

'Design Your Degree (DYD)':

Integrating modern tools, flexible curriculum models offer new possibilities: KU VC

'Exchange of ideas, experiences, expertise strengthens regional academic collaboration'



Srinagar, Nov 15: To broaden students' understanding of flexible curriculum models and innovative educational practices, the University of Kashmir (KU) is organising tours and exchange programmes for students and faculty of its innovative 'Design Your Degree (DYD)' programme.

In this backdrop, KU recently organised a visit to the University of Jammu (JU), showcasing the varsity's version of the DYD programme and provided an ideal platform for cross-institutional learning, encouraging a valuable exchange of knowledge and ideas while highlighting the rich multiculturalism of the region.

In her message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, underscored the importance of such academic and cultural exchanges, emphasising their role in broadening students' perspectives and helping achieve parity in academic pursuits.

“Observing how their counterparts from the other institutions integrate modern tools and flexible curriculum models, alongside their multicultural diversity, will inspire our students to envision new possibilities within their education and cultural journeys,” Prof Khan said.

She further emphasised the significance of educational exchanges in enhancing understanding and respect for the distinct contributions both KU and JU bring to regional higher education, a statement issued here read.

During the visit, KU students engaged in an interactive session with JU Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, alongside mentors and students of the DYD programme at JU.

The sessions delved into curriculum structures, teaching methodologies and hands-on learning experiences, allowing students gain practical insights into the of the respective institutions' approach.

The DYD's emphasis on foundational courses in the initial years followed by flexible major choices provides students with both structure and autonomy in shaping their educational paths.

The students also observed JU's learning tools, including 3D printers and participated in specialised workshops on Python Programming, Artificial Intelligence and Data Management.

The programme further included sessions on the role of IT in daily life, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity and mathematical modelling.

Additionally, an interactive communication skills workshop equipped students with valuable interpersonal skills, essential for intercultural exchange and professional growth.

KU's DYD Coordinator, Prof Syeda Afshana, expressed satisfaction with the visit, affirming the importance of cross-institutional collaboration in promoting a holistic learning environment.

"The students gained first-hand insights into the DYD's rigorous programme structure and this experience will undoubtedly enrich the region's DYD initiative," she said.

KU is making efforts to maintain a robust and flexible learning ecosystem that nurtures students within a multicultural academic landscape.

More such tours and exchange programmes for the students and faculty are in the pipeline poised to deepen the academic and cultural exchange between KU and other institutions offering the DYD programme, the statement added.