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Committee on NEP-2020 implementation in polytechnics constituted; Prof Romshoo chairs first meeting

To facilitate implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at technical institutions of Jammu and Kashmir, the Skill Development Department, Government of J&K, has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof Shakil A Romshoo.

The committee aims to look into the introduction of choice-based credit system (CBCS) in polytechnics, uniformity of syllabi among all polytechnic institutions, establishment of academic bank of credits, introduction of dual degrees with D.Voc and so on.

The first meeting of the committee held on November 15 was presided over by Prof Romshoo, who emphasised that NEP 2020 has heralded a new beginning in education. The NEP, he said, focusses on multidisciplinary and holistic education, skill development, vocational studies and flexible course structures “that promote student-centric learning and allows multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across the institutions.”

Further, emphasising the need to develop effective linkages between educational institutions and industry, the VC said, polytechnic colleges should compulsorily introduce internships in their curriculum, “so that the students get on-job training while studying.” “The internships will help to transfer relevant skills to the students. So, institutions need to identify potential craftsmen and artisans, where the students’ internship can be facilitated,” he said.

A draft roadmap prepared by the IUST for NEP 2020 implementation was discussed in the meeting. In his detailed presentation, Dean Research, IUST, Prof A H Moon, highlighted the strategy for introduction of



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

CBCS for three-year Engineering diploma courses, and uniformity in syllabus in compliance with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and NEP guidelines.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Director Skill Development J&K, Registrar J&K Board of Technical Education, Joint Director Industrial Training Institute, J&K, principals of various polytechnic colleges and officials from different technical education institutions.



MoE awards IUST 3.5 star rating for promoting innovation, entrepreneurship

The Institutions Innovation Council (IIC), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, has awarded Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), with a star rating of 3.5 on the scale of five.

The rating has come as a recognition of the efforts of IUST in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among youth and fostering a culture of start-ups in the University. Over 6000 institutions across the country had participated in the annual innovation performance evaluation.

Pertinently, CIED, IUST with eight verticals was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, in May, 2022. During a short span of time, it has emerged as an important centre for promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in the union territory.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo lauded Director CIED, Dr Parvaiz Mir and team for the achievement. He urged the University fraternity to explore avenues of linking all the University departments and centres with the activities of CIED to further boost the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the University.

Dr Mir said the University has undertaken a series of initiatives including strengthening IUST-Industry linkages, supporting various start-ups, putting in place start-up policies, strengthening cooperation and engagement with organisations, promoting entrepreneurship in the country, and building the capacity of the youth, particularly students from IUST and neighbouring colleges, which, he said, has helped the University to develop an innovation and entrepreneurship enabling environment.

IUST celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

To commemorate the 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a seminar on 'Importance of Truth and Non-violence in Present Times' on October 3.

Director, International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST, Prof Hamidullah Marazi, who chaired the seminar, briefed about Gandhi's life, values, ideologies and ideas of non-violence. Emphasising that Gandhi preached non-violence, he said his birth anniversary was being celebrated across the globe as an International Day of Non-violence. He deliberated on Gandhi's great achievements like caste annihilation, social

reforms and fight for equality.

Prof Marazi talked at length about the vital role Gandhi played in struggle for India's independence and how he single-handedly changed the shape of the freedom movement with only non-violence and truth.

Earlier, Dean of Students, IUST, Dr Anisa Jan, kick-started the event by speaking about the importance of Gandhian values in current times. Dr. Inayat Rasool, Head Department of Arabic language and Literature, coordinated the seminar, which concluded with a question-answer session. The event witnessed the presence of numerous students and scholars.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Film on Gandhi's life screened



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

The office of Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised screening of a documentary film, 'Mahatma: Life of Gandhi,' on October 13.

Produced by Gandhi Memorial Trust in collaboration with National Film Archive of India, the documentary is based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. In charge Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, IUST, Dr Mujeeb Liyakat opened the screening by shedding light on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his achievements.

The documentary traces the journey of Mahatma Gandhi right from his childhood. The film covers all the key aspects of life of Gandhi, including his keen interest in understanding different religions of the world, his strong belief in self-help and simplicity.

Besides IUST faculty, the film screening was attended by students and scholars, who, on the occasion, were encouraged to follow the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

IUST organises 5-day painting exhibition

The Wastoorwan Gallery of Art, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), hosted five-day painting exhibition under the theme 'Memory and Metaphor' from November 24. Reputed artists showcased their work during the exhibition.

The event was inaugurated by renowned poet and social activist, Zareef Ahmad Zareef in the presence of Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo. The artists who attended the exhibition include Aftab Ahmad, Nabeel Sultan, Zahoor Zargar, Zahoor Ahmad Shiekh, Shafi Chaman and Aslam Naqashbandi. Other artists whose paintings were exhibited include Masood Hussain, M.A. Mehboob, Shujah Sultan, Iftkhar Jafar, Sheikh Zahoor, Arshad Sualeh, Rakesh Kumar, Arsalam Dhar, Shafi Chaman, Sameena Maqsood and Fiza Shah.

In his address, Prof Romshoo highlighted the role of academia in the preservation of art, culture and heritage. He said, Kashmir has

inherited rich and diverse art and culture and such exhibitions shall be helpful to educate the common masses, especially students, to appreciate the Valley's legacy.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Zareef Ahmad Zareef, said, art brings one closer to their innate sense of creativity and answers their inquisitiveness. He added that it is everyone's responsibility to preserve the rich culture of Kashmir for posterity. Meanwhile, appreciating the efforts of IUST, he said, the exhibition was a great service towards the society.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Director, Wastoorwan Gallery of Art, Prof Fozia Qazi, said art has become a means for reflection and contemplation in today's challenging times, therefore such events usher in a fresh breath.

The event was also attended by former Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Siddiq Wahid, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Registrar IUST, Prof Naseer Iqbal, heads of various departments and other officials of IUST.

DJMC faculty bags Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship in US



Dr Ruheela Hassan, Senior Assistant Professor at Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), was awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Fellowship.

The International Education Administrators (IEA) awards are seminars designed to help education professionals and senior higher education officials from India to familiarise themselves with the United States higher education system over a two-week grant period.

The 11-member cohort, which comprised senior professors and academic administrators from several parts of the country, visited the US from October 1 to 15. The prestigious George Washington University in Washington DC was the main host for this programme this year. However, the cohort also visited Georgetown University, Howard University and Montgomery College in the US.

Congratulating Dr Hassan on her selection, Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, expressed his optimism that this exposure will be useful for her as well as "a wonderful opportunity to represent the University at international level."

Dr Hassan said the fellowship provided her with a great opportunity to learn about the US education system and explore possibilities for establishing networks. "I have learnt the best practices in the US education system and shall be employing these learnings in my teaching and research practices."

IUST holds 3-day int'l conference on Kashmir heritage, spirituality

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a three-day international conference on 'Culture, Heritage and Spirituality of Kashmir: Retrospect and Prospect' from October 18 to 20.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who presided over the valedictory session, reiterated that IUST will always spearhead initiatives for the promotion of culture, heritage and spirituality in Kashmir. The University, he said, shall continue to work towards creating community, industrial and alumni connect as a part of its outreach programme.

In his address, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, summed up the proceedings of the conference, wherein he discussed various papers presented. Prof Malik lauded female faculty of IUST for their contribution in varied endeavors of the varsity.

The conference was a Pan IUST Centre initiative by centres, such as Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, Habba Khatoon Centre for Language and Literature, and International Centre for Spiritual Studies.

The three-day conference saw detailed discussions on key priority areas of culture and heritage, language and literature, history, philosophy, and spirituality of Kashmir, held by noted international



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

and national academicians, cultural experts and speakers in different sessions.

Over a hundred research papers were presented at the conference during four plenary sessions, two symposiums, five parallel sessions and one-panel discussion under the chairmanship of Prof Malik, Prof Naseer Iqbal, Registrar IUST, Prof Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Research IUST, Prof Lily Want, Dean

Outreach IUST, Prof H N Rafiabadi, In charge Director International Centre for Spiritual Studies, Prof Majrooh Rashid, In charge Director, Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature, Prof Abdul Rashid Bhat of Islamic Studies department, Dr Sheikh Jameil, Sr. Proctor and Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies IUST and Prof Saleem Beg, Convener INTACH, J&K Chapter.

IUST hosts 2-day capacity building workshop on Convergence of HPC, AI



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

A two-day capacity-building workshop on the Convergence of High-Performance Computing (HPC) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) was held at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on November 2 and 3. The workshop that was organised by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Department of Computer Science, IUST, was sponsored by the Higher Educational Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacities of college teachers about recent developments

in the domain of Artificial Intelligence, HPC and utilization of state-of-the-art AI algorithms created by IUST. Besides scholars and faculty members from IUST, 40 teachers from different colleges of Jammu and Kashmir participated in the workshop.

Addressing the participants, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakeel A Romshoo, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said capacity-building programmes were imperative for creating a learning environment for AI education "Such programmes enhance the capacities and competence of our trainers," he said.

Prof Romshoo encouraged colleges to network with universities like IUST to undertake collaborative projects. He also talked about the role of HPC in areas like climate change, disaster management, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. He further said IUST is planning to introduce a Master's programme in Artificial intelligence.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof Manzoor A Malik, talked at length about the role of HPC in Physics. He said, the present technology is advancing at a tremendous pace and the one who is lagging behind is out of the race within minutes.

Registrar IUST, Prof Naseer Iqbal, discussed the role of HPC in Astrophysics and related study areas. Highlighting the importance of technology and AI, Prof Iqbal said, IUST is excelling in many areas, and is at the forefront in the digitalization of several procedures at the University. "IUST will soon emerge as a University of excellence with a reputation as a research institution across the globe," he deemed.



Such programmes enhance the capacities and competence of our trainers"

Saurab Bhagat visits IUST, signs MoU

Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurab Bhagat (IAS), visited Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) to take a review of the 21 J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) sponsored projects at IUST on October 22. He signed an MoU to promote collaboration between JKST&IC and IUST in the areas of research, innovations and entrepreneurship. He also interacted with the project investigators.

During his visit, Bhagat met Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Research, IUST, Prof A H Moon and Director, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development, Dr Parvez Mir.

Appreciating the research acumen of



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

IUST, the Commissioner Secretary said, the union territory of J&K is blessed with abundant biodiversity as well as medicinal plants, "which can be beneficial in boosting the economy of this place." He assured that government will provide all support for the establishment of biodiversity and renewable energy parks in J&K, while IUST has already taken a step in this direction.

Highlighting the relevance of IUST's research activities for society, Prof Romshoo acknowledged the support of JKST&IC. "IUST has been at the forefront of becoming carbon neutral and meets most of its energy requirements from solar energy," he said. He also talked about various environment-friendly initiatives of the University and research orientation of the varsity towards the same.

IUST holds special lecture on Digital Journalism



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), held a special lecture on 'Developing interactive content digital Journalism' on October 11. The event was organised in collaboration with *Newswriters.in*—an online platform of national repute that promotes critical thinking on contemporary issues related to media and communication, especially in the wake of digital revolution.

The keynote speaker for the event was Anjan Chakraborty, a digital media consultant and trainer for the new media newsrooms with over 19 years of journalism experience of having worked with organisations like *Reuters*, *The Statesman*, *ABP*, *Hindustan Times*, and others, and is currently the CEO of *Estory Infocom*—a cyber-security consultancy firm based in Kolkata.

The event was coordinated by Dr Monisa Qadiri, Sr. Assistant Professor

and departmental coordinator for Industry Connect, DJMC, and moderated by Dr Arif Nadaf, Faculty, DJMC.

While addressing the students, Chakraborty shared tips on developing interactive content for greater engagement of users. "Interactive content is the backbone of modern-day journalism and this is where future of journalism lies," he said.

He emphasised the need for interactive content in different formats including pictures and videos. He also highlighted the need for journalists to equip themselves with digital media skills to stay relevant in current times.

The lecture concluded with a question-answer session, followed by concluding remarks by Dr Qadiri. Among others present during the session were Dr Heeba Din, Faculty DJMC, Zahoor Ahmad Gilkar, Technical Assistant, DJMC and Public Relations and Media Centre, and Sarfaraz Ahmad of IT department, IUST.

Padma Shri Mathematician interacts with IUST students

Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised an interaction session with Padma Shri Prof Dinesh Singh, Chancellor, K R Mangalam University, and former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi, for its students, on October 18.

During the interaction session, the acclaimed Mathematician Prof Singh encouraged the students to pursue the study of Mathematics with a curious mind. He lauded the programmes offered by the Department of Mathematical Sciences for their relevance to modern Mathematics education.

He also highlighted the role Mathematics plays in various spheres of life and the multitude of career opportunities, which Mathematical Sciences can open for students.

Welcoming Prof Singh, the Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Prof Fozia Qazi, described him as a mentor of the department, and elaborated on the crucial advisory role Prof Singh has played since the foundation of the department in 2009.

Faculty, research scholars and students of the Mathematics department attended the interaction session.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

IUST celebrates 17th Foundation Day

HUMA MASROOR/ JUNAID RASHEED

Celebrating 17 years of academic excellence, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) observed its Foundation Day on November 7 with enthusiasm.

Besides faculty and non-teaching staff of the University, the day-long event saw the presence of founding Vice Chancellor and alumni of the varsity, academicians, media persons, and others.

Commencing the celebratory event, Registrar, IUST, Prof Naseer Iqbal, applauded the staff for their dedication and loyalty towards the University ever since its establishment in 2005. "Even with limited resources available earlier, we have produced several India Administrative Services (IAS) officers. Our institution has been contributing immensely to the society for its upliftment and development," he said.

Later, Dean of Students, IUST, Dr Anisa Jan, took audiences through the memory lane with the display of key milestones in building the University right since its inception. She recalled how different and innovative courses were launched from time to time, which makes the University stand out in present times.

Stating that the University had started off with 199 kanals of land in 2005, Dr Jan gave an overview of the current infrastructure, courses, facilities, research initiatives and sports facilities available at the varsity at present. She also touched upon the Strategy Plan (2021-26), which is envisioned to be a catalyst for core activities in administration, research, academics, outreach and infrastructure development.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, who presided over the event as chief guest, acknowledged the contribution of faculty and staff in the overall growth of IUST. He unveiled the IUST Strategy Plan, saying that it will be a roadmap to ensure academic and innovation excellence for years to come ahead.

"The University has shown a remarkable growth in the past 17 years and will keep working towards leaving an indelible mark in the society," Prof



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Romshoo said.

He stressed on the need to make the University future-oriented by waking up to the growing challenges. He also highlighted the projects launched over the past some years at the University.

Speaking on the occasion, founding Vice Chancellor, Prof Siddiq Wahid, expressed his satisfaction and happiness over the development of the University in its long journey. "Physical infrastructure of IUST has immensely developed and I am very proud to see that," he said.

Meanwhile, Prof Wahid interacted with the students and also addressed a question-answer session. During the interaction with him, students suggested that there should be a course on Artificial Intelligence in the University.

In his address, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, who graced the occasion as the guest of honour, lauded the University for its remarkable contribution to the society. "University has not only improved on infrastructure front but contributed to the society as well," said Pole, while offering to provide more land for the development of University.

A panel discussion on 'Back to Roots' was held

among alumni, who have earned their name in different fields. A prominent figure among them was IAS Officer, Hamid Bukhari, who gave the credit of his achievement to his learnings and exposure at IUST.

"Whatever little I have achieved is all because of IUST," said Bukhari, while sharing his experiences at the University.

Later, several cultural performances were given by University students, garnering huge applause and response from the audience. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Ruheela Hassan, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, IUST.



THE UNIVERSITY HAS SHOWN A REMARKABLE GROWTH IN THE PAST 17 YEARS AND WILL KEEP WORKING TOWARDS LEAVING AN INDELIBLE MARK IN THE SOCIETY"

IUST, GMC inks MoU on research, academic collaboration

To promote the use of modern technology in health-care and encourage collaborative research, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, and Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar.

This crucial MoU was signed between the two institutions during a two-day international workshop on 'Role of Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology in Surgery and Medical Research' held on October 28-29. The workshop was organised by the Department of Surgery, GMC, in collaboration with Open-Source Research (OPSORE)—a global open platform for research collaboration.

The workshop was inaugurated by Advisor to Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, R R Bhatnagar, who was the chief guest during the inaugural session, in presence of Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo—workshop patron and the guest



of honour, Principal GMC, Prof Samia Rashid and Professor of Surgery, Dr Alaa El Hussuna.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar congratulated IUST and GMC on futuristic relevance of the workshop. He highlighted the role of

government in setting up more colleges across the union territory to strengthen it academically. He spoke about relevance of AI in meeting demands of the future in the health sector. He also emphasised the legal and ethical issues regarding the use of AI, but underlined that technology was meant for one's growth.

In his address, Prof Romshoo talked about the giant leap made by IUST in the field of AI and technological innovations. "IUST has taken a lead among the universities and institutions in the country in establishing a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in AI/ML (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)," he said. The University, he added, is on a mission to undertake pathbreaking research as well as build capacity of faculty from across the UT.

Prof Saima Rashid appreciated the support of IUST as academic partners of the workshop. She said there shall be more close-knitted collaboration between the two premier institutions in future in view of the MoU.

IUST observes National Unity Day

To mark the National Unity Day, Dean of Students, and Public Relations and Media Centre (PRMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commemorated the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31.

On the occasion, screening of a documentary film and photo-exhibition based on the life and achievements of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were held in the campus.

In charge Head, Department of Journalism and

Mass Communication (DJMC), and PRMC, IUST, Dr Mujeeb Liyakat, who presided over the event, enlightened the students about how Sardar Patel unified the nation. He highlighted the ideals of Sardar Patel, who is also known as the Iron Man of India.

The photo-exhibition depicted some major events from the life of Sardar Patel. A large number of scholars, students and faculty members from various departments of IUST participated in the celebrations.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

IUST organises seminar on drug addiction

A day-long seminar on 'drug addiction, spiritual healing and the role of parents' was held at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on December 28. The programme was jointly organised by International Centre for Spiritual Studies, Dean Outreach, and Mantaqi Centre for Science and Society (MCSS), IUST, in collaboration with the Shamah Foundation, a non-governmental organisation.

Dean Academics, IUST, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, former Head, Department of Oncology SKIMS, Prof Shaikh Ajaz Azeez, Head, Department of Psychiatry, SKIMS, Prof Abdul Majid, eminent religious scholar, Mufti Ziaul Haq Nazmi, Coordinator MCSS, Dr Andleeb, among others, addressed the participants during the seminar.

The speakers highlighted the menace of drug addiction and the impending human catastrophe if society doesn't

take corrective measures to tackle drug menace. The experts also informed the gathering about the health issues related to drug abuse and the strategies being adopted to rescue the victims, and their subsequent rehabilitation.

Speaking on the occasion, religious scholars emphasised the importance of making people aware of the drug menace, while urging them to stay away from this evil. Director, International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST, Prof Hamidullah Marazi, dealt with about spiritual healing and discussed how it can help in rehabilitation and recovery of drug addicts.

In his address, Prof Malik said lack of awareness regarding drug abuse poses a huge threat to the society, and that the need of the hour is to sensitise all stakeholders to join hands and eradicate this menace. The seminar was attended by students, scholars and faculty members of IUST.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

IUST hosts webinar series on mental health



To observe the World Mental Health Day, Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a webinar series on 'Make Mental Health for all a Global Priority' on October 11-12.

Dr Harshdeep Joshi, a renowned doctor and Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Maharishi Markendeshwar Medical College and Hospital, was the resource-person for the series.

Dr Joshi spoke at length about various forms of stress, anxiety and depression, and discussed the measures to overcome them. She further highlighted the rise of mental illness cases during the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw 25 percent increase in depression and anxiety cases. She emphasized the need to reach out to people facing mental illness and urged people not to stigmatise them, "for stigma becomes an inseparable part of mental illness."

The second day of the series revolved around social media sleep patterns and psycho-social stressors among youth. Medical officer, Health Centre IUST, Dr Zahida Rasool, moderated the session and discussed how mental health has always been a priority at IUST.

Speaking on the theme, Dr Joshi said reckless use of social media has become a cause for rise in mental illnesses amongst youngsters. She added that the rise in the number of suicides, self-harm and depression cases are a result of continuous social media usage.

Dr Joshi said social media overuse has also led to sleep pattern and behavioral changes. She emphasised on limiting the social media usage especially amongst kids, while encouraging them to engage in outdoor activities more. The webinar saw the presence of a number of students, scholars and faculty members from the University and concluded with a question-answer session.

Vigilance Awareness Week observed at IUST



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

With a pledge-taking ceremony for transparency and integrity by faculty and officials on November 1, Vigilance Awareness Week (2022) was observed at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The event was organised by the varsity in collaboration with Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), South Kashmir.

This year, the theme for the Vigilance Awareness Week was 'Corruption-free India for a developed nation' that was selected by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). A special function was organised in this regard, wherein Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo was the chief guest, while Rakesh Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police ACB South Kashmir was the guest of honour. Special Prosecuting Officer ACB, Farooq Ahmed, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Mohammad Yousuf also graced the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Romshoo discussed the importance of understanding various forms of corruption and the need to fight it. Calling upon the ACB, Prof Romshoo said, "We need a larger outreach with students for our fight against corruption as they are our future." He also talked about the initiative to set-up University Vigilance Club for fostering conscious vigilantism amongst the youth.

In his address, Rakesh Kumar, lauded the University for initiating such programmes. Highlighting the importance of such events, Kumar delivered a detailed presentation on the theme. He talked about various technological savvy initiatives like the mobile application 'Satark Nagrik' and usage of social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook that ACB have adopted for facilitating citizens for the fight against corruption.

Farooq Ahmed talked about the mechanisms for filing a complaint and the enquiry process, which ensues due diligence at ACB. He concluded his talk by advising the public servants to stay away from corruption practices and requested the youth to come forward for nation building processes.

Speaking about the role and importance of educational institutes in fighting against corruption, Mohammad Yousuf said, there was a dire need to impart moral and ethical practices to children right from home.

3-day workshop on bakery training held at IUST

A three-day training workshop on basic bakery was organised jointly by the Skill and Capacity Development Cell, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), and Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), from December 26 to 28.

The workshop aimed at imparting hands-on training to students from several colleges and universities in basic bakery, thereby helping them in developing entrepreneurial skills. The programme was inaugurated by Prof Naseer Iqbal, Registrar IUST, who highlighted the initiatives taken up by the University in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.

Talking about innovation culture, Director CIED, Dr Parvez A Mir, stressed on students to bring change in their approach from wishing to be a job seeker



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

to be a job giver. Coordinator, Skill and Capacity Development Cell, Dr Darakshan Majid, explained various entrepreneurship avenues available for the students.

Head, Food Technology department, Dr Tariq Ganie, deliberated upon the scope in the field of Food Technology. He also talked about the facilities including NABL-accredited testing laboratories available in the department.

IUST felicitates graduating foreign students



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

The Office for International Affairs, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held an interactive session with the international students of the varsity on December 31. The session was organised to facilitate a cross-cultural dialogue between the foreign students and the University fraternity, and receive constructive feedback about their experiences on campus.

A message from Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, was relayed on the occasion, wherein he congratulated the foreign students and appreciated the Office for International Affairs for holding the session, "as it would pave the way towards framing a robust foreign student policy for the University and will help create a conducive environment for foreign students."

Prof Romshoo called on these students to provide insights into specific issues

faced by the foreign students so that a system is evolved at the IUST to support international students in academics, housing, health, and other areas "to enrich their learning experience and optimally meet their special requirements."

During the session, which saw rich cultural exchanges, the graduating Computer Applications student Moustapha Adamou Hamadou expressed satisfaction over his

academic journey at IUST and described his stay at the varsity as the most enriching. Joao Afonso Gunza and Victor Zua Canda currently studying at the IUST also spoke about their experiences while calling this academic endeavour as the "best opportunity" of their lives.

The session was presided over by Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof Manzoor A Malik. While appreciating the students, Prof Malik talked about the diverse cultural backgrounds these students come from. He called on faculty members to make special arrangements for bridging the language and other barriers "so as to provide the international students with the best academic experience."

The session was coordinated by Officer I/C International Affairs, Dr Monisa Qadiri. Other senior University officials also attended the event.

CIED holds workshop on air pollution awareness

Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a workshop on air pollution through e-waste on November 29.

Additional SP Traffic Central Jammu and Kashmir Police, Tariq Ahmad Wani, Director CIED, Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Mir, and Coordinator Biodiversity Park, Dr Aijaz Qureshi, addressed the students and faculty members during the workshop.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Wani gave a detailed presentation highlighting the issue of air pollution and its impact on human well-being. He said such workshops were essential in sensitising society's all stakeholders to contribute in protecting the environment.

Dr Mir briefed the participants about the initiatives undertaken by the e-waste club of the CIED in generating awareness about pollution and the evolving mitigation strategies. Dr Qureshi also informed the participants about the e-waste policy adopted by the University.

IUST holds cleanliness drive around River Jhelum

PHOTO: OWAISE RAH/IUST



Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) conducted a cleanliness drive along the banks of River Jhelum at Awantipora in South Kashmir on December 9. The event was organised by the Dean of Students, IUST, in collaboration with Municipal Committee of Awantipora, under the University Community Outreach Programme.

Scores of students and staff members from IUST participated in the drive that was flagged off by Dean Outreach IUST, Prof Lily Want and President Municipal Committee Awantipora, Shamima Raina.

Speaking on the occasion, Raina emphasised on the importance of environmental cleanliness for the overall well-being of people. She said such drives help in cultivating a sense of urgency among the people towards environmental protection.

Senior officials and faculty of the University including Sameer Wazir, Dr Asifa Baba, Dr Munejah Khan, Dr Iqbal Qureshi, Dr Andleeb, Dr Monisa Qadiri, and Dr Hilal A Rather also participated in the programme.



PHOTO: ZAHOOR AHMAD GILKAR/IUST

Prof Romshoo flags off football team to participate in North Zone Tourney

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, flagged off University Football Team on December 15 to participate in the Inter-University Football Tournament.

The 16-member squad from IUST took part in the tournament, in which 80 teams from all across the country participated. The Vice Chancellor advised the players to play the game in great spirit and be the

best ambassadors of the University.

The VC said that the University was committed towards further developing sports infrastructure and encouraging students to participate at the national and international levels. He emphasised that such opportunities allow the participants to learn from each other and encourage sportsmanship.

The tournament commenced on December 16 at GNA University Phagwara Punjab.