

Izhar Wani  
(1965-2012)

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# The Echo

of the University



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## JK proves gold mine for mobile operators, manufacturers

### Usage charges at ₹1500 cr; annual purchase cost ₹500 cr

By Sajad Bhat

The people of Jammu and Kashmir pay ₹1500 crore as mobile charges annually besides spending ₹500 crore on the purchase of mobile phones every year.

Talking to the Echo, member of Prime Minister's Special Task Force for development needs of the state and former President Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), Sha-keel Qalander said, "According to the data collected after a proper survey, it was found the people of our state spend ₹1500 crore on the usage of mobile phones every year and ironically almost 75 percent is used unnecessarily or misused," Qalander said.

He said that as per the information available with him, most of the people using mobile phones in the state are below or up to the age of 16 years. "It is ironic that the people who don't even need a mobile phone form the largest part of the users," he said.

Qalander further revealed that only 25 percent people use mobile phones in the state for genuine needs. "The Business community and those people who need it for genuine communication form only 25 percent of the overall mobile users in the state. This means every year we are losing ₹1000 crore on the misuse of phones," he added.

The revelation comes after the latest Economic Survey Report (ESR) issued by the government showed that the State has around 52.96 lakh mobile connections with one in every two persons having a cell phone connection in all three regions.

The survey points out that tele-density in J&K has increased from 41.41 percent in March 2010 to current level of 44.58 per cent.

This, according to Qalander, not only drains the money of the state but was the main reason for the moral degradation within our state. "I appeal the parents to please stop their children from using the mobile phones. We need to put a check on this, otherwise we will suffer economically as well as on the moral front," he added.

He said that the people "waste" money despite the fact that recent census said that almost half of Jammu and Kashmir's 1.25 crore households don't have

access to toilets and only 34 per cent of the total population have access to safe drinking water. "On one hand we decry that our state is under developed but on the other hand we misuse and spend lavishly on mobile phones," he added.

Besides the "spend-thrifting" on the usage of mobile phone services, people in J and K spend ₹500 crore annually on the purchase of mobile phones.

"The companies including Nokia, Samsung, LG, Sony Ericsson and others have almost five hundred crore annual income in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," Qalander said.

Wishing not to be named, an area sales manager of one of the leading mobile manufacturing companies seconded Qalander saying that more than one lakh cell phones are being purchased every month in the state. "The mobile phones ranging between ₹4000 to 8000 are mostly demanded by customers. The demand for the Android Phones (Smart phones) has also gone up. Among all, the Nokia has the high-

est market share followed by brands like Samsung, LG and the rest," he said.

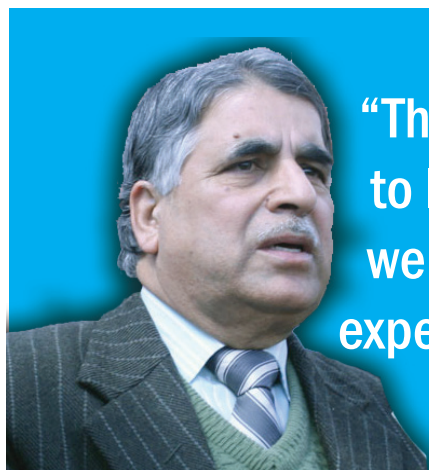
"Sales for Black Berry phones are also picking up," he added

Detailing further he said that there are 80 distributors and more than 1500 people are involved in cell phone trade in the state. "There has been a persistent increase of telecom penetration in the state," he added.

Meanwhile, the distributors and the retailers attribute the growth in sales to the added features in the mobile phones. "Internet facility, music player, camera available on mobile phones has added to the growth in this business. A mobile phone provides every facility to a person in the modern era of technology. I believe that this is the main reason for the phenomenal sale of mobile phones in Kashmir. The prices have also gone down," said owner of the Vision Electronic store Srinagar Fayaz Ahmad Baba.

"Earlier I used to sell radios, iPod and cameras but later I switched to mobile phone as these all feature are available in a single hand set and moreover mobile phones are cheaper than these products and in demand as well" Baba added.

It is pertinent to mention that there is no data available with the govt. about the total expenditure of mobile phones annually. Moreover, various service providing companies operating here refused to divulge any details in this regard. ©tjho



"There is no end to learning and we have to gain experience till last breath," VC.

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## Web Talk

Find out how to be safe on internet and check out some of the best stuff web has to offer!

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See the solution on

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## Chinar corps organise edu tour

# Quality education key to success: VC

Arif Bashir Wani

**V**ice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Prof A R Trag stressed on importance of providing quality education to the students in the educational institutions.

“It is the quality education, not infrastructure, which shapes the career of a student. Stress should be laid upon quality education in the educational institutions,” he said addressing a gathering on the valedictory function of “Educational and Motivational Tour” organized by Army’s Chinar corps in collaboration with the IUST on March 1.

The 10-day tour was held from Feb. 20 to Feb. 29 and concluded on march 01 at IUST.

A group of 35 students which included 24 students from IUST were taken to various colleges including Balaji group of institutes (Pune), Symbiosis (Pune) and St. Xaviers college (Mumbai) where they interacted with the students and the faculty members. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Trag in his address asserted that such educational tours broaden the vision of students. “There is no end to learn-



VC IUST, Prof. AR Trag, Prof KKS Jamwal and the army officials at the flag-in ceremony.

ing and we have to gain experience till we breathe last,” he added.

He said lack of infrastructure shouldn’t hamper the growth of students. “Infrastructure is to facilitate the education, many genius men and women have come from places where there was little or no infrastructure. So it should be any impediment in pursuit of education,” he added.

Commander 2 Sector RR Brigadier Sanjeev Gupta also addressed

the gathering and expressed his happiness to collaborate with IUST for organizing such tours. “IUST has the potential to become one among the best universities in India and the world. Apart from providing quality education, the students need to be exposed to the outside world. That is the reason we took them to various colleges so that they get a know-how of things outside Kashmir,” he said. “We are preparing you (students) for

the world in which you have to compete after finishing your studies,” he added.

Meanwhile, sharing their experience the students said people studying in other states of India and outside the country were not superior to *Kashmiri* students. “The only thing we lack is exposure to the outside world. Management in our educational institutions is also another factor that keeps us behind the students of the colleges we visited,” said Hujat-ul-Islam, student from English department of IUST.

He said that the students lost six days in traveling and it would have been more fruitful if the tour was extended. “Nevertheless we learnt a lot especially the slogans regarding our career at Balaji group of institutes which said “Regarding our carrier, we must be selfish” and “Every problem creates a new door of opportunity for you,” Hujaat added.

Former Registrar Islamic University of Science and Technology Prof. M Amin Masoodi, Dean School of Business Studies Prof. Ajaz Mattoo, Dean School of Technology K K S Jamwal besides S M, Commanding Officer 36 RR Colonel Mayank Upadhyay, teachers and students were also present at the function. *Echo*

## Lam village: bestowed by nature, ignored by ruler

By Javaid Lone

**T**he untouched beauty of nature in Lam village, a far-off hamlet of South Kashmir surrounded by dense forests and abundant springs, is a blessing and a curse for its inhabitants.

Situated some 14 km from the town of Tral in Pulwama district in the picturesque environs of pine trees and hot and cold springs, Lam has been craving for official attention eluding its people for decades now.

For the past seven years, the local demand for the construction of a mere 3-km road to connect the remote village with the main town and rest of the valley has been falling on deaf ears.

Every day on his shop, Farooq Ahmad looks for the newspaper, to see whether there is any announcement

regarding the construction of the road. “Every

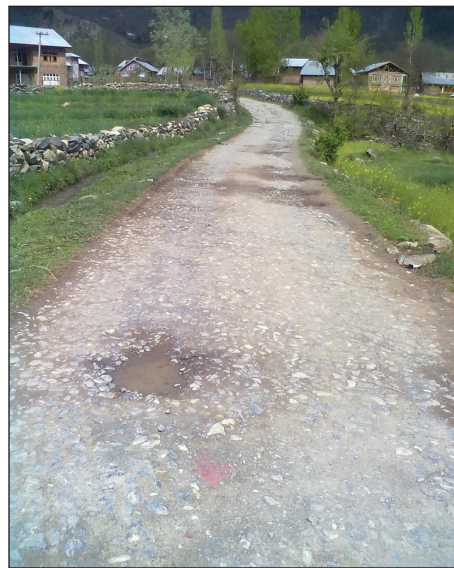
year officials and ministers promise us of laying the road but they never fulfill it,” he says.

“It is dusty, bumpy and swampy with big potholes. Being the residents of an unimportant and remote village, nobody seems bothered.

Ironically born and cradled in the

lap of nature, we are suffering for want of proper infrastructure and health facilities,” Ahmad rues.

Ajaz Dar, a college student, has an



interesting tale to narrate. “Last year my cousin got married and I had invited my friends from Srinagar. Looking at the condition of the road, they joked as if we were living in Stone Age. It was so embarrassing,” he says.

The only health centre in the village is without

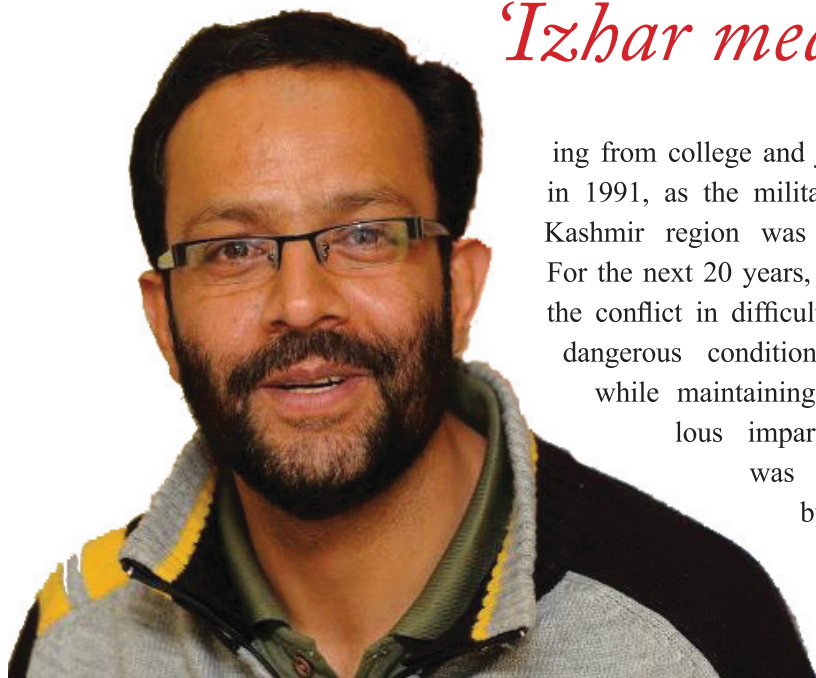
any medicines or doctors. “We don’t get a nominal service in the centre. Even a simple painkiller is not available,” alleges Wahid Ali, a resident. “For a

small ailment we have to travel to Tral town battling the bumps and potholes of this dilapidated road,” he states.

The status of education is no different in the village. The government high school in this hamlet has been cramped in a rented building from the past 6 years. “Every year people from the district administration come to identify land, only to be overlooked by another group of officials. The students are facing huge inconvenience due to the shortage of space in the School,” narrates Muzamil Maqbool, an employee.

The locals also narrate that they are being provided power only half of what they are paying as bills. “There is a daily load shedding of 15 hours. Imagine this in the age of nanoseconds,” Firdous Ahmad, a student says in sarcasm. *Echo*

## 'Izhar means expression, that is gone'



### Azhar Bashir

**O**n April 04, Kashmir Valley lost one of its prominent journalist in Agence France Presse's (AFP) Bureau Chief Izhar Wani who died due to cancer. Izhar, 46, is survived by his wife and two daughters. According to AFP report, he was a passionately committed reporter who went straight into journalism after graduat-

ing from college and joined AFP in 1991, as the militancy in the Kashmir region was escalating. For the next 20 years, he covered the conflict in difficult and often dangerous conditions, all the while maintaining a scrupulous impartiality that was recognised by all sides to the dispute. Re-  
vered  
for

his excellent journalistic and humanistic values, Izhar was a humble being that was seen always ready to help the budding journalists and was a source of guidance for the senior reporters of valley because of his apt and unbiased reportage of the deadly conflict and other related stories. While this noble soul left for heavenly abode in the first week of this month, the *Kashmiri* journalism was bereft of one its pillars. Islamic University of Science and Technology pays glowing

tributes to one of the finest journalists Kashmir valley has ever produced. Here is what his colleagues and friends had to say about him ... **AFP's Asia Pacific Director , Eric Wishart:** Izhar's untimely death has robbed India and AFP of a great correspondent. He showed tremendous courage in covering an extremely complex and dangerous conflict for so many years, and showed the same courage in his fight against cancer. He was a devout Muslim and proud father.

**Washington-based Shaun Tandon, Izhar's colleague in AFP on Facebook wrote:** R.I.P. Izhar. I'll always remember the utmost professionalism of your work.

**Senior journalist, Yousuf Jameel:** Devastated. Izhar Wani is gone, leaving behind a trail of great memories. It was travesty at its best. How many of them really valued Izhar (Wani) or his work, miss him so much now and will recall him in future.

**Editor-in-Chief the Daily Rising Kashmir Shujaat Bukhari:** Izhar, will miss your smile forever ...

**BBC Correspondent, Riyaz Masroor:** Izhar (The Expression) was among few in the world whose name defines their profession. While we mourn his demise as an irreparable loss we feel proud that Izhar was really a great example of honest and truthful EXPRESSION. For his career growth, he never relied on cushions within power. May his soul rest in peace.

**A.P. Photojournalist, Altaf Qadri:** It is extremely hard to make myself believe that Izhar is no more with us. Whenever I see his photograph it feels that he is about to come out from the frame. His smile, humbleness and friendliness will be forever missed. May Allah grant him Jannah.

**Editor-in-Chief Kashmir Images , Bashir Manzar:** Izhar means expression, and that is gone. Izhar I love you. I don't know where you have gone, but whichever place that is, I believe, you will be as charming there as you were here. *@tjho*

## Kashmir rail shrinks distance, time

By Um-Roommana Sulaiman

**M**ore than four years after several high-profile inaugurations of Kashmir's first rail line which connects northern Baramulla town with Qazigund town, located on the southern tip of the valley, passengers say it has cut-short the travel time immensely.

The wide array of passengers that travel in the train each morning and each evening include employees, businessmen, families and students.

As train travel avoids any time-delays caused by erratic, and every day, traffic jams, passengers prefer to board the train against taking long distance bus trips which follow the highway. "Journey by train is more comfortable. It takes less time than the usual travel by road," Syed Rukaya Bukhari, a daily train-traveller said.

Bukhari, lives in Baramulla town as she has to travel near 70 kilometers to reach Awantipora, where she studies at the Islamic University of Science And Technology.

Her travel time by train to the university campus has been cut by nearly half since she has opted for train instead of the vehicular means of transport.

Train has also benefited employees of various government and public offices to reach their destinations on time while travelling from the north to south of the valley -- a near 150 kilometre stretch.

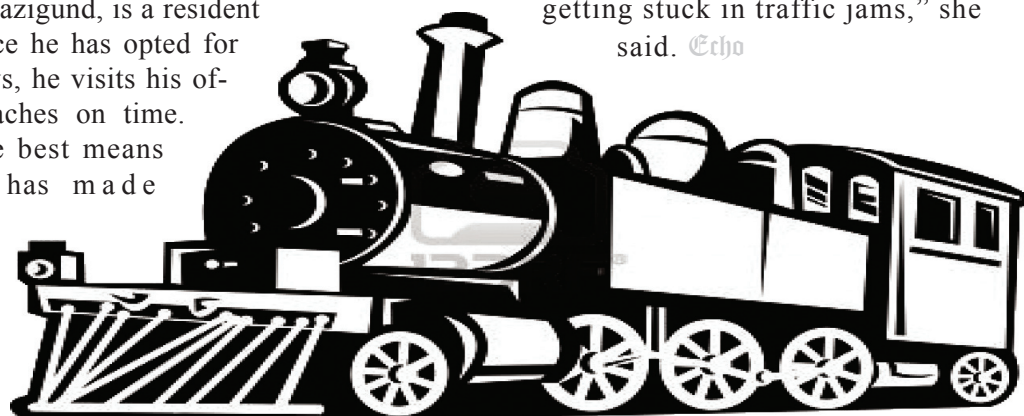
Cheap travel of the railway has also made it a good option for the employees, who are part of the Kashmir's growing middle class. Dilbagh Singh, the area sales manager of Pharmacy Limited in Qazigund, is a resident of Baramulla. Since he has opted for train travel, he says, he visits his office daily and reaches on time.

"Railway is the best means of transport. It has made my life comfortable and is economically feasible as well. It is very easy to reach

the office and home daily," Singh said

The train has two separate compartments for women, giving them a sense of protection. Uzma, a resident of capital city Srinagar, is a teacher at the Government School at Qazigund. She has to travel daily to the school and has to reach on time. Bus travel, Uzma said, was often marred by massive traffic snarls, as army convoys would hamper the civilian movement along the critical highway.

"I now reach school on time without getting stuck in traffic jams," she said. *@tjho*



## The Echo

### Towards a better change

Being the highest seat of learning, the University not only focuses on the academic growth of a student but also has to take care of imparting humanistic and social morals into the learners' mind. It is the duty of the University authorities to sensitize the students towards social, cultural, moral and human issues that concern the modern day world. To promote this sensitization programme, the IUST has taken up various tasks and is implementing these with utmost sincerity and dutifully towards the society in general and the students in particular. Introduction of Spiritual and Moral Studies at IUST is a considerate beginning in this direction, even if still in its infancy but the collective commitment from all the corners will yield visible results. The focus of the Spiritual and Moral Studies will be imparting moral and social values in the students besides the academics. As the materialism has driven the society away from the basic humanistic values, morals and ethics resulting in the apathetic nature of human beings towards fellow human beings, there is a dire need for the transmission and inculcation of moral and spiritual values. The students have to come forward willingly for this as they have been for all the progressive efforts. Sensitization towards environmental issues has also picked up at a different level over the last few years, especially due to the existing global discourse on climate change. All this is happening after the pure natural environs of the valley have already witnessed the harsh side of humanity and bore the brunt too. While everyone is witnessing that water bodies are receding, the air contaminated and above all the human beings having indifferent attitude towards safeguarding nature, sensitization towards environmental issues is most needed. It is still not too late and awareness among youth is a necessary step in this regard. IUST, with all its young blood and dynamism is the apt place to do that. It would be for all the staff and students of IUST, to come forward and contribute their bit for upholding the natural ambience of the university and its surroundings. Activities in this regard are taking place but much needs to be done. Preservation as well as restoration of environment has become necessary to safeguard the future. A sustained effort is needed and regular measures are to be taken. Conducting regular cleanliness drives should be a regular affair. Mobilization drives, extra-curricular events like debates, seminars, poster and chart competitions will further aware the students in particular and the masses in general about the importance of nature. All these steps will be regular reminders for the constituents of this institution which include the enlightened stakeholders and responsible caretakers.

# Kashmir youth crusade to preserve traditional music

By Is'haq Bhat

At a time when everyone likes to listen to Enrique Iglesias, Justin Bieber and other western musicians, many young *Kashmiris* are reverting back to traditional musical legacy. They are struggling hard to preserve and promote the *Kashmiri* music and songs by adopting contemporary style.

Almost 30 in number, these stylish *Kashmiri* musicians and singers blend the traditional but lyrically rich songs, with innovative music and modern style of singing.

The primary target of these young and enthusiastic artists is the Sufi music and so far they are successfully moving ahead.

The first name that comes to mind is the Irfan-Bilal duo, much famous on the Big 92.7 FM. "*Kashmiri* traditional music is the richest in the world but it needs to be promoted and preserved. We are doing our part and others should also join the chorus," voiced the duo who got recognition by remixing the old *Kashmiri* songs like *Haa Yaar Mukh'ti'haar*.

The market outside Kashmir is lucrative, they said, however "We have made it a point that we will stay here and help in

preserving our traditional music. Today *Kashmiri* music has metamorphosed to latest Rock, Rap and even Disco formats but still retains the traditional flavor and brilliance," said Bilal.

In the Islamic University of Science and Technology, five students came together and after identifying each other's talent, they formed a music band.

Today, known as the *Naaz* band, these boys are working hard to learn the new techniques of the trade just to preserve their own culture. "We are learning different forms of music so that we can contribute something to *Kashmiri* traditional music in future. It is our heritage, it our identity, we can't let it die," asserted Nawab Hussain, the guitarist in the *Naaz* band.

The youth living in the valley aren't alone when it comes to preserve the traditional music, the *Kashmiri* boys living in other countries are concerned as well and are playing their part. Recently *Kashmiri* born United States musician Rooni along with others formed band called Zero bridge. They performed at many places in Kashmir and sung only Sufi and traditional Kashmir songs, however, the music and style was western. "I came to Kashmir because I love *Kashmiri* traditional music, its lyrics are meaningful

and carry messages for mankind," Rooni told the Echo "One day I went to a studio in U.S. where I found a huge number of books written by *Kashmiri* poets. I was surprised to see all this. I pledged that the world should come to know about this treasure," he added.

He feels the Sufi saints in Kashmir were known for their amazing poetry. "They have enlightened almost every aspect of human life in their poetry. We have to translate the work and tell the world that what we have got," he added.

Apart from adopting singing and music to promote the traditional poetry and songs, there are many *Kashmiri* who have made it to the national and international level. *Kashmiri* singer Saim Bhat is the voice behind popular Hindi song "*Dil Sambhalja Zara*" from latest Bollywood flick 'Murder 2'. The song was an instant hit and rocked the music charts last year.

And people do know the first and the only *Kashmiri* rapper Roushan Illahi aka MC Kash, a youth icon, who blends the *Kashmiri* songs with the speed of rap.

He has inspired many and keeps on advising youth to preserve the traditional *Kashmiri* music. **Echo**

## IUST to organise fund raising event

The Islamic University of Science and Technology is organising a fund raising event in the first week of June 2012.

Titled as "Hope 2012", the two day programme is aimed to raise charity for the orphanages and the down trodden commu-

nity of the Kashmir valley.

The event is being organised by IUST's talent club co-ordinated by of Incharge Placement Cell Seher Iqbal.

Interestingly, the idea is initiated by two BBA students of School of Business Studies Asif Shabir and Shaneer Khan.

The event will include activities like plays, photography and competitions in various categories. "Painting, sketching, calligraphy and screening of documentaries will be also the main features of the mega event," said the coordinator, Seher Iqbal. **Echo**

## Tweet, post, tag it safe ... :)

**B**y the time you finish reading this article almost one million photos will be uploaded on Facebook exposing its users to different kinds of cultures, traditions and possibly to some awkward situations. So the most talked about questions is what should one do in such kind of a situations? As social networking sites rely heavily on their users for content generation, they also ask their users to report issues since moderating that much of content is near to impossible. So what should be reported?

Networking sites, like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, MySpace and others have guidelines for that and while some provide the detailed definitions of their guidelines others like Facebook just provide the categories under which the user content can be reported like Violence and Threats, Self-harm, Bullying and Harassment, Hate-speech, and more. Through the leaked documents and other resources, we have tried to give you an insight as to what these categories might mean.

**Violence and Threats:** If you believe that a post or a photo has been uploaded to threaten someone and it might cause fear among user/s or might possibly happen in real, go ahead and report it.

**Self-Harm:** simply means intentional and direct injury of one's own body tissues. So, next time you come across a photo showing self-inflicted cuts on forearms, you know what to do.

**Bullying and Harassment:** can happen to anyone but teenagers or young adults are its common victims. Embarrassing or humiliating posts or pictures, negative comments, unwarranted or invalid criticism, if someone persistently attacks or troubles you or the fellow user, posts or pictures that humiliate someone or single-out someone over these sites all amount to bullying and harassment. The intention of such person is to get attention or

reaction from other users either online or in real.

**Hate Speech:** Although internet is the best place for freedom of expression and free speech we often come across content that doesn't seem fit and you might want to have a look at Hate-speech to help you next time. Hate-speech means content that promotes hatred against members of protected groups like members belonging to a particular



race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, age, veteran status, and sexual orientation/gender identity. There is clearly no scope for Hate-speech over these sites so feel free to report such content.

**Graphic violence:** You are having a great day until you log onto Facebook just to see a gross-out image of an accident and it ruins your perfect day. If the content stays, it will have simi-

lar effect on other users. Don't wait and just report it. Content showing dead bodies from close, someone being or getting hurt, accidents, and similar things come under graphic violence.

**Nudity:** It's a bit tricky one and most discussed about since some cultures approve it to some extent while others don't. If you're not comfortable with certain images and think its promoting nudity you can just report it and see what Facebook Moderation Team decide.

One important thing to touch here is that most networking sites work closely with Law Enforcement Agencies and have zero tolerance towards child exploitation. So if you come across some child abuse incident, report it.

**Identity and Privacy:** Predatory behavior, stalking, posting information of other users without their consent. We see this all the time and sometimes the victims being our friends or family members. Worth reporting, isn't it?

**Spam:** We all hate spam. Content with misleading description, tags, and titles just to increase views is spam. Content that is untargeted, unwanted or repetitive including comments and private messages is also spam. Just report it.

There are also other issues worth

reporting like advertising alcohol, promoting Neo-Nazi groups, targeting specific leaders of foreign countries like Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the first President of Turkey, and much more. The detail of which can

be viewed at the guidelines section of these social networking sites.



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**W**orld Wide Web is a great resource that often helps us acquire new skills and learn new things but finding that specific website is bit of a daunting task. Of course, you can use Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc. to look for that site but with over 644 million active websites and most of them trying all sorts to rank better for search engine results, we at the Echo thought lets save you some time and give you a quick review of websites that might help you. In this section we will give you some of the finest websites that one should check while online. In this edition we have got four such sites.

**http://bethe.cornell.edu/:** The website titled "Quantum Physics Made Relatively Simple" is a treat for Physics lovers. The website has a series of lectures in video/audio given by one of the greatest and Nobel laureate nuclear physicist, Hans Albrecht Bethe at an age of 93. The lectures can be downloaded for free.

**www.worldsbrainiest.com:** The second one on our

list is titled "World's Brainiest", a quiz site for avid quizzers. However, before taking up the challenge, the site asks for registration which makes sense. How? If you give 25 wrong answers the quiz



stops and you cannot take another quiz for about a month. There are many topics to choose from, so go ahead and give it a shot. At the end of the quiz the site will give you a certificate which you can share with your friends to show them how smart or how rubbish you are with quizzes.

**www.piriform.com:** We have to admit that most of us don't know how to keep our computer

hard drives clean. Among a number of hard drive cleaners available online, "Piriform" provide a simple but effective tool, "CCleaner", that can help you get rid of the unwanted material from your C drive. The tool has been downloaded some 850 million times as per the stats it shows and is easy to download as well. After installation you just have to check or uncheck the options and hit Analyze to see how much of space will be created.

**www.kidsclick.org:** "KidsClick" as the name suggests is for kids but it could provide a sigh of relief to those parents who are very much concerned about the content internet has to offer that they don't want their children to stumble upon. The site is educational and has some 600 different subjects covered and manually organized by humans unlike major search engines where a bot decides everything. Have a look and you won't be disappointed.

That's it for this edition and if you come across some interesting sites, do let us know. Echo

# Around the Campus

## IUST starts new courses

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has started two new technical courses to be taught at the campus. The courses include MSc. IT and B.Tech in Electrical Engineering have been introduced from this academic year.

## MCA session changed

The academic session for the Masters in Computer Application changed from August-September to March-April from this academic session.

## Degrees converted

The IUST has converted the Master of Arts in Journalism into MA Journalism and Mass Communication. The decision will be implemented from the fresh session in August-September this year. Now the students will be awarded with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. The decision was taken while keeping in consideration the proliferation in the field of Media. The degree in Peace and Conflict Studies has also been converted into International Relations (Peace and Conflict Studies) and will also commence from the upcoming academic session at the IUST.

## IUST celebrating 2012 as national year of Maths

As the year 2012 has been recognized as the year of Mathematics, the department of mathematics has decided to celebrate this year by conducting different activities at the university campus. The activities include screening documentary films like the "The story of Maths" to describe the importance of Mathematics in the modern era. Four parts of this BBC made documentary were screened on March 29, April 05, April 12 and on April 19 respectively. Seminars, guest lectures and presentations will be held to elaborate on the importance of Mathematics.

## Internships

### Department of Journalism

The 4th semester students of the department of Journalism did their one month internships at different media organizations like BBC, Network 18, NDTV, ANI, Rediffusion (advertising agency), Door-darshan, The Hindu, and Hindustan times in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kashmir. Besides others, Showkat Shafi a 4th semester student of this department completed a 45 days training program with the international TV News Channel Aljazeera in Doha.

### School of Business Studies

A group of 35 students from MBA 4th semester went to Mumbai for the internship in various National and Multi National companies. The students completed their internship program under the Youth development and engagement initiative of Union HRD Ministry. Another group of 25 students also went to Mumbai for internship and returned back in the first week of May.

### Department of Mathematics

Final semester students of BSc Acturial and Financial Mathematics, Mehraj Ahmed Darand Firdous Habib completed their internship at IBEXL at Bangalore. The students were selected for paid internship with IBEXL only after passing an entrance examination. Besides them, six other students of this deptt. interned with Metlife (Srinagar), four with Unicon (Delhi) while one student interned with Max New York Life (Delhi). Ten other students from this deptt. visited Delhi University for internship. This was the first internship program for the students of BSc. AFM as the IUST will produce its first batch of mathematics graduates this year.

## IUST students qualify GATE

Two students from the department of food technology qualified GATE examinations. Farah Naqash and Shams-u-din from the 8th semester of B.Tech (Food technology) qualified the prestigious examinations.

## MSc Food tech conducts edu tour

The group of 14 students of MSc. Food technology visited Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhyana for 10 days training programme. The students also got chance to visit Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal science University (GADVASU), Ludhyana. Students also visited Guru Nanak Dev university, Amritsar and Government degree college, womens, Jammu.

## Students attend workshop at DU

Four students, 2 each from BBA and B. Tech from Islamic university of science and technology attended a 17 day workshop on "Entrepreneurship and professional skills development" at Delhi university. The workshop included different sessions like communication skills, sales relationship and management, opportunities in the field of media, training on medical transcription, web designing including animation, cultural events, industrial visits etc. Sharing the experience Umar Siddiqi, a BBA student said, "We got new things to learn in this workshop which provided us with better exposure and we learnt to adapt the new things quickly," he said.

## Construction

Keeping in mind the importance of infrastructure and development of the University, the IUST is in the process of constructing two multi-storey buildings for the Department of B. Tech (electronics) and the work is scheduled to be completed in the month of May, 2013. The construction is on an area of more than 13,500 square feet land and includes two structures. The construction started in November, 2011 and the estimated time for completion is 18 months. Besides this, a plan for the construction of three other buildings is also being pursued which include a block for B.Tech (computer science), a girls hostel and a lecture hall.

## IUST starts Friday business club Provides self enabling and skill developments training

The IUST's School of Business Studies has introduced a Friday Business Club (FBC) with an aim to provide self enabling and skill driven environment for the students of business school.

Detailing about the modus operandi behind introduction of FBC, Incharge, School of Business Studies (IUST), Dr. Anisa Jan said that students will be exposed to the people and prospects that they have to work on after completing their degrees.

"In today's dynamic business environment, academics need to be supplemented by practical training. To enable students to excel in this environment, personality development is the beginning towards the same," she told the Echo.

She said the programmes to be held by the FBC will include interaction with experts, entrepreneurs and successful administrators who will share their experience with the students regarding various issues and challenges faced by them in the field.


The introduction of the business club was recommended by the Board of the Studies (IUST) in the year 2009. The recommendations suggested that a business club should hold sessions on every Fridays. The recommendations were approved by the executive council and FBC started working from the first month (March) of academic year 2012.

Membership has been made mandatory for students of Business Studies. The students have to be a member of one of the 14 sub clubs of FBC in every semester.

The sub clubs include Marketing club, Finance and Investment club, Public Management Initiative, Family Business club, Government and politics club, Management consulting club, Retail club, social venture club, sports management club, travel and hospitality club, venture capital club, real estate club, healthcare club and health and wellness club.

Apart from interactions and guest lectures, Dr. Anisa Jan further said, the activities at FBC will involve presentations, mock interviews, management games, entrepreneur programs, business quiz, health and fitness activities, career counseling sessions, environmental awareness etc. As of now, the FBC has conducted many programmes.

The sessions are held on every Friday and is participated by the students, faculty of the business school besides faculty and students from other departments. As its first event, the FBC organized a Seerat conference and many speakers deliberated upon the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his way of operating in the world.

The event was held at University auditorium on March 16. This event was followed by an interactive session with the prominent banker and business writer Sajad Bazaz on March 30, 2012. 

Compiled by **Aamir Ashraf Gujri**

## IUST hosts entrepreneurship awareness prog

# 'Entrepreneurship provides limitless opportunities'

By Is'haq Bhat

Asking the students to stop chasing government jobs, Owner, Khyber bio culture private limited Rouf Tramboosaid there is a huge potential and limitless opportunities to the youth in entrepreneurship.

He was speaking at 2nd phase of the entrepreneurship promotional programme held by the US based non-governmental organization (NGO) Mercy Corps under its Start-up Kashmir Youth Entrepreneur (SKYE) aimed at promoting and motivating youth towards entrepreneurship.

The 14 phase awareness programme was held on March 20 in collaboration with the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in

which youth is deliberated about the process to succeed as entrepreneurs. "The time has come for young generation to stop chasing government



jobs. They should look within themselves and identify the limitless opportunities around them. With creativity, innovation and hard work youth can make themselves successful and will create jobs for others as well. In this modern era of competition and lack of opportunities," he said.

At present, Tramboosaid, it was impossible to get a government job. "If you take entrepreneurship as your career, you will not be the job seeker but a job provider," he added.

The SKYE project identifies and advocates specific steps that can help reduce barriers and improve support for youth entrepreneurship in Kashmir.

"The objective of holding the programme in IUST was to reduce barriers, improve support and strengthen a culture of youth entrepreneurship among the out-going students." This is a start up programme and is aimed at developing at least 200 youth led enterprises across the 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley," Project officer SKYE, Zubair Lone told the ECHO at the sidelines of the function.

Earlier, another successful entrepreneur, Umer Farooq who established a factory for poultry feed in Pulwama Industrial Estate in 2010 and is successfully run-

ning his business shared his experience with the students and urged them to take up entrepreneurship as a career option.

Based upon the research and experience shared by successful entrepreneurs, the organizers gave comprehensive plan to proceed forward in different forms of entrepreneurship. A video showing successful entrepreneurs of Kashmir was also released at the function.

Meanwhile the students hailed the efforts of IUST and Mercy Corps in promoting entrepreneurship among the youth.

"It is very encouraging to see that our university and the Mercy is holding such informative program and innovative programmes. It is very helpful and exciting to interact with experienced entrepreneurs of the state," said Ashiq Hussain, a BBA student at IUST who aims to start a travel agency after completing his studies. *Echo*

# Art eases stress, depression: Aussie psychotherapist

By Javaid Lone

Stating that expression through art was an easy method to describe one's inner feelings and sufferings, Australian Art and Psychotherapist Dena Lawrence said that art therapy is a creative and spiritual approach to work out against and express various psychiatric diseases prevalent across the globe.

Lawrence was speaking at a workshop on art therapy organised by Islamic University of Science & Technology's (IUST) International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) on March 30.

Addressing the gathering which included faculty members and the students, Lawrence called for more creative and spiritual approaches towards working against the present day stress, depression and trauma. "Art Therapy is one such creative method which helps a person to express his or her pain and sufferings through paintings," she said.

She said that it was the 'safe way' to represent one's inner feelings. "The paintings drawn by a person describe how he is being treated in this world and what is his inner feeling and the perception about the events taking

place around him," Lawrence said.

Lawrence explained that Art Therapy was a form of psychotherapy that uses art as a medium of communication. "The pleasure of cre-



Students display skills at the Art Therapy workshop.

School of Technology, Prof. K.K.S Jamwal said that painting one's inner feelings act as "big reliever and healer." "One can easily give vent to his or her feelings. Expression is very im-

portant and expressing using art as a tool is an easy and more comprehensible way to get rid of tension," he added.

Dean School of Business Studies, Prof. A. R. Mattoo

while addressing the gathering said art therapy finds its roots in the spiritual studies. "Using art one can express and simultaneously work out a plan to get rid of the stress and depression which is common everywhere in the world," he said.

Incharge Department of Arabic Syed Abdul Majeed Andrabi lauded the role of Sufi Saints uplifting the social and psychological values of Kashmiri

people. "People have always found solace and peace of mind in company and teachings of Sufi saints. Being in the company of these great men has always helped the people to let off their suffering and pains," he added while stressing on following the teachings of the sufi saints and religious personalities of Kashmir," he added.

University Librarian, Prof. Wajih A. Alvi while describing art therapy as a mode of treatment many psychiatric ailments said that art therapy can prove fruitful if used effectively against the stress, depression, trauma and other diseases commonly found in the valley.

In Charge ICSS, Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi also addressed the gathering and briefed about the role of ICSS in making the students better human beings. "The aim of such programmes is to impart the lessons of ethics, personality development among our students," Quraishi said.

Later on, the participants were asked to draw paintings to express their inner feelings about various issues concerning the society. The students participated enthusiastically and painted their perception about the issues common in the valley. *Echo*

Photo/Aamir Ashraf Gujari

# Shovelling off Vitasta's 'burden' for survival ...

By **Mudasir Amin Bhat**

**E**very burden is a blessing for the people residing along the banks of river Jhelum in South Kashmir's Awantipora town.

Thousands of people living on the river bank or its vicinity for past many decades have been collecting sand from the river bed for their survival while the river, choked annually due to silting, is shovelled off its burden.

The sand collected from the Vitasta (Sanskrit name for River Jhelum) near Awantipora is known for its quality with least mud content, reaches to length and breadth of valley for construction purposes. "It is the river which has been providing us livelihood for ages," said 43-year-old sand digger, Abdul Majeed.

The sand is collected from river Jhelum using big boats known as *Khoech*, an alternative of a truck in its capacity.

The occupation is not as easy as it may seem.

"The sand digging needs a

strong physical and mental stance. In

summer or winter we have to continue the digging. We usually start the sand collection immediately after offering morning prayers," said Mohammad Amin, a 57-year-old labourer.



"In winter our clothes freeze while we keep digging the sand from the river bed. Many of my colleagues

suffer from joint and back problems as the process

involves manual

work in chill-

ing tempera-

tures," he said.

Besides, Amin said,

the sand needs

to be washed to re-

move the last traces of the mud; only then it could be used for construction activity," he added.

The returns aren't much rewarding. "Four people working

in one boat can collect around 200 square feet of sand in a day from the riverbed and earn around ₹1,600 per day," Majeed informed.

He said that they can make around ₹12,000 per month from this work. "But out of that we have to pay ₹3000 as royalty and other funds to the government," he said.

"Then we have to pay the labourers as well. Whatever is left is for our family," he added.

As the sector provides livelihood to a large number of unemployed youth, there have been demands that government should take some serious measures for this unorganized sector. "It provides livelihood to thousands of unemployed youth of the valley. When western countries use their water resources for improving their economy why can't we think on the same lines," said Abdur Rahim, a boat owner. *Echo*

## Authorities 'feign ignorance' as agri land shrinks in Chadoora

By **Dr. Shabnum Akhtar**

The administration seems to have turned a blind eye towards illegal constructions going on unabated in agricultural land at many places in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Hundreds of houses and colonies have come up over the agricultural land under the nose of the district administration; however, no proper action has been taken to put a check on this illegal activity. "People are illegally constructing houses on the agricultural land across the district. Ironically, so far the administration has failed to take any action in this regard," said Mohammad Shafi, a resident of Kral-

pura area of the district Budgam.

The locals said that illegal construction of the agricultural land is on unabatedly in the areas of Dharambugh, Kralapora and several other places in Chadoora Tehsil.

It should be noted that under the Lands and Revenue act of JK, it is illegal to convert the agricultural land into residential areas.

However, the locals informed that the land mafia has sold some land from the irrigational canal for the construction purposes. "Sultan colony has been set up on the canal land illegally occupied and later on sold by the land mafia. The canal was the only source of irrigation for their agricultural land," locals alleged.

They said there is a nexus between land mafia, irrigation and the rev-

enue department. "No action was taken by either of these departments while people kept on with constructions on the agricultural land. This clearly shows that these departments are hand in gloves with the land mafia," Tariq Ahmed, a resident of Dharambugh alleged. "The concerned authorities were informed many times, however, nothing has happened so far," he added.

Meanwhile, the experts cautioned that illegal construction on the agricultural land will adversely affect the economy of the state in the near future. "Agriculture is the backbone of economy for Jammu and Kashmir. The pace at which it is being converted into residential areas, the economy is bound to suffer seriously in the coming years," an expert said.

He urged the government to take speedy action against the people involved in such illegal activity.

Reacting to the allegations, Tehsildar Chadoora, Qayyam-ud-din while talking to the Echo claimed that the authorities take prompt action whenever they receive any such complaint. "If found guilty, a person is fined with ₹5,000 and the structures built are demolished. Later on the administrations ensures that the land is restored and used for agricultural purposes only," he added.

Tehsildar feigned ignorance when asked about how many persons were penalized for conversion of agricultural land. "I joined in the month of November 2011. I don't have much information about such cases," he added. *Echo*