



राजभवन सूचना परिसर, उत्तराखण्ड

**Rajbhawan Uttarakhand-Information Wing  
PRESS NOTE**

**Dehradun 05 March 2011:**

The Governor of Uttarakhand Smt. Margaret Alva today formally inaugurated Basantotsav–2011, the annual kaleidoscopic exposition of art, craft, food and flowers on the sprawling lawns of Raj Bhawan and released the special postal stamp and the First Day Cover to mark the occasion. The Governor, accompanied by the State Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry viewed the flower exhibition, organised by the Department of Horticulture and Food Processing. The painting and photography exhibitions and other stalls that were put up on the occasion were then thrown open to the general public including connoisseurs of arts and crafts and flower lovers. The Governor's spouse Shri Niranjan Alva was also present on this occasion.

In the morning, the Governor inaugurated Basantotsav 2011 by cutting a ribbon of marigold flowers. On the occasion, she also released the special postal stamp on Phen Kamal (Foamed Lotus), a flower found in the high altitudes of the Himalayas, and the First Day Cover prepared by the Postal Department to mark the occasion.

Later, the Governor accompanied by Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, State Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry, went around the flower exhibition featuring a wide variety of flowery exhibits ranging from Gerbera, Carnation, Gladiolus and Lily cut flowers to potted plants arrangement, and plants in the cacti, bonsai and orchids categories.

This year's slogan for Basantotsav–2011 is 'Clean Doon Green Doon'.

Besides these, the Governor also viewed petal rangolis based of a wide variety of themes such as Environment Conservation and Care for the Girl Child, and the painting and photography exhibitions depicting flowers and floral beauty, set up in the foyers and corridors of different Raj Bhawan buildings.

The Governor also evinced deep interest in the different exhibits and stalls that sold seeds and plants and other material for flower and vegetable growers as well as raw and processed food and beverages. The Governor displayed keen interest in floriculture and horticulture techniques through 'polyhouse', and the 'Green Building Concept' showing low cost and environment–friendly construction techniques, that were exhibited on the occasion.

Basantotsav–2011 is a unique opportunity to showcase as well as promote Uttarakhand's folk and art traditions in a big way. The cultural evening programme to be organised by the Department of Culture at the Raj Bhawan auditorium today will feature "Beats of Uttarakhand". A Food Court highlighting the exceptional flavours of the hill region was also set up on the occasion.

At Basantotsav–2011, there is an enhanced emphasis on adopting eco-friendly techniques. Hand–made paper and re-cycled paper has been used in a variety of ways, for preparing the invitation cards and the competition certificates. Efforts have also been made to promote the use of bags made of jute and cloth instead of polythene bags. On March 6, the exhibition will remain open to general public from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

Those who were present on the occasion include Forest and Rural Development Commissioner Shri Rajeev Gupta, Secretary Horticulture Shri Vinod Fonia, Secretary to the Governor Shri Ashok Pai, Additional Secretary Shri Arun K. Dhaundiyal, Additional Secretary Horticulture Shri JS Pandey and ADC to the Governor Major PPR Choudhary, and a large number of visitors to the exhibition, among others.

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