

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the St. Bede's College on **9th December 2015**. Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla is a regional Institute of *Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)*, Dehra Dun, which is a premier organization for carrying out and promoting *forestry research* at the National level whereas **St. Bede's College, Shimla**, which was established in 1904, is a historical and educational landmark of Northern India which aims, primarily, at higher education and training of the young women. The college has been imparting higher education in the fields of Arts, Science, Commerce and Teachers' Training Course (T.T.C). St. Bede's College is recognized by the University Grants Commission under 2(f) and 12(b), and is the only college in **H.P. State accredited 'A' Grade by UGC-NAAC**.

The MoU specifically aims at providing Summer Trainings to the students of this college besides, other activities of academic interests and relevant to both the institutions and students.

The main activities which will be covered under this MoU are as under:

- Providing Summer Trainings to the students by HFRI from time-to-time. Topic of trainings to be imparted would be of mutual interest of both the institutions. Fee for imparting the training shall be borne by the students concerned as per ICFRE Rules.
- Lectures of different Scientists shall be delivered to the students and the topics will be decided by the Scientists according to the latest advancements made in the field of forestry and allied subjects.
- HFRI will provide consultancy for various programmes being implemented by St. Bede's College and as per ICFRE Rules.
- There is a provision of organizing scientific conferences jointly by both the institutions.
- This MoU at the initial stage has been signed for 5 years, however, the same can be further renewed or extended by mutual consent expressed in writing.

While discussing the various issues pertaining to forestry, environment and education, **Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI and Sr. (Dr.) Beena John, Principal, St. Bede's College, Shimla** were of the opinion that such a collaborative working system - may be formal or informal - will be of great help in furthering the organizational goals. Collaborative works and that too in between the organizations having their expertise in the field of research and advancement of knowledge, will certainly aid in evolving strategies and policies in order to strengthen the institutional values, behaviours and practices.

Both the parties thanked each other for this initiative taken for the betterment of *forestry research*, education and hoped that this effort will be proved beneficial for both the institutions.

