

## International Conference on Literary Environmentalism begins at CUJ



21 July, Two-day International Conference on Redrawing the Boundaries Of Ecocritical Discourse: Literary Environmentalism And Plurality Of Voices organised by Department of English, Central University of Jammu in collaboration

with Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, known as ASLE India was inaugurated amidst the presence of noted scholars, academics, environmentalists and students. In the Inaugural address, Prof. Devanand Padha, Dean, School of basic and Applied Sciences lauded the efforts of Department of English said that the theme of conference resonates well with one of our national goals of environmental protection and opens vistas of study in inter-disciplinary areas in consonance with NEP2020. Further Prof. Padha said that Puranas and Upanishads talked about the ecological balance which was disturbed by human greed and such conferences are a suitable platform for exploring our knowledge traditions and their contemporary relevance. In the key note address, Prof. Murali SivaRamakrishnan, Formerly Head, Department of English, Pondicherry University and Founding President, ASLE India redrafted eco-dialogues by integrating certain Indic points of view from Sanskrit and Tamil sources towards an eco-wisdom. Prof. Sivaramakrishnan said that as literary ecologists we must re-discover our ties with nature. Eminent plenary speakers include Prof. Mihai Stroe from Bucearest University, Romania, Prof. Peter Quigley from University of Hawaii, Prof. Usha VT from Pondicherry and others. Approximately 60 papers will be presented in the conference both in virtual and offline mode. Earlier, in his address, Prof. Rasal Singh, Dean, Schools of Languages highlighted the contemporary relevance of the topic and said that need of the hour is to de-colonise our minds and study eco-consciousness from Indian perspective.

In the welcome address , Dr. Vandana Sharma, Head Department of English and conference coordinator said that the conference aims at exploring how literature and literary criticism could be a potent tool for or against environmental change and said that conference provides a stellar platform for deliberations on subverting ecoparochialism which was initiated from western academia and restricts eco-

discourse. Dr. Neena Gupta proposed a formal vote of thanks and research scholars of the department Shivam and Tania conducted the proceedings.