

Climate change collective concern; need public awareness at grassroots for safer tomorrow: KU VC

Inaugurates 3-week capacity building prog in Glaciology to combat climate change



Srinagar, September 2: To equip participants with advanced knowledge and skills in Glaciology, focussing on addressing the critical challenges posed by climate change, the University of Kashmir (KU), under its Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Glacial Studies

in the Western Himalaya, inaugurated its second capacity building programme in Glaciology here Monday.

The three-week event is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI).

In her inaugural address, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, stressed the urgency of addressing climate change and contributing to preserve and protect natural resources.

“Climate change is a collective concern and needs to be highlighted through public awareness at the grassroots level for a safer tomorrow. We must remain vigilant as academicians, researchers and students, contributing in every way possible to preserve and protect our natural resources,” she reiterated.

Speaking on the objectives of the programme, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and Coordinator of the programme, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, underscored the importance of generating human resources in Glaciology and developing expertise in the field.

“The cryosphere is vital for sustaining food, energy and water security at the national level. Climate change is impacting every aspect of human life and the environment, making it imperative to develop expertise in this field,” Prof Romshoo said.

In his address, KU Dean Research, Prof M Sultan Bhat, highlighted the contributions of the CoE for Glacial Studies, stating: “Over the past few decades, we have observed drastic changes in glaciers due to erratic climatic patterns. It is crucial to organise capacity-building programmes like this to effectively monitor these vital natural resources.”

Appreciating KU for the initiative, Scientist at the Climate, Energy and Sustainable Technology Division, DST, GoI, Dr Swati Jain, said: “The hydrological importance of the Himalayan glaciers cannot be overstated. I am confident that participants will greatly benefit from both the theoretical and practical training provided during this three-week programme.”

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), Dr Sara Qazi, delivered the welcome address, while as CO-PI at the CoE for Glacial Studies, Dr Reyaz Ahmad Dar, proposed the formal vote of thanks.

More than 20 delegates from various universities and institutions across the country are participating in the programme, who will engage in lectures, project work and hands-on training over the next three weeks.