

Pathankot cops embark on tree plantation drive

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The Pathankot police have embarked upon an ambitious tree plantation drive ostensibly to maintain the ecological balance of the town marred by rampant mining and tree cutting in the forest friendly block of Dhar.

The drive has been given the name of Van Mahotsav. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harkamal Preet Singh Khakh, who joined as the district police chief last week, said the initiative was the brainchild of DGP Gaurav Yadav.

The Punjab Police, as a part of the drive, plans to plant 31,000 saplings in all police districts of Punjab.

The SSP maintained that all policemen of Pathankot district have been asked to plant saplings in a big way.

In the first phase, all police stations of Pathankot district will be covered. The cops have also been asked to scout for private places where this activity can take place.

Residents lauded the efforts of the cops claiming that such a drive was long overdue. They added that illegal mining had destroyed the eco-balance of the area and that tree plantation would go a long way in maintaining ecological equilibrium.

The SSP said, "Societies with trees and plants have lower rate of mental issues and a faster healing process among the sick and elderly. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Trees help us reduce the impact of climate change. A nation that destroys trees destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."