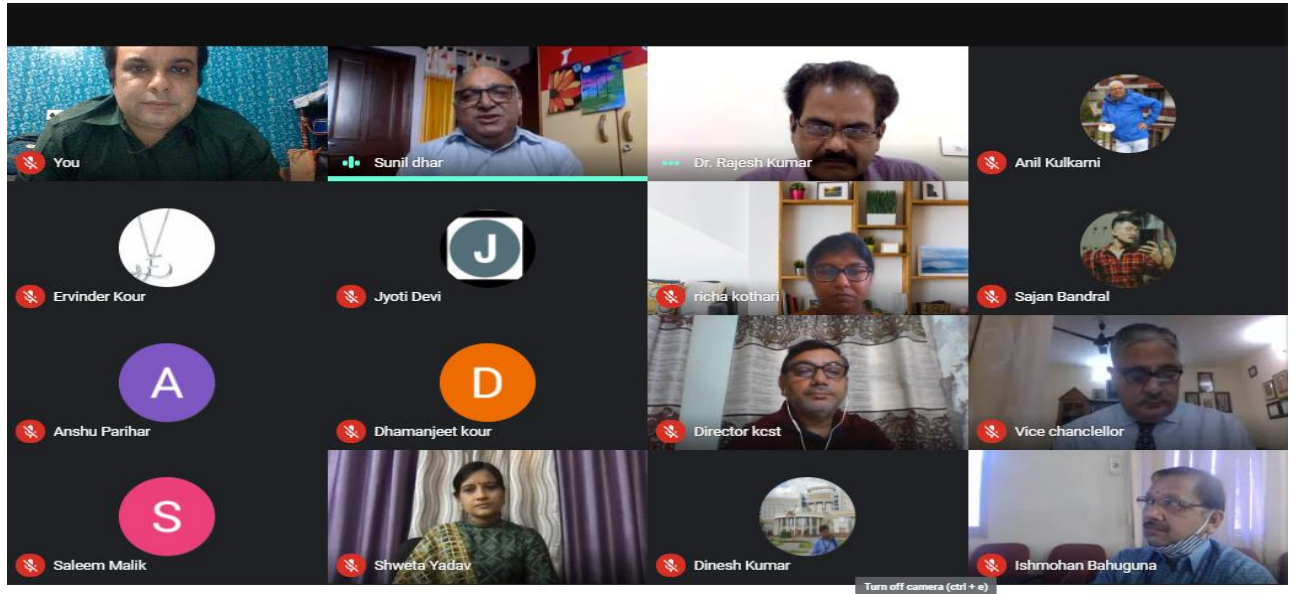


**Dept. of Environmental Sciences, CUJ celebrated 51<sup>st</sup> International Mother Earth Day-2021**

**Jammu 22 April:** The Department of Environmental Sciences celebrated 51<sup>st</sup> International Mother Earth Day on 22 April, 2021 by conducting a webinar on "Himalayan Cryosphere and Climate Change: A Way Forward (HCCC - 2021)". The formal welcome address was given by Prof. Sunil Dhar, HOD, EVS followed by the opening remarks by Prof. B.S.Bhau, Dean, SLS. In his presidential remarks Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ashok Aima emphasized upon the fact that Mother Earth has enough resources for Man's need but not 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. Dr A.V. Kulkarni, Visiting Distinguished Scientist, Divecha Centre of Climate Change, IISC, Bangalore in his keynote speech deliberated upon the key issues pertinent to the theme "*Restore our Earth*". He gave the holistic overview of the Himalayan Cryosphere characteristics and its impact on the Climate of the Indian Himalayan Region. He also suggested ways and methodology by which impending disaster associated with glacial recession can be managed and mitigated. He also deliberated upon the recent outburst of glacial lakes in Uttarakhand. Dr. I. M. Bahuguna, Group Director (RSAG), Space Application Centre (ISRO)-Ahmadabad talked about the role of Space application Centre, ISRO in the monitoring of glaciers and also in identifying different areas which are vulnerable for glacial retreat in HP, Uttarakhand and J&K. Dr S. S. Randhawa, Principal Scientific Officer, SCSTE, Govt. of Himanchal Pradesh, Shimla emphasized upon the scenario of glacier health in the Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh, highlighting the development and formation of Glacial Lake Outburst floods that can inflict damage in the downstream regions of glaciated valleys of Chenab basin in the event of outburst. Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Dean and HOD, Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Rajasthan addressed the major societal issues need to be highlighted for sustainable future. Prof. (Dr) Anil Gupta, Head, Division of Environment Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, NIDM-MHA, New Delhi talked about the role and initiatives of NIDM in developing Climate resilience. The eminent scientists also showed interest in collaborative research with the experts from the Department of EVS, Central University of Jammu on the Glaciers of Jammu region.

*The webinar was moderated by Dr. Pankaj Mehta and Dr. Shweta Yadav. Formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Richa Kothari, Associate Prof., EVS. The efforts of all EVS faculty members including Dr. Anita Singh and Dr. Dinesh Kumar were appreciated for making this webinar a huge success.*



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