

## SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY

# KU honours best performers

### Universities, colleges must be centers of excellence: Vohra

**Srinagar, May 26:** Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, NN Vohra, on Wednesday asserted that the universities and colleges in the state must be the 'centers of excellence' if students were to compete globally.

Addressing a galaxy of scholars, academicians, University officials, and members of civil society besides the students during the Special Award Function held at the Convocation Complex, University of Kashmir, he said, "To enable our students to compete at the regional, national or global levels, our educational institutions like the state universities and colleges have to be the centers of excellence".



While congratulating the awardees, Vohra, also the Chancellor KU, said competition in education at the global level was very serious. "Our students not only have to be good, but excellent as well. If students are excellent and faculty is the best, the institution itself conveys excellence," he remarked.

"Educational institutions should have an internal system of acquainting the students with the importance of adhering to high moral values", said the Chancellor while maintaining that the best students should also be the best human beings.

The Special Award Function was organized by the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) to honour best performers (2007-08) among the teaching departments, faculty members and support services.

"It is important we encourage quality education and research and reach to the highest standards of education," the Chancellor asserted.

Vohra said in the past, emphasis was laid on quality education. "But over the years in recent times, we have seen commercialization of education, sale of degrees, capitation fee etc.," he added while describing "the matters of concern in the present scenario".

He said the institutions cannot claim excellence unless the pursuit of excellence was continuous and sustainable. “Monitoring of the system has to be on day-to-day basis and we ought to respect knowledge and merit,” he said and expected the university to gear up to meet the challenges posed by the recently established Central Universities in the state. Speaking on the occasion Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Riyaz Punjabi, asserted that the University was ready for re-accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. “A great expansion has taken place in the field of higher education, particularly vis-à-vis science and technology. With this, a great need was felt to have a credible monitoring mechanism to assess the contributions made by faculty members, scientists and scholars. In this regard the University Grants Commission established NAAC at the national level and KU set up the DIQA,” he said, asserting the university was committed to provide quality education and research facilities to students.



Prof Punjabi expressed concern over the KU’s inability to admit all the candidates who appear in the post-graduate examinations. “We need to have some sort of a mechanism where we are able to provide higher education to aspirants in the far-off places. The policy makers and the government have to think about it,” he said.

The guest of honour, the NAAC adviser, Prof Shamsundran, called for optimal utilization of infrastructural facilities, resources mobilization and maintenance of better internal communication in the universities and colleges. “I am happy to note that KU is among the few universities in the country to have implemented the NAAC recommendations,” he observed. He said the state government must explore the possibility of getting some colleges accredited with the autonomous status for more funding.

The Dean, Academic Affairs, Prof A R Yousuf presented the academic overview of the university on the occasion while the DIQA director, Prof Mushtaq Qureshi, gave an overview of the activities carried out by the directorate. The KU Registrar, Prof Sayed Fayyaz Ahmad presented the vote of thanks.

Earlier the Chancellor, awarded certificates of merit and appreciation to the departments/centers, faculty members and support service wings.

Certificates of merit for their exceptional contribution to respective fields were awarded to Prof Hamidi Kashmiri (Urdu); Prof Rehman Rahi (Kashmiri); Prof Shafi Shouq (Kashmiri), Prof Nazir Ahmad Malik (Urdu); Prof Rais Akhtar (Panel on Climate change).

Certificates of appreciation for encouraging track record of students' placement were presented to departments namely Computer Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Business and Financial Studies, and the Business School. .Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology and Biochemistry departments bagged the certificates of merit.

The certificates of appreciation were presented to the departments and research centres namely Centre of Research for Development, Persian, Centre for Central Asian Studies, Geography and Regional Development, Geology and Geophysics, Shah-i-Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies and Urdu.

The faculty members awarded as best performers included Prof Aziz-ul-Azeem (Mathematics): Prof GH Dar (Botany): Prof Farooq Ahmad (Physics); Prof K I Andrabi (Biotechnology); Dr Javed A Sheikh (Physics); Prof Nissar Ahmad Rather (Mathematics), Prof Zaffar A Reshi (Botany), Dr G M Rather (Chemistry), Dr Shakeel Ramsho (Geology and Geophysics), Dr Ehtisham ul Haq (Biotechnology), Dr Firdous A Khanday (Biotechnology) and Dr Aijaz Ahmad Dar (Chemistry).

The support service centers awarded were Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC), Examination and Evaluation System Allama Iqbal Library, University Science Instrumentation Centre, Directorate of Lifelong Learning, Directorate of Distance Education, Directorate of IT and SS and Academic Staff College. ).Shafqat Habib (EMMRC) was awarded for "productive programmes in sports and health".