

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

EARTH DAY 2015

Earth Day is a global forum to express concern about what is happening to our land, rivers, lakes, and air—and this forum conducts it with spectacular exuberance. Awareness programmes, of the annual Earth Day aims to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and focuses upon highlighting environmentally issues, for building a future where people would live in harmony with its limited natural resources.

The celebration programme of the 45th edition of Earth Day was organised by Himalayan Forest Research Institute, at its upcoming Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum at Potter Hill, near Shimla. Participants included 70 children from the Loreto Convent School, Tara Hall and 35 students from the GSSS, Lal Pani, besides the Institutes staff and local people from nearby the arboretum. The Principal of Loreto Convent, Sister Stephanie graced the occasion and took real keen interest on the proceedings of the programme. Sister Stephanie was accompanied by two teachers of the school, Mrs. Anu Gupta and Mrs. Arvind Kaur. The students from GSSS, Lal Pani were under the care of Mrs. Nirupma, Sarita Roy and Sunita Rana. Representatives from the local office of the WWF also aided in the smooth conduction of the programme.

Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist Incharge for the arboretum interacted with the participants about the role of 'Earth Day' and its importance in the present context, for a better environment ahead. Srinivas Joshi, noted theatre activist from Shimla and also a noted writer, who often writes about Shimla in his column in the Tribune 'Vignettes by Srinivas Joshi', interacted with the children on the degrading environment of the town. Dr. Jagdish Singh, Head NWFP at HFRI apprised the participants about the Institute and its role in conserving the environment of the region.

Thereafter, there was an interactive session with the famed 'Birdman' Mr. Gautam Prasad Sapkota, from Nepal, who kept the participants in a joyous mood by his amazing bird voices. He mimicked the voices of numerous birds and some animals too and was truly cheered by the children. He enthralled the children with his extraordinary talent. An exhibition of Hill Bamboo products was also displayed, to which the children flocked to view and also buy.

Afterwards, the participants were taken around the arboretum and explained about the importance of native species of the region. Below are given picture plates of the programme;







