

The World Environment Day was celebrated at ICMR-NIREH, Bhopal on 5th June 2017. On this occasion, the institute organized two invited Scientific Lectures and an Essay Competition. The guest speakers for the scientific lectures were Prof. Ramya Sunder Raman from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal and Prof. Rajnish Joshi from Medicine Department, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal. At the outset, the Director of the institute Dr. R. R. Tiwari, in his welcome address, explained the need to address the prevailing environmental health concerns and emphasized upon a participatory and proactive approach. He mentioned that the environmental literacy which encompasses not only the knowledge but also the changed attitude, skills and habits about environment and environmental hazards, need to be improved among citizens. He also stressed that conservation of nature requires multi-pronged approach. Prof. Ramya Sunder Raman, in her talk titled “Tiny particles and their influence on the Earth System”, discussed the challenges posed by the growing concentration of aerosols in the atmosphere and their impact on the earth system. She highlighted the deleterious effects of aerosols on visibility, climate and human health. Dr. Rajnish Joshi spoke on “Changing built environment for healthy life style.” He explained the co-relation between various aspects of built environment and the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. He emphasized upon the need for a shift in environmental health policy from assessment to intervention. Seconding the views expressed by Dr. Tiwari, he emphasized the importance of behavioral change amongst the public at large in addressing the key environmental issues.

On the occasion of World Environmental Day 2017 the institute had organized an Essay Competition for students on the theme “For the Sake of our Future, Nurture Mother Nature.” The winners – Mr. Shubham Tiwari, IISER, Bhopal (First Prize), Ms. Tanisha Kasliwal, DAVV, Indore (Second Prize), and Mr. Vivian Lobo, ICMR-NIRRH, Mumbai (Third Prize) were awarded with their respective prizes.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anil Prakash, Scientist–G, ICMR- NIREH. Bhopal, who expressed gratitude towards the guest speakers and acknowledged the efforts of the organizing team of NIREH. The members of the NIREH family then proceeded to the Bhauri campus of the institute and planted trees.