

 AN APPEAL 

Nature, forest, life and civilization are innately interconnected. Forest and nature are essential for life. The necessity of forests in the advancement of life and civilization is undisputed. **Van Mahotsav** is celebrated every year to emphasize this universal truth. **Van Mahotsav** is not mere an event. It is a celebration of harmony and togetherness with nature.

Forest provides us with food, fodder, livelihood, water, medicine and rich biodiversity, and also resilience from impacts of climate change. Forests also prevent soil erosion and desertification. Trees also mitigate the danger that looms large over our environment today due to climate change. Plants absorb carbon dioxide from air, and in return release oxygen. Besides, forests act as habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Indeed, trees are our most intimate friends, and are worthy of veneration. It is because of this that worship of trees is an integral part of Indian culture and heritage.

Forest Department is developing Smriti Van at different locations in the state. Smriti Van is a plantation groove or area which is developed by planting trees in commemoration of Purvajan (fore fathers) or near and dear ones. Forest Department is popularizing this new concept of planting of trees in every Sub-Division on some special days and or any time of the year. The citizens may participate by planting in memory of their Purvajan or near and dear ones in the Smriti van.

May each of us plant trees in the current rainy season, and involve others also in making it a people's movement. I appeal to all citizens of the state to plant more and more trees for the sustenance of life and environment on this planet earth. Let each of us plant at least one tree, and protect it; and help in creating green Tripura and beautiful Tripura. Let our slogan be **"Each One – Plant One"**.

I also urge everyone to take adequate safeguards to contain the spread of COVID-19 while observing the Van Mahotsav-2020.

I appeal to all help in reclaiming our mother earth with greenery. That will be an invaluable gift to the progeny.

JAI HIND !



(Biplab Kumar Deb)
Chief Minister