

PRESS RELEASE

3-Day workshop on 'Standardization in Kashmiri orthography' begins at JKAACL Event to focus on practical issues related to orthographic variation and standardization

Srinagar, July, 28, 2015:

In what may be described as a path-breaking exercise, the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Tuesday inaugurated a 3-Day workshop on 'Standardization in Kashmiri orthography' at its Lal Mandi based seminar hall. Among other things the workshop proposes a number of topics and questions that can be explored with the language community in developing an agreed upon writing system. Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din was the chief guest while noted writer and academic, Prof. Margoob Banihali presided over the function. Spelling the importance of the workshop Secretary Academy, Dr. Aziz Hajini said that diverse topics ranging from social and symbolic representations in a writing system to practical issues related to orthographic variation and standardization would be discussed in the three day event. Elucidating further Hajini said that the workshop will explore orthography development from diverse angles. "First, we will discuss the different ideals and expectations that linguists and language communities bring to the process and the important parameters that may come into play. Second, the workshop will explore a methodological approach to orthography development that involves the language community as an active participant in the process," he said. Noted Kashmiri writer and Chairman Sheikhul Alam Chair of Kashmir University, Prof. Bashir Bashir presented keynote address. In his address Bashir highlighted the linguist's role in the process of analysis of their own language with emphasis on empowering them as vital participants in the decision-making process. While giving his remarks, Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din assured the scholars and writers that for promotion of Kashmiri language and culture the Central University would provide all possible help. Citing the example of recently launched five year integrated course in Kashmiri language, the VC said that such initiatives highlight the concern of his varsity towards local linguistic and cultural aspirations. In his presidential address, noted writer and academic, Prof. Margoob Banihali said that the workshop should aim at arriving at a consensus vis-à-vis correct spelling in Kashmiri language. He stressed the need of having proper and measured norms for spelling. Earlier the workshop participants collectively condoled the demise of former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who passed away at Shillong yesterday evening. As a mark of respect to the departed soul two minute silence was also observed. Among others those who participated in the inaugural session of the workshop included MY Taing, Prof. M. Zaman Azurda, Prof. Shafi Shouq, Rafiq Raaz, Shahbaaz Rajourvi, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik and Manshoor Banihali.

Issued by
Syed Shakeel-ur-Rehman
Deputy Secretary
For JKAACL
Tel: 9419003003