

2-day international conference on ‘Indigenous People’ concludes at KU

Srinagar, Aug 11: A two-day international conference titled ‘Indigenous Peoples: Challenges of Validation and Inclusion’ concluded at the University of Kashmir.

The online conference was organised by Kaash Foundation, a Mumbai-based NGO, in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, Jiwaji University Gwalior, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Devagiri Kerala and S.S.L.N. Government Penchvalley P.G. College, Parasia, Madhya Pradesh.

Faculty, scholars and students from seven countries participated in the conference, which was organised to commemorate the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People.

Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Dean Research, University of Kashmir, was the Chief Guest in the inaugural session, while Prof Shabir Ahmad Bhat, former Dean Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, also represented the varsity and spoke in the inaugural session.

In his inaugural address, Prof Romshoo highlighted the importance of cultural heritage of the indigenous people in the overall global landscape and the need for its protection and preservation.

He said the conference sought to highlight the challenges faced by indigenous people as they try to find a place for themselves in the dominant society while retaining their values, traditions and the unique way of life.

Prof Romshoo said the University of Kashmir has always been at the forefront to collaborate with other institutions on the issues of local, national and international importance.

In his address, Prof Shabir Ahmad Bhat highlighted the need for people to know their roots and their past and ponder upon the rights of the indigenous people. He stressed on the need to connect with government agencies to protect the rights of indigenous people and hoped that widespread awareness would help change their destiny.

Apart from keynote and plenary sessions, technical sessions were held wherein more than 80 participants, including a dozen research scholars from the University of Kashmir, presented their research papers on the different aspects of the lives of indigenous people.

Lippika Podar, Team Member, KAASH Foundation formally welcomed the guests while Dr Avkash Jadhav Director CAPD and Founder-Trustee, KAASH Foundation gave a brief about KAASH Foundation and the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.

Prof Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh, Department of Linguistics KU was among the Associate Coordinators of the event.