

KU organizes Mother Tongue Day

Srinagar Feb 20: The University of Kashmir through its Department of Kashmiri celebrated the *Matr Bhasha Divas* (Mother Tongue Day) to highlight the importance of mother tongue in the context of overall regional socio-cultural development, national narrative and international relevance. On the occasion, the contribution of the University of Kashmir to Kashmiri language and literature, mainly through the faculty and researchers of the Kashmiri Department, in terms of books, manuscripts and special volumes was showcased. The Registrar, KU, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir and Coordinator RUSA, Dr. Manzoor A Shah while visiting the exhibition stall applauded the exceptionally rich and intellectually stimulating literary contributions of the past and present researchers at the Kashmiri Department.

Speaking on the occasion Registrar, Dr. Nisar, emphasized the importance of language, in general, and Kashmiri, in particular, in an ethnographic context. He said that in the overall influence of various cultural and sociological parameters on the recognition of regions and nations, language has a pivotal role, which should be fully realized so far the Kashmiri language is concerned. He assured full administrative support for the development of Kashmiri language at all possible levels.

Dr. Manzoor Shah, while recalling the special appreciation that latest NAAC peer team had about the contribution of Kashmiri Department, appreciated the Department for organizing the *Matr Bhasha Day* at a short notice. In the context of latest scientific research substantiating the role of mother tongue in proper intellectual development of kids, Dr. Shah called for attention of parents, teachers and other sections of the society to preserve Kashmiri language with its all cultural richness, literary depth and spiritual appeal.

Prof. Majrooh Rashid, Ex-Head of the Kashmiri Department, welcomed the guests and illuminated the other dimensions of culture and heritage, besides language for a balanced society. Giving a global perspective of distinguished literary contributions and critiques, he contextualized the efforts made locally for improvement of Kashmiri language.

Dr. Altaf Hussain, Assistant Professor of the Kashmiri Department, conducted the proceedings and spoke on the relevance of the *Matr Bhasha Divas* celebrations. The event was organized in the context of MHRD directive to all RUSA funded institutions under the ESBS paradigm and was attended by students, research scholars, faculty and others.