

‘Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism’:

Dialogue vital for greater cultural, spiritual unity: KU VC

Varsity hosts 68th session of Akhila Bhartiya Darshan Parishad (All India Philosophy Association)



Srinagar, June 10: To provide a platform for rich exchanges and new perspectives on Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism, the University of Kashmir (KU), is hosting the 68th Session of the Akhila Bhartiya Darshan Parishad (ABDP) or All India Philosophy Association, engaging eminent scholars and philosophy enthusiasts from across the nation in philosophical discourse.

Titled, ‘Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism’, the three-day national conference, inaugurated Monday, is being organised by KU’s Department of Sanskrit and is expected to provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich philosophical traditions contributing significantly to the cultural and spiritual unity of the region.

KU Vice Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan, emphasised the importance of the dialogue between Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism.

“The dialogue between Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism is not just academic but a vital conversation that leads to greater cultural and spiritual unity,” Prof Khan said, adding

it bridges communities and encourages a deeper understanding of our shared heritage particularly the concept of 'Kashmiriyat'.

In his keynote, Prof E R Mathwale, Department of Philosophy, Pune University, highlighting the contemporary relevance of these traditions, said that Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism offer profound insights into the nature of existence and spirituality.

"These insights are crucial to navigate the complexities of today's world and find a deeper sense of meaning and purpose," he added.

Highlighting the association's mission, President ABDP, Prof Jata Shankar, underscored its role and contributions in promoting philosophical discourse that bridges ancient wisdom with modern understanding.

"ABDP is dedicated to encourage philosophical dialogue that enriches our comprehension of cultural heritage and a more nuanced appreciation of our philosophical roots," he added.

Emphasising the significance of the session, Coordinator ABDP Prof Ajay Ghosh, termed the 68th session "milestone in our journey".

"Dialogues on Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism are a necessity, particularly in contemporary times where such wisdom can guide us through societal and personal challenges," he reiterated.

KU Registrar Prof Naseer Iqbal, said that such gatherings are essential for encouraging and appreciating an environment of learning and mutual respect among different philosophical traditions.

"They highlight the importance of intellectual exchange in encouraging cultural unity and understanding," Prof Naseer Iqbal said.

Head, Department of Sanskrit, Dr Meraj Ahmad, described the conference as a beacon of knowledge that unites diverse philosophical traditions under one roof.

"It encourages an environment of scholarly collaboration and intellectual growth," he maintained.

The event witnessed the release of the latest edition of a book titled, 'Darshanik Patrika' featuring recent advancements and research in the field of philosophy.

To acknowledging the contributions of young scholars, a prize distribution ceremony was also held, hosted by General Secretary ABDP Prof J S Dubey.

Research Scholars, Jyoti Sharma and Parveen Kumar, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session while Dr K C Sharma, Faculty, Department of Sanskrit proposed the formal vote of thanks.