

N.8: Clean and green campus activities at RRCAT

Sustained efforts have been made over the years to develop a clean, green and beautiful campus in RRCAT by developing gardens and landscapes, and large-scale planting of trees. In this regard, two plantation drives were carried out in RRCAT during July to Dec. 2020 period to increase environmental awareness among the residents and enrich biodiversity in the campus. The first plantation drive was organized on 19th August 2020 at two sites: (i) near Dr. Chandrasekhar Observatory building along the outer ring road of RRCAT campus, and (ii) area between the upper lake and the CISF colony. Second plantation drive was organized on 28th October 2020 in the unoccupied technical area of the campus about 1.5 km from old Production Unit building. The plantation drive was preceded by site preparation measures like cleaning of area, digging of pits, refilling with garden earth and vermicompost, prepared in-house at RRCAT. The plants used in the plantation campaign were reared and raised in the RRCAT Nursery itself. The choice of plants and the density of plantation was based on two themes: (i) "Shelter Belt" theme for the first site near observatory building and the third site at unoccupied technical area of the campus aimed at sheltering the colony residents and technical facilities, and (ii) "City Forest" theme, popularly known as "Miyawaki technique", to develop dense and native forest at the second site. About 1160 plants of 32 different species were planted with emphasis on selection of heterogeneous species combining floricultural (flowering species), pomological (fruiting species) and medicinal trees as well as shrubs to enrich the green cover of the RRCAT campus. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, several precautions such as participation by limited number of persons, plantation in time staggered manner, social distancing, use of face mask, and sensitization were strictly followed during the plantation drives.



Shri Debashis Das, Director, RRCAT planting a tree near Observatory building.

Periodic cleanliness drives are undertaken in RRCAT to keep the campus clean. In this regard, a special drive for the collection of odd-size wastes was organized on 7th November 2020. The residents were informed in advance by circular issued by administration about the schedule of collection of the waste. This drive was in addition to the regular house-to-house collection of dry and wet wastes being followed.

A tractor trolley was moved in the colony as per the schedule mentioned in the circular. Two banners with "Swachhata Hee Seva" written in Hindi and English languages were prominently displayed on the trolley for easy identification. A total of ten tractor trolleys of waste was collected during the drive. The waste collected was segregated at designated place in the RRCAT colony for subsequent collection and disposal by the Indore Municipal Corporation.

RRCAT bagged 3rd rank among all DAE units in recognition of the Swachhata activities carried out in the Centre during Swachhata Pakhwada-2020. For this, a "Certificate of Excellence" was awarded to RRCAT by Shri K.N. Vyas, Chairman, AEC, and Secretary, DAE. In addition, "Swachhata Pakhwada Award - 2020", sponsored by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India was also awarded to RRCAT.



Certificate of Excellence (left) and Swachhata Pakhwada Award-2020 (right) awarded to RRCAT by DAE.

As part of the Swachh Survekshan - 2021, a survey was conducted in the Indore city by Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC). RRCAT bagged 1st rank in the Swachhata Rankings in this Survekshan, for which a "Certificate of Excellence" and a trophy was awarded by IMC on 9th December 2020.



Certificate of Excellence (left) and trophy (right) awarded to RRCAT by IMC, Indore.

The clean and green campus activities are coordinated by the Advisory Committee for Clean and Green Campus (ACCGC), RRCAT under keen supervision and guidance of Shri Debashis Das, Director, RRCAT. Successful accomplishment of the above reported activities was possible due to the enthusiastic support and cooperation received from multiple agencies of RRCAT.

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