

Interdisciplinary Refresher Course in Information Technology for college and university teachers inaugurated at KU

An interdisciplinary Refresher Course of two weeks duration in Information Technology was inaugurated at the University of Kashmir on Saturday for which 80 faculty members working in colleges and universities both from within and outside J&K have registered themselves. Inaugural session of the course was chaired by the Chief Guest, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir whereas Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, Registrar, University of Kashmir was the Guest of Honour at this occasion.

While addressing the participants of the course, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din urged upon the participants to acquire sufficient digital literacy and competence that is necessary to align themselves with the current global digital revolution as well as inroads made by the Information Technology in teaching learning process. “Twenty first century belongs to those who have creative ideas, novel designs, innovative methods and smart solutions for overcoming our contemporary problems and facing our current challenges, therefore it is important for our teachers to adjust their velocity, volume, variety and value of teaching in tune with the needs and demands of our student community”, he said. He emphasized that there is no choice but to accept the change, foster IT tools and skills and incorporate them in their teaching learning process. Then only our teachers will be in a position to leave a legacy of sincerity, commitment, dedication, quality and excellence for our coming generations.

Guest of Honour, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir in his inaugural address stressed upon the need for enhancing the IT skills of both teaching and non-teaching staff of our higher educational institutions and applauded the efforts made by team HRDC this year in conducting their courses in the online mode. He ensured all possible help in upgrading the existing infrastructure and online teaching facilities of HRDC. Dr. Mir called upon the HRDC to conduct courses for capacity building of teachers and non-teaching staff and academic administrators as well with a view to hone and harness their administrative and managerial skills so that alongside teaching our teachers could also contribute significantly towards the body corporate and governance of their universities and colleges.

Earlier in his welcome address, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, Director, UGC-HRDC, University of Kashmir while elaborating upon the performance of HRDC in training more than 8000 teachers over the past 33 years of its existence stated that the centre has been striving hard to emerge as a centre of excellence in the country in faculty development and has been constantly improving the quality and nature of its courses to make them as relevant and useful as possible for its clientele. “Present course is just another step towards professional, personal,

instructional and organizational development of our teachers and teaching centres particularly in the field of Information Technology”, he said.

While conducting proceedings of the inaugural session, Coordinator HRDC, Dr. Geer M. Ishaq in his opening remarks stated that the present course is aimed at familiarizing the participants with the latest trends and recent advances in the field of Information Technology including internet of things, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, block chain revolution, cyber security, network security besides promoting their competencies in newer teaching-learning methods including flipped learning, e-learning through MOOCs and Moodle, e-content development, open-source learning resources, e-governance etc.

Course Coordinator, Dr. Javaid Iqbal, faculty in the Dept. of Computer Sciences, University of Kashmir in his powerpoint presentation gave an overview of the eminent resource persons invited to deliver lectures in the online mode during the course from all across the country and also on the topics intended to be covered during the course. “Renowned experts in IT from reputed institutions like IIT, JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University and many other institutions of the country are scheduled to interact with the participants of the course”, he said. Soon after the inaugural session lead lecture was delivered by Prof. Dharmendra Kushwaha on Bitcoin and block chain technology.

