

“International Mountain Day, 11th December, 2014”

Press Release

The International Mountain Day has its roots in 1992, when the adoption of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development put a milestone in the history of Mountain development. The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN General Assembly to declare 2002 the UN International Year of Mountains. On this occasion, the UN General Assembly declared 11thDecember, from 2003 onwards, as “**International Mountain Day**” to draw attention of world community on various Mountain issues. FAO is the coordinating agency which is mandated to lead observance of it at the global level. On this occasion to commemorate “International Mountain Day, 11thDec, 2014,the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) in association with National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)organized four activities viz., Painting Competition, Photo Exhibition, Keynote Lectures, and a Film show for the participants of the program organized at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Shashi Shekhar, Special Secretary, Shri S.S. Garbyal, Director General &Special Secretary Forests, Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary, with three eminent speakers who enlightened the audience on the theme of the day.

Painting Competition was organized for eighty students from different schools of Delhi & NCR to generate awareness about the importance and facts about mountains through creative paintings. This competition was organized for students of class VI to VIII. At the end of the celebrations the names of the winners were announced who will be given cash prizes.

Parallel to the Painting Competition, a **Photo Exhibition** was also organized at the program venue along with other activities related to the topic of Mountain &Mountain Farming shot by the researches working in institutes/organizations of the MoEF & CC i.e. G. B. Pant Institute of Environment and Development, Almora, and Botanical Survey of India.

A **Film Show** of short duration related to the four different topic of Mountain & Mountain Farming has also organized in the Auditorium.

Keynote lectures were delivered by three renowned speakers/experts viz, Dr. Hari Shankar Gupta, D. G. Borlaug Institute for South Asia, National Agriculture Science Centre, New Delhi; Dr. S Sen, Senior Scientist and Dr. G.C. Rawat, Scientist G, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on the topics of Mountain & Mountain Farming.

Government of India attaches highest priority to protect the Himalayan Ecosystem. This is evident from the fact that the MoEF & CC has established GBPIHED in 1988 at Almora, Uttarakhand with four regional units located from Western to Eastern Himalaya. Further, the Ministry is in the process of launching a central sector scheme entitled “National Mission on Himalayan Studies” for protection of Himalaya environment and sustainable development of the region.