

PRESS RELEASE

Biodiversity Research Centre and Dept. of Environmental Science, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh in collaboration with Dept. of Wildlife, Kargil and Kargil Forest Division celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity with great enthusiasm and a strong focus on the preservation of local biodiversity in Ladakh. The event, held on 22nd May, 2023 at the Kargil campus, brought together esteemed guests and experts who shared their insights and plans for the conservation and research opportunities in Ladakh. The program was moderated by Dr. Mohd Shabir (Asst. Professor, Botany Department). The program commenced with a momentous Biodiversity Pledge Ceremony, where participants solemnly committed themselves to the preservation and protection of biodiversity.

The highlight of the event was the welcome speech delivered by the Rector of Kargil Campus which set the tone for the event, instilling a sense of responsibility and urgency among all attendees to take concrete actions in preserving Ladakh's rich biodiversity. Her unwavering commitment to the cause serves as a guiding light for the students and faculty, motivating them to actively engage in research, conservation, and advocacy efforts that will shape a brighter and more sustainable future for Ladakh.

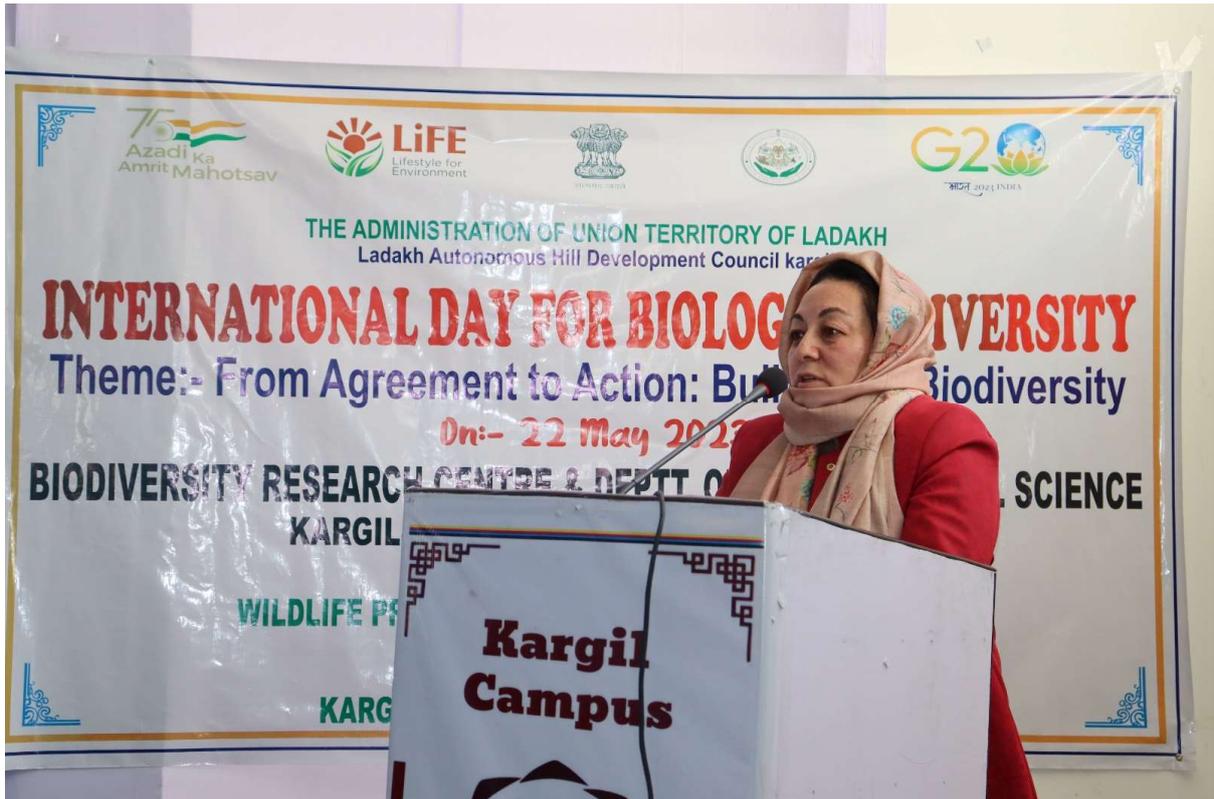
In line with this vision, the Wildlife Warden took the stage to discuss the mission lifestyle and the abundant research opportunities that lie ahead for the students of Kargil Campus. He emphasized the significance of engaging in research activities that would not only expand knowledge but also contribute to the conservation efforts in Ladakh. The students were encouraged to seize these opportunities and work towards a future that embraces the sustainable coexistence of wildlife and human beings.

Maryam Bano and Riyaz Ahmad (2nd semester students of Dept. of Environmental science delivered their speech in context to Ladakh biodiversity and the planet as a whole. Both Maryam and Riyaz highlighted the role of education in empowering individuals to become agents of change. They emphasized the need for comprehensive environmental education that fosters awareness, knowledge, and practical skills to address the environmental issues facing Ladakh and the world at large. The students also expressed their gratitude to the faculty and university for providing them with a platform to deepen their understanding and contribute to environmental conservation efforts.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Kargil enlightened the audience on the preservation of forests in Ladakh and the crucial role of planting trees in enhancing forest biodiversity. He emphasized the need to create awareness and foster a culture of tree planting and afforestation practices in the region. The DFO highlighted the positive impact such initiatives would have on combating climate change and preserving the delicate ecological balance of Ladakh.

An inspiring talk was delivered by the Executive Councillor, who shared his experiences and encouraged the girl students to step forward and lead the charge in biodiversity conservation. He emphasized the importance of gender equality in environmental initiatives and encouraged all students, regardless of gender, to actively participate in preserving the biodiversity of Ladakh.

Dr. Mohd Salim (Coordinator, Biodiversity Research Centre and Dept. of Environmental Science) delivered the formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and acknowledging their unwavering commitment to biodiversity preservation. Dr. Salim emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts and reiterated the responsibility of each individual to protect the natural wonders of Ladakh for future generations and also thanked the Wildlife department for showcasing the sophisticated equipment's used in the field.





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