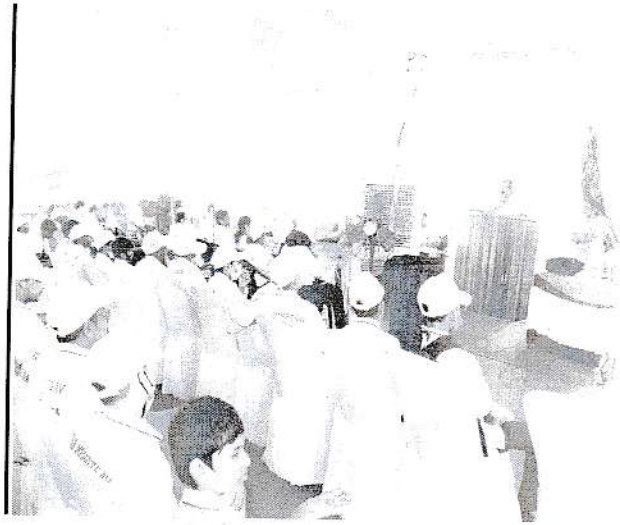


Press Note



The Department of Environment & Forests celebrated "Hariyali Mahotsav" on 8th July, 2022. It is nation wide programme coordinated by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India at 75 sites under 'Nagar Van yojana', as part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. Shri. P. Subramanyam, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, ANI graced the occasion as Chief Guest and the Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist Incharge, BSI, Port Blair as Guest of Honour. 75 indigenous wild fruit trees of about 25 species was planted along the walkway in Nagarvan, Aberdeen by the school children, teachers, Scientists from CIARI, BSI and the staff and officers of the Forest Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest stressed on the importance of nutritional security for the Islands through massive plantation of fruit trees. He pointed out that many of the wild indigenous fruits have good medicinal properties. He urged all present to actively participate in the 'Each One-Plant One' programme in a big way during the one month period from July, 15th to Aug, 15th. He emphasized the special role of children in the fruit tree plantation drive as the fruits would be for them to enjoy in future. Dr. Laji Singh emphasized the need to conserve the rich biodiversity of the islands and appealed to the students to inculcate green habits and nurture the plants and trees by providing the care. He also requested the students and teachers not to waste the water and use them for watering the trees in the school. Speaking on the occasions, Dr. K. Ravichandran, Addl. PCCF elucidated the need to go for planting of more fruit trees in the islands and the massive fruit planting programme envisaged by the A&N Administration during the current year. He requested all not to throw the seeds of fruit one consumes as waste and instead provide the same to the nearest forest office so that they can be used for raising seedlings for the planting programme. Dr. Ajit Arun Waman Scientist, CIARI gave a detailed overview on the indigenous fruit species found in the islands, their nutritional and medicinal values. As part of the celebrations different local fruits found in forests were displayed. Shri Birendra Choudhary, DCF (Silviculture) gave an overview about the Chengappa Nagar Van near Joggers park, Port Blair, Nagar Van Yojana and Hariyali Mahotsav. Dr. Senthil Kumar, CCF (R&WP) coordinated the

event. The national Programme held at New Delhi by the Ministry was live streamed at Port Blair.

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Silviculture Division

