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# IUST NEWSLETTER

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## IUST BAGS 6TH NATIONAL WATER AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE WATER CONSERVATION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has been awarded the Best Institution (other than school or college) in 6th National Water Awards. The awards were announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

With this award, IUST has joined a select group of national institutions recognised for translating the vision of 'Water Secure India' into action on the ground. The award ceremony was held on November 18 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where IUST Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Romshoo was conferred the award.

The jury appreciated the IUST's holistic, science-based model for water conservation and environmental sustainability, which integrates rooftop rain-water harvesting, mountain runoff (from Wastoorvan hills) through check-dams and recharge pits, and a 100 KLD sewage treatment plant that treats campus wastewater and supplies it for campus irrigation.

IUST has also afforested hilly terrain, developed biodiversity and medicinal-plant parks, and engaged a large number of participants through environmental-awareness programmes. Innovatively, IUST has converted high-velocity mountain runoff into ground-water using geo-physically guided recharge

structures, and rolled out an efficient water conservation system.

Prof. Romshoo stated that by integrating large-scale infrastructure with cutting-edge recharge technology and active community participation, the University has significantly strengthened its groundwater resources, mitigated flash flood risks arising from the rapid runoff of the Wastoorvan hills, and enhanced campus ecology, setting a new benchmark for institutional water stewardship in mountainous regions. He also congratulated the entire university community, whose dedicated efforts made this achievement possible.



## PROF. ROMSHOO AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS J. C. BOSE FELLOWSHIP

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, has been awarded the prestigious J. C. Bose Fellowship by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India, for the year 2025.

The J. C. Bose Fellowship is among India's highest scientific honours, conferred on scientists who demonstrate sustained excellence, global impact, and leadership in their fields. Prof. Romshoo, a distinguished earth scientist, has over 37 years of pioneering work on Himalayan glaciology, hydrology, and climate change, contributing significantly to national policy formulation and India's positions under various international environmental frameworks.

ANRF commended the transformative nature of Prof. Romshoo's research, particularly its relevance to water security, climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and transboundary water sharing. The Rs 1.3 crore fellowship will further advance his research on cryosphere-climate-water interactions and the award acknowledges his proven ability to conceptualize and lead complex, multi-institutional research programmes.

Prof. Romshoo has an exceptional scholarly record, with over 290 publications, including more than 50 lead-author papers in the past five years. His accolades include the National Geoscience Award, Satish Dhawan Award, Kasumigaura International Prize, a state award from J&K Government and many other honours. He is an elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and other leading scientific bodies.

IUST warmly congratulates Prof. Romshoo on this distinguished recognition and celebrates his outstanding scientific contributions, international standing, and transformative impact on Himalayan science, society, and policymaking.

## LG MANOJ SINHA INAUGURATES IUST'S NEW INNOVATION CAMPUS

Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, inaugurated Innovation Campus (Campus III) and the new Administrative Block at Campus I on November 12, as part of 20th Foundation Week celebrations of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST).

Sinha, who also serves as Chancellor of IUST, applauded the University's remarkable progress in all spheres of education and urged educational institutions to strive toward global standards of academic excellence. He emphasized the importance of integrating technological advancements, like AI, robotics, space tech-



nologies etc. into higher education to drive economic growth of the country.

The Chancellor appreciated IUST's ongoing transformation and expressed confi-

dence that the University will continue to achieve greater heights at the global level. On behalf of the people of J&K, the Chancellor conveyed heartfelt sympathies with the victims and their families affected by the recent terror attack in New Delhi.

In his address, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, spoke about the University's implementation of NEP 2020, rapid academic expansion including emerging disciplines such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Sciences, ..... Continued on Page 2



# IUST HOSTS CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A two-day capacity-building workshop titled Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction was held on November 25-26 at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The workshop was jointly organised by the Department of Planning and Geomatics, the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of India.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, presented a comprehensive disaster vulnerability profile of Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the need for enhanced stakeholder coordination and capacity building. He also noted that IUST has been actively contributing to disaster research, climate-resilient development planning, and community awareness



through its specialized academic and research centres.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. A. H. Moon, highlighted the economic and humanitarian impacts of previous floods and earthquakes in J&K, calling for strengthened mitigation and preparedness mechanisms.

Dean, School of Architecture and Planning, Qazi Qamar Iqbal, spoke about habitat loss as a key driver of human risk exposure and emphasized actionable planning for safer environments.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Jasia Bashir underscored the urgency of integrating climate-change adaptation strategies with disaster-risk reduction (DRR) approaches, noting that climate-induced hazards continue to intensify vulnerability across regions.

The workshop included technical sessions on climate-science scenarios, hydrological disaster vulnerability, role of the Indian Meteorological Department in early-warning systems, and includes discussions on government initiatives, multi-departmental engagement, and best practices for resilient community planning. Participants included teachers and researchers from different academic institutions of the union territory.

Photo: Zahoor Ahmad / IUST

# IUST OBSERVES WORLD FOOD DAY

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) observed World Food Day 2025 on November 21, highlighting the year's global theme 'Hand-in-Hand for Better Food and a Better Future.' The event focused on food security, sustainability and innovative solutions for a safer and healthier food system.

The daylong programme featured competitive activities including a quiz, debate and product development contest with participation from multiple institutions across the Valley. SKUASTK emerged first in the quiz competition, followed by IUST and Government Degree College Anantnag. In debate, IUST secured the top position while SKUAST-K stood second. In product development, IUST bagged first place, with SKUAST-K and GDC Anantnag declared runnersup. Congratulating the students.



Photo: Owais Yousuf Rah / IUST

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, urged students to pursue innovations and entrepreneurial ventures in the food sector. He pointed out to the growing pressure on natural resources, especially water in Kashmir, and urged the students to develop innovative and responsible solutions in the food sector. He assured that the University would continue to

support entrepreneurial and research initiatives that contribute to a more secure food future.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. A. H. Moon, emphasized the significance of responsible food consumption and the role of the Department of Food Technology in addressing global challenges, while Registrar, IUST, Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, highlighted the value of interdisciplinary learning and student development.

Dean School of Engineering & Technology, Dr. Kaisar Javeed, emphasized that such platforms encourage students to think critically about sustainable food systems and contribute meaningfully to society. Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dr. Thameed Aijaz, Head of the Department, appreciated the collaborative efforts behind organizing the event and highlighted the department's commitment to academic excellence and practical exposure.

# CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATED AT IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated Constitution Day November 26, with active participation from faculty members, non-teaching staff and students.

The theme for the programme was 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman' (Our Constitution, Our Pride).

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Disaster Risk Reduction, Philosophy, Electrical Vehicles technology, Geo-space technologies, Cyber Security, and Environmental Sustainability.

He said IUST has evolved as a knowledge hub focusing on research and innovation and skilling, contributing to the accomplishment of Viksit-Bharat@2047 vision. He further emphasized the University's strong outreach framework that connects research and innovation to societal needs and highlighted the institution's mental health counselling structures for student well-being.

stitution, Our Pride). A series of activities were organised as part of the celebration, including speech and debate competitions, awareness campaigns, and contests aimed at promoting constitutional literacy and civic pride.

The programme was presided over by Dr. As-

Prof. Romshoo congratulated all stakeholders, including faculty, staff and others for their contribution to the growth and development of IUST.

Shri Shantmanu (IAS) Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, who was the Guest of Honour on this occasion, commended IUST for being among the few universities in the country that have effectively utilized national schemes to advance innovation and academia. He congratulated the University for the newly inaugurated infrastructure projects. Prof. Nilofar Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, who graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, also congratulated the IUST fraternity and lauded the leader-

ifa Mehraj Baba Dean of Students IUST and coordinated by Dr. Syed Jaleel, Head, Department of International Relations, along with NSS Coordinator Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Showkat Hussain, Head, Department of Islamic Studies, highlighted the significance of the Consti-

ship of Prof. Romshoo in steering the University toward academic and research excellence.

Welcoming the guests, Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST, announced the inauguration of the new facilities and highlighted the University's focus on strengthening academics, research, and innovation through enhanced infrastructure and collaborative initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor conferred some awards on the occasion. Prof. Parvez A. Mir received the Best Teacher Award, the Department of Food Technology was awarded the Best Department, the Department of Mathematical Sci-

tion and emphasized that every right is accompanied by a responsibility. Mass reading of the Preamble was also held, during which the participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the values and ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

ences was awarded the Best Department in the School of Sciences, while Dr. Darakhsha Majid from Department of Food Technology received the Best Startup Enabler Award for promoting entrepreneurship on campus. The Hackathon winners were also felicitated, with NIT securing the first position and IUST teams bagging the second and third positions.

Besides, the Best Start-up Awards were presented to several successful start-ups incubated by IUST. The event also witnessed the release of the CIED Annual Report and the signing of several MoUs aimed at strengthening industrial collaboration and promoting innovation-led partnerships.



# 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: IUST CELEBRATES FOUNDATION WEEK

## CM INAUGURATES IUST RADIO STATION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held 20th Foundation Day celebrations from November 10 to 13, marking two decades of academic excellence, innovation and societal contribution.

Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his Presidential Address, Omar Abdullah appreciated IUST's remarkable progress in a short span of time and commended the University's emphasis on technology, innovation, and contemporary education. He assured full support of the Government in strengthening the University's growth trajectory and hoped that the University's radio station would help broadcast university knowledge outcomes, and programs to a wider stakeholder community.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, expressed pride in IUST's rapid development and appreciated the University's initiatives such as Design Your Own Degree, entrepreneurship programs, and contributions to sustainable development, disaster management, and environmental protection.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development &



Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmed Dar, congratulated the University about its achievements and initiatives. He spoke about the importance of quality education in shaping the future of youth. He asked the university to use innovations to address societal issues facing the J&K region.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, outlined the University's Institutional Development Plan and its seamless alignment with the National Education Policy 2020.

He highlighted the IUST's robust skilling and innovation eco-

system, digital governance and strategic expansion plans. He also announced IUST's participation in the National Student Satellite Mission, expressing hope that one of the 75 satellites, titled 'Kashmir Satellite,' will be launched from IUST by end of the next year.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, highlighted the academic and research milestones of IUST over the past two decades. A short film showcasing the University's growth in startup innovation, skill development, and youth capacity building was also screened on the occasion. The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Prof. Abdul

Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar, IUST, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, faculty, students, and guests.

On the occasion, the University Annual Report was formally released. The Chief Minister also felicitated five IUST students who brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by winning gold medals at national-level sporting events, acknowledging their outstanding achievements. MoUs with various industries and organizations were also exchanged to strengthen industry-academia collaboration. Two major facilities, the Community Radio Station and the Girls' Hostel, and a Tech Expo showcasing student innovations were formally inaugurated by the Chief Minister as part of the Foundation Day celebrations.

## IUST HOLDS ART EXHIBITION, BUSINESS FESTIVAL TO MARK FOUNDATION DAY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held a series of academic, cultural, entrepreneurial and community outreach activities on November 11, highlighting the University's commitment to sustainable rural development, creativity, youth empowerment, and inclusive societal growth.

The day commenced with the inauguration of the art exhibition titled 'Praznaw – The Bloom of New Art' by Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, at the Wastoorwan Gallery of Art, Rumi Library. Organized in collaboration with Hunar Gaah, Srinagar, the exhibition features a diverse collection of paintings, calligraphy, portraiture, abstract work, and stone sculpture by Kashmiri artists. The exhibition reflects a vibrant tapestry of creative expression and represents a collaborative effort to celebrate and preserve local art traditions.

As part of the Foundation Week, the Department of Business



Studies, in collaboration with CIED IUST, also organised a two-day Business Festival, bringing together 50 student entrepreneurs, four alumni innovators, and four established enterprises. The festival served as a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and showcasing student-led business ideas.

The event drew an enthusiastic response, with nearly 500 students from various educational institutions visiting the stalls

and interacting with participants. IUST also celebrated the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Foundation Day on the theme 'Sustainable Rural Development', with active participation from students, teachers, and representatives from the university's adopted villages.

The celebration featured a poster-making competition and a tree plantation drive focusing on the sub-theme 'Clean and Green Villages– Save Water, Plant Trees, and Build a Better Tomorrow.' Students from Government High Schools Barsoo, Gooripora, and Padgampora took part in the activities. In the poster-making competition, Government High School Gooripora secured the first position, Government High School Padgampora achieved second place, and Government High School Barsoo secured the third position. The programme concluded with a Prize Distribution Ceremony, acknowledging the students' creative contributions and reinforcing the spirit of community partnership.

## CIED HOSTS SIDBI DELEGATION TO STRENGTHEN INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM

A high-level delegation from the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) visited the Innovation Campus of IUST on November 24 for an interactive programme with participants of STEM (Skill to Enterprise Model) and EDP (Executive Development Programme in Transformational Leadership for micro and small enterprises) initiatives under the CIED-IUST Foundation.

The delegation was led by Shri Manoj Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director, SIDBI, and included senior officials Shri Sudatta Mandal (DMD), Shri Balbir Singh (CGM), Shri Sunil S. (GM), and Mr. Ketan Gaikwad, Managing Director & CEO, RXIL, among others. Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, along with Registrar Prof. Abdul Wahid, Dean Academic Affairs Prof. A. H. Moon, and CEO CIED-IUST Foundation Prof. Parvez A. Mir graced the programme and interacted with the delegation. Prof. Romshoo emphasized the



pivotal role of universities in advancing the region's innovation ecosystem and highlighted IUST's commitment through the establishment of the CIED-IUST Foundation as a Section-8 company dedicated to entrepreneurship development.

Shri Mittal highlighted SIDBI's support mechanisms available for emerging entrepreneurs and engaged with the partici-

pants to discuss potential opportunities and growth pathways. The delegation also interacted with representatives from the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association of Kashmir, CII Kashmir, and a delegation of beekeepers. On the occasion, SIDBI launched new initiatives with SPVLC Artisans Foundation and Jammu & Kashmir Association of Social Workers (JKASW), and signed an MoU with Industrial Association Rangreth.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Prof. Parvez A. Mir shared key achievements of the STEM programme, while Prof. Moon provided an overview of the CIED-IUST Foundation and future collaboration prospects. On this occasion, certificates were also distributed to STEM and EDP participants. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sajaad Ahmed Lone, Coordinator TBIC, and was anchored by Dr. Hajra Manzoor from the Department of Management Studies.



# ICSS ORGANISES INTRA-UNIVERSITY SĪRAH QUIZ

The International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organized an Intra-University Sirah Quiz on November 27. The quiz aimed to deepen students' engagement with the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Over one hundred students registered and participated enthusiastically in this academic event.

The quiz was conducted in CBT mode in the labs provided by the Department of Computer



Science and Engineering and the Department of Computer Science.

This initiative reflects ICSS's commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of spiritual heritage among students through interactive and technology-driven academic activities. "The ICSS remains committed to offering transformative learning experiences that extend beyond textbooks," said Prof G. N. Khaki, Director, ICSS.

## EXPOSURE VISIT HELD FOR STUDENTS OF GDC BUDGAM

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a one-day exposure visit for undergraduate students from Government Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College, Budgam, on November 21, as part of its Community Connect Initiative.

A group of students, accompanied by four faculty members, visited key academic and innovation facilities on the campus. The students were taken to the Department of Physics, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), where they were briefed about the university's academic and research ecosystem.

At the MSc Physics Laboratory, they actively engaged in hands-on experiments and witnessed demonstrations relevant to their curriculum. They further toured



the High-Performance Computing Lab along with the Cyber-Physical Systems, Robotics and Drone Lab, gaining exposure to emerging technologies, advanced computational facilities, and ongoing research initiatives in cutting-edge domains.

The visit coordinated by Dr. Shaiqa Nasreen, University Community Connect Coordinator was aimed at familiarizing students with modern scientific infrastructure and encouraging them to explore higher education pathways in science, engineering, and technology.

## IUST HOSTS SMVDU TEAM TO EXPLORE COLLABORATION IN ROBOTICS, AUTOMATION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a team of faculty members from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, on November 14, who visited the Department of Mechanical Engineering to explore avenues of collaboration in Robotics, Automation and Intelligent Systems.

The visiting delegation interacted with faculty and students and toured key facilities, including the Robotics and Intelligent Machines Lab and the Centre for Industry 4.0 (C4i4).

They expressed appreciation for the advanced infrastructure, student-driven projects, and the innovative curriculum of the newly launched B.Tech. in Robotics and Automation program, which emphasizes experiential learning and interdisciplinary integration.

Both institutions agreed to initiate student exchange programs during the summer and winter internship periods, marking the beginning of a collaborative framework for joint research, innovation, and skill development. The collaboration is also expected to evolve into joint workshops, research proposals, and prototype development initiatives in areas of mutual interest.



Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering stated, "This collaboration signifies a shared commitment to advance robotics education and research in the region.

By combining our expertise and facilities, we aim to create opportunities for students and researchers to work on impactful, real-world projects."

## IUST HOLDS EXPOSURE VISIT FOR GDC KARGIL STUDENTS

The Office of Community Connect, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), under the aegis of the Dean Outreach, organized a one-day exposure visit for undergraduate students from Government Degree College, Kargil on November 3.

The visit aimed to provide students with hands-on exposure to advanced research facilities and entrepreneurial initiatives at the university. During the visit, students explored the Department of Food Technology, the Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine (WCCMM), and the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED). The tour familiarized the participants with the latest developments in food sciences, molecular biology and innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

A total of 36 students, accompanied by 4 faculty members, participated in the program. During the visit the participants also had opportunity to interact with faculty members, researchers, and innovators working across these centers, gaining valuable insights into interdisciplinary research and real-world applications of scientific knowledge. Overall, the exposure visit provided a meaningful learning experience, inspiring students to engage in scientific inquiry and explore future academic and entrepreneurial pathways in the fields of food technology, molecular medicine, and innovation.

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