

EJM College, Leh, Organizes Transformative Educational Tour under PM-USHA Scheme

The Departments of Zoology, Botany, and Environmental Science at EJM College, Leh, successfully conducted an eight-day educational tour from October 11 to 18, 2025, under the funding support of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA). The initiative aimed to provide students with hands-on exposure to ecological systems, biodiversity, and environmental management practices across the Himalayan region.

The tour was flagged off by the Principal of EJM College, who underscored the importance of field-based education in nurturing scientific curiosity and analytical skills. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of EJM College reiterated the institution's commitment to promoting experiential learning and research-driven education. "Such initiatives not only enhance academic understanding but also inspire students to contribute meaningfully to conservation and sustainability," Principal remarked. Faculty members from all three departments accompanied the group to ensure effective learning and safety throughout the journey.

During the tour, students visited several ecologically significant locations, including Drass, Srinagar, Mansasbal lake, Dachigam National Park, and Gulmarg wildlife Sanctuary. The itinerary included interactions with academic experts, field-based experiments, and institutional visits, offering an immersive understanding of ecological diversity and environmental challenges.

Highlights of the tour included:

- Limnological studies at Manasbal, Nageen, and Dal Lakes, where students examined aquatic ecosystems and conducted water quality assessments under the guidance of Faculty members.
- Interactions with faculty and scholars from the University of Kashmir, focusing on biodiversity conservation, taxonomy, and sustainable environmental practices.
- A visit to Dachigam National Park, where students learned about the conservation of the endangered Hangul (Kashmir Stag) and observed diverse flora and fauna in their natural habitats.
- Field learning at the Naribal Trout Fish Farm which enriched understanding of aquaculture and ex-situ conservation.
- An exploration of high-altitude ecology in the alpine meadows of Gulmarg, introducing students to studies on vegetation adaptation and the environmental impact of tourism.

The journey culminated in an interactive reflection session at the evening every day, where students shared research insights and field experiences. The tour concluded successfully on October 18 with a collective expression of gratitude to the Principal, faculty members, and the PM-USHA scheme for enabling this impactful academic initiative.

The PM-USHA-funded educational tour stands as a milestone in EJM College's mission to blend classroom knowledge with field application, empowering students as future stewards of the environment.

