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Seminar on J&K and federal models of shared sovereignty concludes at KU

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SRINAGAR, June 17: "Sharing sovereignty has transcended to sharing of power," said Professor S.D. Muni on the concluding day of the two seminar on "Jammu and Kashmir and the Federal Models of Shared sovereignty" here in Ghandi Bhawan, here Sunday .

The two-day seminar was organised by Department of Political Science in collaboration with Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, New Delhi.

Delivering the key note address on the inaugural day, Prof Muni, who is Visiting Research Professor in National University of Singapore, said that shared sovereignty and power are different and should not be equated.

However, he cautioned people that to have shared sovereignty "ground should be conducive for it." He said, "Power sharing has to be distributed equally so that a consensus can emerge."

Prof Muni, who was India's Special Envoy to Southeast Asian countries on UN Security Council Reforms (2005-06) and served as India's Ambassador to Lao PDR (1997-1999), said that while discussing federalism one cannot escape from the tag of identity. He said that there are people who demand the latter on the basis of their identities. "Identity," said Prof Muni to rapt Gandhi Bhawan audience, "has over the years emerged as a powerful tool to define federalism."

Saying that consensus making is a challenge, Executive Director of CDR, Sushobha Barve, in her speech said, "The two day seminar will help us to discuss many things and come closer to some consensus."

Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof M A Sofi in his presidential speech said that rising decibel levels will not resolve any issue.

"Some materialistic scholars are beating war drums for the benefit of few and mankind is consistently looking for saviours, not war mongers," said the acting VC.

Head, Political Science, Prof N A Baba while welcoming the guests in the inaugural session said that federalism was not seen a solution but a problem.

Earlier, National Conference senior leader and Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, presenting his party's point saying that his party has always advocated autonomy and continuation of dialogue.

Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, Wajahat Habibullah, who was chairing the first session on the second day, said that people should express their grievance and pursue government for the redressal of grievances.

People's Conference, chairman, Sajad Gani Lone, while addressing the audience said that this 'Achievable Nationhood' is amalgam of various models practiced in the modern world. He said his document covers everything and is best suited in present conditions.

Reacting to earlier speeches made by the other speakers in the seminar, Communist Party of India (M), leader, M Y Targami, advised to them that Kashmir has to be kept on the priority.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Justice (Retd) Bilal Nazki, Prof Rekha Chowdhary, Prof Sidiq Wahid, Sheikah Abdul Rehman, Asgar Karballai, and other eminent persons from different regions of the State.

The faculty members, scholars and students of Political Science and other faculties also participated in

the two day seminar.

Assistant Professor, Political Science, Aijaz Ashraf Wani was the coordinator of the two day seminar.