

## Celebration of Van-Mahotsav-2014 by HFRI, Shimla

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized Van-Mahotsav on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at its Campus, Panthaghati, Shimla. **Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI, Shimla** started the “Van-Mahotsav” by offering prayers and planting a quality sapling of Deodar. All the Scientists, Officers and staff members of the Institute participated in the Van-Mahotsav by planting Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) and other important medicinal plants of the area like Nihani (*Valeriana jatamansi*) and Chora (*Angelica galuca*).



While addressing the gathering, Dr. Tewari told that Van-Mahotsav is being organized by various organizations concerned with the forestry and environment in the month of July/ August at a massive scale. He informed that celebration of Van-Mahotsav was started during 1950s by the then **Agriculture Minister, Kanhaiyalal Maniklal Munshi** as a campaign to inculcate the spirit of environment protection amongst the general public. He further added that the continuous decrease in forest cover at the National level was a matter of concern in the past for the Government, however, due to such initiatives/efforts, now the forest area is increasing (as per the latest reports of Forest Survey of India). The efforts made in this direction by the Government of India, State Governments, Forest Departments and other Institutions, who are working in the field of forest and environment, are really appreciable. He further added that it is a duty of every citizen to take part in such schemes/ programmes, being implemented by the Government, in the larger public interest and contribute towards sustainable development of the country.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF VAN MAHOTSAV-2014 ORGANIZED BY HFRI, SHIMLA



