

# Bougainvillea, Bonsai and Bliss!

## Bougainvillea Festival and a Bonsai Workshop organised by CSIR-NBRI

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A two-day Bougainvillea festival was organised on the campus of CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow, on 8 and 9 March. It was first organised in 2022, and this year happens to be the fourth edition of the Bougainvillea show. The flower festival was inaugurated by Shri Babu Lal Meena, ACS, Department of Horticulture and Food Processing, Govt of Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of Mr Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, First Counsellor, Head of Section, Research and Innovation, Delegation of the European Union to India.

The show was specifically dedicated to the Bougainvillea flower — the favourite ornament of nature. The garden on the campus looked like a bouquet of vivid colours. The Bougainvillea flower show was nothing less than a sheer treat for the eyes, or rather, we can say that this flower festival was 'a visual Holi festival' for the eyes of the visitors. Breathtaking Bougainvillea of red, yellow, orange, pink, golden, white, lavender, fuchsia and even multi-grafted flowers graced the show with their sublime beauty.

Apart from the vibrant display of Bougainvillea in general, dozens of varieties of the flower which were developed by the institute like 'Aruna, Shubhra, Arjuna, Begum Sikandar, Abhimanyu, Los Banos Variegata, Dr PV Sane, Pixie Variegata, Los Banos Variegata 'Jayanti', Manohar Chandra Variegata, Los Banos Variegata Silver Margin, Mary Palmer Special, Parthasarathy, Mahara Variegata, Shweta, Chitra, Hawaiian Beauty and Nirmal were also put on display.

And not only this, a flower competition was also organised wherein a total of 40 flower exhibitors participated, displaying around 162 entries. This Bougainvillea festival was more of a nature's colourful treat for the onlookers.

As 8<sup>th</sup> March marks 'International Women's Day', CSIR-NBRI also organised a free-of-cost Bonsai workshop for females of all ages wherein more than a hundred women participated and learnt the majestic art of Bonsai. In the afternoon long workshop, women were trained and educated about the plants which can be made into Bonsai, their aesthetic shaping, styling, and maintenance.

An introductory speech was given by Dr SK Tewari, Chief Scientist, NBRI, who stunned the participants with amazing facts and trivia from the history of the institute and its significant accomplishments. He also mentioned the 'Heritage Tree' and 'Bonsai House' on the campus of the National Botanical Research Institute. He also mentioned

