



**Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Conifer Campus
Panthaghati, Shimla – 171013, Himachal Pradesh**



A Report on

Virtual Educational Tour of the final year B.Sc. (Hons) Students of College of Forestry Sirsi, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad, Karnataka

Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla organized a virtual Education Tour for the final year B.Sc.(Hons) students of College of Forestry, Sirsi, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad, Karnataka on 29th July, 2021. About 67 students along with Faculty Members took active part in the virtual tour.

At the outset **Dr. Jagdish Singh**, Scientist –F and Head Extension Division, HFRI, Shimla extended warm welcome to all the students and faculty members on this virtual tour to HFRI, Shimla.

Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, HFRI, Shimla while addressing the students and faculty members briefed about the research achievements, current activities and gave detailed information about future action plans of the HFRI, Shimla. He said that the Himalayan region is a storehouse of biodiversity whose conservation is very important for the sustenance of human beings. He also discussed about the forests and medicinal plants of Himachal Pradesh in brief.

Dr. Swaran Lata, Scientist-D, HFRI, Shimla delivered lecture on “Research Highlights, Achievements of HFRI and Floristic Diversity of Western Himalaya”. She started her presentation with the brief background of HFRI, mandate, core research areas, major research highlights and achievements of different research divisions, ongoing AICRPs, consultancies and extension activities of the institute, followed by detailed elaboration on floristic diversity of the Western Himalaya and also discussed about climate, physiography, drainage systems, forest types, forest area, floristic diversity, meadows and pastures, agro-ecosystem, cold deserts, medicinal plants, livelihood dependency on diversity, sacred groves, threats to biodiversity, impact of climate change on biodiversity in Western Himalayan region. At the end of her presentation, she also showed few photographs of historical and important tourist places of Shimla.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist –G and Group Coordinator Research, Dr. R. K. Verma, Scientist –G and Head of Office and Dr. Jagdish Singh, Scientist–F and Head Extension Division, answered the questions of the students on scope for forestry students for their career, possibilities on forestry research, etc.

On behalf of the College and Students, Dr. Ramna, Training Coordinator of Sirsi College of Forestry, thanked Director, HFRI for giving students an opportunity to know about HFRI and its research and extension activities. He also thanked the speaker, Scientists and all the staff for providing important information on various aspects of forestry research in Western Himalayan region and addressing all queries of students.

Virtual Meeting ended with formal vote of thanks by Dr. Jagdish Singh, Head extension, HFRI Shimla.

Few highlights of virtual interaction



