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Report of the Celebration of International Day of Forests

Under the Aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and India's G20 Presidency, National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the College in collaboration with the Special Forest Division Kulgam, organised a Seminar on the eve of International Day of Forests (Van Mahotsav) on 21st March, 2023 with the Theme 'Forests and Health.' The Event was Conducted in the College Conference Hall and witnessed the participation of around 60 NSS volunteers besides faculty members and officers from Forest Division and District Administration, Kulgam. The event started at 10:30 am and was Moderated by NSS Programme Officer, Dr Safeer Ahmad Bhat. The rationale of the seminar was to raise awareness at different levels regarding the Environmental preservation and Conservation. Besides it was also aimed at spreading information, awareness and concern for maintaining the sustainable capacity of Mother Earth in nurturing us. The event was conducted in Three (03) phases. In the very first phase, a Mega Plantation Drive was organised by the Green ambassadors of Forest Division Kulgam in the Science Block of the College. The Plantation Drive was kick-started by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat (IAS), by planting a sapling of Cedrus deodara within the premises of GDC Kulgam. During the drive, plant saplings were also distributed among the NSS volunteers for distribution in the adopted villages. The 2nd session which was held in the college conference hall started at 10:45 am. The chief guest on the occasion, Dr Shabir Ahmad Padder, Vice-Principal of the College presented the welcome address and formally inaugurated the proceedings of the Seminar. In his welcome address, honourable Vice-Principal of the College briefed on the Role of Forests in Health and Environment and the preservation strategies thereof. The Guest of Honour, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, extensively talked on the broader aspects of the theme by highlighting the role of Forests in rendering abundance of ecosystem services and thereby promoting healthy lives. He reiterated that the green cover of district Kulgam which is only 42% shall be increased to the maximum possible extent by promoting Eco-tourism in the far flung areas of the district. The 2nd phase of the event included a seminar on the said theme in which a total of 5 student speakers from the college presented their views. It was reiterated that there should be a balance between the Development and conservation strategies.

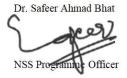


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Mr Sayed Waseem Gul, Divisional Forest Officer, Kulgam Chaired the session. In his address, the learned guest accentuated that the Student Fraternity and Forest Department can play a pivotal role in preserving Mother Earth from all the possible threats. Furthermore, it was held that there should be a paradigm shift from *Terra Nullius* to *Terra Madre* so that all the green warriors can act together and achieve extraordinary feats.

In the 3rd phase of the event, a felicitation ceremony was held in which all the volunteers and guests were felicitated with the Certificates and mementos. Munaza Mansoor from 4th Semester secured 1st position in the speech competition followed by Zainab Naushad who secured 2nd position and Mehkey Jan who secured 3rd position in the said competition. A booklet compiled by forest division "Let's Conserve Biodiversity" was also released. The event concluded with the formal Vote of Thanks presented by Dr. Mohammad Younus Bhat, HOD Political Science.





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