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IUST FOSTERS ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AT NATIONAL HR CONCLAVE ON YOUTH, SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), through its Centre for Career Counselling and Placements (CCCP), in collaboration with Industry Connect under the aegis of the Dean Outreach, hosted HR Conclave 2026 on June 24.

The conclave was themed 'Youth, Skills and Employment: Bridging Academia and Industry for Sustainable Careers.' The Conclave brought together leading human resource professionals, industry experts, corporate leaders, policymakers, academicians, and students on a common platform to deliberate on workforce readiness and emerging industry expectations. The conclave commenced with an inaugural session chaired by Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST with Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP and Chief Public Policy & Corporate Affairs Officer, InMobi, and Mr. Harish Mahadevan, Vice President-HR, OneCell AI Inc., as the guests of honour.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Romshoo, stressed the role of universities in preparing graduates for future opportunities through innovation, entrepreneurship and industry engagement. He stated, "Universities have a pivotal role in nurturing talent, promoting innovation and creating meaningful partnerships that translate education into opportunity and impact".

Speaking on the transformative role of technology in shaping careers and economies, Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, said, "Technology is transforming the world of work, and equipping young people with the right skills is essential for inclusive and sustainable growth." Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shameem A. Shah, Registrar, IUST, highlighted the

University's commitment to fostering employability and professional excellence among students. Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, emphasized the need for academic programmes to remain aligned with changing industry demands. A major highlight of the conclave was the two parallel panel discussions on the theme "Industry Expectations and Workforce Readiness", featuring senior representatives from leading national and regional organisations. The conclave witnessed participation from an impressive spectrum of organisations representing technology, telecommunications, healthcare, hospitality, finance, manufacturing, consulting, trade, industry bodies, deans and directors. Prominent participating organisations included InMobi Global, OneCell AI Inc., TechArc, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII J&K), Kashmir Trade Forum (KTF), Reliance Jio, Kyber Group, Arco Group, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Taj Group of Hotels, FICCI FLO, Paras Hospitals, Ujala Cygnus Hospitals, The Khyber Himalayan Resort & Spa Gulmarg, Ernst & Young (EY), Apexure, BQE Software Pvt. Ltd., Kyber Industries Pvt. Ltd., Maxpro Exhibitions, iQuasar Software Solutions, J&K Bank Ltd., and SJT BioTech Innovations Pvt. Ltd.

Earlier, in her welcome address Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach, IUST, underscored the importance of strengthening academia-industry linkages to prepare students for the evolving world of work. The panel discussions were chaired by Prof. Parvaiz A Mir, and Dr. Monisa Qadiri Dean of Students.

IUST RECORDS OVER 113 PATENTS

As the nation celebrates Bharat Innovates 2026 at Nice, France, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has crossed the significant milestone of 113 patents, reflecting the University's growing culture of innovation, creativity, and translational research. Bharat Innovates 2026 aims to showcase India's innovation and deep-tech capabilities to the world by connecting Indian startups, and global partners to accelerate technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, and innovation-led economic growth.

IUST's efforts have received national recognition from the

Ministry of Education, Government of India, reaffirming IUST's commitment to fostering innovation-led education and entrepreneurship. IUST Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo said that "we firmly believe that universities must evolve from being centres of learning and knowledge creation alone to becoming engines of innovation, enterprise, and societal transformation. He said that at IUST, we remain committed to nurturing the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and job creators who will contribute meaningfully to India's scientific, technological, and socio-economic progress.

IUST CONVENES 11TH ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING APPROVES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SEMICONDUCTORS AND QUANTUM MATERIALS



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology convened the 11th meeting of its Academic Council on June 30 under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, with eminent academicians from across the country participating in deliberations on key academic initiatives, institutional priorities and the University's long-term growth strategy.

The meeting was attended by distinguished academicians and senior university functionaries, including Prof. Talat Ahmad, Former VC, University of Kashmir; Prof. Mehraj Ud Din Mir, Former VC, Central University of Kashmir; Prof. Mohammad Mubin, VC, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. Ashok Aima, Former VC, Central University Jaamu; Prof. Shobha Bagai, University of Delhi; Prof. Madhav Govind, JNU, New Delhi; and Prof. Ranjan Rawal, CEPT University, Ahmedabad. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, University of Kashmir; Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs IUST, Prof. Shameem A Shah Registrar, Finance Officer, Dean Research, Controller of Examinations, Dean Outreach, Deans of various schools, and various other officers.

At the outset, Prof. Romshoo shared a report on the University's progress, informing the members about the various initiatives undertaken, achievements made, and future plans in the pipeline. Prof. Romshoo said, "IUST is committed to building a future-ready academic ecosystem that responds to the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education. The introduction of new-age academic programmes and emerging areas of study reflects our endeavour to equip students with relevant knowledge, contemporary skills, and the capacity to drive innovation in a knowledge-based economy."

The meeting was coordinated by Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz, who presented the agenda. Speaking on the deliberations, he said, "The decisions taken by the Academic Council represent a significant step in broadening the University's academic portfolio. The emphasis on Student-centric support mechanism, frontier disciplines, and curriculum innovation, is fully aligned with the NEP2020 and the evolving needs of society and industry."

The Council approved a series of significant academic initiatives aimed at strengthening IUST's teaching, research, and innovation ecosystem. Among the major decisions, the Council approved the establishment of a CoE for Semiconductors and Quantum Materials, aligned with the national Semiconductor and Quantum Missions, to promote innovation, and technology development, in semiconductors and Quantum technology.

The Council also approved the introduction of B.Tech. in Cyber Security, M.A. in Mass Communication with AI, a five-year Integrated Law Programme, a Master's Programme in Medical Laboratory Science (MMLS), and the establishment of a Department of Earth Sciences, among other initiatives, thereby expanding the University's academic offerings in emerging and strategically significant disciplines.

IUST HOSTS WORKSHOP ON KASHMIRI SHAIVISM

The Department of Philosophy, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a one-day workshop on 'Kashmiri Shaivism: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Mysticism' on June 24, bringing together



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

faculty members, research scholars and students to explore one of Kashmir's most influential philosophical traditions. Presiding over the inaugural session, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, emphasised the role of philosophy in nurturing critical thinking, ethical values, and universal humanism. Referring to NEP 2020, he stressed the need for an education system that promotes consciousness, compassion, creativity, and independent thinking alongside scientific and technical learning. He also highlighted the responsibility of academic institutions in preserving Kashmir's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. The keynote lecture, 'From Dhvani to Pratyabhijñā: Ānandavardhana, Abhinavagupta, and the Intellectual Foundations of Kashmiri Shaivism,' was delivered by

their contemporary relevance.

Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, emphasized the importance of preserving Kashmir's philosophical, intellectual, and Sufi traditions. Earlier, Dr. Muzaffar Ali Malla, Head, Department of Philosophy, welcomed the participants, while students recited Vaakhs of Lal Ded, reflecting the region's rich spiritual heritage.

The workshop concluded with a reading and exposition of selected Śiva Sūtras, followed by an interactive discussion with participants. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Lakhvir Singh, while the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy.

Dr. Maninder Singh of Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar. He traced the evolution of Kashmiri Shaivism through the works of Ānandavardhana and Abhinavagupta, explaining concepts such as consciousness, recognition (Pratyabhijñā), and non-dualism, while highlighting

IUST ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

The Centre for Cybersecurity, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Office of the Dean Outreach and CDAC Mohali, organised a one-day workshop titled 'Cybersecurity: Safeguarding Digital Frontiers' on June 5.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about cybersecurity threats, digital safety practices, and the need to safeguard institutional digital infrastructure. The workshop focused on emerging cybersecurity challenges and best practices for securing digital environments.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Kaiser A. Giri, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, highlighted the growing importance of cybersecurity in an increasingly digital world and emphasized the need for greater awareness and resilience against cyber threats.

The technical session was conducted by Ms. Sumaira Farooq, Project Engineer, CDAC Mohali, who shared insights into cybersecurity trends, common vulnerabilities, cyber hygiene practices, and strategies for protecting digital assets.

Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach, said that IUST remains committed to organizing such initiatives that connect academic learning with contemporary societal and technological challenges.

IUST CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change (DE-SCC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Geomatics, Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, Municipal Committee Avantipora, and ESRAG-Rotary Club of Kashmir, celebrated World Environment Day 2026 on June 5 with active participation from students, faculty, staff, and representatives of various educational institutions.

Organised under the global theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," the programme aimed to promote environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and innovative solutions to contemporary environmental challenges.

The event commenced with a Cleanliness Drive, flagged off by Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, and Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST. This was followed by a Plantation Drive at the University's Innovation Campus, reaffirming IUST's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable campus development. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Sumira Nazir Zaz, Coordinator, DESCC, highlighted the significance of World Environment Day and emphasized the need for sustainable actions and nature-based solutions to address climate change and ecological degradation.

The programme featured expert lectures by Er. Bashir Ahmad Dar, Managing Director, JK Green Technologies, and Dr. Touseef Bhat from ESRAG-Rotary Club of Kashmir.

IUST HOLDS NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AI-DRIVEN DRUG DISCOVERY, TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

The Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine (WCCMM), School of Health Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a week-long national workshop titled 'Advanced Workshop on AI-Driven Drug Discovery and In Vitro Validation for Translational Research: Towards Viksit Bharat @2047', from June 1-8. The programme brought together scientists, clinicians, academicians, industry experts, and research scholars from leading institutions across the country to explore the growing role of artificial intelligence, computational biology, and translational research in modern drug discovery.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, who emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research and emerging technologies in addressing healthcare challenges. He highlighted the transformative potential of AI and data-driven biomedical research in accelerating drug development and advancing precision medicine. The inaugural session was attended by Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs; Dr. Aabid Shalla, Dean Research; and Mr. Sameer Wazeer, Finance Officer, who appreciated the initiative for promoting scientific learning and innovation.

IUST HOSTS SEMINAR ON CANCER PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Kashmir Oncology Forum (KOF), organised a one-day seminar on 'Cancer Prevention and Early Detection: Bridging Science, Awareness and Action' on June 17. The seminar was organised by the Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine in collaboration with the Office of Dean Outreach, Centre for AYUSH Sciences, University Health Centre, and Frontier Research Institute of Interdisciplinary Sciences. The programme was sponsored by the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC) and J&K Bank Ltd.

The inaugural session was attended by Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, IUST; Dr. Aabid Hussain Shalla, Dean Research, IUST; Prof. Shad Salim Akhtar, President, Kashmir Oncology Forum; Prof. Javid Rasool Bhat, Vice-President, Kashmir Oncology Forum; and several distinguished healthcare professionals and academicians. In his address, Prof. Romshoo emphasized the importance of strengthening cancer awareness, promoting preventive healthcare, and fostering collaborations among academia, healthcare institutions, and civil society to address the growing cancer burden.

IUST HOLDS 3-DAY BREAKTHROUGH WORKSHOP

The Centre for Mental Health and Wellness, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with HELP Foundation, J&K, organised the three-day 'Breakthrough Workshop 2026' for students. The workshop, would run from June 29 to July 1, under the theme 'Breaking Barriers-Discovering Potential, Creating Futures.' In her inaugural address, Dr. Asifa Mehraj Baba, Director, Centre for Mental Health and Wellness, highlighted the importance of mental wellbeing, self-awareness, resilience, and leadership in helping young people realize their potential. She encouraged

students to embrace self-growth and develop the confidence and skills needed to navigate personal and professional challenges.

The resource person, Mr. Anand David, Founder, MANFORD, conducted engaging sessions on transformational leadership and achievement motivation, motivating participants to build self-confidence, develop leadership qualities, and adopt a positive mindset for lifelong success.

Ms. Urooj Manzoor, Counsellor at the Centre for Mental Health and Wellness, also participated in the sessions, facilitating discussions and interactive activities.

FORMER DIRECTOR CBC INTERACTS WITH IUST'S MEDIA STUDENTS

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), hosted Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, and former Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), J&K and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas, for an interaction session with students and scholars on June 2. The session titled 'Communication System in Government of India and Role of IIS Officers' was held as part of the Industry Connect initiative of the department.

Welcoming the guest, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC, said, it

is important for the media students to have awareness about government media and the functioning of Indian Information Services as well as employability opportunities available for them. "Such interaction sessions play a crucial role in bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice," she said.

Interacting with the students, Ghulam Abbas (IIS) said, government media acts as a crucial bridge between the Government of India and the public by simplifying official information and delivering it in a clear and accessible manner.

He comprehensively provided the students with a road map to pursue career in the information wing of civil services.

Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Dean of Students, IUST, said, communication with the citizens is a strategic practice and requires professional and intellectual proficiency. "The lecture is part of the department's initiatives towards creating a deeper understanding of the industry and building a responsible pool of efficient communicators," she said. Dr. Haifaa Mohammad, AP, DJMC conducted proceedings of the session, while vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Arif Hussain Nadaf, AP, DJMC.

IUST'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

IUST ORGANISES SPORTS FESTIVAL; COMMISSIONER SECRETARY ANNOUNCES SPORTS FACILITIES

Sports Festival 2026, featuring Inter-Departmental Tournaments for Men and Women, was organised by the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), which aimed at promoting sportsmanship, student engagement and the message of a drug-free society.

The festival was inaugurated at the University's Synthetic Athletics Track by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K, on June 2, in the presence of Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice

Chancellor, IUST; Prof. Shamim A. Shah, Registrar; Sameer Wazir Finance Officer; Prof. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Director, Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Deans, Heads of Departments; faculty members, officers, students, and sportspersons. The programme was organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration

with the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Office of the Dean Outreach, NSS, and the local community of Awantipora.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Choudhary lauded the efforts of the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports in promoting a vibrant sporting culture on campus. In a major boost to the University's sports infrastructure, he announced the establishment of a Multipurpose Indoor Sports Complex and a Pavilion at the Synthetic Athletics Track. He

also assured full support from the Youth Services and Sports Department for the development of sports facilities and promotion of sporting activities at IUST. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Romshoo expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest for his continued support towards sports development.



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

IUST OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY UNDER NMBA

The Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir, celebrated the International Day of Yoga 2026 with great enthusiasm and participation at the university campus on June 21.

The yoga session witnessed the active participation of students, faculty members, officers, and employees of the university, reflecting a collective commitment towards promoting holistic health, well-being, and mindfulness.

Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the significance of yoga in contemporary life and stated, "Yoga is a timeless practice that nurtures harmony between the body, mind, and spirit. Its regular practice can help individuals lead healthier, more balanced, and productive lives. IUST remains committed to fostering a culture of wellness among its students and staff."

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, IUST, in his message on the occasion, remarked, "The observance of International Day of Yoga serves as a reminder of the importance of preventive healthcare and mental well-being. Universities must encourage such initiatives that contribute to the physical and emotional resilience of the academic community."

The session was conducted by Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director, Physical Education and Sports, IUST, who demonstrated various yoga asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques. He emphasized the role of yoga in enhancing flexibility, concentration, stress management, and overall fitness.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, Officer Incharge Directorate of Physical Education and Sports who appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the university fraternity.

IUST STAGES NUKKAD NATAK TO PROMOTE ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS UNDER NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a powerful Nukkad Natak (Street Play) at IUST main campus under the national banner of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) on June 18 to spread critical awareness against drug abuse. The event was organised by the Office of the Dean of Students as part of its Cultural Affairs Committee initiatives in collaboration with the Centre for Mental Health and Wellness, Provost Offices (Boys and Girls Hostels), Proctor Office and the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The short skit was witnessed by a large gathering of faculty members, officials, students, scholars and other staff members. The performance was graced by the Registrar Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, and the Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh

Ajaz Bashir, as the Special Guests. Prof. Shah underscored the relevance of student activities for a well-meaning ecosystem and assured his support for such endeavours so that the youth have constructive engagements.

Prof. Ajaz congratulated the organisers and stated how different co-curricular activities have been instrumental in creating a vibrant university environment.

Present on this occasion were Dean of Students Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Director Centre for Mental Health and Wellness Dr. Asifa Baba, Head Department of Journalism and Mass Communication Dr. Rabia Noor, Coordinator Cultural Committee and Provost Girls Dr. Farhana Allaie, Provost- Boys Dr. Zahid Khaki, Senior Proctor Dr. Mir Hashim, Coordinator Community Radio Station Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat.

IUST'S CMHW ORGANISES POSTER COMPETITION UNDER NMBA

The Centre for Mental Health and Wellness (CMHW), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a Poster Competition on the theme 'Say No to Drugs for a Better Tomorrow' on June 23 under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, as the Chief Guest, while Dr. G. N. Itoo, Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, IUST, attended as the Guest of Honour. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shah said that universities have a vital responsibility in nurturing not only academic excellence but also socially responsible and healthy citizens. He emphasised that sustained awareness and student engagement are key to realizing the vision of a drug-free society.

The competition witnessed active participation from students across various departments, reflecting their growing awareness and commitment towards promoting a drug-free society. The programme was organized by Dr. Asifa Mehraj Baba, Director, Centre for Mental Health and Wellness. Addressing the participants, she highlighted the adverse effects of substance abuse on mental health, physical well-being, academic performance, and social relationships. She urged students to make informed choices, adopt healthy coping mechanisms, and become ambassadors of a drug-free lifestyle.

The competition was judged by a jury comprising Dr. Munejah Khan, Qazi Qamar Iqbal Qari, and Mehran Qureshi, who appreciated the originality, artistic expression, and social relevance of the entries.

IUST OBSERVES WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY AT BRAKPORA

Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), observed World No Tobacco Day 2026 at Government Middle School, Brakpora on June 4, as part of its outreach programme under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan.

Coordinated by Mr. Mubashir Bashir, In-charge SMMCN&MT, and Ms. Nighat Gowhar, Faculty, the programme focused on this year's theme, 'Unmasking the Appeal – Coun-

tering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction.' The nursing faculty and students conducted awareness activities highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and encouraging participants to adopt a tobacco-free lifestyle.

The programme concluded with a pledge by students and participants to stay away from tobacco products and promote healthier communities. The initiative was well received by the school authorities and participants.

IUST HOSTS KASHMIRI MUSICAL OPERA UNDER NMBA

The Office of the Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Young Dramatists Society, organised 'Sontuk Aalav'—a soul-stirring musical opera in Kashmiri, on June 18. The production was approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the Scheme of Cultural Function and Production Grant (CFPG) through the North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC). The programme aimed at institutionalising, documenting, and critically disseminating the performing arts and folk traditions of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Registrar Prof. Shameen Ahmad Shah, who was the Chief Guest, highlighted the significance of cultural programmes in fostering holistic student development and lauded the Dean of Students Office for curating an engaging and meaningful event. He emphasised that such platforms nurture creativity, preserve regional heritage and encourage active student participation beyond academics.

In her welcome address, the Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, underlined the importance of a dual role of universities by contributing through academics and research and acting as the custodians of heritage preservation, particularly the rich oral traditions of Kashmir.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from artists of the Young Dramatists Society and IUST students and was coordinated by the Cultural Committee, IUST, under the ambit of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan and Yuva Connect initiatives.

IUST HOLDS SPOT ESSAY COMPETITION UNDER NMBA

The Office of Dean of Students, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised Spot Essay Competition on the topic, 'My Role in a Drug-Free Society and Solutions to Drug Addiction' under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) on June 10.

Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, briefed on the initiatives undertaken by the Dean's Office, which focused on solution-oriented and creative responses to social issues like the drug menace and student-centric activities.

Aynain Wani, Asma Jan and Sajad Ahmad Bhat were adjudged as the top three winners of the competition, while Mohammad Haris Rafiqui, Salmana Noor Ain, Abdullah Amin Bazaz, and Nazakat Aslam were awarded the consolation certificates.

IUST HOLDS RAC MEETING, DISCUSSES MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) convened meeting of its Research Advisory Council (RAC) under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, on June 16. The meeting attended by Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Ahmad, deans, experts, controller of examination, finance officer, members of the research fraternity was coordinated by Dean Research Dr Aabid H Shalla. The Council deliberated on a range of strategic issues aimed at strengthening the University's research ecosystem and enhancing its standing as a nationally and



Photo: IUST

globally recognized research-intensive institution. Several important decisions were taken regarding the University's research ordinance, doctoral programmes, post-doc research, research quality, innovation, collaborations, enhancing research fellowships and mechanisms for promoting interdisciplinary and socially relevant research. Presenting the University's research profile, Dr. Shalla highlighted IUST's significant achievements in research, innovation, and capacity building. He informed the Council that the University has secured more than Rs. 107.61 crore in extramural research funding and is currently implementing research projects worth Rs. 81.13 crore. During last one year, the University submitted research proposals amounting to approximately Rs. 358 crores, reflecting its expanding research footprint and growing confidence among national funding agencies.

IUST HOSTS PROGRAM ON LANDSCAPE DESIGN, KASHMIR'S HISTORIC GARDEN HERITAGE

The Department of Architecture, Islamic University of Science and Technology hosted a programme on landscape design and the historic garden heritage of Kashmir on June 11, featuring Dr. Jan Haenraets, internationally renowned landscape architect, preservation specialist and Professor of the Practice at Boston University. In his address, Dr. Haenraets shared insights from his extensive research on Kashmir's Mughal gardens, highlighting their historical evolution, cultural significance and enduring influence on landscape architecture. Drawing upon years of scholarly engagement with the region's garden traditions, he underscored the importance of preserving these historic landscapes as vital expressions of Kashmir's cultural and environmental heritage. He also discussed his forthcoming book, Kashmir's Mughal Landscape of

Gardens, scheduled for publication in August 2026. The session was moderated by Mehran Qureshi and attended by the Head, Department of Architecture, Qazi Qamar Iqbal Qari, faculty members, Umar Farooq, Dr. Gowhar Afzal, Sadiya Tariq and Tanzeel, besides Dr. Dharam Chand from the Department of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change.

The interaction provided a valuable platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with the conservation of historic landscapes in the context of contemporary environmental and developmental concerns. Students and faculty actively participated in the deliberations, engaging with themes of heritage preservation, sustainability and landscape planning.

IUST'S ARCHITECTURE DEPTT ORGANISES LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Architecture, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised its Online Lecture Series 2026 with a lecture by renowned architect Shirish Beri on June 12.

The Lecture Series aimed to provide students and faculty with opportunities to engage with leading professionals and thinkers, fostering dialogue on contemporary issues in architecture, planning, design, sustainability, and the built environment.

The opening lecture by Architect Shirish Beri focused on his architectural journey, design philosophy, and the relationship between architecture, nature, and human experience. Widely recognized for his environmentally conscious and human-centered approach to design, he shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive professional and personal experiences.

The lecture was attended by faculty members, and students of the department, who actively participated in the interactive session that followed.

IUST HOLDS AWARENESS PROGRAM ON RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

The Offices of the Dean of Students and International Affairs at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Office of the National Secretariat, Rhodes Scholarships for India, hosted a comprehensive online awareness session on June 13 under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo. The session aimed to guide IUST students and alumni through the application process for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship at the University of Oxford for the upcoming 2027 entry cohort.

Coordinated by Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Dean of Students and Officer-in-Charge of International Affairs, the event highlights IUST's ongoing framework for fostering intellectual and academic growth and global leadership

opportunities. The session arrives at a crucial time, as the application window for the 2027 Rhodes Scholarship for India officially opened on June 1, 2026, with the final submission deadline set for July 23, 2026.

The interactive workshop featured insightful presentations by newly selected scholars Taif Altaf and Yogita. Taif, currently a Young India Fellow at Ashoka University with a background in political science and public policy research, will pursue a Master's in Public Policy at Oxford to enhance justice delivery systems in India. Joining him was Yogita, an Erasmus Mundus Scholar and St. Stephen's College alumna specialising in Chemistry and nanomedicine, has been selected for her DPhil in Physiology, Anatomy, and Genetics (nanomedicine) at Oxford.

IUST HOSTS LECTURE ON MICROPLASTICS IN FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a lecture-cum-interaction session on 'Microplastics in Food and Environment: Occurrence, Analytical Challenges and Emerging Research Perspectives' on June 11. The programme brought together experts from academia, industry, and research institutions to deliberate on the emerging challenge of microplastic contamination and its implications for food safety, environmental sustainability, and public health.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Saurabh Jain, Application Expert, PerkinElmer India, who provided an

in-depth overview of the occurrence of microplastics in food and environmental matrices, recent advancements in analytical techniques for their detection and quantification, and the challenges faced by researchers and regulatory agencies in addressing this growing concern.

The programme was attended by Mr. Jitendra Sikarwar, Country Head, PerkinElmer India, and Rohit Jaswal, Regional Manager (North India), PerkinElmer India. Distinguished participants also included Dr. Mohammad Younus from the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and Dr. Khalid Gani from NIT Srinagar.

IUST ORGANISES PLANTATION DRIVE

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a plantation drive on its campus under the theme '*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) on June 9, with the aim of promoting environmental consciousness among students and staff.

The programme was organised by the Office of the Dean Outreach and coordinated by the Landscaping

Division under the supervision of Dr. Aijaz Qureshi, AR (Landscaping). The initiative was supported by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Centre for AYUSH Science, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Centre for Wellness and Mental Health, RUMI Library, and the Dean of Students Office.

As part of its outreach initiatives aimed at fostering academic awareness and career aspirations among young learners, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a one-day educational exposure programme through its Office of Community Connect under the aegis of the Dean Outreach on June 2.

The programme provided about a hundred participating students and faculty members from Brilliant Minds Innovative School, Shopian with an opportunity to explore the University's academic, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship ecosystem. During the visit, the students interacted with faculty members and toured key facilities, including the Departments of Chemistry, Food Technology, and Computer Science & Engineering, as well as the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED).

The participants were introduced to advanced laboratory infrastructure, emerging technologies, food processing and quality assurance systems, high-performance computing, robotics, and entrepreneurship initiatives being promoted at IUST. The programme is a part of the ongoing University's campaign to create meaningful engagement with schools and inspiring students to pursue higher education and careers in science, technology, innovation, and research.

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