

## KU VC urges active involvement of students in pro-environment campaigns

*Leads plantation drive on campus, calls for collaborative efforts to address environmental challenges*



**Srinagar, Mar 10:** Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad Wednesday urged students to be at the forefront of environment protection campaigns for better outcomes and greater impact on the ground.

Addressing as chief guest a plantation drive in the lawns of the varsity's famed Zabarwan Guest House, Prof Talat said that academic institutions must help build partnerships and strategies and contribute to boosting environment protection efforts at the local, national and international levels.

He said the active involvement of students in pro-environment initiatives can go a long way in meeting the desired goals and addressing pressing environmental challenges including air pollution, global warming, climate change and biodiversity loss.

"Our KU campus is green and while we are working towards making it greener, our endeavour is also to make all our satellite campuses green by going for more and more plantation there," he said

The day-long plantation drive was organised by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with the J&K Forest Department and the varsity's Landscape Division.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K Dr Mohit Gera, who was a guest of honour, said his department is working seriously to increase the green cover of the J&K UT.

“We want all our stakeholders to help us realise this goal. It is our desire to not only plant conifer tree saplings, but saplings of traditional and heritage trees as well. Our target was to plant one crore trees across the UT and we are close to achieving it,” he said, congratulating Kashmir University for organising the plantation drive.

KU Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir said the university is taking the plantation drive to its off-site campuses at Anantnag, Baramulla and Kupwara as well as to the Zakura Campus.

Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir Syed Farooq Geelani said academic institutions have a huge role to play in helping the Forest Department to increase the green cover across the J&K UT.

“We want all our academic and public institutions to be green and for this we are ready to support their initiatives and also provide technical guidance,” he said.

Dean Students Welfare Prof Raies A Qadri underlined the aims and objectives of the plantation drive, which, apart from students, was attended by Director Landscape Division KU Prof Zahoor Ahmad Kaloo, Dr Anzar Ahmad Khuroo, Assistant Professor Botany Department, Cultural Officer Shahid Ali Khan, Manager Guest House Riyaz Patloo, and officials from the Chief Proctor’s office.

# KU celebrates World Environment Day

*Students, youth have to be active partners in environment protection initiatives: Prof Talat*

**Srinagar, June 5:** The University of Kashmir on Saturday organised an online seminar to mark the World Environment Day.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad inaugurated the seminar titled 'Conserving and Restoring Ecosystems', organised by the varsity's Department of Environmental Studies.

In his presidential address, Prof Talat said the Himalayan region is facing multiple challenges on the environment protection front and everyone will have to join hands to ensure that all pro-environment campaigns and initiatives yield better results on the ground.

Prof Talat referred to several pressing environmental challenges including climate change and global warming, asserting that community-level engagement is important to raise awareness on how the adverse fallout of such environmental changes can be minimised locally.

He said students and youth will have to be active partners in environment protection and lead all environment campaigns from the front.

Prof A R Yusuf, former Dean Academic Affairs at KU, talked about ecosystem restoration and highlighted the issues and problems that Jammu and Kashmir is facing vis-à-vis conserving and managing ecosystems.

Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai gave a historical perspective of the World Environment Day and highlighted the role of science in restoring ecosystems.

Prof G A Bhat talked about the loopholes in the policy-making vis-à-vis restoration of the environment while Prof Azra Nahid Kamili talked about the ecosystem restoration which, she said, is the main theme of World Environment Day-2021.

In his welcome address, Prof Fayaz Ahmad, Seminar Director and Head, Department of Environmental Science referred to human- animal conflict as a result of ecosystem destruction.

Dr Samiullah Bhat, senior assistant professor presented a brief about the achievements and functioning of the Department of Environmental Science and Dr Mohammad Muslim, Coordinator webinar conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session and also presented a vote of thanks.

Dr S Satya Kumar, Scientist-G & Senior Professor, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, presented a paper on 'Ecosystems of the Himalaya: Conservation and Restoration' while Dr Rajan Kumar Kotru, former senior Natural Resource Governance & Policy Specialist ICIMOD, Kathmandu Nepal presented his lecture on "Design and Delivery of Eco-Restoration Through Landscape Approach".

Archana Chatterjee, National Coordinator IUCN, India, presented a paper on "Ecosystem Restoration with Special Focus on Mountain Ecosystems" while Dr Purnamita Dasgupta, Theme Leader, Ecosystem Services ICIMOD, Kathmandu Nepal, delivered a talk on "Ecosystem Restoration: The Potential for Valuing Ecosystem Services in the Himalayas".

Dr Aasimah Tanveer, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science presented a vote of thanks after the technical session, while Dr. Aftab Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Professor GDC Beerwah also spoke on the occasion. The technical session was moderated by Dr Arshid Jehangir, Senior Assistant Professor and Organizing Secretary.

At least 225 participants had registered for the seminar including faculty members, research scholars and students from various educational institutes from within and outside Kashmir.





# 3-day national conference on 'global environmental challenges' begins at KU

*VCs, academics, scientists, J&K UT officer share dais at inaugural session*



**Srinagar, June 5:** A three-day national conference on 'Changing Course in Global Environment: Challenges and Solutions' started at the University of Kashmir on Monday, with Vice-Chancellors of several universities in J&K and academics from reputed institutions in the country in attendance for the inaugural and technical deliberations.

KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan chaired the opening session of the conference, organised by the varsity's Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Zoological Society of India (ZSI), to mark the World Environment Day and 34th All India Congress of Zoology. Vice-Chancellor, Jammu University, Prof Umesh Rai; Vice-Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof Bechan Lal; President ZSI, Prof B N Panday; Immediate Past President, ISCA, Prof Vijay Lakshmi Saxena; Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department, J&K, Mr Saurabh Bhagat, IAS; Registrar KU, Dr Nisar A Mir; General Secretary ZSI Prof Kamal Jaiswal, and Head, Department of Environmental Science KU and Convener of the Conference Prof Fayaz Ahmad, shared the dais at the inaugural session.

In her presidential address, Prof Nilofer urged young students to be in the driver's seat in the global fight for environment protection and help promote "environment consciousness" in the society.

Prof Nilofer said Universities across J&K can further collaborate to find innovative solutions to new environmental challenges in the region. She congratulated the organisers for holding the important collaborative event.

In his special address, Prof B N Panday urged young students to understand the origin of the environment and help stop what he called the "ecocide which is threatening plant and animal life on planet Earth."

Prof Umesh Rai called for dismantling the boundaries of academic disciplines in J&K universities to address the "new environmental challenges in a trans-disciplinary manner", while Prof Bechan Lal said that young students need to shoulder the responsibility of environment protection, saying there are fears that 40% of food supply will get curtailed due to global warming and climate change in next 40 years.

Mr Saurabh Bhagat, IAS, said the J&K's Science and Technology Department has earmarked Rs five crore for research and development (R&D) on waste-to-energy research and solutions and urged the students and faculty from universities to come up with project proposals in this regard and "share their knowledge and research with the government for policy-making."

Prof Vijay Lakashmi said sustainable development is possible only with "harmonisation of societies with the environment".

Dr Nisar A Mir delivered the introductory remarks and highlighted the pro-environment initiatives taken by the University, while Prof Fayaz Ahmad in his welcome address said delegates from 20 institutions in the country are participating in the conference. Prof Kamal Jaiswal spelt out the programme schedule for technical deliberations.

The ZSI also honoured scientists from different parts of the country with felicitation medals for their outstanding contributions in research and academics.

Dr Mohammad Muslim conducted proceedings of the inaugural session, while Dr Arshid Jehangir delivered the vote of thanks.

## 'Greener Campuses': KU's Landscape Division kick-starts plantation drive



**Srinagar, Mar 30:** Kashmir University Landscape Division (ULD) on Wednesday kick-started a plantation drive as part of its sustained initiative to make the varsity's main and satellite campuses greener.

Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir inaugurated the plantation drive in the University Nursery by planting a seedling.

Addressing officials on the occasion, Dr Mir said the university administration, under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, is fully conscious of the need for augmenting the green spaces across the campuses, particularly the maintenance of Chinar Heritage Park at Naseem Bagh.

"The University Nursery will be upgraded with diversified plant material for its propagation and distribution of seedlings in the society at large," he said.

The Kashmir University campus, known for its landscape beauty, harbours a rich diversity of floral wealth including heritage Chinar and deodar trees.

In an era of climate change, the KU is taking a lead in creating an environment-friendly and sustainable landscape across its campuses since the green infrastructure has become equally important as the physical infrastructure.

The University has recently bagged the District Green Champion Award 2021-22 from Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Ministry of Higher Education.

Head, Department of Botany, Professor Z A Kaloo, also participated in the inaugural plantation drive and assured full support to the ULD endeavors aimed at making the campuses greener.

Dr Anzar A Khuroo, Officer In-charge ULD presented a brief of various activities taken by the ULD recently. He also highlighted the challenges of transforming the University campus into a model sustainable landscape by achieving the goal of 'carbon neutral campus'.

Akhar H Malik, Assistant Landscape Officer, ULD was also present and thanked the University administration for their full support to the ULD's initiatives.



## KU conference on environment concludes, 389 delegates present papers



**Srinagar, June 7:** At least 389 delegates from different parts of the country presented their papers during a national conference on global environmental challenges which concluded at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday, June 7.

324 delegates joined the conference in offline mode, whereas 65 delegates presented their research work in the online mode during the mega event, organised by the Department of Environmental Science, KU, in collaboration with Zoological Society of India. The delegates had converged from at least 23 universities and other institutions in the country.

Spanning 25 themes of critical importance, the conference deliberations were marked by insightful exchange of ideas, sharing of knowledge, academic debates and group discussions with a view to find long-term solutions for sustainability.

Of a total 16 technical sessions, eight were reserved for the oral offline presentations, four for oral online presentations and four for offline poster presentations. Two more sessions were reserved for the competition for young scientist and senior scientist awards by the ZSI.

Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Prof Shakil A Romshoo chaired the valedictory session on Wednesday, while Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof A Ravinder Nath, was the guest of honour. Other guests who shared the dais included Prof Irshad A Nawchoo, Dean Research, KU; Prof B N Pandey, President ZSI; Dr Ashok K Saxena, Former General President ISCA; Dr B K Das, Director CIFRI; Prof B D Joshi, President IAES, Prof Ghulam Jeelani, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU.

Prof Romshoo talked about climate change, global warming, retreating glaciers, floods, calamities, uneven weather changes and highlighted the need to create a sustainable environment for the future generations.



Prof A Ravinder Nath emphasised the need to save the fragile ecosystem of J&K which has a potential to be one of the best tourist destinations in the country.

Prof Nawchoo shared his experiences to highlight the declining population of plants and animals “because of excessive human interference” and called for “conserving the native ecosystems”.

Prof Fayaz Ahmad, Head, Department of Environmental Science, presented the welcome address as convener of the conference, while Dr Yahya Bakhtiyar conducted the proceedings of the valedictory session and presented a report of the three-day deliberations. Dr Mohammad Muslim presented the vote of thanks.

## KU's North Campus holds multiple events to celebrate World Environment Week



Srinagar, June 10: The National Service Scheme wing at the North Campus, University of Kashmir, organised multiple events as part of the World Environment Week celebrations, including a community awareness campaign at Delina, Baramulla.

Scores of NSS volunteers from the campus highlighted the need to stop plastic pollution during their interaction with the people. They also informed the people about the hazardous effects of plastic pollution and advocated for adopting eco-friendly approaches, minimising use of polythene bags and switching over to alternatives like use of jute and paper bags.

The NSS volunteers also interacted with students of Government Secondary Institute, Delina, Baramulla. Under Mission LiFE (Life style for Environment), the students, staff and NSS volunteers also took the LiFE pledge to play an active role to protect the environment and contribute in combating environmental degradation.

A day-long seminar was also held on the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution', while other key activities included a painting competition, an essay competition, a symposium, and an environmental quiz. Students from different departments actively participated in these activities and shared their ideas on curbing plastic pollution.

Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai, Director, North Campus, and Dr Humaira Qadri, Head, Department of Environment Sciences, Government Degree College, Baramulla in their speeches enlightened the audience with research-based facts on plastic pollution. Prof Bashir impressed upon the youth to act as catalysts of change and channelise their energies and enthusiasm to protect the environment.

In the valedictory session, first three position-holders were felicitated with certificates and medals by Coordinators of different departments.

Dr Farooq Ahmad, NSS Programme Officer conducted the proceedings and Dr Maleeha Gul presented the vote of thanks. The environment week event was coordinated by Bilal Ahmad Kaloo, Programme Officer, NSS.



## **'Energy Efficient Economy': Green construction, resilient infra essential for Kashmir's environ'al challenges: KU VC**

*Varsity organises seminar on smart structures, sustainable energy solutions*



**Srinagar, Oct 10:** To address the need for aligning academic efforts with societal and environmental requirements while focusing on smart structures, energy optimisation and sustainable infrastructure, the University of Kashmir organised a seminar here.

The day-long event titled 'Smart Structures: Energy Efficient Economy – JK 2024' was organised by the Institute of Technology, KU, in collaboration with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and the North Campus, University of Kashmir.

On the occasion, KU Vice Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan emphasised the urgent need to transition towards sustainable energy solutions, especially given Kashmir's vulnerability to earthquakes due to its seismic zone location.

"It is crucial for the university to understand the needs of our society and environment and implement the recommendations of this workshop in letter and spirit," she said, calling for a swift adoption of green construction practices.

Dean, Academic Affairs, KU, Prof Shariefudin Pirzada, asserted that it is both timely and essential to promote innovation in construction practices.

"The construction industry must shift from traditional methods and embrace newer, smarter designs that consider local climate and energy efficiency," he stated.

Dean, Academic Affairs, NIT Srinagar, Dr M Shafi Mir, raised awareness about the fact that people spend around 90% of their lives in structures that are neither sustainable nor smart.

"We need to construct buildings that prioritise environmental considerations and renewable resources, alongside encouraging a culture of recycling materials," he urged.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, underscored the role of academic institutions in advocating for sustainable living.

"The recommendations from this seminar should be communicated to the government, and all new structures on our campus must adhere to the principles discussed here," he added.

Dean, School of Engineering, KU, Dr Syed Muzaffar Ali Andrabi, highlighted the importance of designing homes that are suitable for Kashmir's unique climatic conditions.

"Constructing buildings without considering local environments often leads to unnecessary resource wastage," he noted, adding that these design choices could have long-term impacts on energy use.

Director, North Campus, KU, Dr Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, pointed out the safety concerns of existing structures.

"There is a pressing need for a new generation of builders who can construct smart, self-sufficient buildings that can withstand natural disasters while also being energy-efficient," he said.

Director, Institute of Technology, KU, Prof M Tariq Banday, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to providing cutting-edge education in line with modern demands.

"KU has launched new courses, including a programme in Artificial Intelligence, as part of our efforts to equip students with the best resources and education," he informed.

The seminar concluded with discussions on strategies to promote smart and sustainable building solutions in the region.

## KU organises series of events on environment protection, VC inaugurates seminar



**Srinagar, June 6:** Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Monday inaugurated a seminar on environment protection, a day after the varsity organised an awareness camp and a cleanliness drive to mark the World Environment Day-2022 (WED).

The day-long seminar titled "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature As There is Only One Earth", was organised by the Department of Environmental Science in collaboration with J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, J&K Government.

Addressing academics and students at the inaugural session, Prof Nilofer said that academic institutions have to connect with society to minimise the deleterious impacts of environmental degradation.

"Our University's engagement at the community and school levels can certainly bring about a discernible change in our approach to environment protection. Young minds can lead this change keeping in view how their future is linked with environment and why they must strive to protect environment with their small interventions," the Vice-Chancellor said, urging the Department of Environmental Science to formulate a year-long roadmap of activities related to environment protection, including holding outreach programmes at the community level.

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted the concept of having self-help groups of students to raise awareness about environment protection.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof Farooq Masoodi spoke about a host of emerging challenges including food security and safety, uncontrolled use of pesticides, climate change, diminishing natural resources, among others, to point out how almost everything in the world is directly or indirectly linked to environment protection.



Prof Shamim A Shah, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences KU also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the historical perspective of WED-2022.

Dr Nasir A Shah, Additional Director J&K ST&I Council highlighted the programmes underway, as well as those in the offing, in areas of research and development (R&D). He said these programmes aim to solve regional and local environmental problems with popularisation of science.

Head Department of Environmental Science Prof Fayaz Ahmad gave a brief about the events held to commemorate the World Environment Day.

He said the Department organised a cleanliness-cum-awareness drive at Manasbal Lake on Sunday in collaboration with Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority.

District Development Commissioner Ganderbal Mr. Shyambir (IAS) inaugurated the drive, which saw an overwhelming participation from faculty, research scholars and students from the Department of Environmental Science, staff and volunteers from Manasbal Development Authority, students from Govt High School Kondabal and Govt Higher Secondary School Safapora.

Dr Arshid Jehangir, Dr Samiullah Bhat, Dr Mohammad Muslim from Department of Environmental Science coordinated the events.

CEO Manasbal Development Authority Gulam Mohammad Bhat talked about the historic perspective of WED and its relevance in regional context.

# *Plantation drive held at KU's Zakura Campus*

*Srinagar, Mar 24:* Kashmir University's School of Law on Saturday held a plantation drive at the University's Institute of Technology, Zakura Campus.

The day-long plantation drive was organised in collaboration with the Department of Forests, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Registrar Prof Khurshid A Butt, who was present on the occasion, hailed the Law Society, which works under the aegis of the School of Law, for organising such events. He said that the University is committed to support such endeavours.

Head and Dean, School of Law, Prof Muhammad Hussain and Director Institute of Technology Zakura Campus Prof Mohiuddin Bhat also spoke on the occasion and said that planting trees is not only a social responsibility but a religious duty as well. They hailed the Law Society, Forest Department, University's landscape division for collaborating in organising the programme.

The event was sponsored by NGO SAAYA (Shadow of Hope). The programme was coordinated by In-charge Law Society Dr S A Bhat.

# *3-day international seminar on Literature and Environment begins at KU*

*Srinagar, Mar 26:* An international seminar on “Literature and Environment: The Promise of Ecological Criticism” began at the University of Kashmir on Monday.

The three-day seminar—first of its kind by the Department of English—was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi and attended by distinguished academics, scholars and students.

In her welcome address, Head, Department of English, Prof Lily Want said that the seminar aims to “create an interdisciplinary platform for leading academics and scholars to present and discuss the most recent trends, research results, experiences, concerns, practical challenges and various nuances of the theme.”

She hoped that the seminar would not only facilitate exchange of views among scholars, but also help initiate policy-oriented debates and discussions.

Keynote speaker Prof Fakrul Alam, pro-vice chancellor East West University Dhaka Bangladesh, spoke at length on the topic titled “doing environmental criticism from where we are.”

He traced the issues concerning environmental degradation in the city of Dhaka, eventually dwelling deep into how famed writers and scholars have addressed the subject of ecological criticism.

“Carson and Marx were truly pioneers, for it took at least two more decades, and more awareness on the part of intellectuals across humanities and social science disciplines as well as scientists, to realise the full and continuing extent of the unwanted changes mankind was inflicting on the environment year after year through mindless industrialisation, unplanned expansion and aggressing mining of the earth’s resources. By the 1908s environmental criticism, or eco-criticism, or if you want to be even more au courant, Green Cultural Studies, had gathered a lot of momentum in the English departments in the West. And how could we, in our part of the world lag behind on such an issue,” Alam said.

Author and environmental activist Dr Vandana Shiva, who was the guest of honour, also spoke on the theme of the seminar which, among others, was attended by Dean Academic Affairs Prof MA Sahaf, Dean Research Prof Zafar A Reshi, Registrar Prof Khursheed A Butt, Dean School of Arts, Languages and Literatures Prof Zohra Afzal and former HoD English Prof Mohammad Aslam.

Dr Iffat Maqbool conducted proceedings of the event while Dr Tasleem A War presented vote of thanks.



# *KU holds seminar on World Environment Day*

*Srinagar, June 5:* Kashmir University's Department of Environmental Science and Centre of Research for Development (CORD) organised a daylong seminar on Tuesday to mark the World Environment Day-2018. The theme of the seminar was: 'Beat the plastic pollution—if you cannot reuse it, refuse it.'

Prof RC Gupta from the Punjabi University Patiala delivered the lead lecture, while students and research scholars made oral and poster presentations on the theme.

The three best presentations were awarded with cash prize of Rs 2500, Rs 2000 and Rs 1500 respectively.

Prof Azra Nahaid Kamili, convener of the workshop, highlighted aims and objectives of the seminar, while Dr Sami Ullah Bhat, senior Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science gave the introductory remarks. Prof MS Bhat, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences delivered the presidential address.

At least 12 oral and 18 poster presentations were made during the technical sessions.

## Day-long cleanliness drive held at Kashmir University



**Srinagar, Apr 12:** A cleanliness drive was held at Kashmir University campus on Monday. Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir led the day-long drive, organised jointly by Mehboob-ul-Alam and Moulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri Boys Hostels at Naseem Bagh campus. Several top officials of the university and hostel-boarders cleaned the hostel lawns with brooms.

Earlier, a modest function was organised to highlight the importance of cleanliness, especially in the backdrop of challenges thrown by the COVID19 pandemic.

In his presidential address, Dr Mir said he is glad to see hostel-boarders coming forward to organise this cleanliness drive.

“Hostel life is altogether a different experience for the boarders. Such good endeavours send out a positive signal among other students about discipline, commitment, dedication and a sense of belonging of hostel-boarders towards the institution,” he said.

Dr Nisar said the university administration is committed to provide the best-possible facilities to all hostels for a comfortable stay of boarders.

Dean Students Welfare Prof Raies A Qadri and Joint Registrar Dr Ashfaq A Zarri also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance of holding such cleanliness drives.

Provost (Boys) Hostels Prof Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh welcomed the guests and highlighted aims and objectives of the cleanliness drive.

Hostel Wardens Dr Younis and Dr Mehraj were also present on the occasion.

## Swachhata Pakhwada: KU VC urges making cleanliness an ongoing movement



**Srinagar, October 1:** In commemoration of Swachhata Pakhwada - Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS), 2023 and to celebrate the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Father of the Nation', Kashmir University displayed its unwavering commitment to this national movement through a monumental cleanliness drive at main and satellite campuses.

On Sunday, October 1st, at 10:00 AM, students, NSS volunteers, hostel residents, faculty members from Kashmir University and locals from the vicinity, participated in a massive cleanliness drive as part of the Swachhata Pakhwada aimed to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy of non-violence and truth.

This event was a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring values and the collective dedication of Kashmir University to the Swachhata Hi Seva movement.

The participants began their cleanliness drive in and around the main campus, leading to the surrounding marketplace and Dargah Hazratbal Shrine, diligently picking up litter and garbage and disposing it of after proper segregation.

The drive culminated in the lawns of the university's Gandhi Bhawan, where the Vice Chancellor addressed the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University, Prof Nilofer Khan emphasised the importance of being part of this massive movement.

She said, "We have to be the ambassadors of change by continuing the campaign with the same spirit and energy."

Prof Khan urged the participants not to limit their efforts to observing it on a singular day but to make it an ongoing movement.

“If you see your colleagues, friends or acquaintances littering, it is your duty to tell them this is wrong,” she added.

She thanked the provosts, wardens, NSS volunteers, the proctorial wing, university media, students and scholars for making the programme a success while reiterating the importance of following Gandhi Ji’s footsteps and ideals to educate everyone about the importance of cleanliness.

Pertinently, the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), Kashmir University (KU) had inaugurated a weeklong event series that will conclude on October 2 (today).

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar, KU, Dr Nisar A Mir said, “Today, as we gather to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we are reminded of the enduring principles that he lived by,” adding that his commitment to truth, non-violence and social reforms remains a beacon of light for us all.

Dean Students Welfare, KU, Prof Aneesa Shafi said, “Gandhi Jayanti is not just a day to remember a great leader, it’s a call to action. Let us remember that change begins with us,” adding that through activities like Cleanliness drives, poster making, painting and sculpture making, we can express our commitment to a cleaner and more artistic future, echoing the vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

Principal, IMFA, Prof Ruby Zutshi; Special Secretary to the Vice Chancellor, Dr Ashfaq Ahmad Zari; Media Advisor, Dr Salima Jan besides deans of schools, heads of departments, directors/coordinators of centres, university faculty, scholars and students were present at the inaugural function.

The vice chancellor along with the university officials offered homage and tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by garlanding the sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi. The sculpture is crafted by the students of IMFA, KU.

Meanwhile, the varsity’s South Campus also organised a series of events and activities to celebrate the Swacchta Pakhwada led by Director, Prof Rais Qadri.



## KU's South Campus holds G20 walkathon, cleanliness drive



**Anantnag, Mar 28:** The South Campus of the University of Kashmir organised a walkathon and a cleanliness drive as part of two-day celebrations in the campus related to the country's G20 Presidency.

The programme was organised by National Service Scheme, Unit I, South Campus.

Director, South Campus, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Khanday flagged-off the G20 walkathon from Science Block.

More than 150 volunteers from various departments, faculty and non-teaching staff participated in the event, which later culminated at the Administration Block.



Dr Khanday said the event aimed at disseminating the message of India's G20 Presidency among the students and staff of the campus.

In another event held under the banner of G20, a mega cleanliness drive was carried out in the campus under 'Green India, Clean India Campaign'. A large number of NSS volunteers, faculty members and non-teaching staff participated in the drive with great enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Khanday urged the students to take part in all NSS activities for their holistic personality development and to develop the spirit of social service.

He thanked the University authorities and Programme Coordinator NSS, Main Campus, for extending such activities to the University's satellite campuses.

Earlier, Programme Officer NSS, South Campus, gave a detailed account of NSS activities held so far and their positive impact in channelising the energy of students in the right directions.

## **KU's NSS organises workshop on Swachhta, 100 volunteers join cleanliness drive**



**Srinagar, Mar 17:** A seminar-cum-workshop on Swachhta was held at the University of Kashmir on Thursday.

More than 100 NSS volunteers participated in the day-long programme, organised by the varsity's Office of NSS to raise awareness on the importance of Swachhta.

In their message for the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad and Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir said students must become brand ambassadors to spread the message of Swachhta across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

The volunteers who participated in the event, which included a cleanliness drive on the campus, were from GDC Eidgah, GDC Bemina, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Amar Singh College and various departments of the Kashmir University.

The programme also featured two lectures delivered by Dr Ibrahim Wani, Assistant Professor Institute of Kashmir Studies and Aejaaz-ul-Haq, Producer EMRC, and two competitions on poster making and waste collection.

A prize distribution ceremony was held in the afternoon which was attended by Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature Prof Aadil Amin Kak and Prof. Tabassum Firdous, Director, Centre for Women's S and Research (CWSR), as special guests.

Manoj Kumar from the Regional Directorate of NSS New Delhi attended the event as an evaluator and special guest.

Dr Mussavir, Programme Coordinator NSS highlighted the aims and objectives of the workshop as well as the achievements of the NSS KU in the last few years.

# *KU's South Campus observes World Environment Day*

*Srinagar, June 6:* Kashmir University's South Campus at Anantnag, in collaboration with WWF-India, organised a series of events as part of the World Environment Day celebrations.

The events—including an environment awareness rally in Anantnag town, expert lectures on environment and wildlife and screening of award winning documentaries—were inaugurated by Mohammad Javed Khan, secretary higher education, government of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his presidential remarks, Khan urged the participants to fight the menace of plastic and make full efforts for conservation of environment.

Referring to various environmental issues in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the ecology of the region is very fragile and “we all need to do our bit to save the unique natural wealth of the state.”

Khan felicitated some eminent wildlife experts of the state including Dr Pankaj Chandan from WWF-India and Intiesar Sohail from Department of Wildlife Protection for their relentless efforts towards environment and wildlife conservation.

In his address, Director South Campus Dr Ashfaq Zarri thanked the chief guest, WWF-India for their support and also underlined the need to hold such programmes every year. The events were coordinated by Dr Bilal Kullo of the Department of Education.

During the film screening event, Bilal Ahmad Dar of Bandipora whose efforts for cleaning of Wular Lake have been recently hailed by the Prime Minister, was also honoured. After screening of the documentary ‘Saving the Saviour’, Bilal shared his experiences with the audience.

# *World Environment Week celebrations continue at KU*

*Srinagar, June 7:* Faculty and students of the Tourism Department at Kashmir University on Thursday organised several events in connection with the World Environment Week celebrations. The theme of the events was--‘Beat the Plastic Pollution.’

Coordinator, Tourism programme, Dr Shahnawaz A Dar, spoke about the importance of environment for the humans and small environment-friendly steps that all individuals can take for conservation of environment. He urged the participants to avoid using plastic items like disposables and polythene and spread the same message among their families and the society.

Tourism faculty members Dr Riyaz and Dr Aijaz also spoke on the theme and urged people to make efforts at their individual levels to preserve the natural resources for future generations.

Students of MTTM (2nd and 4th semester) discussed ways of dealing with the problems created due to unfriendly environmental practices. The students later held a cleanliness drive which was followed by an environment awareness rally. A plantation drive was also conducted.



# 3 -day international festival on environment and wildlife commences at KU

**Srinagar, Sept 24:** A three- day international festival on Environment and Wildlife organized by Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC) KU in collaboration with CMS Vatavaran, New Delhi started here at University of Kashmir on Monday.

While addressing the audience on the inaugural day of the festival Vice Chancellor KU Prof Talat Ahmad said that Kashmir being a valley needs special attention toward environment and environmental issues.

Prof Talat added “Climate change is happening and is a reality now and we cannot shy away from it. We cannot stop climate change but together we can definitely mitigate it.”

In-charge Director EMMRC, Dr Salima Jan in her welcome address highlighted the aims and objectives of the three-day festival.

Joint director, CEC, Sunil Mehroo in his remarks reminded creative communicators to keep in mind their target audience.

Festival manager of CMS Vatavaran, Sabyesachi Bharti said that his organisation is a product of research work, and they are holding such festivals to raise awareness about environmental issues.

On the inaugural day of the festival 10 documentaries were screened .Amongst those ‘The Terranoami Music Vedio’ jointly sung by Waheed Jeelani and American based Rockstar Terranoami “Say it` possible” produced and directed by Shafqat Habib which conveys and spreads the message about global warming and another documentary film ‘Pangolins in peril’: a story of rare scales” produced by a Pakistan documentary filmmaker, Muhammad Ali Ijaz were the main highlights of the day.

A panel discussion was held in which Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Head Department of Geography from KU, Prof Mohammad Sultan Bhat, EMMRC producer, Shafqat Habib, and media personality Gowhar Geelani participated.

The panelists were unanimous in their arguments that climate change can be minimized if people from childhood are made aware of its repercussions. Producer EMMRC, Ajaz ul Haque moderated the discussion.

A painting competition was held on the sidelines of the festival in which students from various colleges and schools participated.

Students from the music and fine arts also performed on the inaugural function.

The three day film festival will delve on issues of the inter-connectedness of climate change and water, water struggles in a world dealing with global warming, livelihood insecurity, and highlighting the important issues affecting water through film screening, media workshop and open forum discussions.

# Two Day Workshop on Environment concludes at KU

**Srinagar, June 12:** A two day workshop on the occasion of observance of World Environment Week concluded at University of Kashmir (KU) here on Wednesday.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Environmental Science in collaboration with Centre of Research for Development (CORD), KU. The theme of the workshop was 'Beat Air Pollution and Recent Advances in Environmental Science'.

During the two day workshop three technical sessions were held which were attended by students, scholars and faculty members.

Acting Vice Chancellor KU Prof Neelofar Khan inaugurated the photo poster presentation in which posters made by participants pertaining to the theme were displayed. Prof Zafar Ahmad Reshi, Dean Research, KU, was the Guest of Honour on the inaugural day of the workshop.

In his address, Prof Zafar, said, "I congratulate the department for organising this event as workshops are instances wherein we can educate people. Environmental concern is of paramount importance when we know that 91 percent of the world's population lives in places where the quality of air exceeds WHO guidelines limit."

Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai, Head, Department of Environmental Science, presented the welcome address.

Prof Bashir, said, "Air is getting polluted at an alarming speed. We need to contribute our bit in saving the environment. Governments and policy makers around the globe need to formulate such policies that would save the environment."

Later, there was a panel discussion in which the lead lecture was given by Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Coordinator, Geo- Informatics Department, KU, on 'Status of Air Pollution in Kashmir.'

On the final day of the workshop, recent advances in Environmental Sciences in which modern analytical techniques in Earth and Environmental Science, Statistical Techniques in Research Planning and Analysis of Experiments and Environment and Health were discussed.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Mir, Head, Division of Agricultural Statistics, SKAUST, Shalimar, Deans of various schools, Heads of Departments, scholars, students and kids from the participatory schools were also present on the occasion. A short documentary was also shown at the beginning that reflected the milestones achieved by the department of Environmental Science. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr Arshid Jehangir, Organising Secretary, Department of Environmental Science.

# Workshop on 'Cultural & Environmental Conservation' held at Leh Campus, KU



**Srinagar, March 03:** A one - day workshop on 'Cultural & Environmental Conservation' was organized by Leh Campus, University of Kashmir which was attended by the students and faculty members of Leh Campus and locals from the villages of Taru and Pheng, Union Territory of Ladakh.

Considering the significance of conservation of culture and environment the workshop was organized with the objective to acquaint the participants with the importance of the culture and environment and their understanding about the interlinkage of the culture, heritage, and environment.

Dr. Thumpstan Narboo, Editor, Cultural Academy, UT Of Ladakh who was chief guest on the occasion in his address stated the importance of conservation of the culture and environment in today's world.

In his speech he highlighted the challenges society is facing and the importance of the culture amid changing values and traditions with the modernization.

"Our ancestors passed on tradition, culture, values and heritage beautifully to us and it is our responsibility to pass it on to younger generation and the same responsibility also lies towards the youngsters to keep it alive and intact," said Dr Narboo.

Mr. Tashi Morup, Project Director, LAMO, UT of Ladakh who was the guest of honour at the occasion, emphasized on the spirit of culture & environment.

He said culture is the basic root of any community which gives way of life and root of culture is the script and language of the society, which needs to be preserved.

Rector, Leh Campus, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Khan, formally welcomed the dignitaries & emphasized upon the relationship between culture & environment.

He said there is need to take initiatives with the aim to preserve Ladakh Culture, history and heritage for coming generations.

Before extending vote of thanks to the participants by Miss, Sonam Angmo (AP Dept. Of MTM), the prizes for painting competition were distributed by the chief guest among the winners.

# KU holds online seminar on World Environment Day

**Srinagar, June 09:** Department of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir observed World Environment Day-2020 during which a one day online seminar on the theme "Time for Nature": Explore Nature with Iconic Spots" was also held.

Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof. Talat Ahmad patron of the seminar delivered a presidential address on the occasion during which he emphasized upon the need to have various working groups of researchers in the University who will take the lead in submitting the proposals to various funding agencies for earning grants and work on the pressing issues like climate change, carbon dioxide emission and silicate weathering linkages in the nature.

He stressed on expediting the afforestation campaigns so as to check air pollution which has assumed alarming proportions due to which both flora and fauna across the length and breadth of the world is getting affected.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Dean Research University of Kashmir delivered a special remarks on the occasion as Chief Guest of the function. Prof. Shakil Romshoo gave a comprehensive account of research scenario at University of Kashmir and remarked that there is need to link our research and science with policy, practice and governance.

He said that researchers should also try to take up such research problems and issues which are linked to society and with problems that Jammu and Kashmir (UT) is facing. He also remarked on the need to strengthen the research and industry interface.

Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Dean School of Earth and Environmental Sciences gave opening remarks and emphasised on the importance of such events for creating awareness on several issues of environment importance.

In his welcome address Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Head, Department of Environmental Science and Director of the seminar highlighted the importance of the seminar.

Coordinator of the seminar Dr. Sami Ullah Bhat, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science offered vote of thanks while as Dr. Arshid Jehangir, organising Secretary of the Seminar conducted the proceeding of the seminar.

Students, research scholars and few faculty members displayed their creativity, art, skill and research ideas through poster presentation on the theme Dynamics in Nature - Issues, Challenges and Opportunities Arising out of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The three best poster presentations were awarded with certificates of merit besides a certificate of participation. The first position was awarded to Ms. Salma Yousuf from University of Kashmir while as Mr. Arshid Ramzan and Mr. Sahil Bhat again from KU bagged Second position. The third position was shared by Mr. Jawahr Rasool from KU and Mr. Shah Khalid Ahmad from Cluster University, Srinagar.

There were four experts who delivered the talks on various burning and pressing issues like Mountain ecosystems and climate change, Contemporary environmental issues of societal importance in Kashmir like Air pollution, Massive land system changes, wetland degradation, Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem degradation, COVID-19- a pandemic of mistreated nature, Cities and Climate change.

The experts include David James Molden Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICMOD): Kathmandu, Nepal, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Dean Research, University of Kashmir, Srinagar Prof. P.K. Joshi, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU New Delhi, Prof Arun Kansal, Head Coca Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi.

The technical session started with the lead lecture of Dr. David James Molden Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICMOD): Kathmandu, Nepal who delivered his talk on Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) mountains, climate change, and nature based solutions. Dr. David Molden in his lecture suggested that Mountain issues need strong research backing that are relevant for policy and practice, and well communicated to policy makers who may not know mountain issues.

"Climate change and sustainable mountain development are issues of urgent important both for mountain people and for all of Asia and the world. This is because mountains are a tremendous natural resource base that provide livelihoods and economies for millions of people. They are the pulse of the planet," said Dr Molden.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo threw light in a detailed manner on issues like air quality, climate change, melting cryosphere, depleting stream flows, land system changes, wetlands and water bodies. He strongly advocated the participation of researchers from various disciplines in order to plug the research and knowledge gaps while taking research problems of highest societal relevance.

Major emphasis from the lecture of Prof. P.K. Joshi include a) Emphasis and expansion of programs like Nagar Van (Urban/City forests) is desired and required. These should be carried out the principles of ecological/ecosystem restoration. The team should have professional (trained) ecologists as an essential member. (b) Interaction of humans or livestock with wildlife needs to be restricted and checked so as to ensure least exposure to the risk of spillover of potential pathogens. The drivers of zoonotic disease emergence are changes in the environment—usually the result of human activities, ranging from land use change to changing climate, including deforestation and agricultural expansion. These need to be looked with higher degree of seriousness. (c) Ecosystem integrity is must and it underlines human health and development. All ecosystem (terrestrial and aquatic) should be taken with high degree of integrity to all development programs. (d) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) need to be taken in consideration while framing and executing any development programs and/or while executing any intervention to any system. (e) The above can be ensured with regular training and development of youth and professional across the spectrum. The available options/tools should be exploited to maximum extent to ensure this.

Key takeaways from the lecture of Prof. Arun Kansal include that Urbanization is a dominant trend, -Successful adaptation to climate change centrally depends on urbanization process, Cities are complex open systems with linkages to hinterlands across multiple scales, -Spatial planning can influence resource use, -Governance of mitigation in settlements benefits from poly-centric and multi-level governance approach, Urban settlements are faced with multiple sustainability challenges and thus mitigation strategies must address multiple agendas.

There were at least 100 participants and 75 having poster presentations from various departments of University of Kashmir like Environmental Science, CORD, Zoology, Botany, Home Science, SRTM University Mumbai, Bharti Dasam University Tamil Nadu, GDC Shopian, Cluster University Srinagar, SKUAST-K.

## Plantation drive held at KU's Zakura Campus as 'green campuses' initiative continues

**Srinagar, Apr 2:** Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad Friday led another plantation drive at the varsity's Zakura Campus. The plantation drive held in the lawns of Sheikh-ul-Alam Boys Hostels was organised by the Office of Provost (Boys) in collaboration with Social Forestry Division Srinagar in continuation with the university's commitment to make all its campuses green.

Addressing academics, officers and hostel-boarders on the occasion, Prof Talat reiterated that plantation of trees can go a long way in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

He said Jammu and Kashmir is prone to various types of disasters, including frequent flooding, landslides and avalanches. "This calls for tree plantation on a large scale to curb deforestation and the resultant soil erosion which eventually leads to squeezing of water bodies," he said.

Prof Talat also planted tree saplings on the occasion.

KU Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir, who also planted a tree sapling, said such plantation initiatives should become a movement led by students so that the society becomes aware of the impacts of climate change and the need to plant more and more trees.

"We have launched the green campuses initiative to increase the green cover in our main and satellite campuses and alongside raise awareness in the community about the importance of tree plantation," he said.

Regional Director, Social Forestry Division Srinagar, Mehraj-ud-Din Malik, assured his department's full support to the varsity's endeavor to make its campuses green.

He said his department is working tirelessly to achieve the goal of increasing the green cover over Srinagar and all other districts of Kashmir division to the maximum.

Provost (Boys) Prof Sheikh Mohammad Aijaz highlighted the objectives of the day-long plantation drive, which, among others, was attended by KU's top officers and functionaries including Dean Research Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Prof Showket A Shah, Prof Syed Muzaffar Andrabi, Prof GM Bhat, Prof Raies A Qadri, Dr Mussavir Ahmad, Dr Altaf Hussain Bhat, Dr Tariq Abdullah, Dr Imtiyaz A Khan, Dr Mehraj Ahmad, Dr Javaid A Sheikh, Dr Younis Rashid, Dr Altaf Hussain Mir and Dr Mohammad Muzamil. Director Planning, Higher Education Department, G M Ganai and Divisional Forest Officer Tanveer A Parray were also present on the occasion.





# Campus Cleanliness drive held at KU

**Srinagar, April 23:** On the eve of Earth Day Celebrations-2019 a campus cleanliness drive was held at University of Kashmir (KU), main campus here on Tuesday.

The drive was organised by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) and Department of Earth Sciences (Geoinformatics program) in collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS), Proctorial Wing and Division of Environment and Hygiene, KU.

According to the organizers of the drive the objective was to built environmental stewardship and help in reducing, reusing and recycling to decrease the amount of waste produced in the campus and to work together in protecting the planet.

The drive was kick started by Prof Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, KU from the lawns of Vice Chancellor's Secretariat.

While interacting with the faculty members and student volunteers on the occasion Prof Talat said "It is our primary duty to keep our surroundings and campus clean. Such activities should be promoted on a larger scale. Cleanliness is very essential for the sustenance of life on Earth."

"We at Kashmir University have to be leaders for the society to guide it on issues vital for its growth, development and well being. We cannot live in isolation from the people and the society around us as they look upon us for guidance and university should be ready to do that always, ever," added Prof Talat who joined the student volunteers in the drive and went around the campus.

Dean Academic Affairs KU Prof Akbar Masood, Dean Research Prof Zafar Reishi, Registrar KU Dr Nisar A Mir, Dean Students Welfare Prof Raies Qadri, Head Dept of Earth Sciences and Convener Earth Day celebrations Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Dean Social Sciences Prof Asifa Jan, Chief Proctor KU Prof Naseer Iqbal, Coordinator NSS KU Dr Shameem A Shah, Media Coordinator KU Dr Muslim Jan, other faculty members and students of various departments participated in the drive.

Hundreds of students showed lot of enthusiasm in the cleanliness drive and appreciated the efforts of the University administration in keeping the campus clean and green.

The students held placards that read 'Make Everyday Earth Day', 'Think Green Live Green' and 'Cleanliness is the first step to happiness'.

# **Law Society KU organizes Campus Cleanliness drive, Week-long Cleanliness drive organized by GKRS Inn concludes**

**Srinagar, May 01:** To inculcate the values of cleanliness among the masses in general and student community in particular a cleanliness drive was started in the Law school premises of the University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

Dean and Head Department of Law Prof Muhammad Hussain kick started the drive which was organized by the Law Society, School of Law University of Kashmir in collaboration with Kashmir Protective Security Services and NGO SAAYA.

Prof Hussain expressed his joy over the large participation of the students and faculty members in the drive and asked the students to understand the message of the cleanliness drive and carry it forth with them everywhere.

“Having your environment clean helps you thrive in a healthy environment and keeps you active and peaceful, as being clean and keeping your environment clean is part of our faith too,” Prof Hussain said while addressing the gathering of law students.

## **Weeklong Cleanliness drive concludes at GKRS Inn:**

Meanwhile a week- long cleanliness drive pledged by the boarders of the Gani Kashmiri Research Scholars Inn University of Kashmir concluded.

The Hostel was cleaned and the adjoining areas were made garbage and plastic free. The Provost of the Boys hostel Prof. G.N. Khaki and Warden of the GKRS Inn Dr. Yahya Bakhtiyar stressed for promoting such activities in the hostels for clean and green campus.

The boarders pledged to keep their campus clean and green and will also promote the values of cleanliness and discipline to have a clean, plastic free environment. The pledge was also made to make such values hereditary to be passed on to the freshers so that “we can also return part of the services which we get from the environment”, said the boarders.

## KU's NSS organises mega cleanliness drive to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



**Srinagar, Aug 14:** Kashmir University's office of National Service Scheme (NSS) on Sunday organised a mega cleanliness drive at the main campus in connection with the ongoing celebrations related to Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Under the patronage of Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan the University is holding special events to celebrate 75th year of Independence as a very special occasion to join the country-wide celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Top officers of the University including Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Controller of Examinations Dr Majid Zaman, Provost (Boys) Prof Aijaz Ahmad Wani and NSS Coordinator Dr Mussavir Ahmad led the cleanliness drive under the banner of 'Swachhata Abhiyan'.

Scores of students and NSS volunteers picked up brooms to clean the main campus premises and raise awareness on the importance of clean environs for people's wellbeing.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir said the commemoration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at the University of Kashmir has seen active involvement of University faculty, students and non-teaching staff in various events which highlighted the country's glorious past and its journey of 75 years since the Independence.

"Our NSS office, Department of Students Welfare, Law Department, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Sheikh-ul-Alam Chair and other departments have

organised very important events in the last 15 days. More events are in the pipeline,” he said.

The cleanliness drive was also attended by Hostel Wardens Dr Javiad Sheikh and Dr Mehraj Ahmad besides NSS programme officers Dr Henna Basharat and Dr Shazia Malik.

NSS Coordinator Dr Mussavir Ahmad gave a brief about the activities being conducted by NSS in the University and its affiliated colleges. He thanked the University administration for its support to NSS programmes.

## KU hosts DST-FIST meeting, VC addresses opening session



**Srinagar, Oct 20:** Continuing to host national-level meetings related to science research and development, the University of Kashmir on Thursday hosted the DST-FIST Presentation Meeting in the areas of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

The Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology (FIST) is a centrally-sponsored scheme of the Department of Science and Technology Government of India that aims to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting research and development (R&D) in new and emerging areas and attracting fresh talent in the universities.

Addressing the opening session of the meeting that assessed the project proposals for grant of DST-FIST packages to principal investigators from different parts of the country, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan said it adds to the University's credentials and visibility to host such important scientific meetings that offer an exposure to our faculty and students on key schemes like FIST. She said the University recently hosted an expert committee meeting of SERB where 15 experts from different parts of the country evaluated more than 700 proposals for grant of the SERB fellowship.

Former KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, the chairman of the DST-FIST expert committee, said the schemes like FIST have led to modernisation of laboratories of higher research to attune the country's research endeavours with national missions and priorities.

The applicant PIs made presentations before the expert committee, following which the committee chairman and members visited several KU departments to assess the progress made by them in utilising the already-sanctioned FIST grants.

Dean Research KU Prof Irshad A Nawchoo coordinated the meeting, which was also attended by Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir.

The expert committee members who attended the meeting in-person included Dr Reddithota J Krupadam, Prof D C Srivastava, Dr Sanat Kumar Das, Prof D Narayana Rao and Dr Srinagesh Davuluri, while Dr Arun Kumar Sarma and Dr (Mrs) Geeta Ram Kumar joined the meeting in online mode.



