

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SHYAM LAL COLLEGE

Programme organized by the Department of History (2018-2019)

ACADEMIC YEAR (2018-2019)

Lecture by Dr. Mayank Kumar on the topic, “The Relation between Environment and History”, 30 August, 2018

The Department of History, SLC organized a lecture on the environmental history at an interaction with scholars at SLC, on 30 April, 2018. Dr. Mayank Kumar, Assistant Professor, Satyawati College and a specialist in environmental history gave a lecture on the topic: “The Relation between Environment and History”. The Teacher-In-Charge, Dr. Priyanka Thakur and the Principal and the Head of the Institution, Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar welcomed the guest speaker and the gathering. In his lecture, Dr. Mayank Kumar explained to the students the importance of environmental history as an inter-disciplinary subject and elucidated the complex interaction between environment and society. There were 140 participants who attended the lecture. He provided an interesting account of progressive desiccation of the Thar region of Rajasthan especially from early medieval period which called for epithet that “Man is the Father of desert”. He held that this process of desertification was not an outcome of large-scale atmospheric phenomenon or the changes in weather pattern but can be associated with use of water resources by local communities in medieval Rajasthan. He underlined that while traditional societies mostly practiced methods aimed at prudent use of water resources there have been instances of exploitation by traditional societies in Rajasthan. He cautioned that the magnitude of natural resources did not multiply with industrial revolution. Dr. Mayank further, cited the extinction of Cheetah in India to the historical procedure and not as direct procedure as it was for other big games. In his lecture Dr. Mayank Kumar frequently cited some important local literary sources and folk songs to justify his arguments. At the end of the lecture, vote of thanks was delivered by the Teacher-In-Charge, Dr. Priyanka Thakur.