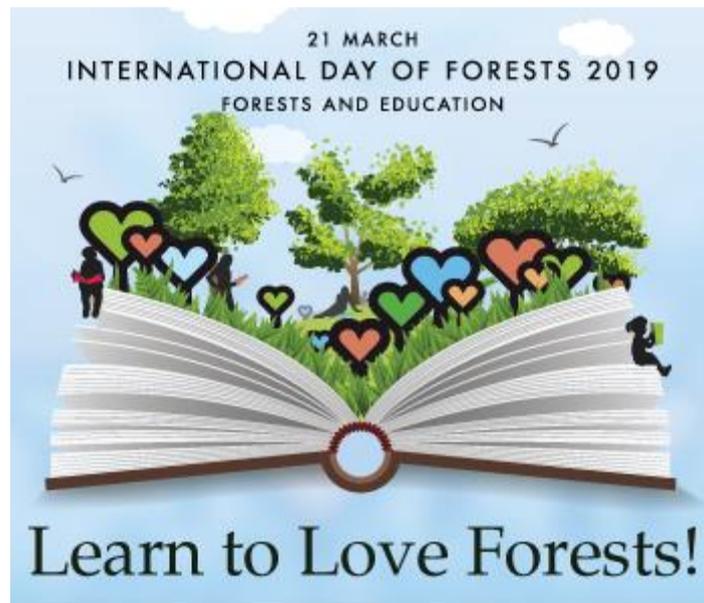


International Day of Forests 2019



21 March, is celebrated as International Day of Forests every year world over. This celebration brings to focus, the role of Forests in safeguarding the ecological security & livelihood of millions of people all around the world. Forests provide clean air, water and energy. Sustainably managed forests can provide renewable and carbon neutral energy for a greener future.

This year's theme of the International day of Forests is **Forests & Education.** This theme has been chosen by the United Nations to highlight how understanding our forests and keeping them healthy is crucial for our future as forests help to keep air, soil, water and people healthy. They have a vital role to play in some of the biggest challenges we face today, such as addressing climate change, eliminating hunger and keeping urban and rural communities sustainable. Forests will be more important than ever as the world population climbs to 8.5 billion by 2030. Investing in forestry education can change the human life better. Women and men should have equal access to forest education. Both modern and traditional knowledge are key to keeping forests healthy.

Greater investment in technological innovation and in sustainably managed forests is the key to increasing forests' role as a major source of renewable

energy. In this way, we invest in our sustainable future, in meeting several Sustainable Development Goals and in growing a green economy.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun hosted the celebration of this year's International Day of Forests on 19.03.2019 at Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. The programme was attended by forestry institutions viz. FSI, FRI, WII, CASFOS, DFE, IGNFA, etc. Shri C. K. Mishra, Secretary, EF&CC attended the celebration as the Chief guest and grace the occasion by ceremonial plantation of tree at botanical garden at ICFRE, Dehradun. Secretary, EF&CC also visited the exhibition stall and distributed prizes and awards to winners of the various competitions organised on the occasion by ICFRE.

Padam Vibhushan Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, as the keynote speaker addressed the gathering. Other Dignitaries on dais who made the celebration meaningful includes ADG (FC). DG, ICFRE; Director, WII; DG, FSI; Director, IGNFA, Director, FRI. IG (Forest Policy), AIG (FP) and Forest Policy Division attended the programme. The programme was also attended by school children, retired forest officers and other officials from forestry institutions.

