

## Tree Plantation Campaign at IIT Mandi Kamand Campus

Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, understand by particulars, the ancient law of life.

Hermann Hesse has rightly explained that when we are stricken and cannot bear our lives any longer, then a tree has something to say to us: Be still! Be still! Look at me! Life is not easy, life is not difficult. Those are childish thoughts. Let God speak within you, and your thoughts will grow silent. You are anxious because your path leads away from mother and home. But every step and every day lead you back again to the mother. Home is neither here nor there. Home is within you, or home is nowhere at all. By believing these thoughts National Service Scheme unit



Students (volunteers), staff and faculty members are planting trees

IIT Mandi organized a Tree Plantation Programme in IIT premises on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014 from 9 a.m.-till 3:00 p.m. NSS candidates identified appropriate places for tree plantation with the help of Mr. Tript (Junior Engineer Horticulture) and prepared that for plantation. Director Prof.

Timothy A. Gonsalves, Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves, faculties, staff members, NSS team and more than 50 student volunteers planted 150 saplings along with the road near the hostels.

Students also placed tree barricades and poured water. Each student took the responsibility to nourish and take care the planted saplings. Eventually, the area attained a glorious look. The saplings were provided by the Forest Department from the nursery located on the Uhl River below the campus. Species planted included deodar, jasmine, silver oak, weeping willow, bottle brush and jacaranda etc. The student teams will take care of their saplings in a competition and next year (in August, 2015) on the day of tree plantation the planters/caretakers of the healthy/best trees will be given prizes by NSS. After one month of plantation the compost/manure was given to the plants by the planters. The NSS committee decided to proceed with the same inspiration and enthusiasm to enhance the beauty of the campus.