NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

➢ **Union Home Minister Shri Raj Nath Singh plants Rudraksh sapling**

➢ **Diplomats of various countries plant saplings at Embassies and High Commissions**

➢ **As many as 86 thousand saplings planted today in New Delhi area**

New Delhi – August 5, 2017

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh planted a sapling of Rudraksh tree at his official residence at Akbar Road in New Delhi today under the Tree Plantation campaign being launched by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) during on going monsoon season.

While appreciating the green initiative of NDMC, the Minister applaud the successes of last year Tree Plantation drive and stressed upon the need for taking more efforts towards lessening the pollution level and maintaining ecological balance in the Capital City.

The diplomats of the many countries in India have planted saplings of various species of trees in there premises including Russia, China, Indonesia, Belgium, Vietnam, Greece, Egypt, Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, Hungry, Sudan, Serbia, Denmark etc. The diplomats had selected the plants of their own choice of Orchids, Red Cotton, Dwarf Marigold, Badalia, Callistemon, Bottle Brush, Silver Oak, Zapata, Achras Zapota, Ziziphus Mauritiana, Morus Alba, Neem and Ashok.

"Ambassador of Russia to India, his Excellency Mr. Anatoly Kargapolov expressed his special thanks to the NDMC for tree plantation drive in the diplomatic area of New Delhi and said that the Russian Embassy will maintain and improve the greeneries in their premises and surrounding area." The sapling had been planted to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and India, he added.

"I have appreciated the action taken by the NDMC for planting various flower and fruit saplings of trees in the diplomatic area where especially the embassies and high commissions are situated. I wish all success of the green initiative undertaken by the NDMC and congratulate its team for their excellent work for enhancing the green cover not only in the diplomatic area but in its entire NDMC area."

His Excellency Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Ambassador of Republic of China to India said that the steps taken by the NDMC in respect of planting saplings during the ongoing monsoon season are excellent one and all out efforts will be made to nurture the saplings planted in the premises of our embassy.

While speaking after planting a tree at Indo-African Friendship Rose Garden on Shanti Path, the Ambassador of Venezuela Mr. Augusto Montiel said that *"We are exploring the possibilities to plant Latin-American species of trees in Rose Garden and the soil and water will be tested to this effect, so as to make it a reality, which will strengthen the unity, peace and harmony between India and African Countries."*

As many as 86 thousands saplings of trees have been planted in the diplomatic area of New Delhi today under the ongoing tree plantation drive undertaken by NDMC in its all 14 zones. The 6000 members of team NDMC executed this work today.

In forth consecutive week of intensive tree plantation drive organized by NDMC the bungalows of Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, Judges of Supreme Court and High Court, Secretaries and Senior Officers of Central Government, school, colleges, residential, markets, government and non government buildings have been covered by planting fruit trees like mango, guava, jamun, bair and medicinal trees like aswagandha, brahmi, awala, ashok, alovera. The saplings of these trees have been planted at their own choice in the premises of their residence.

The Chairman, NDMC Shri Naresh Kumar informed that in the last four weeks the NDMC has planted more than 7 Lakh of saplings

against the target fixed of 10 Lacs during the current monsoon season, in which saplings of different species of fruits, flowers, herbals, timbers and shrubs have been planted. And by planting these saplings the NDMC has achieved the 70 percent target have been achieved so as to increase the green cover of NDMC area from 48 to 50 percent.