

Sh. Randeep Singh Jauhar
Chairman
Haryana State Biodiversity Board



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a profound honour to express my views on the occasion of the International Day of Biological Diversity, a day that reminds us of the intricate web of life that sustains our planet and the urgent need to preserve it. It is pleasing that this year this day is being celebrated by Haryana State Biodiversity Board in Yamuna Nagar, a place known for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Biodiversity, the variety of life in all its forms, from the tiniest microorganisms to the largest mammals, from lush forests to expansive oceans, is the foundation of our existence. It is the basis of our food, our health, our economy, and our overall well-being. Yet, we are living in a time when this precious diversity is under unprecedented threat. Climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, over exploitation, and invasive species are pushing countless species to the brink of extinction.

India is about 2.4 % of the area in the world, but has 7-8% of the total biodiversity of the world. Here in Haryana, we have a landscape that supports a variety of ecosystems, from the Shivalik Hills in the north to the fertile plains in the south. Biodiversity hotspots like Kalesar National Park and Sultanpur National Park are critical for conservation, hosting various endangered and migratory birds. The forest cover in the state is about 3.6%, which is one of the lowest in India. Haryana has more than 1100 plant species and more than 350 bird species, but our biodiversity is facing significant challenges. Urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion have led to habitat fragmentation and pollution, threatening the delicate balance of our ecosystems. The Haryana State Biodiversity Board has implemented measures to document and preserve local biodiversity, and public awareness and community involvement are increasingly recognized as vital for effective biodiversity conservation in Haryana.

On this International Day of Biodiversity, being celebrated on May 22, 2024, we are called to "Be Part of the Plan." Our planet's rich tapestry of life is under threat, and every action counts in preserving it. Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, is essential for ecosystem stability, human health, and the planet's resilience.

To "Be Part of the Plan" means engaging in activities that protect and restore natural habitats. It involves supporting sustainable practices, reducing waste, and advocating for policies that prioritize environmental conservation. Each of us has a role to play in safeguarding the intricate web of life that sustains us all.

By embracing this theme, we commit to a shared vision of a healthier planet. Let's act responsibly, think globally, and work towards a future where biodiversity thrives. On this International Day of Biodiversity, let's pledge to be active stewards of our natural world. Together, we can make a difference. Let's be part of the plan.

(Randeep Singh Jauhar)