

PROGRAM REPORT

On 15th November 2019 Department of Geology, University of Calicut had been conducted a lecture on “**Kerala flood 2018: Trump of Human Spirit**” in connection with the Frontier Lecture Series programme by the Department of Geology, University of Calicut.

The recent calamity that struck Kerala has shown how important it is to have good neighbours or how important it is to have good relationship with people next door. Over the years, through a combination of factors, Kerala had emerged as a model state, ensuring certain levels of prosperity, social well-being and equality. Kerala experienced the heaviest rainfall since 1924 in August 2018, leaving millions stranded. A large number of families were forced to take shelter in relief camps, and a red alert was issued in 11 districts. With over 450 deaths being reported, people were marooned without water, food and other basic necessities.

The program was inaugurated by the Hon.Vice-chancellor Dr.K.Mohammed Basheer and in his inaugural address he was pointed out the role of Several individuals, startups, and NGOs came forward and began multiple initiatives to collect relief material to help those affected by the floods. Welcome address given by Dr. Adarsh P, Head of the Department, Dept.of Geology, University of Calicut. Hon. Pro-vice chancellor, University of Calicut Dr.P.Mohan, was presided over the function and he made an introductory speech about the program. Felicitations are given by Dr.C.L.Joshy, Registrar,University of Calicut, Dr.M.Manoharan, Director,IQAC, University of Calicut and Dr.C.C.Harilal, head of the department, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calicut.

The frontier Lecture had given by Dr.Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose,Member secretary- Kerala State Disaster Management Authority & Head(Scientist)-State Emergency Operation Centre. He presented a talk on “Kerala flood 2018 Trump of Human Spirit”. From his talk he pointed out the inspiring tales of heroes who battled all odds to help the people. The Indian defence forces led the rescue operations, and during one such operation, Captain P Rajkumar, a Naval pilot of B42 chopper, maneuvered a helicopter and landed on a rooftop to rescue 26 people. Under ‘Operation Sahyog’, the Indian Army's Engineer Task Force built a 40-foot bridge in Malappuram district. About 55 NGOs from Coimbatore came together to form an initiative ‘C4TN’ and collected relief material worth Rs 90,000.

He recollected his experiences with the fisherman families, those who helped the affected people with boats and other materials. He concluded his speech by saying these words ‘ You don’t need any qualification to extend a helping hand to those in need. You only need a heart that feels for another fellow being in need. There is much discussion as to why such destruction visited a people, who are so well endowed and favored. There are tales of awful happenings, unique deeds of sacrifice and bravery, human capacity to endure hardships for a noble end’.

The program was concluded with the discussion over the clarifications from audience. The program is organized as a part frontier lecture series by the Department of Geology, University of Calicut.





