 10 days without any knowledge of citizens and tree lovers of Bhopal. This caused unrepairable environmental damage. Now we all should try to identify Tree volunteers in different areas of Bhopal so that they could monitor trees in their areas and report the status to NCHSE helpline so that appropriate action for tree protection could be taken. She further informed that NCHSE Helpline would become an institution so that citizens could easily participate in its activities.