

**Report on “Building Research and Policy Capacity” Sessions
9th Annual CECFEE (ISI, New Delhi) Research and Policy Workshop
EconFest – University of Kashmir | 15th November 2025**

Introduction

As part of EconFest 2025 organized by the Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, the session titled “Building Research and Policy Capacity” was held to strengthen the research competencies and policy engagement of young scholars. The event witnessed active participation from scholars across various departments of the University of Kashmir, highlighting the interdisciplinary interest in advanced research practices.

Session Overview

1. Introduction

Under the theme “Think Link: Connecting Young Minds with Leading Economists”, introductory discussions were led by:

- Prof. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay, ISI New Delhi
- Prof. E. Somanathan, ISI New Delhi

They emphasized the importance of connecting emerging researchers with established economists to foster high-quality, policy-relevant research.

2. The Young Scholars’ Workshop

Session led by:

Dr. Masroor Ahmad

Head, Department of Economics, Central University of Kashmir

This session served as the central component of the day’s programme. Dr. Masroor Ahmad delivered a comprehensive workshop focused on:

- Crafting strong research questions
- Identifying research gaps
- Developing policy-relevant research frameworks
- Strengthening methodological and analytical skills
- Understanding the ethics and rigour of academic research

Scholars from multiple departments of the University of Kashmir engaged actively in discussions, sharing their research ideas and gaining guidance for improving their work.

3. Tea Break

Participants utilized this time for informal academic interaction and networking.

4. Valedictory Session

The valedictory session included:

- Distribution of certificates to participants of the Research Method Workshop
- Acknowledgment of the EconFest Organizing Committee for their efforts

5. Vote of Thanks

The session concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Sajad Ahmad Bhat, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organizers, and participating scholars for ensuring the success of the programme.

Conclusion

The “Building Research and Policy Capacity” session played a pivotal role in enriching the research orientation of young scholars. With expert inputs from leading economists and an intensive workshop conducted by Dr. Masroor Ahmad, the session significantly contributed to sharpening the research and policy engagement skills of participants. The presence of scholars from diverse departments further enhanced the collaborative and interdisciplinary spirit of the programme.