

## **'Energy Efficient Economy': Green construction, resilient infra essential for Kashmir's environ'al challenges: KU VC**

*Varsity organises seminar on smart structures, sustainable energy solutions*



**Srinagar, Oct 10:** To address the need for aligning academic efforts with societal and environmental requirements while focusing on smart structures, energy optimisation and sustainable infrastructure, the University of Kashmir organised a seminar here.

The day-long event titled 'Smart Structures: Energy Efficient Economy – JK 2024' was organised by the Institute of Technology, KU, in collaboration with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and the North Campus, University of Kashmir.

On the occasion, KU Vice Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan emphasised the urgent need to transition towards sustainable energy solutions, especially given Kashmir's vulnerability to earthquakes due to its seismic zone location.

"It is crucial for the university to understand the needs of our society and environment and implement the recommendations of this workshop in letter and spirit," she said, calling for a swift adoption of green construction practices.

Dean, Academic Affairs, KU, Prof Shariefudin Pirzada, asserted that it is both timely and essential to promote innovation in construction practices.

"The construction industry must shift from traditional methods and embrace newer, smarter designs that consider local climate and energy efficiency," he stated.

Dean, Academic Affairs, NIT Srinagar, Dr M Shafi Mir, raised awareness about the fact that people spend around 90% of their lives in structures that are neither sustainable nor smart.

"We need to construct buildings that prioritise environmental considerations and renewable resources, alongside encouraging a culture of recycling materials," he urged.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, underscored the role of academic institutions in advocating for sustainable living.

"The recommendations from this seminar should be communicated to the government, and all new structures on our campus must adhere to the principles discussed here," he added.

Dean, School of Engineering, KU, Dr Syed Muzaffar Ali Andrabi, highlighted the importance of designing homes that are suitable for Kashmir's unique climatic conditions.

"Constructing buildings without considering local environments often leads to unnecessary resource wastage," he noted, adding that these design choices could have long-term impacts on energy use.

Director, North Campus, KU, Dr Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, pointed out the safety concerns of existing structures.

"There is a pressing need for a new generation of builders who can construct smart, self-sufficient buildings that can withstand natural disasters while also being energy-efficient," he said.

Director, Institute of Technology, KU, Prof M Tariq Banday, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to providing cutting-edge education in line with modern demands.

"KU has launched new courses, including a programme in Artificial Intelligence, as part of our efforts to equip students with the best resources and education," he informed.

The seminar concluded with discussions on strategies to promote smart and sustainable building solutions in the region.