



Office of the Principal

Government Degree College Uttersoo

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GDC Uttersoo celebrated International Day For Biological Diversity

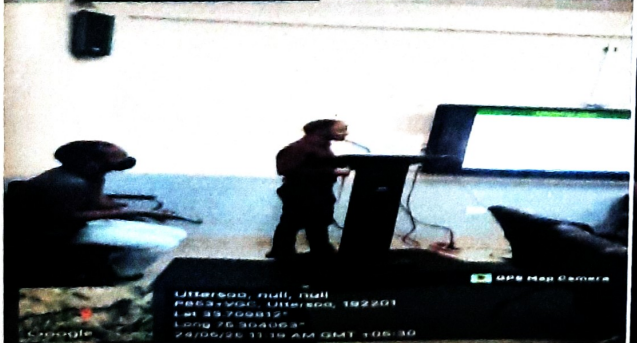
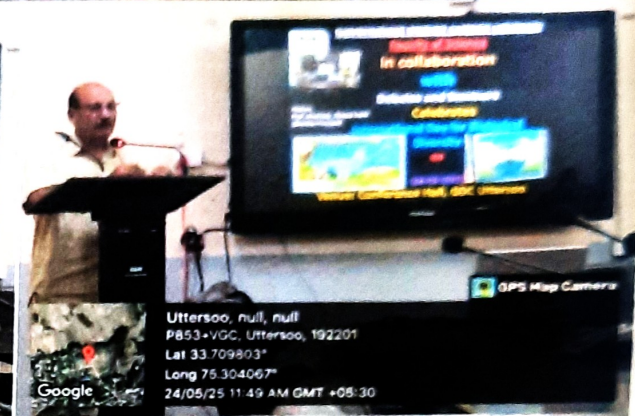
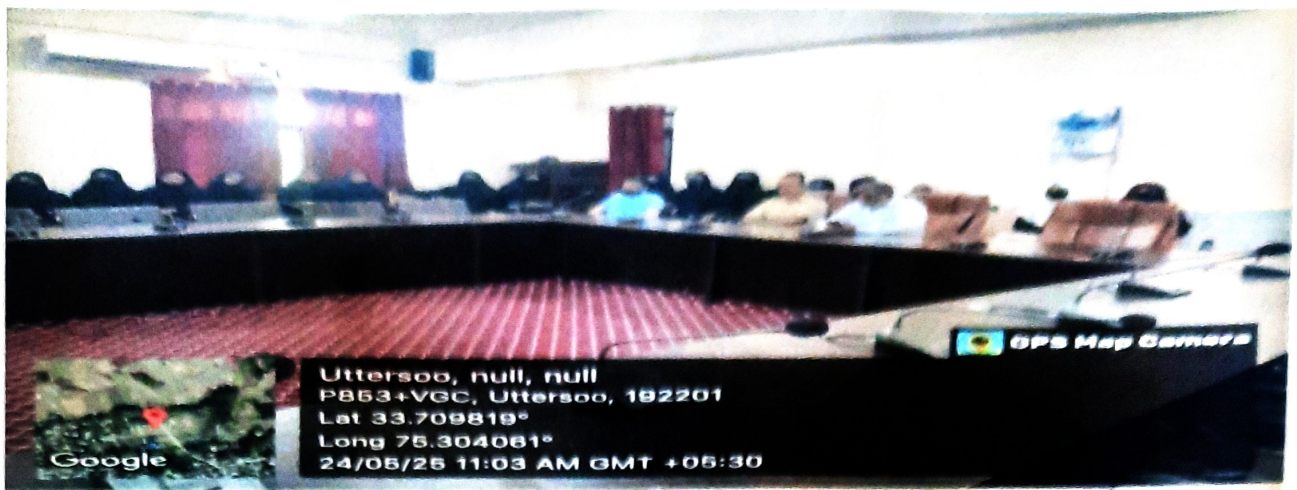
Under the chairmanship of Worthy Principal, **Professor Mushtaq Ahmad Sohil**, Faculty of Science in collaboration with Debates and Seminar Committee celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity today as on 24th May, 2025. The worthy Principal presented the welcome address.

Dr. Urmilla John from Department of Zoology presented keynote address. During her keynote speech, she discussed the interactions of plants, animals and micro-organisms in different ecosystems. Role of pollinators in fruit production and the contribution of different plant species to treat different human ailments were also weighed up. She highlighted human activities including deforestation, pollution, plastic use, overconsumption, habitat destruction and climate change as the major factors for biodiversity loss. Dr. Urmilla John while quoting different sources, stressed upon the dire need of saving the biodiversity which is the only way to safeguard this planet.

Dr. Showkat Hussain Ganie Head, Department of Botany elucidated diversity, threats and conservation methods of medicinal plant species of Jammu and Kashmir. The speaker while citing research reports highlighted that maximum number of medicinal plant species are found in Kashmir (560) followed by Ladakh (495) and Jammu (474). He said that more than 300 different diseases are being cured by medicinal plant species of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions. Dr. Ganie addressed that threats of the medicinal plant diversity include high speed winds, abrupt cloud bursts, habitat destruction, unscientific methodologies of collection and extraction, overgrazing and presence of exotic species. IUCN reports regarding conservation status of the medicinal plant species of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh was also interpreted by the speaker. The speaker concluded that conservation steps like mass propagation of species, regular monitoring and protection of natural habitats, awareness programmes that discourage overgrazing and cooperation between forest department, research institutions, government and semi government organizations must be taken to protect the biodiversity from human actions.

The Seminar came to its close with the *Vote of Thanks* presented by **Prof. Nazir Ahmad Wani**, Head, Department of Chemistry in which he paid gratitude to all the concerned quarters for making the event a success.


Principal
Govt Degree College
Uttersoo, Anantnag



Programme Organizers

Prof. N.A. Wani (Head, Department of Chemistry)

Dr. Tariq Bashir (Convener Debates and Seminars)

Dr. Sabzar Ahmad Dar (Head, Department of Zoology)

Prof. Rouoof Habib Ganie (Head, Department of Env. Science)

Dr. Showkat H. Ganie (Head, Department of Botany)

Tariq Bashir
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