



Documentation and Media cell

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Enlightening Conference Explores Environmental Challenges and Solutions in Tourism

Reported by : Mr. Irshad Ahmad Lone (Convener Media Cell).

GDC Kulgam, 12-08-2023: The Department of History at Government Degree College Kulgam, in collaboration with the Himalayan Welfare Organisation Pahalgam, orchestrated a thought-provoking one-day Conference titled 'Environment Tourism: Challenges and Solutions.' The event, held on August 12, 2023, in the Conference Hall, provided a platform for approximately 100 students, along with esteemed faculty and staff members, to engage in insightful discussions on the critical nexus between environment and tourism.

The distinguished gathering witnessed Mr. Mushtaq Pahalgami, President of HWO, gracing the occasion as the chief guest. The event was skillfully moderated by Dr. Safeer Ahmad Bhat, a faculty member in the Department of History, while Dr. Hashim Iqbal, the Head of the Department of History, set the stage with his insightful introductory remarks on the conference theme.

In a compelling welcome address, Principal Prof. Eazaz Hussain Rizvi underlined the urgency of preserving the environment, setting the tone for a day of profound deliberations.

Mr. Mushtaq Pahalgami's keynote address resonated deeply, delving into the multifaceted relationship between tourism and environmental conservation. He spotlighted the pivotal role played by the Himalayan Welfare Organisation in fostering environmentally sustainable tourism practices. Pahalgami urged the attending students to become agents of change and proactive stewards of the environment.

Mr. Arshid Majid, Chairman of the Indian Institute of Architects, Srinagar Sub-Centre, delivered a compelling discourse on adopting eco-friendly construction practices to safeguard the environment, emphasizing the need for greener approaches in architectural endeavors.

Expanding on the concept of environmental tourism, Mr. Zubair Ahmad Wani, Head of the Department of Environmental Science, presented a comprehensive overview of its dimensions. Drawing from sobering statistics found in United Nations reports, he highlighted the urgent need to combat environmental degradation, climate change, global warming, and ozone depletion, stressing their profound impact on Earth's ecosystems.

The conference also showcased the creative potential of students in environmental stewardship. Muzammil Khan, a second-semester BCA student, demonstrated his artistic prowess by transforming discarded plastic and materials into decorative items, illustrating the potential of recycling in reducing environmental impact.

The conference concluded with a stimulating interactive session, during which students engaged with the speakers through insightful questions related to the conference theme. Mr. Mohd. Haleem Wani, Head of the Department of Chemistry, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and speakers for their invaluable contributions.



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