

Visiting NAAC team lauds KU for 'maintaining research standards'

SYED RIZWAN GEELANI

Srinagar, May 4: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council's (NAAC) three-day visit to Kashmir University (KU) concluded on Saturday with the central body lauding the varsity for "maintaining research standards" and appreciating the administration for its "performance".

The team assessed the varsity for renewal of its NAAC accreditation that had expired in 2016 and rank it according to its achievements in academics, infrastructure and other parameters such as research and exchange programs.

Before concluding the inspection, the NAAC team convened a joint meeting with KU officials and teaching and non-teaching staff.

An official who was present in the meeting said the visiting team was "appreciative about overall



working" of the university.

"They termed the research as high end and also appreciated the administration, outreach and teaching staff saying all were supportive to each other," the official said.

The team has also complimented the varsity for its better IT services and positive feedback from students.

"The only limitation pointed out

by NAAC team was dearth of funds. But they assured that the varsity will get more funds and support from multiple funding agencies," the official said.

The team also held interactions with KU alumnus and retired vice chancellors and sought their feedback about functioning of the University.

During their interactions with the team, University Professors have sought additional grants from UGC to construct additional hostel blocks for the students.

"It was discussed in the meeting that KU has around 5000 students enrolled in the university but only 1000 students including 700 girls are accommodated in hostels. Government of India should give us some special grants to expand the hostel accommodation," the university faculty members told the NAAC team.

The team was briefed about functioning of the examination department and it was suggested that UGC should provide special grants to establish mini-examination blocks in all satellite campuses of the University.

An official said the NAAC team is expected to include the recommendations, put forth by the faculty members, in its report and submit it to the UGC and MHRD.

NAAC is an organization that assesses and accredits higher education institutions in India. An institution accredited by NAAC signifies that it has met certain standards of excellence across its operations.

The NAAC accreditation makes educational institution eligible to grants from government of India apart from benefits for students as well. During the last inspection in 2012, the KU was given 'A' rank by NAAC.