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Seminar on J&K federal models of shared sovereignty concludes

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Srinagar: A two-day seminar, organized by Department of Kashmir University in collaboration with Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, New Delhi and titled ‘Jammu and Kashmir and the Federal Models of Shared Sovereignty’ concluded here today. Delivering the key note address on the inaugural day, Prof S D Muni, who is Visiting Research Professor at 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.”

“Power sharing has to be distributed equally so that a consensus can emerge,” he added 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 as 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.”

The two day seminar was organised by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, New Delhi. 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 of view said 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 grievances and pursue government for the redressal of the same.

People’s Conference, Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone spoke out his road map ‘Achievable Nationhood saying the document was 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 all 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, Sheikeh Abdul Rehman, Asgar Karballaiha, 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.