

Dept. of Environmental Sciences, CUJ celebrated 52nd International Mother Earth Day-2022

Jammu 22 April: The Department of Environmental Sciences celebrated 52nd International Mother Earth Day on 22 April, 2022 by visiting *Manda situated on the right bank of Chenab River in the foothills of Pir Panjal range, 28 km northwest of Jammu, an archaeological site in Akhnoor Tehsil of District Jammu in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir which is considered the northernmost limit of the Harappan Civilisation dating 5500 years BP. The site contains priceless relics of the grandicent and ancient Indus Valley Civilization.* The formal welcome address was given by Prof. Sunil Dhar, HOD, Deptt. of Environmental Sciences. In his address Prof Dhar highlighted the role of Chenab basin of Jammu Region in the evolutionary history of Sindhu Sabhita. ***The theme of the International Mother Earth Day for the year 2022 was “Invest in our Planet”*** and accordingly students of the Department were briefed about the importance of Natural Resources and their judicious use in context with the theme of the Earth Day. How civilizations flourished along the river and reason/factors and was to why these got vanished were also discussed at length during the Educational tour of the Department on this occasion of Earth Day. The field experiments related to the Water Quality aspects of Chenab River were also demonstrated by the faculty members (Dr. Richa Kothari, Dr. Anita Singh, Dr. Pankaj Mehta and Dr.Dinesh Kumar). The extensive sampling of water samples was also done for the lab analysis. The students also visited the Akhnoor fort the highest elevated point of the location for the panoramic view of the ranges of the Himalayas. The foothills of the Himalayas (Siwalik Ranges), Trikuta Hills (Middle Siwaliks) and a part of Pir Panjal Ranges was clearly visible. Prof. Sunil Dhar explained about the Geology and relative significance of the evolution of various Himalyan hill ranges to the students and effect of climate change on glaciers, Prof. Dhar **suggested ways and methodology by which impending disaster associated with glacial recession can be managed and mitigated.** Dr. Pankaj Mehta emphasized upon the fact that Mother Earth has enough resources for Man’s need but not for man’s greed. He also mentioned that given the sensitivity of the Himalayan Ecosystem, it becomes imperative for all the stakeholders to work unitedly so that the deterioration of the sensitive geo-environment of the Himalayan Region can be addressed. **The holistic overview of the Himalayan Cryosphere characteristics and its impact on the Climate of the Indian Himalayan Region was also addressed by faculty members of the Department of Environmental Sciences to the research scholars and the Post Graduates students.**



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