Automation, networking of SRS library begins

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13 With the inauguration of workstation and a 3-day workshop on e-Granthalaya Software at SRS Central Library, automation and networking of the oldest public library in the State began here today. This comes close on the heels of launching of the automation and networking of public libraries project in J&K in the summer capital on Friday by Minister for Tourism and Culture, Nawang Rigzin Jora.

The workstation and workshop were jointly inaugurated by Director Libraries and Research, Khalid Bashir Ahmad and noted writer and scholar, Nilambardev Sharma. Technical Director NIC Hqrs, R. K. Matoria, Technical Director NIC, J&K Unit, Salim Khan, Librarian, Dhanvantri Library, University of Jammu, Muhammad Shoiab, Members of State Level Library Committee and State Level Advisory cum Purchase Committee including Dr. Lalit Mangotra, Dr Jatinder Udhampuri, O. P. Sharma Vidhyarthi, Dr. Reva Sharma, Deputy Director Libraries, Rajinder Singh, prominent writers and intellectuals were present.

Mr. Matoria made a power point presentation on e-Granthalaya and the project. He also answered queries from the audience.

The automation and networking project is being executed through NIC and in the pilot phase, costing ` 116.72 lakhs, four major public libraries including SRS Central Library, Jammu have been taken up for automation and networking.

During the workshop, a group of officials of the Department of Libraries and Research and the manpower hired by the project executing agency would be trained in the use of e-Granthalaya software before starting data entry as part of the project implementation which will begin immediately after the conclusion of the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Bashir Ahmad said that the launching of the automation and networking of public libraries is a significant initiative taken by the Government to switch over from manual to automated library service and making library information available online. He said in the first instance four major public libraries including SRS Central Library, SPS Central Library, Oriental Research Library and City Central Library have been taken up for automation and networking. On successful completion of the pilot phase, other libraries at district and tehsil level and down would be automated and made part of a single networking system. He said the Department is working on another important project to digitize its rich collection of rare books in various languages and make them available on internet along with a huge treasure of about 6000 digitized manuscripts. The two projects in conjuncture would revolutionize public library services in the State, he added.

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