

Echoes of Peace: KU seminar revives relevance of Sufi- Reshi traditions in contemporary times



Srinagar, September 20: The Institute of Kashmir Studies (IKS), University of Kashmir (KU), hosted a two-day national seminar on “Reshi and Sufi Tradition in Kashmir: A Historical and Philosophical Perspective”, bringing together leading scholars from across the country to reflect on Kashmir’s profound spiritual and cultural legacy.

The event was sponsored by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi.

Designed to explore the historical, philosophical, and sociological dimensions of Reshi and Sufi traditions, the seminar sought to reaffirm their enduring contribution to Kashmir’s composite culture, interfaith harmony, and values of peaceful coexistence—ideals that resonate with particular urgency in today’s fractured world.

Addressing the valedictory session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, described the seminar as both timely and deeply meaningful.

“The teachings of Reshi and Sufi saints remain profoundly relevant in contemporary times, offering lessons of tolerance, compassion, and peace,” she said. “It is the responsibility of academic institutions to preserve this heritage and pass it on to future generations.”

Director IKS, KU, Prof. Aaliya Ahmed, stressed that academic forums like this serve as vital bridges between past traditions and present-day discourses. “By revisiting the

wisdom of Reshi and Sufi saints, we strengthen the spirit of mutual respect and coexistence that is essential for our times," she remarked.

Providing a comprehensive report of the two-day proceedings, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Wani, faculty at IKS and coordinator of the seminar, highlighted deliberations on the evolution of saints and shrines in Kashmir, the philosophical essence of Sufi thought, and the sociological significance of Reshi traditions in nurturing Kashmir's centuries-old syncretic ethos.

The technical sessions featured illuminating keynote addresses by Dr. Meenakshi Joshi Shastri, Department of Sanskrit, University of Allahabad, and Prof. Ram Nath Jha, School of Sanskrit & Indic Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The valedictory session was conducted by Dr. Humaira Showkat, faculty at IKS, KU, while the formal vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Hashmat Habib, faculty at IKS, KU.