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The Department of Environmental Science, Government Degree College Boys Sopore, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, organized an academic programme on 22 May 2026 to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity. The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among students regarding biodiversity conservation, plant taxonomy, and herbarium preparation techniques through both theoretical and practical exposure.

The programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Shaista Qadir, HoD Botany, who warmly welcomed the participants and introduced the theme and significance of biodiversity. In her address, she emphasized the urgent need for biodiversity conservation and highlighted the role of educational institutions in promoting environmental awareness and scientific understanding among students.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Dar, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, who moderated the event and ensured the smooth flow of all sessions.

Following the inaugural session, a lecture on "Understanding Taxonomy" was delivered by Prof. Chesfeda Akhter, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany. During the lecture, she explained the fundamentals of taxonomy, classification of plants, scientific nomenclature, and the importance of taxonomic studies in biodiversity conservation and ecological research. The session provided students with a conceptual understanding of plant identification and classification techniques.

The programme was attended by the students of the Department of Environmental Science under the supervision of Dr. Sana Shafi, HoD Environmental Science. Faculty members from the Department of Botany also participated in the programme and contributed to making the activity interactive and informative.

As part of the awareness programme, a documentary related to herbarium preparation was screened for the students. The documentary demonstrated the various stages involved in herbarium preparation, including plant collection, pressing, drying, mounting, labelling, and preservation of specimens. The screening helped students understand the scientific procedure and importance of maintaining herbarium records for academic and research purposes.

After the documentary session, the students were taken to the botanical garden where they were provided hands-on training in the identification of some common plant species available on the campus. The practical session was conducted by Prof. Chesfeda Akhter, who guided the students regarding important taxonomic characters and methods used for identifying plant species in the field. The activity encouraged active participation and enhanced the practical learning experience of the students.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Humeera Nissa, Faculty, Department of Environmental Science, who expressed gratitude to the Department of Botany, faculty members, and students for their cooperation and participation in making the programme successful and meaningful.



Report Prepared by
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