

'World Drug Day-2024':

Role of youth crucial in combating drug menace: KU VC

'Collective responsibility to sensitise masses about dangers of drug abuse'



Srinagar, June 27: To raise awareness about the dangers of drug addiction and promote a drug-free lifestyle among the youth, the Kashmir University Youth Division (KUYD), Department of Students Welfare, University of Kashmir (KU), Wednesday, organised a mega youth convention to observe the 'World Drug Day-2024' at the Youth Club Open Air Theatre here.

Youth, especially scholars and students from various university departments, participated in the convention featuring a series of activities, including discussions, speeches, a poster presentation and an open-air musical concert focusing on the theme of drug addiction.

Addressing the convention, KU Vice Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan, highlighted the crucial role of youth in combating the drug menace and said that the youth are the main focus when it comes to addressing the drug menace.

"University is a place where talent is honed and we also have the responsibility to sensitise the masses about the dangers of drug abuse. Today's function is an encouraging step by the youth for the youth," Prof Khan said, adding that we all need to work together to make our society drug-free and that recreational activities, music, fine arts and theatre play a very important role in de-stressing the students.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, who also addressed the convention, emphasised the moral and institutional responsibility to spread awareness about drug addiction.

“Our youth have the power to lead this change and we are here to support them every step of the way,” he said, adding that drug addiction is a growing menace we must combat together.

Earlier, Dean Students Welfare, Prof Shamim Ahmad, in his welcome address, said that education and awareness are key to fighting this battle.

“By engaging in such initiatives, we can empower our students to make informed choices and lead healthier lives. The commitment of our youth to this cause is commendable. Together, we can create a supportive environment that helps prevent drug abuse and encourages positive development,” he added.

A rally, flagged off by KU Registrar Prof Naseer Iqbal, was also organised within the campus, attracting students who actively participated, chanting slogans and advocating for a drug-free society.

Cultural Officer, Shahid Ali Khan, conducted the proceedings of the event and also proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Every year, World Drug Day is observed on June 26 to educate people about the harmful impact of drug abuse and encouraging individuals across the world to participate in the efforts to prevent drug addiction and combat illicit drug trade.