

‘World Science Day for Peace and Development’ celebrated by the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla

(NOVEMBER, 10 2014)

Established by UNESCO in 2001, the **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is celebrated worldwide on 10th November each year.

The day offers an opportunity to mobilize various partners to highlight the important role of science in society and to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues and the relevance of science in their daily lives.

The theme for the World Science day for Peace and Development 2014 is “Promoting Quality Science Education: ensuring a sustainable future for all”.

One of its mandates of the Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum (WHTA), established by HFRI in Potter Hill, Shimla with funding from HPSFD, is to provide exciting educational opportunities to the general public, teachers and students for understanding the various aspects of biodiversity, including its use in our daily lives, and its relevance on the concept of societal and environmental effects.

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla celebrated this day on 10th Nov. at its upcoming Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum at Potters Hill by conducting a discussion on the role of science and its relevance in today’s fast changing world at its amphitheatre within the arboretum in which 70 students from the prestigious St. Bedes College, Shimla participated.

The main resource person, Prof. Shanti Sharma, Bio Sciences Department, HP University talked about the relevance of science in our daily lives and stressed upon the role of plants in phyto-remediation i.e. the treatment of environmental problems through the use of plants that mitigate the environmental problem without the need to excavate the contaminant toxic material.

Sh. Ravinder Makhaik, Managing Director and Chief Editor, Himachal Media Pvt. Ltd. Was the guest speaker who talked on the fast emerging role of media in conservation programmes and areas of rehabilitation of degraded sites.

Mrs. Anita Pandey, a renowned theatre artist, created much enthusiasm among the participants by way of a theatrical workshop. Students were guided through collaborative group activities where they created scenes, monologues and short plays using the themes they were given. The outcome was a pleasure to all present during the programme.

Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, the Scientist In-charge, Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum coordinated the programme and also briefed the participants about the activities of the arboretum and guided them through the various thematic parts. Prizes were distributed among the participants.

Some photographs of the celebration and the programme

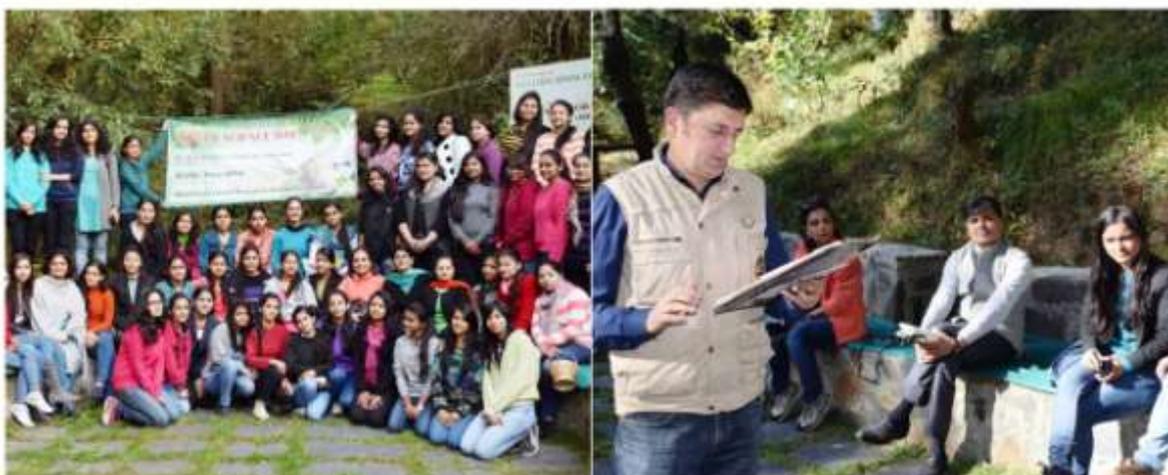


Photo plate showing various activities being undertaken during the programme; with lectures, discussions, etc



The students of St. Bedes College, actively and enthusiastically participated in the programme, especillay the theatre assignments given to each group.