

Two Day International Webinar-Cum-Seminar Organized At KU

KV NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A two-day international webinar-cum-seminar commenced at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday, a spokesman of the University said.

The event titled 'Pandemics and Narcotics: A Religious Perspective' has been organised by Shah-I-Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies (SHIIS).

Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Shabir A Bhat, who presided over the inaugural session as chief guest, discussed how pandemics have time and again caused mankind to rethink the purpose of life in this universe.

Referring to relation of such events with various determinants including the cardinal factor of religion, he spoke at length on the negative impact that Covid-19 has had on the mental health of people, resulting in exponential increase of narcotics abuse globally.

Head SHIIS and Seminar Director Prof Manzoor Ahmad Bhat welcomed the guests and participants, who joined



the programme in offline and online modes.

Giving an overview of the seminar theme, he stressed the need for scholarly deliberations on such relevant topics while outlining the idea behind organising such academic events.

Director Philosophy-Sciences Forum and Professor of Pharmacology at Aligarh Muslim University, Prof Kunwar M Yusuf Amin, presented a keynote address in online mode.

He stressed on the significance of the seminar theme and its relevance in the contemporary global scenario.

Dr Nasir Nabi, Assistant Professor SHIIS—coordinator for the inaugural session—presented a vote of thanks while Dr Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Professor, Department of Persian, recited a few verses of the Holy Qur'an in the beginning of the programme.

Post-inaugural session, Dr Husn Hilal ahin from Giresun University Turkey presented his paper while research scholars at SHIIS Tajamul Ahmad, Bilal Ahmad Ganaie, Shakeel Ahmad Wani and Sayed Aaqib Qadri also presented their joint paper. Rabia Siddiq from IUST Awantipora and Dr Altaf Hussain Yatoo from GDC Kokernag also presented their papers.

Five technical sessions will be conducted in the next two days during which renowned scholars from different parts of the country and abroad, including Malaysia and UK, will present their papers on the seminar theme.

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VC inaugurates lecture series on Sociology and Pandemic

Renowned sociologist Prof Anand Kumar delivers keynote address at inaugural session

SRINAGAR: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad Wednesday inaugurated a lecture series on Sociology and Pandemic.

The online lecture series titled 'reconfiguring sociology in times of pandemic: a roadmap ahead' has been organised by the Department of Sociology.

In his presidential address, Prof Talat said the lecture series is a timely initiative to address some of the pressing social challenges thrown by the Covid19 pandemic.

"People from medical sciences are busy doing whatever they can to address this pandemic. But whatever the message of science is has to go to the people through social scientists, who can communicate with the society in a much better way," he said, adding that social sciences and medical sciences will have to go together to serve the society.

Keynote speaker Prof Anand Kumar (retired) from JNU's prestigious CSSS said the post-Covid situation is the time for Indian social scientists

to come forward and make a sense of what's going on around them.

"These are unusual times. There is no normality around. The pandemic has thrown every institution into a crisis—from colleges to universities to factories and fields, from shopping centers to entertainment centers, from traveling in local buses to international airplanes. While children are asking what is going on around us, the society is equally perplexed and expects sociologists to come forward and make sense of what's going on around them."

"We also need to look at the impact of pandemic which has drawn us to a 'new normal.' The old normal was 'real', the new normal is 'virtual,'" he said, citing how conferences and seminars in the world today are held in virtual mode as against the physical mode.

"In one year, we have moved from fear and anxiety to a hope generated by the availability of vaccines. But as Covid cases continue to rise again today, with some new variants re-

ported to have surfaced, we are moving back to hopelessness even though the country's citizens are being vaccinated at a very rapid speed," he said, urging sociologists to keep pace with the new changes and new challenges in the larger interest of the society.

In her welcome address, Prof Aneesha Shafi, Head Department of Sociology said that Covid19 has altered the social and world order completely.

"The pandemic has led to unprecedented changes, unsettling several facets of our existence. We are holding this lecture series to address some of the pressing questions that sociologists are facing, including how to safeguard livelihood of people, how to reorient social relationships amid social distancing norms, how to address vulnerabilities and how to reconfigure our institutions."

The inaugural session was attended by more than 100 participants from all across the country.

Dr Farah Qayoom, Assistant Professor, delivered a vote of thanks.

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Dean of Research Prof Shakil A Romshoo presided over the valedictory session of the international-level event, organised by Shah-i-Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies (SHIIS). Congratulating the department for organising the seminar on an important theme, Prof Romshoo underscored the role that religiosity, religious institutions like 'Bayt al-Maal' and religious leaders can play in tackling the social stigma associated with narcotics abuse as well as the mental health problems triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

KU's former Dean of Academic Affairs Prof A R Yousuf delivered the valedictory address, elaborating how mankind has had longstanding encounters with the occurrences of global pandemics and how humans have adopted various coping mechanisms to deal with such disasters from time to time. Dean School of Social Sciences Prof M Y Ganai, who was a guest of honour, discussed the growing menace of drug abuse, its causes, manifestations, and possible ways to deal with it.



Seminar Director and Head SHIIS Prof Manzoor Ahmadi Bhat delivered the welcome address and presented a detailed report of proceedings of the two-day event. Dr Burhan Rashid from SHIIS conducted proceedings of the valedictory session and also presented a vote of thanks.

More than 20 papers were presented by researchers from different parts of the country

and abroad during five technical sessions. These pertained to Medieval Indian Medicine, Anthropology, History, Theology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Modern Medicine, Ecology, Management Studies, and Islamic Finance. Academics and scholars from the UK, Turkey and Malaysia attended the proceedings via Google Meet platform.

2-day webinar-cum-seminar on 'Pandemics and Narcotics' concludes at KU



Srinagar, Apr 9: A two-day webinar-cum-seminar 'Pandemics and Narcotics: A Religious Perspective' concluded at the University of Kashmir.

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Precious Kashmir News

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