Press Note on Tour report

The recent Environmental Science Tour/Field visit conducted by Department of Environmental Science Government Degree College Kulgam has brought to light significant insights into our understanding of environmental issues and conservation efforts. This tour on 29/05/2023, took almost 200 students on a journey through various ecosystems, highlighting both the beauty and challenges facing our country. The spot chosen as per the order is Aharbal which is widely known for the presence of flora, fauna and tourists.

The students during this tour learned many important facts about different environmental issues like:

Biodiversity: Students had the opportunity to explore biodiversity hotspot, witnessing firsthand the rich tapestry of life present in this area. They observed diverse flora and fauna, emphasizing the importance of preserving such ecosystem. The diversity found in this area constitutes *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Cedrus deodara, Abies pindrow, Picea sp.*, *Nepetacataria*, *N*. *laevigata*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Mushroom species*, etc. Several animal and bird species were also present in this area like Bear, Leopard, Monkey, Eagle, Vulture, etc.

Impact of Human Activity: The tour underscored the profound impact of human activity on the environment. Students witnessed deforestation, pollution, and habitat destruction, serving as poignant reminders of the urgent need for sustainable practices. The college Students also took an initiative to collect and segregate the waste from the said area.

Conservation Efforts: Despite the challenges, the tour also showcased inspiring conservation efforts underway. Students visited conservation reserves, engaged with local communities, and learned about initiatives aimed at protecting endangered species and habitats.

Climate Change Impacts: Discussions on climate change formed a crucial aspect of the tour. Students learned about the tangible effects of climate change, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and shifting ecosystems, highlighting the imperative for collective action.

Education and Awareness: The tour served as an educational platform, fostering awareness and understanding of environmental issues among students. Through interactive sessions and guided explorations, students gained valuable insights into the interconnectedness of ecosystems and human well-being.

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