

**Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Directorate of IP&T
Information & Publicity Division**

Port Blair June 30, 2018.

Press Release

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Department of Environment & Forests, A&N Administration is celebrating "69th" Van Mahotsav" in these Islands alongwith rest of the country during the entire month of July, 2018 with active involvement of people of these Islands.

Van Mahotsav – the festival of tree planting owes its origin to the great visionary Late K.M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Food & Agriculture who launched the programme in 1950 with the slogan "Tree means water, water means bread and bread is life". The benevolent services rendered by trees and forests in supporting the life on Earth and their contribution in mitigating the ill effects of soil erosion, air pollution, global warming, climate change etc. deserve not only our respect but it is also our obligation to protect and conserve them for our posterity.

Over the years there has been ever increasing demand for timber, fuel and fodder. To meet such demand there is a need on the part of one and all to grow more trees. The farmers should also grow trees on some part of their land holdings so that their timber requirements can be easily met. Similarly all Govt. Departments/Private Organisations/Panchayati Raj Institutions and public should make efforts to take up tree planting on their vacant lands to improve the surroundings environment. We should not end with the ritual of planting saplings, but it should be ensured with adequate care that the saplings planted grow well.

On this occasion, I would appeal to all inhabitants of these Islands to grow more trees, to keep these Islands more green, clean and prosperous.

I extend my best wishes to the people of our Islands for successful observance of the "69th" Van Mahotsav" celebrations.

Jai Hind!

Sd/-

**(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**