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## IUST OBSERVES WORLD WATER DAY, STRESSES WATER GOVERNANCE, GENDER INCLUSION



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), observed the World Water Day on March 24 through a day-long programme organised by the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change. Delivering the keynote address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A Romshoo described water as the most vital natural resource of Jammu & Kashmir, noting that the region, along with Ladakh, is often referred to as the “water tower of Asia.” He expressed concern over increasing threats to water resources, including rising pollution levels, rapidly declining glaciers, and changing climate patterns leading to prolonged dry spells. He called for collaborative efforts among stakeholders and greater engagement of policymakers to strengthen water governance. Highlighting the theme of the programme, Prof. Romshoo noted that women are disproportionately affected by water scarcity, as they are primarily responsible for ensuring water availability at the household level. He stressed the need to actively include women in discussions

and decision-making processes related to water management and governance. Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, spoke about the significance of the day and underscored IUST’s contributions to national missions. He stressed that the message of water conservation must be taken forward with urgency, advocating for effective water management and governance. He emphasised the importance of water budgeting in view of future needs and highlighted the role of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, in improving water resource management. Earlier, Dr. Sumira Nazir Zaz, Assistant Professor, highlighted the critical intersections of water, women, and gender, emphasizing the need for inclusive approaches in addressing water-related challenges. The programme featured technical sessions, theme-based discussions on water and gender, and a panel discussion on key challenges for sustainable water resource management in Jammu and Kashmir.

## IUST ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON QUANTUM AI

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with Chinar Quantum AI, organised a workshop on ‘Quantum Computing’ on March 23. The programme brought together academicians, experts and students to deliberate on emerging trends in quantum technologies and artificial intelligence.

In the inaugural session, Prof. Shakil A.

Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, underscored the importance of various national missions and schemes aimed at making India a developed nation by 2047, particularly in areas such as Quantum AI and semiconductors. He stated that the University is committed to leveraging these opportunities by actively participating in such missions and by developing robust physical and intellectual infrastructure.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP AT IUST FOCUSES ON STRENGTHENING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a two-day Training and Capacity Building Workshop on the ‘University Safety Programme’ on March 11-12. The workshop was jointly organised by the Office of Dean Outreach, Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR), Office of the Proctor, and National Service Scheme (NSS) in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The workshop aimed to enhance the disaster preparedness and response capacity of the university community, particularly proctorial staff and NSS volunteers, enabling them to act as first responders during emergencies and disaster situations on campus.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, who inaugurated the workshop, emphasised the importance of preparedness and institutional resilience in educational institutions. He said, universities must build internal capacities to respond effectively to emergencies, and that equipping students and staff with basic response and life-saving skills can play a crucial role in safeguarding lives and property. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat, Coordinator CDRR, highlighted the university’s ongoing disaster preparedness initiatives. Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach, said, the university, through a series of such programmes, is working to build the capacities of different community stakeholders. Over 60 participants attended the workshop.

## IUST CONDUCTS FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

As part of the two-day workshop on the University Safety Programme, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a Fire Safety and Management Programme in collaboration with the Fire and Emergency Services, Srinagar, on March 12. During the programme, Dr. Aquib Hussain Mir, Assistant Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Srinagar, delivered a technical session on fire prevention and life safety, highlighting key measures for reducing fire risks and ensuring preparedness in institutional settings. This was followed by a

practical demonstration conducted by Aadil Hussain Zargar, Station Officer, Fire and Emergency Services along with his team. The demonstration familiarised participants with the use of firefighting equipment, emergency response techniques, and basic fire safety practices. The participants appreciated the hands-on training and interactive sessions, noting that the programme significantly enhanced their understanding of fire safety measures and emergency preparedness within the university environment.

## IUST HOSTS NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VIKSIT BHARAT, PANCH PRAN



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

The Department of Philosophy, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), commemorated World Philosophy Day on March 25 by organising a National Symposium on 'Panch Pran and the Role of Philosophy in Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.' The programme was sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR). The event brought together scholars, researchers and students to deliberate on the philosophical foundations of a self-reliant and developed India. In his keynote address, Prof. Wahid Makdoomi, Registrar, IUST, underscored the relevance of the Panch Pran (five pledges), noting that "these pledges provide a moral and civic framework essential for shaping a progressive and self-reliant nation." Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, Dr. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, described philosophy as "the backbone of all knowledge," fostering critical and interdisciplinary thinking." Welcoming the participants,

Dr. Muzaffar Ali Malla highlighted the enduring significance of philosophy, stating that philosophical inquiry remains central to understanding and addressing contemporary societal challenges.

Different sessions of the symposium were conducted by distinguished academicians, including Prof. Meenal Katarnikar from the University of Mumbai, Dr. Surendra Kumar from the University of Hyderabad, Dr. Syed Jaleel Hussain, Head, Centre for International Relations, and Prof. Showkat Hussain Dar, Head, Department of Islamic Studies, along with research scholars.

The sessions focused on the challenges of the digital age, emphasizing the need to rethink human identity in the era of Artificial Intelligence, alongside a socio-moral perspective on Viksit Bharat that highlighted the continued relevance of Gandhian ideals such as trusteeship and self-reliance in addressing modern inequalities.

## IUST HOLDS SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON FRUIT PRESERVATION

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised week-long Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (AESDP) on 'Innovative Approaches to Fruit Preservation and its Value Addition' on March 9-16. The programme was organised in collaboration with the Department of Food Technology, IUST.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Basharat Nabi Dar, Coordinator, Entrepreneurship Development Cell, who highlighted various government initiatives supporting youth entrepreneurship and encouraged participants to translate their learning into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures in the agri-food sector.

Dr. Rakesh Mehra, Director, Innovation Himgiri, New Delhi, was the chief guest for the programme. Experts from MSME Srinagar, IUST and SKUAST, S. P. Qalander, Industry Consultant, and other industry representatives served as resource persons and interacted with trainees. About 30 students participated in the training.

Over the week, the programme featured expert sessions and hands-on training on modern techniques of fruit preservation, value addition and entrepreneurship opportunities in the food processing sector.

In his remarks, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, Director, CIED IUST, highlighted the university's commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through structured training initiatives. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Kaiser Javed Giri, Dean, School of Engineering, who emphasised the importance of integrating scientific knowledge with entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector.

## IUST HOLDS SEMINAR ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS

To raise awareness about key health issues affecting young women, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a health seminar titled 'Perna: For Her Health Challenges' on March 16. The programme was organised by the Centre for Career Counselling and Placements under the aegis of the Office of the Dean Outreach in collaboration with Ujala Cygnus Hospitals.

The seminar brought together medical experts and students to discuss preventive healthcare, nutrition and mental wellbeing. Tanushree (IPS), SSP Pulwama, who was the chief guest on the occasion, encouraged female students to pursue their goals with determination while also prioritising their health and wellbeing. She urged students to remain mindful of both their physical and mental health.

*from the page...1 (workshop on Quantum AI)*

He further emphasised the need for interdepartmental and inter-institutional collaborations to achieve the goals of national initiatives, noting their potential for significant social impact.

Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, spoke about the University's expanding footprint in the domain of technology at the national level. He highlighted various



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

Later, health talks were delivered by Dr. Nazeefa Manzoor, Dr. Munaza, and Dr. Zahida Rasool, Medical Officer at IUST, who spoke about common health concerns among young women, including anaemia, and the importance of

initiatives undertaken by IUST, particularly in alignment with the National AI Mission, aimed at strengthening research, innovation, and academic excellence. Dr. Kaiser Javed Giri, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, highlighted the significance of Quantum AI as a transformative domain and emphasized its growing relevance in academia and industry.

Delivering the technical remarks, Dr. Rukhsan Ul Haq, Chief Executive Officer, Chinar Quantum AI, described

early diagnosis and timely care.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Dean Outreach, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, said, IUST is committed to promote a holistic environment for its students and initiatives like this seminar reflect that commitment. Dr. Parvez Ahmed Sofi, MD Ujala Cygnus Hospitals, appreciated the university's proactive approach towards student wellbeing, and expressed hope for stronger collaborations in promoting health awareness and preventive care among young people.

The event concluded with an open dialogue and interaction session, allowing students to engage with the speakers and seek guidance on various health-related

concerns, followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Asifa Baba, Dean of Students, IUST.

the collaboration with IUST as a significant first step towards developing synergy in the field of Quantum AI. He appreciated the University for establishing the necessary infrastructure that promotes innovation and expressed optimism about expanding networking and collaborative efforts in the future. The workshop featured multiple technical sessions, discussions, and interactive engagements aimed at fostering deeper understanding and collaboration in the emerging field of Quantum AI.

# IUST HOLDS SESSION ON CAREERS IN GOVT MEDIA

As part of its ongoing industry-connect initiative, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised an online guest lecture with Itishree Singh Rathaur, News Editor at Akashvani, Cuttack, Odisha, on March 30.

The resource-person delivered an engaging lecture on the topic ‘Careers in Government Media for Aspiring Journalists.’ She provided valuable insights into the diverse career opportunities available within government media organisations, highlighting roles in radio, television, and digital platforms.

Welcoming the guest and participants, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC, highlighted the significance of such industry-academia interactions in preparing students for the professional world. She underscored the department’s continuous efforts to provide students with exposure to experienced media

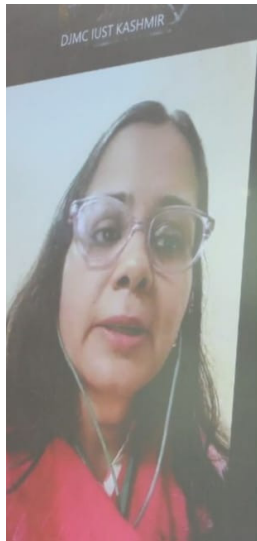


Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

professionals and contemporary trends in journalism. Drawing from her professional experience, Rathaur

“Government media plays a crucial role in nation-building, public awareness and policy communication.

It’s not about glamour, it’s about responsibility and credibility,” she said, adding that the government media values accuracy more than speed.

The session was attended by Master’s and BA FYUGP students. The interactive session witnessed active participation from students, who engaged in a lively question-and-answer segment, seeking guidance on career pathways.

The session ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Senior Assistant Professor. Among

other faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Arif Hussain Nadaf, Dr. Sayar Ahmad Mir and Dr. Haifaa Mohammad.

# IUST CELEBRATES WORLD THEATRE DAY WITH THEORETICAL PERFORMANCE

To mark the World Theatre Day, the Habba Khatoon Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a theatrical performance of Doctor Faustus on March 27.

The event was held in collaboration with the Young Dramatists Society of Kashmir and sponsored by the Department of Culture, JKAACL. The play, originally written by Christopher Marlowe, was translated into Kashmiri by Dr. Sohan Lal Kol.

The performance was staged at the Nund Rishi Auditorium and witnessed a large gathering of students, faculty and staffers. Dr. Afshana, Centre Coordinator, highlighted



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

the Centre’s efforts in integrating culture with academics

in line with the implementation of NEP 2020.

Dr. Altaf Ahmad, Director of the play and Patron of the Young Dramatists Society, briefly introduced the play and its thematic significance.

The proceedings were moderated by Dr. Masroor Muzaffar, faculty member at the Habba Khatoon Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature.

In their remarks, Dr. Afroz Ahmad Bisati Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Syed Iftikhar Ahmad (Representative, JKAACL) appreciated the efforts of the Centre and commended the artists for organizing and presenting such a meaningful cultural event.

# IUST BRINGS TOGETHER ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised its first-ever Alumni Entrepreneurs Meet under the University Alumni Connect initiative conducted under the aegis of Dean Outreach on March 30, marking a significant step towards strengthening structured engagement with its alumni community.

The event witnessed the participation of more than 30 alumni entrepreneurs from diverse sectors, reflecting the growing spirit of innovation and enterprise among IUST graduates. The Conclave is envisioned as a regular platform to expand and strengthen the University’s entrepreneurial alumni network.

In his inaugural address, Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, noted that such initiatives not only celebrate alumni achievements but also create



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

pathways for mentorship, innovation, and industry collaboration, which are essential to inspire students and strengthen industry linkages.

Welcoming the alumni, Dr. Hilal A. Makroo, Coordinator

Alumni Connect, said, “This Alumni Entrepreneurs Meet marks an important step towards building a strong and engaged alumni ecosystem at IUST.” He added that the Meet aims to foster collaboration, mentorship, and knowledge sharing among alumni and the University. The Conclave also attended by Deans and university officials also featured engaging sessions, including ‘Alumni Speaks,’ where entrepreneurs shared their journeys, a panel discussion on innovation, startups and industry collaboration, and interactive sessions with students.

A visit to the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) was also organised, providing participants an opportunity to engage with the University’s innovation ecosystem.

# IUST ROLLS OUT MECHANISM TO RAISE STUDENTS' TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS

In a significant step aimed at further strengthening the innovation and technology incubation ecosystem at IUST, the university has instituted a structured mechanism to support students in advancing their ideas towards higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs). Under the scheme, final-year students will be provided innovation grants to further develop their projects through support in procuring materials, prototyping, testing and validation. The initiative is aimed at enabling students to translate their academic research into viable technological solutions and prototypes.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo said, IUST has been consistently working towards building a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship and technology incubation through sustained institutional efforts. He emphasised the need to nurture an



innovative mind-set among students and to identify and support promising ideas at an early stage. He noted that universities play a crucial role in bridging the gap between research, innovation and societal application.

Such initiatives are intended to help students move their ideas from laboratories to real-world implementation.

Prof. Romshoo further stated that as India continues to emerge as one of the world's largest innovation ecosystems, there is an increasing need to accelerate the translation of knowledge into technologies, products and scalable solutions. Strengthening innovation pipelines within universities and linking them with incubation and technology transfer processes is essential for this transition.

He added that in the context of emerging challenges, universities must play a proactive role in generating research-driven solutions across domains such as connectivity, healthcare, sustainable energy and climate resilience thereby contributing to knowledge-led development and societal progress.

## IUST OBSERVES PLANTATION WEEK

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) observed Plantation Week starting with a plantation drive held across the main campus and the Girls' Hostel premises on March 23.

The drive was formally inaugurated by Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar, IUST, in the presence of university officials including the Finance Officer, Dean Research, Provost Girls' Hostel, Dean Outreach, NSS Coordinator, Estates division along with students and scholars who actively participated in the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Makhdoomi emphasised the



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/IUST

importance of environmental conservation and the role of

educational institutions in promoting sustainable practices, and ecological awareness among youth.

The week-long programme witnessed plantation drives across multiple locations including the main campus, Skill Development Campus, Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology, and the Charari-Sharief campus. The initiative was coordinated by Dr. Aijaz A Qureshi, Assistant Registrar (Landscaping), in collaboration with the J&K Forest Department, Forest Research Institute J&K, Dean Outreach Office, National Service Scheme (NSS), Alpine Club, and the Divisional Forest Offices of Awantipora and Budgam.

## IUST FACULTY BAG MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS FROM JKST&IC

Faculty members from various departments of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) have secured significant research funding under the Sponsored Research and Extension Programme (SREP 2025-26) of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The grant reflects on IUST's growing research profile and its commitment to promoting innovation, knowledge creation and impactful research aligned with regional and national priorities.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, expressed his gratitude to the government for the grant

and said, the funding support from JKST&IC will further strengthen research capacity at IUST while addressing regional challenges through science-driven solutions. The initiative will also help researchers undertake advanced studies, develop technological interventions and contribute to policy-relevant outcomes benefiting society and the environment, he said.

The approved projects span a wide spectrum of emerging and critical research areas including artificial intelligence, healthcare technology, food safety, environmental monitoring and sustainable livelihoods.

The funded studies include an AI-based translation and restoration of rare manuscripts, development of an IoT-enabled smart infusion system for patient safety and

AI-driven microbial safety assessment of fresh produce in Kashmir. Other projects focus on microplastic contamination in packaged food, enhancing livelihoods of marginal bee farmers using artificial intelligence for geographical discrimination of honey and development of a geospatial model for real-time monitoring of construction activity around Dal-Nigeen Lake and associated wetlands in Srinagar.

These projects are being led by faculty members from the departments of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Food Technology and Environment Sustainability and Climate Change, reflecting the institution's strong interdisciplinary research culture.

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