

KU's South Campus hosts national conference on Kashmir's cultural heritage



Srinagar, Dec 14: To highlight the significance of preserving Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, the Department of English, South Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day national conference titled "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Kashmir: Preservation, Healing, and Reconciliation".

The event was organised in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.

The conference brought together scholars, academics, and students from across the country to delve into various aspects of Kashmir's intangible heritage, with over 30 research papers presented during the event.

Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan who joined the conference in virtual mode while delivering her presidential address, appreciated the efforts of the Department of English in highlighting the relevance of intangible cultural heritage.

"Preserving cultural heritage is essential to our identity and history. Initiatives like this are crucial for raising awareness and creating a sense of pride among our youth," she said.

She also suggested the creation of a cultural corner at South Campus to document and promote Kashmiri heritage.

During the inaugural ceremony, that was attended by M. Saleem Beg, Head, INTACH, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, historian and critic, Prof. Himanshu Roy, Center for

Political Studies, JNU, speakers threw light on the theme of the conference and underscored the need to create awareness about the intangible heritage of Kashmir. Head of INTACH, M. Saleem Beg, emphasized the interconnectedness of tangible and intangible heritage.

"I commend the department for taking the lead in organizing a conference on this important theme," he said.

In his keynote address, historian and critic, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, underlined the importance of safeguarding Kashmir's intangible heritage.

"We must document and preserve our rich traditions to ensure they are not lost to time," he remarked.

Director South Campus KU, Prof. Raies Ahmad Qadri, urged for greater awareness and documentation of heritage.

"Recording and revisiting our cultural practices is vital to preserving them for future generations," he said.

Prof. M.H. Zaffar revisited classic Kashmiri texts and encouraged participants to explore their depth. Dr. Reyaz A. Qureshi, Head, Dept. of Tourism, Management, and Leisure Studies KU, emphasized the importance of thorough research, while Dr. Maroof Shah highlighted the values of giving and caring embedded in Kashmiri culture.

The convener and organizing secretary of the event, Dr. Javaid Iqbal Bhat, senior faculty at Department of English South Campus KU thanked the university authorities, faculty, and students for their unwavering support in making the event a success.

The conference concluded with lively discussions, highlighting the importance of preserving Kashmir's intangible heritage.