

## SKUAST Jammu Celebrates ' Van Mahotsav 2016 '



'Van Mahotsav' being celebrated in India since 1950 at the initiative of K.M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, was organized at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) in collaboration with Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Government of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on 31-08-2016. Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-J was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The Vice-Chancellor laid emphasis on planting and protecting trees to mitigate the adverse impacts on climate change and for maintaining ecological balance. O. P. Vidyarthi, one of the renowned ecologist, and Director Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Government was the guest of honour on this occasion. O. P. Vidyarthi dwelled upon the ecological importance of trees and laid emphasis on planting saplings of parijat species. Van Mahotsav has gained immense national importance and every year, millions of saplings are planted all across India. It is annually celebrated by the Division of Agro-forestry, Faculty of Agriculture SKUAST Jammu, Chatha to plant trees at the campus to make it more greener. Officers of the SKUAST Jammu and Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K present on the occasion also planted the trees. All the heads of the divisions, scientists of the Faculty of Agriculture, students and NSS volunteers planted gulmohar, bottle brush, karanj & parijat saplings on the occasion.