



Cleanliness Drive at Sarnahuli Parashar Mela in HP

A three day long Sarnahuli fair was celebrated around the Parashar Lake in Himachal Pradesh on 14th June 2019. This year over 10,000 people participated at Sarnahuli Mela, a holy fair of Hindus organised at the temple of *Rishi* Parashar. The fair over the years has grown in significance, resulting in gathering of thousands of devotees from neighbouring villages. Keeping the crowd and traffic in mind, a cleanliness drive was organised by Development Alternatives, Centre for Sustainable Development and Forest Department of Mandi in and around the fair premises. Young students of the Senior Secondary School of Baghi village in Mandi performed a *nukkad natak* on the critical theme of cleanliness to raise awareness and sensitise people. The Jan Shakti Yuvak Mandal volunteers also provided huge support in making the campaign successful by installing garbage bins around the lake and by conducting cleanliness drive at the end of the day of the fairs proceedings.

The fair was attended by Gobind Thakur, Minister of Transport and Forest of Himachal Pradesh and other significant bureaucrats and politicians such as Surendra Kashyap, DFO of Mandi, and Jawahar Thakur, MLA of Parashar tehsil. While appreciating the drive, Gobind Thakur encouraged the community to adopt the concept of homestays for outsiders to experience rural lifestyle and traditional knowledge. He also advocated adoption of sustainable means of livelihoods to promote and conserve the natural environment.