Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat organized week long celebration of Van Mahotsava which was inaugurated by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director of the Institute on 1\textsuperscript{st} July, 2021 at its premises by planting saplings of indigenous Citrus sp. (Kazi Nemu). Scientists, Forest Officers, Scientific Staff, Research Fellows and others attended the plantation programme. Sri R. K. Kalita, Senior Scientist of the Institute explained the genesis of celebration of Van Mahotsava in India. He told that first Agriculture Minister of independent India, Late K. M. Munchi started the celebration of Van Mahotsava in 1950 to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees. Since then, it has been celebrated in all the parts of the country.

The Institute organized a plantation programme at the premises of Jorhat Jail in association with Jorhat Jail Authority on 4\textsuperscript{th} July, 2021. Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI; Mrs. Champakoli Bordoloi, Superintendent of Jorhat Jail (Rtd.), Dr. R. K. Borah, Group Coordinator (Research), RFRI; Dr. Gautam Saikia, Professor, Assam Agricultural University; Dr. Manoranjan Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Assam Agricultural University; Shri Pranjal Kumar Sharma, Jailer, Jorhat Jail participated in the plantation programme. Welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. Jayaraj spoke about the importance of celebration of Van Mahotsava. He thanked the Jorhat Jail authority for providing the opportunity to organize this plantation programme at Jail premises. Dr. Saikia spoke about the heritage of Jorhat Jail. He informed that Jorhat Jail was established in 1911 and large number of Freedom Fighters were lodged in Jorhat Jail during the Indian Freedom Movement. He appreciated the effort of RFRI for undertaking this plantation programme at Jorhat Jail. Mrs. Champakoli Bordoloi, Superintendent of Jorhat Jail (Rtd.) also spoke in the occasion.

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat also organized another plantation programme as part of celebration of Van Mahotsava at Jorhat Police Reserve in association with Jorhat Police Administration on 5\textsuperscript{th} July, 2021. Shri A. K. Barman, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat; Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI; Shri Narayan Mahanta, Conservator of Forests; Shri Ankur Jain,
Superintendent of Police; Shri Nandha Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer; Shri Hiranya Kr. Barman, Additional Superintendent of Police; other Officers of RFRI, Officers and Staff of Assam Police participated. A public awareness meeting was held on the occasion with limited people. At the outset of the awareness meeting, Dr. Jayaraj welcomed all the dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Shri A. K. Barman, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat spoke about the importance of trees, more particularly bamboos and its role in economic development of people of Assam. Shri Narayan Mahanta, Conservator of Forests, Upper Assam Circle, Jorhat informed about the various efforts of Government of Assam on conservation of nature. He told about establishment of biodiversity parks all over Assam under the name as ‘Manishi Udyan’.

Shri Ankur Jain, Superintendent of Police expressed his concern about unabated smuggling of our biodiversity resources from our region to other courtiers. He told that large tracts of forest trees are felled down every year clandestinely by antisocial elements. He stressed on planting more and more trees which support large number of birds and mammals. Other dignitaries also spoke on the occasion.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Senior Scientist of RFRI, Jorhat meticulously planned and conducted all the programmes of Van Mahotsava.
GLIMPSES OF THE CELEBRATION

1st July, 2021: Celebration at RFRI Campus
Celebration of Van Mahotsava by RFRI, Jorhat 2021

4th July, 2021: Jorhat Jail Premises
Celebration of Van Mahotsava by RFRI, Jorhat 2021
Celebration of Van Mahotsava by RFRI, Jorhat 2021

5th July, 2021: Jorhat Police Reserve
Celebration of Van Mahotsava by RFRI, Jorhat 2021
Celebration of 72nd Van Mahotsava by RFRI, Jorhat

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

JORHAT: Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat is organizing a week-long celebration of Van Mahotsava which was inaugurated by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director of the Institute on 1st July 2021 at its premises by planting saplings of indigenous Citrus sp. (Kazi Nemu).

Scientists, Forest Officers, Scientific Staff, Research Fellows, and others attended the plantation program. Sri R. K. Kalita, Senior Scientist of the Institute explained the genesis of the celebration of Van Mahotsava in India. He told that first Agriculture Minister of Independent India, Late

K. M. Munchi started the celebration of Van Mahotsava in 1950 to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees. Till then, it has been celebrated in all the parts of the country. This year RFRI is gearing up to mark the occasion with the plantation of various species of plant at different places of Jorhat on different dates. RFRI will undertake the plantation activities at Jorhat Jail premises in association with Jail Authorities; at Jorhat Police Reserve premises in association with Jorhat Police. It will also plant tree saplings at the premises of Dakhinpat Satra, Sotai, Jorhat.

In the meantime, several short-term measures identi-

fied to mitigate the issue.
RFRI celebrates Van Mahotsava

ES Bureau

JORHAT, Jul 1: Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat has organised the week-long Van Mahotsava which was inaugurated by Dr RSC Jayaraj, Director of the Institute, today at its premises by planting saplings of indigenous Citrus sp. (Kazi Nemu), said a press release issued here today. Scientists, Forest Officers, Scientific Staff, Research Fellows and others attended the plantation programme. R K Kalita, Senior Scientist of the Institute, explained the genesis of the celebration of Van Mahotsava in India. He said that the first Agriculture Minister of independent India, late K M Munshi started the celebration of Van Mahotsava in 1950 to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees.

Since then, it is being celebrated all over the country every year. This year, the RFRI is gearing up to mark the occasion with plantation of various species of saplings at different places of Jorhat on different dates. RFRI will undertake the plantation activities at Jorhat Jail premises in association with Jail Authorities; at Jorhat Police Reserve premises in association with Jorhat Police.

It will also plant tree saplings at the premises of Dakhinpat Satra, Sotai, Jorhat.

Van Mahotsava under way

JORHAT, July 3: The week-long Van Mahotsava got under way at the Rain Forest Research Institute at Sotai here on Thursday as the RFRI Director Dr RSC Jayaraj planting saplings of indigenous citrus fruit (kazi nemu) in the institute’s premises. RK Kalita, a senior scientist of the institute explained the genesis behind Van Mahotsava in the country. Kalita stated that the first Agriculture Minister of Independent India, late KM Munchi started the celebration of Van Mahotsava in 1950 to create enthusiasm among the masses for forest conservation and planting trees. Scientists, forest officers, scientific staff, research fellows and others attended the plantation programme. – Staff Correspondent
বন মহোৎসবের অংশ হিসাবে সোমবারে বর্ষাবর্ণ গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানে অসম আক্ষরীর সহযোগিতায় যোবহাট পলিশ থানী বাংলাদেশ ক্রুশের বৃক্ষবোধী কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করে। অনুষ্ঠানের যোবহাট উপায়াক্ত অংশোক কুমার বর্মন, আক্ষরীর অধীনকে অকুর্জ জৈন, বর্ষাবর্ণ প্রতিষ্ঠান সরকারকর্তা ড। আব এছানে জয়বাজ, বন সংবন্ধী নবীন মহন্ত, বন সংস্থাগুলি প্রধানকর্তা শীর্ষক কুমার, অতিবিকে আক্ষরীর অধীনকে হিব্রণ কুমার বর্মন, জোড়া বিজ্ঞানী বাজীর কুমার কলিতা আদিয়ে ভাগ লয়।