Celebration of Van Mahotsav – 2020  
Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

Date:  17th July, 2020  
Venue:  Kendrya Vidyalaya, ITBP, Dehradun

Van Mahotsav is a festival of forest plantation specially, planting of seedlings for greenery. It was started by Kulapaty Kanaiyalal Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture to create awareness among the masses for forest conservation and tree plantation. It has now morphed into a week-long festival called Van Mahotsav, an important event and also opportunity for creating awareness on the importance of trees in human life besides reducing global warming and pollution. Tree planting during the festival serves various purposes, like providing alternative fuel, increasing production of food resources, creating shelter-belts around fields to increase productivity, providing food for cattle, offering shade and decorative landscapes, reducing drought and helping to prevent soil erosion, etc. It also helps in creating of awareness about the harm caused by the cutting down of trees.

The Forest Research Institute, Dehradun celebrated Vanmohotsav on 17th July, 2020 at Kendriya Vidyalaya ITBP, Dehradun. The Kendriya Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan and Navodya Vidyalaya Samiti are actively associated with FRI under the Prakriti Programme.

Smt. Richa Misra, Head, Extension, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun welcomed the participants and briefed them about the importance of the occasion and the events being carried out under the "Prakriti" Programme. Shri Arun Singh Rawat, DG, ICFRE graced the occasion as Chief Guest and addressed the gathering stressing on the linkage between tree plantation and the country's commitment at the Global forum. He also appreciated the efforts made by the school authorities to create and strengthen the bond between nature and the children. He also mentioned that Prakriti programme has gone a long way in fostering this bond. He inaugurated the programme and appreciated the work of seedling plantation on the occasion. Subsequently, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Principal, KV. ITBP shared information about the herbal garden being developed in the premises.

The team of Extension Division and Silviculture & Forest Management Division of the Institute worked in close coordination make the programme successful. On this occasion, Mrs. Richa Misra, Head Extension Division, Mrs. Arti Choudhary, Mr. S. K Thomas, Asstt. Silviculturist (E), Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist- E, Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist- E (Programme Coordinator), Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist- D, and Shri Vijay Kumar managed different activities during the programme. All Heads of Divisions of the institute were present during the programme.

Glimpses of the event

DG, ICFRE inaugurating the event and addressing the gathering
Ceremonial plantation being carried out by DG, ICFRE and Principal, KV ITBP as part of Van Mahotsav 2020

DG, ICFRE presenting cash award to Mali Kaka, KV ITBP