



TIMES ECHO

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## IUST SECURES 4-STAR RANKING FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In a significant achievement, the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has earned a four-star ranking (out of five) at the national level for the second consecutive year. Conferred by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, the honour recognises IUST's exceptional contribution to promote innovation and startups in the country, with a focus on Jammu and Kashmir.

IUST has been a pioneer in establishing a comprehensive framework and policy to promote a thriving startup ecosystem, inspiring youth towards innovation and entrepreneurship. The university has collaborated with various national organisations to realize this vision, achieving significant progress in J&K.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A. Romshoo, congratulated Director CIED, Prof Parvez Ahmad Mir, and his team for this prestigious recognition. He highlighted that the scope and scale of operations of the CIED have expanded significantly over the years, with the success stories of the CIED-supported entrepreneurs standing as a testament of their dedicated efforts.

Prof Romshoo emphasised that the focus on the training and capacity building initiatives for youth would have a multiplier effect, paving the way for a vibrant startup community in the region.

He added that India's startup journey has become a global success story, as reflected in the improved global innovation ranking during the last decade. He urged the IUST team to encourage more youth to innovate, embrace emerging technologies in businesses and develop solutions to societal challenges.

### IUST FIGURES AMONG 100 TOP STATE UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

In the ninth edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), released on August 12, 2024, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has figured in the ranking band of 51-100 among state public universities in the country. To mention, the ranking has been done considering 16 different categories of institutions.

Under the NIRF evaluation framework, the institutions undergo a rigorous assessment across different parameters, including teaching-learning, research, graduation outcome, outreach and inclusivity, and perception.

Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A. Romshoo, congratulated the faculty, staff, students and scholars on this achievement. He added that it is the outcome of their collective efforts. Further, Prof Romshoo said NIRF framework has evolved since its first edition. The participation in NIRF assessment and ranking bespeaks of IUST's growth and sets the agenda for future, he added.

## IUST, NCDM NEPAL INK MOU FOR ACADEMIC, RESEARCH COOPERATION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, and the Nepal Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM), Kathmandu, Nepal, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on October 16, 2024, to strengthen research collaboration in the field of disaster management in the region.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A. Romshoo by the Dean Academic Affairs IUST, Prof Ayaz Hassan Moon, and President NCDM, Prof Bishal Nath Upreti.

Prof Romshoo, a member of several policy making committees on climate change and disaster management at the state, national and international levels, described the collaboration as a crucial step, given the impending disaster vulnerabilities in the region. He underlined the significance of capacity building and comprehensive hands-on work in disaster preparedness and cutting-edge research in disaster sciences.

The Vice Chancellor added that IUST shall facilitate networking and assist in building meaningful alliances and consortia among academia working on global challenges as well as link with national and international agencies for the benefit of the society.

Prof Upreti applauded the proactive interventions undertaken by IUST under the leadership of Prof Romshoo for the development of strategic research and academic framework.



## PROF SHAKIL ROMSHOO AWARDED FOR MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof Shakil A. Romshoo, has received the Meritorious Public Service Award from the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof Romshoo was acknowledged for his academic leadership and contributions to research and higher education. He was among six distinguished individuals, who were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the public service. These officials, according to a government communication, have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to governance, administration, education and public welfare.

## PROF ROMSHOO AGAIN FEATURES IN STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S LIST OF TOP GLOBAL SCIENTISTS

Renowned earth scientist and Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Prof Shakil A. Romshoo, has consistently been featuring in Stanford University's list of the top two percent of scientists worldwide since 2020.

This recognition was highlighted on September 17, 2024. Holding a Doctorate degree in Water Resources

Engineering from the University of Tokyo, Japan, Prof Romshoo has specialised in Glaciology, Hydrology, and Climate Change. With over 36 years of research experience, he has made pioneering contributions to glacier studies, water resource management and climate change studies, with a particular focus on the fragile Himalayan region. His work has earned him numerous prestigious accolades, including the National Geosciences Award, Satish Dhawan Award and Kasumigaura International Prize, among others.



## IUST NEWSLETTER 2024

### IUST CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated World Environment Day—an occasion widely recognised as one of the most significant global events for the environment—on June 5, 2024. The day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the ecological challenges confronting our planet.

The event was organised by the Mantaqi Centre for Science and Society (MCSS), IUST, in collaboration with the J&K Biodiversity Council, J&K Forest Research Institute, Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC), Biodiversity Park, Centre for AYUSH Science, and the Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies, IUST. It was further supported by the Mantaqi Memorial Higher Secondary School, Awantipora, the Office of the DFO Awantipora, the Dean of Students, Technology Innovation in Renewable Energy and Climate Change (TIR&CC), CIED, the Alpine Club, and the Environment and Hygiene Division, NSS Unit, IUST.

The programme featured a variety of activities, including an interactive session, a plantation drive under the theme 'Donate, Plant and Own a Tree', a cleanliness drive, and a nature walk and talk. The interactive session, chaired by Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs, focused on the World Environment Day 2024 theme, 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience.'

In his remarks, Prof. Moon highlighted the pressing need for technological interventions to address the myriad environmental threats and challenges facing the planet. He emphasised that a collective effort is essential to reverse environmental degradation and congratulated the organising team for their commendable efforts in making the event a success.

### INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATED AT IUST



To commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect, a one-day programme on National Science Day was organised by the School of Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), on February 28, 2024.

The programme aimed to honour the spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation, highlighting the indispensable role of Science in shaping societies and fostering sustainability. The event featured expert lectures, a quiz competition and a poster presentation.

The programme's inaugural session was chaired by the Dean, Academic Affairs, Prof. A. H. Moon, who emphasised the importance of developing a scientific temperament among the youth. He noted that this year's National Science Day theme, 'Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat', encapsulates the spirit of prioritizing science and innovation at the grassroots level. Prof. Moon also highlighted the university's focus on research areas with transformative impacts on society. Earlier, Dean, School of Sciences, Dr. Abid Hussain Shalla, welcomed the participants and coordinated the programme.



### IUST CELEBRATES NATIONAL SPACE DAY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commemorated India's first National Space Day by organising a one-day workshop on 'Space Exploration and Its Role in Shaping Sustainable Development' on August 23, 2024.

The event was a collaboration between the Department of Planning and Geomatics and the Dean of Students, IUST. The keynote address was delivered by Humayun Rashid, former Scientist at the Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K. He discussed the evolution of space technology in the region and its applications across various sectors.

In his inaugural address, the Guest of Honour, Prof. Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar of IUST, underscored India's achievements in space exploration, including the success of Chandrayaan-3. Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Head of the Department of Planning and Geomatics, emphasised the university commitment to advancing geospatial technology and contributing to national space initiatives.



### NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT IUST

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### IUST OBSERVES WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY

World Philosophy Day was celebrated by the Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), on March 20, 2024. The aim of the celebration was to underscore the enduring significance of philosophy as an inspiring discipline and an everyday practice that can transform societies.

The event was sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, while the theme for the celebration was 'Environmental Philosophy: Epistemology, Aesthetics, and Ethics.'

In his keynote address, Dr. Anil K. Tewari, Associate Professor, Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, opined that human beings alone are responsible for environmental disturbance and degradation. "Mutualistic and egalitarian social structures need to be established to help re-harmonize human connections with the natural world," Dr. Tewari stated.

Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs, IUST, presided over the inaugural function and highlighted the importance of religion in resolving environmental problems by motivating people to adhere to limits governed by trans-historical values.

Prof. Sheikh Javid, Dean of Research at IUST, pointed out that philosophy offers unique resources for fostering concern and creative thinking about the earth's future. He emphasised the holistic approach employed by philosophers in understanding the universe, contrasting it with scientists, who focus their knowledge on specific areas.





## IUST HOSTS 2-DAY PROGRAM ON POSH ACT

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a two-day programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act on December 9-10, 2024. The programme, themed 'Preventing Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace' aimed to raise awareness and promote a safer environment for all. The event was organised by the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in collaboration with the Dean of Students, IUST.

The event featured a poster competition and exhibition based on the programme theme, which saw enthusiastic participation from both male and female students. The best posters were awarded, and all participants were felicitated for their contributions.

A special session on POSH sensitization and awareness was also conducted, during which the Chairperson of ICC, Dr. Munejah Khan, the Dean of Students, Dr. Asifa Baba, ICC members Dr. Shabana Nargis and Dr. Zahida Rasool, and Dean of Outreach Dr. Ruheela Hassan interacted with students. They underscored IUST's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against sexual harassment.



## IUST OBSERVES YOGA DAY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated International Yoga Day on June 21, 2024, with a special event attended by students and staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo highlighted this year's theme, 'Yoga for Self and Society.' He emphasised that yoga promotes individual well-being and social harmony, noting that its benefits are scientifically proven.

Prof. Romshoo remarked on the ancient Indian tradition of yoga, emphasising its scientifically-validated impact on health and wellness. He added that the United Nations' declaration of June 21 as International Yoga Day is a testament to the global recognition of this practice.

He further stated that IUST is committed to integrating Indian Knowledge Systems, including AYUSH and Yoga, into the curriculum to foster the development of well-rounded students.



## IUST HOSTS HEALTH AWARENESS, NCD SCREENING PROGRAM IN YOUSMARG

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a health awareness and Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening programme in Nagbal and Yousmarg areas on December 9, 2024, under the DST PURSE initiative.

The programme aimed to educate the local population on the risk factors, prevention, and management of NCDs, including Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, Respiratory Disorders, Cancers, and PCOD. Participants were encouraged to adopt healthier lifestyles, reduce risk factors, and ensure early diagnosis, intervention, and adherence to treatment. The screening, led by Prof. Ayub Qadri, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, included checks for conditions such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Dyslipidaemia, Anaemia, and suspected Vitamin D deficiency.

Dr. Faisal Ali, Senior Associate at the DST PURSE Project, emphasised the importance of healthy dietary habits to minimize the risk of NCDs. The programme also offered dietary counseling and provided information about local health facilities and government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, JSY and PMMVY. Local VHNCs (Village Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Committees) were encouraged to promote health and hygiene awareness among the tribal population, ensuring the programme's long-term impact.

## HEALTH AWARENESS, SCREENING PROGRAM ORGANISED BY IUST

As part of a community concern, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), through the University Health Centre and PURSE Programme team, organised a Health Awareness and Screening Programme in Awantipora on July 19, 2024. The PURSE project is supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The programme saw active participation from the local residents, especially women, who interacted with the University team comprising of Medical Officer Dr. Zahida Rasool, investigators, scholars of IUST-PURSE Programme, and health and paramedical staff. The locals learnt about different non-communicable diseases and available remedies. On this occasion, free medical consultation and diagnostic tests were also conducted.

## IUST NEWSLETTER 2024

### IUST HOLDS INDUSTRY-CONNECT PROGRAM ON NETWORKING, CYBERSECURITY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with Broadway Education Hub, M A Road, Srinagar, and KBITS, has launched a CISCO programme and organised an engaging workshop on Networking and Cybersecurity on December 11, 2024.

The event, part of IUST's Industry Connect Initiative led by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), aimed to equip students with advanced knowledge and practical skills to excel in the ever-evolving field of networking and cybersecurity. The workshop featured Khawar Butt, Chairman and CEO of KBITS, a globally recognised expert in networking technologies. As a multi-CCIE and Microsoft Certified Trainer, he delivered a comprehensive session, offering valuable insights into networking architectures, security protocols and emerging trends in cybersecurity, inspiring attendees with his expertise.

Dr Sajaad Ahmad Lone, Head of CSE, and Dr Adil, Industrial Connect Coordinator for CSE, emphasised the importance of such programmes in bridging the academia-industry gap and fostering innovation. Dr Amir Hussain, Industrial Connect Coordinator for IUST, also highlighted the university's commitment to strengthening ties with industry leaders to create opportunities for students and scholars.



### IUST'S INT'L AFFAIRS CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Office of International Affairs, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in association with the Rhodes Secretariat India and Project EduAccess, organised an online workshop on Rhodes Scholarships facilitated by Rhodes Scholars from Oxford University, United Kingdom, on July 6, 2024.

The workshop aimed to equip IUST students with a comprehensive understanding of Rhodes—one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarships in the world—and the process to secure admission at the University of Oxford. The workshop was presided over by Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. A.H. Moon, who commended IUST's International Affairs Office for guiding students in exploring international academic opportunities while also facilitating foreign students at IUST.

He encouraged participants to apply for various international scholarships to advance their careers. "We are committed to fostering a culture of academic excellence and supporting our students' aspirations to become future global leaders," he added.

Officer Incharge, International Affairs Office, IUST, Dr Monisa Qadiri, in her welcome address expressed her appreciation for IUST's framework for fostering intellectual growth and global leadership qualities among the students.

### IUST ORGANISES SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Verroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a seminar on March 21, 2024, to underscore the enduring significance of philosophy as both an inspiring discipline and a practical approach capable of transforming societies.

Dr Anil K. Tewari, Associate Professor at Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, delivered the keynote address. In his speech, Dr Tewari highlighted human responsibility for environmental disturbance and degradation. He emphasised the need to establish mutualistic and egalitarian social structures to re-harmonize human connections with the natural world.

Prof A H Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs at IUST, presided over the inaugural session, where he underlined the role of religion in addressing environmental issues by motivating adherence to limits governed by trans-historical values. Prof Sheikh Javid, Dean of Research at IUST, contrasted the holistic approach of philosophers in understanding the universe with the narrower focus of scientists.



### IUST HOSTS INT'L WORKSHOP ON THERMODYNAMICS OF EARTH SYSTEM

A one-week international workshop on the Thermodynamics of Earth System Components and its Applications: Atmosphere, Hydrology, Ecology, Climate and Society commenced at IUST on March 11, 2024.

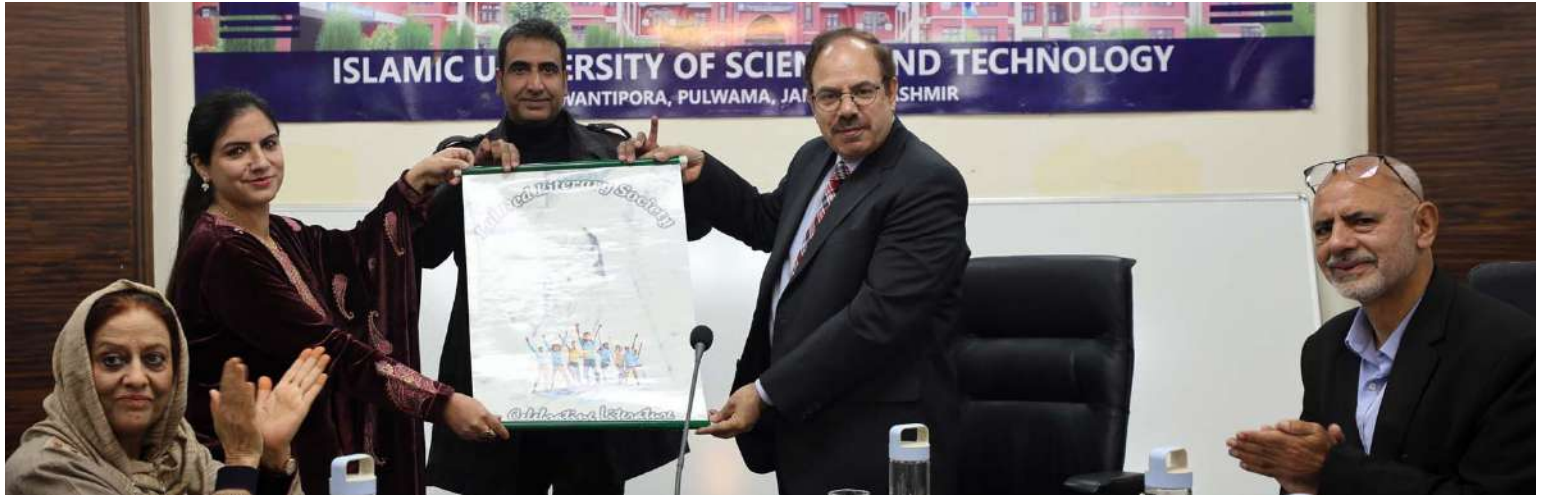
The inaugural session was attended by Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, as well as Prof. V.K. Gaur, Eminent Professor at CSIR, as the Chief Guest, and Prof. Axel Kleidon from the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Germany, as the Guest of Honor, along with other experts.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof. Romshoo emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing global challenges. He stated that science transcends boundaries and should be leveraged to achieve sustainable development. He further highlighted that global interdependence and the sharing of proportional responsibilities by the developed world cannot be overlooked. He called for incentivizing research aimed at developing sustainable solutions.

Prof. Kleidon from the Max Planck Institute underscored that scientific solutions should influence policymaking and implementation, as science impacts all aspects of life and can be harnessed for societal benefit. Prof. Gaur, an Emeritus Professor at the 4th Paradigm Institute, Bangalore, appreciated IUST's initiatives and stressed that environmental protection must be taken seriously.



# IUST LAUNCHES LAL DED LITERARY SOCIETY HOLDS LITERARY FEST AMID FOUNDATION WEEK CELEBRATIONS



To promote the literary talent of youth, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) launched the official literary club of the varsity by the name of ‘Lal Ded Literary Society’ on November 11, 2024. The society was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, during the Literary Fest, organised by the Editorial Committee, IUST, in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL).

Congratulating the organisers on the launch of the society, Prof Romshoo, who was chief guest on the occasion, remarked that it marks yet another significant milestone in IUST’s endeavour in preserving culture, heritage and literature. He emphasised the need for collaborations between various institutions in promoting the literature. “IUST is always eager to foster clubs that ignite students’ passions,” said Prof Romshoo in his presidential address.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor announced his plans to dedicate land and develop infrastructure to promote literature at the varsity. He emphasised that while IUST was committed to its vision of Viksit IUST, it would be a valuable step to create a dedicated literary space. Such a space, he said, would not only facilitate knowledge generation but also play a crucial role in preserving the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

In her address, celebrated Kashmiri poet and Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Prof Nascem Shafaie, who was the guest of honour, shared several insightful anecdotes to highlight how literature is celebrated worldwide and urged the IUST administration to establish a ‘literary village’ – a space dedicated to celebrating the language and culture of Kashmir, drawing an inspiration from the teachings of Lal Ded. “I hope our students reach every corner of the world, but remain firmly connected to the roots of Kashmir,” she affirmed.

Dr Shabnam Rafiq, Incharge of the Programme Office at JKAACL and a special guest at the event, expressed enthusiasm over the establishment of the Lal Ded Literary Society at IUST. He said their academy is at the forefront of any efforts to promote and preserve the literary culture of Kashmir.

Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof A H Moon, congratulated the editorial committee for establishment of the literary club and said that it is events like these festivals that help in inward development. He also mentioned that the literary club shall also help to promote the objectives of National Education Policy, 2020.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Dr Mujeeb Liyakat, Chairperson Editorial Committee and Incharge Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), IUST, said, literature is important for several reasons, including understanding the world, developing critical thinking skills, learning empathy, cultivating wisdom and shaping the society. He also cited Iqbal, Shelly, Nietzsche, Lal Ded and Descartes in his address. Member, Editorial Committee and Senior Assistant Professor, DJMC, IUST, Dr Rabia Noor, gave an overview of the Lal Ded Literary Society. “The society aims to be a hub for critical thinkers and problem solvers, and a space for writers, readers and orators to share their ideas,” she said. “The goals of the society are pretty much in alignment with those of National Education Policy, 2020,” she added.

The literary fest featured a range of activities including poetry recitation, essay writing, Lal Vakh recitation and debate competition. A jury composed of literature experts evaluated the performances.

In his concluding remarks, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST, said literature is an expression of human emotion. He added that students must toil hard to reach great heights. Ultimately those who work hard will be rewarded, and we will have great literature experts coming up from IUST in future,” he added.

Member, Editorial Committee and Assistant Professor, DJMC, IUST, Dr Heeba Din, proposed a vote of thanks, while proceedings were conducted by Isma Hamid, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, IUST.

Meanwhile, a short film capturing the essence of Lal Ded, produced by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at IUST, was screened during the event. The leading English newspaper, Greater Kashmir, served as the media partner for this occasion, while Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), IUST, was the co-sponsor for the event.

## WORKSHOP ON SOFT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT IUST

The Department of Mathematical Sciences, under the aegis of University-Industry Connect, organised a seminar on June 10, 2024, featuring Jaspreet Kaur, Senior Lead at Fidelity Investments, Bangalore, as the main speaker.

The programme, titled ‘Opportunities in the Corporate Sector,’ aimed to provide valuable insights into key aspects of career planning and development, including internship opportunities. It shed light on the strategies and approaches individuals can adopt to effectively shape their professional journeys. Kaur offered guidance to students and attendees on how to navigate the complexities of modern career paths.

This initiative aligns with the university’s commitment to fostering holistic development and enhancing student’s career prospects by bridging academic knowledge with real-world industry practices.

## PROGRAM ON OPPORTUNITIES IN CORPORATE SECTOR HELD AT IUST

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## IUST NEWSLETTER 2024

### IUST INTRODUCES INNOVATIVE UG PROGRAMS ALIGNED WITH NEP 2020

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) launched two innovative undergraduate programmes on May 7, 2025, in compliance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. With a focus on academic excellence and industry relevance, these programmes mark a significant advancement in higher education.

The four-year undergraduate programme (FYUGP) offered by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the evolving media landscape. This forward-thinking curriculum combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills, emphasising critical thinking, creativity and ethical journalism practices.

The undergraduate programme in Economics will offer specialisations in Financial Economics, Quantitative Economics and Development Economics. This programme incorporates cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) and includes internship opportunities to provide students with practical experience.

Both programmes exemplify IUST's commitment to academic excellence and its dedication to preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.



### VC INAUGURATES SADRE MOUJ HOSTEL AT IUST'S NURSING COLLEGE

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof Shakil A Romshoo, inaugurated the Sadre Mouj Hostel on January 24, 2024. The hostel has a capacity to accommodate 200 students at IUST's Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology in Charar-e-Sharief.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Romshoo stated that the construction of the hostel facility had been prioritised to ensure convenience for students from distant areas. He inspected various facilities on the campus and issued directions for the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

He emphasised that the state-of-the-art facilities at the college should be fully utilised to make students' learning experiences enriching and engaging.

During his interaction with locals, who requested skill training for youth pursuing religious education in the local Darul Uloom, Prof Romshoo assured them that specific skilling programmes would be developed to enable these individuals to earn their livelihoods. He further noted that IUST, through its skilling academy, KAST, had trained over 3,000 youth in more than 21 job roles under PMKVY 3.0.

### IUST DESIGNATED AS REGIONAL COORDINATING COLLEGE FOR e-YIC

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) was designated as the Regional Coordinating Centre for IIT Bombay's prestigious e-Yantra Innovation Challenge (e-YIC), 2024-25 for the Jammu and Kashmir region on October 3, 2024. This designation provides students across the region with an unparalleled platform to showcase their talents in innovation, problem-solving and entrepreneurship. As many as fifty nine teams from various universities and colleges in J&K are participating in eYIC, 2024-25.

### IUST ORGANISES AWARENESS PROGRAM ON J&K START-UP POLICY 2024-27

A one-day awareness programme on the Start-up Policy 2024-27 was jointly organised by the CIED-IUST Foundation and the Department of Management Studies under the directions of the Vice Chancellor IUST on March 6, 2024. The programme aimed to raise awareness about the prospects of the new policy and the benefits available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, stated that the J&K Start-up Policy will herald a new beginning and transform the start-up ecosystem in the Union Territory. He urged participants to leverage the support offered by the government and work toward establishing successful business ventures. He also instructed the organisers to reach out to youth through various extension initiatives, highlight the opportunities available to them, and assured the full support of IUST in terms of incubation, innovation, technical assistance, mentorship and so on.

The programme was attended by experts from the industry, incubates, students from different departments and faculty members. Director of CIED, Prof Pervaiz Ahmad Mir, highlighted the various provisions of the policy, such as seed support, opportunities for student entrepreneurs, the setting up of a venture capital fund and others. Coordinators of different verticals of CIED also addressed the participants on topics such as IPR, gender inclusivity, marketing support and other related aspects.

### INFOSYS-AI TRAINING PROGRAM HELD AT IUST

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) launched the 100-hour Infosys-AI Training Programme, a transformative initiative under the Finishing School for Employability by Infosys Foundation, in collaboration with ICT Academy, on December 20.

This specialised programme by IUST's Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) was tailored for students of the School of Engineering and Technology, and aimed to equip them with cutting-edge skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and soft skills to make them industry-ready.

The inaugural session witnessed the presence of dignitaries, including Lovetesh Kumar, Senior Manager at ICT Academy and Head of the Infosys Foundation Jammu and Kashmir

Initiative, Prof Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar, IUST, and Dr Kaiser Giri, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, IUST. Also present on the occasion was Imran, Coordinator from ICT Academy, Dr Nissar Paul, programme's soft skills trainer, faculty members, Heads of Departments, and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Moon deliberated on the transformative potential of AI in reshaping industries globally. He encouraged students to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to develop industry-relevant skills that will pave the way for promising career prospects. Prof Makhdoomi lauded the initiative as a model collaboration between academia and industry. He noted that such programmes not only enhance technical competencies but also instill confidence and professionalism in students.







## IUST, J&K POLICE ORGANISE SEMINAR ON NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

A one-day seminar on New Criminal Laws was organised at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on June 11, 2024, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Awantipora. Themed 'One Day, One University,' the event aimed to bridge the gap between law enforcement, the judiciary and the youth.

The seminar provided a platform for students and scholars to gain a deeper understanding of the new criminal laws and their application. Senior officers from the J&K Police and Prosecution interacted with the participants and delivered insightful talks. The programme was chaired by Prof Waseem Bari, Registrar, and was attended by scholars, students, faculty and other officers. Dr. Heeba Din from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication moderated the programme.

## IUST OBSERVES INT'L DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, SCREENS DOCUMENTARY PRODUCED BY DJMC

To mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a day-long workshop on October 14, 2024. The workshop was organised by the Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction at IUST and sponsored by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Titled 'Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future,' the event featured inaugural, poster, and technical sessions. The inaugural session began with the screening of a short film on Disaster Management, produced by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), which highlighted disaster risks and preparedness.

In his presidential address, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor of IUST, emphasised the vulnerabilities related to disasters and the need to devise mitigation strategies, integrating them into school curricula. He reaffirmed IUST's commitment to knowledge generation, dissemination and contributions to policy formulation.

President, Nepal Centre for Disaster Management, Prof Bishal Nath Upreti who was the chief guest on the occasion, shared a four-pronged strategy to mitigate disaster risk. "These include having a clear understanding of the disasters, improving governance, investing in disaster preparedness and enhancing a response mechanism," he said. He added that every year, tens of thousands of people die because of cyclones. "Disasters are not going to stop, but we need to work on our disaster preparedness," he said.

Guest of honour and Under Secretary, DMRRR, Government of J&K, Snober Jameel, said, there is a need to generate awareness among youth to build a resilient future and help them be prepared to fight any disaster. While lauding the IUST for organising the workshop, she said, this is a platform for all of us to "share our knowledge and learn from the experts."

Prof Shakeel Ahmed, Visiting Professor IUST, said that while it is not possible to completely eliminate disasters, "we can always minimise the risk by building skills for disaster management."

## CIED CONDUCTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a three-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme for the School of Health Sciences on December 21-23, 2024. The programme aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge, skills and strategies to navigate the evolving healthcare industry.

The programme covered key aspects of entrepreneurship in the health sector, including understanding market trends, developing innovative solutions and addressing challenges in the healthcare landscape. Expert trainers facilitated the sessions, offering practical insights into entrepreneurship within health sciences.

The valedictory session was chaired by Prof Parvez A Mir, CEO of the CIED-IUST Foundation, along with Prof Mohd Ayoub Qadri, Dean, School of Health Sciences, and Iqram Shafiee, CEO, Shafiee Diagnostics. This programme reflects IUST's dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in critical fields like healthcare.

## IUST HOSTS NCC AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR GIRLS

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised an NCC awareness programme in the campus on May 24, 2024. The event was coordinated by the NCC Girls Wing of IUST, with Col. Sri Prakash Tiwari from the J&K Girls Battalion, Srinagar, engaging with the students.

The programme aimed to enhance students' understanding of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), emphasising its role in character building, leadership development and national service. During the session, Col. Tiwari highlighted the significance and benefits of NCC participation. The programme was also attended by the Registrar, Finance Officer, university officers teachers, and students.



# IUST HOSTS 2-DAY INT'L CONF ON SĪRAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW)

The two-day international conference titled 'Sīrah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW): Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding among World Religions' organised by the International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), was held on October 22-23, 2024.

The conference brought together prominent scholars and experts to deliberate on the theme of promoting interfaith dialogue and mutual respect by exploring the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

During the inaugural session, the Chief Guest, Prof M Afzal Wani, Chairman of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, stressed the importance of understanding religion and Sīrah for gaining conscientiousness. He provided a framework for seeking 'Iqra', understanding oneself and the world, fostering a sense of purpose with 'Hikmah', and promoting ethical values that guide behavior. He underlined the global academic community's responsibility to redefine religion more constructively.

In his keynote address, Prof A R Kidwai, Honorary Director of the K A Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), discussed contemporary works on Sīrah and its relevance in socio-academic and global contexts. He also spoke about orientalist perspectives on Sīrah, with special reference to English linguists and poets from other religions. He urged Muslim scholars to write exclusively and accurately on the Sīrah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).



## VC IUST CHAIRS IQAC MEETINGS

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) convened its 10th meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) on December 18, 2024. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, and coordinated by Director DIQA, Dr Peer Bilal Ahmed.

The meeting addressed several significant issues aimed at enhancing the academic and administrative environment in the varsity. Key discussions focused on the digitalisation of services, implementation of advanced student and scholar support systems, development of a comprehensive feedback mechanism, and establishment of a tribal museum to promote cultural heritage and inclusivity.

During the meeting, the actions taken on previous decisions were also reviewed, highlighting the progress made so far. Emphasis was also laid on conducting academic and administrative audits on campus, which have already shown good progress. Furthering linkages and collaborations with society, and industry was also a key point of discussion.

Earlier, the IQAC, IUST, had met under the chairmanship of Prof Romshoo on August 7, 2024 and reviewed progress made on different matters including academic audit, compliance with guidelines of regulatory bodies, energy audit and accreditation process among other matters.

The IQAC meetings were attended by several university officials, including Prof A H Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof A Wahid, Registrar, Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer, Prof Shiekh Javid, Dean Research, Dr Ruman Bashir, Contoller of Examinations, Prof Parvez Ahmad Mir, Director CIED, Dean of Students, Dr Asifa Baba, and representatives from industry and academia.

In his address, Prof Romshoo stressed on quality teaching and research. He said institutions have to align their strategic plans with future demands. He said strong academia-industry collaborations in curriculum development, and internship opportunities shall pave the way for producing an industry-ready workforce skilled in IR 4.0 and Web 3.0 technologies.

Some important issues discussed in the IQAC meetings included integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in academics, dual majors, 'one university one data' and so on. Prof Romshoo stated that 'one university one data' aims at providing real time data and thereby lead to efficient and effective decision-making at different levels. On IKS, he said, traditional knowledge systems have rich repositories of valuable practices and methods, which can contribute towards finding solutions to problems, such as climate change, energy conservation and realising of Sustainable Development Goals.

## IUST HOLDS PROGRAMS AIMED AT FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITY CONNECT

As part of the university's efforts to promote academic growth, mentorship and community engagement, a series of outreach and mentorship programmes were organised by Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in 2024.

In order to motivate the dropouts among school-going children to pursue higher education, IUST has been inviting and facilitating them to visit various facilities in the varsity and interact with faculty and scholars. Among other schools, students from PM SHRI C I Dass

School, Achabal, accompanied by their teachers, explored different facilities including libraries, language labs and other laboratories. The visit was coordinated by Dr Farrukh Faizan Mir, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, IUST. An alumni interaction on 'Applying for Higher Studies Abroad,' was also organised, wherein alumni Tabish Nabi (PhD student, University of Debrecen) and Schrish Shafi (Master's student, University of Birmingham) guided students on applying for international universities for higher education. They shared valuable insights on scholarships, application processes and research opportunities, making the session a rich learning experience.

In another such programme, an interactive session titled 'Demystifying NET/SET Exams: A Step-by-Step Approach to Success,' provided current students with a roadmap for excelling in different competitive examinations. Alumni from the 2017 and 2019 batches shared strategies and personal experiences. Organised by Alumni Coordinator and Senior Assistant Professor, Isma Hamid, the session was presided over by Dr Munejah Khan, Head

Department of English, who highlighted the importance of alumni mentorship in academic growth. Dr Khan said such initiatives reflect IUST's role in bridging academic aspirations and opportunities, while strengthening ties with the community through impactful outreach programmes.

## IUST ORGANISES SKILL COUNSELLING PROGRAM

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM), organised a student counselling programme on May 29, 2024.

The event was part of a broader initiative aimed at conducting a comprehensive skill gap study and developing intervention strategies through interactions with various organisations. Students from different departments participated in the programme, engaging in discussions and providing feedback on the Skill Gap and Youth Aspiration Survey. They were encouraged to share their aspirations and identify areas where they felt additional training was needed, enabling the development of redressal strategies.

The programme was organised under the aegis of the Dean of Students, Dr. Asifa Baba, who, on this occasion, emphasised that IUST remains committed to empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir by imparting skills. She mentioned that Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, has prioritised increased industry engagement for curriculum development, industry training and internships to make students industry-ready. Among others, Dr Tahmeed, Coordinator of KAST, also attended the programme.



# DJMC STUDENTS EMBARK ON INDUSTRIAL TOURS

As part of its Industry Connect initiative, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a series of industrial tours to several media organisations in 2024. The field visits aimed to familiarise students with the functioning of various departments of a media organisation.

An educational trip to the daily on May 30, 2024. The tour that was coordinated provided insights into the roles of editors, students also toured various sections of the news room and designing section.

During the visit, students interacted Nazir Ganaie, Multimedia Head, Farzana Nisar, others. The journalists shared practical tips maintaining a balance between all perspectives

To help students learn about the news tour to the Rising Kashmir office at Press Enclave Dr Rabia Noor.

During the visit, students designers. Chief Reporter, Rising Kashmir, the Sub Editor, Farzana Syed, discussed the importance of editing in news production, emphasising that only verified and ready-to-print content reaches the audience. Other professionals who engaged with the students included Umar Raina, Senior Reporter, Sameer Bhat, Chief Layout Designer, Shafat Malik, Beat Reporter and Mir Shaista Zehra, Multimedia Reporter.

On August 28, 2024, DJMC organised a field visit to Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Srinagar for its television journalism students. The visit aimed to provide students with first-hand experience of the operations at a television broadcasting station, particularly the Regional News Unit (RNU) at DDK. The students were accompanied by DJMC's Industry Connect Coordinator, Dr Monisa Qadiri, along with Instructor in Television Journalism and Technical Assistant, Zahoor Ahmad. During the visit,



Kashmir Observer was organised by the department by Dr Rabia Noor, Senior Assistant Professor, DJMC, reporters, designers and photojournalists. The organisation, including the newsroom, multimedia

with key members of the organisation, including News Editor, Auqib Javeed, a senior reporter besides on reporting and emphasised the importance of in a story.

production process, DJMC organised an industrial on August 12, 2024, which was also coordinated by

interacted with senior reporters, editors and layout Irfan Yattoo, shared practical tips on reporting, while

## DJMC CONDUCTS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS AT GDCs

To foster awareness about career opportunities in media, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised community outreach programme at several educational institutions in 2024.

One of the programmes was held at Government Degree College (GDC) Bijbehara on March 4, 2024. The programme that aimed at enhancing media literacy among students included interactive sessions on career prospects and emerging trends in media studies, followed by hands-on training in digital photography and videography.

Highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts between educational institutions, Dr Mujeeb Liyakat, Head, DJMC, stated that the programme aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He emphasised that such collaborative initiatives are crucial for the effective implementation of educational policies.

Dr Monisa Qadiri, Senior Assistant Professor at DJMC, spoke about opportunities in digital media, content creation, public relations, and the growing demand for exclusive and creative content from marketers and media houses.

Another community outreach initiative was conducted at Government Degree College (GDC), Awantipora, on March 28, 2024. The programme was coordinated by Dr Rabia Noor, Senior Assistant Professor, while Dr Heeba Din and Dr Sayar Ahmad Mir, Assistant Professors, conducted various sessions throughout the event.

"We are introducing some new and skill-oriented courses, which are in compliance with the NEP-2020, so as to stay in tune with latest advances in the media industry," she said, adding that skill-based courses also enhance employment opportunities of the students.

The event featured interactive sessions, including a media knowledge quiz and practical photography workshop. Dr Noor provided an overview of the course curriculum offered by the department.

## UNICEF COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST INTERACTS WITH DJMC STUDENTS

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted Idhries Ahmad, Communication Specialist at United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), on June 26, 2024. He delivered a lecture on 'Storytelling in the Digital Era' organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), IUST.

During the lecture, Ahmad emphasised the essential skills students need to excel in the digital landscape and shared his experiences. He encouraged students to think digitally and expose themselves to new ideas and perspectives. The session was part of IUST's efforts to equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The event was coordinated by Dr Ruheela Hassan, Associate Professor, DJMC.

students explored various facilities and functions within the Kendra, including the News Unit, Production Control Rooms, Earth Station, Studios and so on. They had the opportunity to interact with senior officials from DDK Srinagar, including Deputy Director General (Engineering), S Sanjeev, Joint Director (Press Information Bureau, Srinagar) and RNU (DDK) Qazi Salman, and other key personnel such as News Editors RNU DD Srinagar Shabir Dar and Sheikh Mudasir Amin as well as Producer Asif Nabi Khan.

## DJMC HOLDS SESSION ON DYOD

To help faculty members understand the concept of Design Your Own Degree (DYOD), the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised an informative session on DYOD on December 31, 2024.

Resource-person for the session and Coordinator DYOD, Dr Shahkar Ahmad Nahvi, shared the curriculum planning and interdisciplinary integration of DYOD. He also discussed at length the core principles and goals of DYOD, which is an innovative mode of learning that puts the learners at the centre of their academic journey.

Another resource-person and Dean Outreach IUST, Dr Ruheela Hassan, elaborated upon the course baskets offered under DYOD and encouraged the faculty members to devise more courses for the same.

Earlier, welcoming the resource-persons and faculty, Head DJMC, Dr Rabia Noor, said DYOD puts the power of choice in the hands of students and enables them to blend disciplines according to their interests. "And as faculty, our role becomes even more significant in shaping this transformative journey for students," she said.

The session was attended by all the faculty members of the department. Senior Assistant

Professor DJMC, Dr Monisa Qadiri, proposed a vote of thanks. To mention, DYOD is coordinated by the Design Innovation Centre at IUST.

## DJMC ORGANISES PROGRAM ON CAREERS IN MEDIA

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a special guest lecture on 'Careers for Media Students in the Government Sector: Indian Information Service (IIS)' on March 22, 2024.

The session was held in collaboration with IUST's Industry Connect vertical under the aegis of the Office of the Dean Outreach.

In his keynote address, Ishfaq Ahmad Shah (IIS), News Editor at Akashvani Srinagar, shared valuable insights into the Indian Information Service, providing a comprehensive overview of the IIS exams and recounting his journey in this prestigious service. He encouraged students to consider a career in the IIS and emphasised the service's vital role in shaping the nation's media landscape.

Earlier, Dr Mujeeb Liyakat, Head DJMC, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the wide range of career opportunities available to Mass Communication students. The proceedings were conducted by Dr Monisa Qadiri, Senior Assistant Professor, DJMC, and Departmental Coordinator of Industry Connect.

# SENIOR ADVISOR DST LAUDS IUST 'VARSITY CAN EMERGE AS PREMIER RESEARCH INSTITUTE'

Continuing its lecture series featuring eminent scholars, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a seminar on 'Current Status of Science, Technology, and Innovation in India: Where Do We Go from Here' on May 9, 2024.

Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Advisor Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and keynote speaker, emphasised the crucial role of educational institutions in fostering a culture of scientific inquiry and innovation. He commended IUST for its focus on translational research and its potential to emerge as a premier research university. Dr Gupta also underscored the need for increased research funding and infrastructure development in state universities to propel India toward global leadership in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

In his address, Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, stated that the promotion of scientific temperament is a constitutional obligation. He noted that in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, universities are required to prioritise research in areas critical to sustainable growth, societal upliftment, climate change, poverty eradication and so on. He highlighted that in the interest of nurturing a research ecosystem at IUST, research centers such as the Frontier Research Institute of Interdisciplinary Sciences, the Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies, and the Centre for Disaster Reduction have been established to transition the university toward becoming a research-intensive institution.

Prof A H Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs, stated that IUST is making a significant mark in academics, research and innovation. He highlighted that the Ministry of Education, Government of India, awarded IUST a four-star ranking for its accomplishments in promoting entrepreneurship, capacity building, skilling, innovation and incubation.



## WORKSHOP ON DRONE TECHNOLOGY HELD AT IUST

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) in collaboration with e-Yantra of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and CIED-IUST Foundation, organized a one-day workshop on Drone Technology on August 16, 2024. The workshop aimed at exposing students to modern engineering applications.

Professor Kavi Arya, IIT Bombay, addressed the participants highlighting the objectives of e-Yantra, which include building an innovative ecosystem to solve real-world problems, different initiatives like e-Yantra Robotics Competition (eYRC), e-Yantra Innovation Challenge (eYIC), and promoting entrepreneurship. He also announced that e-Yantra would provide internships to the top 5 percent of students from Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past decade, 16 teams from IUST have registered with e-Yantra, demonstrating the active engagement and confidence of IUST students in emerging areas of research and entrepreneurship.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, congratulated the organisers and emphasised the critical role of drone technology in various fields of engineering, especially in Earth Sciences, Agriculture, Climate Studies and Topography. He said Strategic Plan of IUST lays special emphasis on collaborations with institutes of eminence in frontier technologies and for solution driven research for societal wellbeing.

Prof. A.H. Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs underscored the importance of drone technology and praised the e-Yantra lab at the CSE department as an excellent platform for budding innovators to make valuable contributions to the field. He said that IUST encourages students to register their projects on YUKTI platform to translate their ideas into commercial ventures.

To mention, the IUST e-Yantra lab is the first in the country to host drone technology for innovation and entrepreneurship purposes, boasting of technology platforms like SwiftPro,

SwiftPro Max, Holybro X500 V2, and Black Hawk Garuda. Resource persons from e-Yantra IIT Bombay, Smit Kesaria and Venkateshwar held special sessions that witnessed participation from various departments, centres comprising faculty, professionals, researchers and students. Participants also gained hands-on experience with the drones, exploring their functionalities and understanding their operational dynamics. A live drone flight demonstration was also conducted on the IUST premises.

## IUST HOSTS WORKSHOP ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

A one-day workshop on quality assurance was organised by the Directorate of Quality Assurance, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on October 28, 2024. The workshop was presided over by Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and attended by Prof Shahjahan, former Dean of Academic Affairs at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Prof M A Zargar, Registrar of Central University of Kashmir, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar of IUST, Deans of Schools, officers, faculty and scholars.

In his address, Prof Romshoo emphasised the importance of a robust quality assurance system to drive excellence in academics and research. He stated that quality must pervade all spheres of university operations and can only be achieved by adopting a bottom-up, participatory approach, where all stakeholders contribute to policy formulation and its implementation.

He highlighted that key decision-making bodies at IUST include representatives from various sectors such as industry, students and the community. Prof Romshoo emphasised that in today's rapidly changing technological and educational landscapes, universities must invest in faculty development, adopt innovative pedagogies, and focus on delivering the best learning outcomes, or risk missing out on valuable opportunities. He further stressed that research must have societal relevance and that there must be concerted efforts to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developmental projects and research areas.

Prof Shahjahan identified key quality parameters at the institutional level, including quality teachers, infrastructure, the learning environment, and the importance of fostering a problem-solving approach for students. He called for a transition from a mono-disciplinary to a transdisciplinary approach and advocated for bringing diversity into existing ontological, epistemological and axiological perspectives to improve outcomes.



## IUST ORGANISES PROGRAM ON INDUSTRIAL SCENARIO OF KASHMIR

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a programme titled Industrial Scenario of Kashmir: Prospects and Challenges' on June 27, 2024. The programme was organised by Industrial Connect under the aegis of the Dean of Outreach.

The talk was delivered by Bilal Khan, Founder and Director of KashPET. To mention, Industry Connect is vital in bridging the gap between academics and the professional world.



## IUST NEWSLETTER 2024

### IUST OBSERVES NATIONAL ANTI-RAGGING WEEK

In observance of National Anti-Ragging Week from August 12 to 18, 2024, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a series of competitions aimed at fostering a ragging-free environment on campus.

The Office of the Proctor, in collaboration with the Dean of Students, spearheaded the initiative, which included poster making, logo design, street play, essay and painting competitions.

Prof Javed Ahmad Mir, Professor of Practice at IUST, served as the Chief Guest for the prize distribution ceremony. Along with the Finance Officer, Prof Mir awarded prizes to the winners of these competitions. The events provided students with an opportunity to creatively express their commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming campus environment.

Pertinently the inaugural session of the programme held on August 12 was chaired by Shri Mumtaz Ali Bhatti, Superintendent of Police, Awantipora, who talked at length about the legal provisions penalizing ragging.



### IUST HOSTS MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir organised an awareness programme on Mathematical Olympiad at Mantaqi Memorial Wakf Higher Secondary School, Awantipora, on July 23, 2024.

The programme aimed to foster a spirit of mathematical inquiry and excellence witnessed huge participation of students. Dr Peer Bilal, Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences IUST, underscored the importance of the Mathematical Olympiad and highlighted the significance of such competitions in enhancing problem-solving skills, critical thinking and fostering a deep appreciation for mathematics among young learners.

Dr Bilal Ahmad Para, faculty member, Department of Mathematical Sciences, provided a comprehensive overview of the different stages of the Olympiad, and equipped students with the knowledge and tools required to excel in such prestigious competitions.

### IUST ORGANISES PROGRAM ON GLOBAL NURSING

Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), hosted a programme on 'Global Nursing: Education Opportunities in America' on August 7, 2024.

Dr Manjulata Evatt, Clinical Associate Professor, Duquesne School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, USA, and Prof Suresh Sharma, Principal, College of Nursing, AIIMS Jodhpur, among others were the speakers of the programme. Prof Ayub Qadri, Dean of Health Sciences, and Neelofar Jan, Principal SMMCN&MT and Asmat Parveen, former Principal SMMCN&MT also interacted with the participants of the programme.

Dr Manjulata Evatt discussed the expanded roles of nurses beyond bed-side care, emphasising critical thinking, decision-making, leadership and the impact of technology in advancing the profession. Prof Suresh K Sharma emphasised the global phenomenon of population ageing and India's potential to become a leader in providing competent human resources, especially in nursing.

Prof Ayub Qadri highlighted IUST's dedication to providing quality education to nursing students. The event concluded with a scientific session, where Prof Suresh K Sharma and Dr Manjulata Evatt delivered special lectures. Asmat Parveen underscored the importance of global nursing in addressing worldwide healthcare challenges, providing critical care and improving health outcomes in diverse populations.



### IUST HOLDS 10-DAY PYTHON TRAINING PROGRAM

The Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted a ten-day Python training programme at the campus from August 6 to 16, 2024.

The programme was supported by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology under DigiSaksham initiative—a collaborative effort between Microsoft and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The training enhanced students' digital skills and employability by providing hands-on experience in Python programming. Speaking at the inaugural programme, Dr Peer Bilal Ahmad, Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences, said the programme aimed to provide opportunity to youth to acquire Python skills crucial across industries and thereby enhance their career prospects.



### ANTI-RAGGING AWARENESS PROGRAM HELD AT IUST

The Anti-Ragging Squad and Proctorial team headed by Dr Sheikh Jameil, Senior Proctor, conducted an Anti-Ragging Awareness Programme on September 13, 2024, stressing on the importance of maintaining a ragging-free campus.

The speakers emphasised on the legal implications of indulging in ragging, psychological and emotional harm caused by ragging, mechanisms available to students for reporting ragging incidents besides support systems available. The policy of zero-tolerance towards ragging in any form was stressed and it was conveyed that strict action shall be taken against any individual found indulging in ragging. Pertinently, IUST is committed to providing its students a safe learning environment.



# IUST NEWSLETTER 2024

## IUST CELEBRATES NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated National Sports Day on August 29, 2024 with great enthusiasm. The programme was organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, IUST, and featured various sports activities, including Cricket, Badminton and Table Tennis.

The programme aimed to promote the spirit of sportsmanship and physical fitness among students. The event witnessed a huge number of students, who were encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities and hone their talents for participation at national and international levels.

Pertinently, IUST encourages student participation in extracurricular activities, which are credited and integrated with mainstream academics. To mention, Academic Council under the chairmanship of Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, has approved the constitution of Sports Advisory Committee to formulate and implement the mechanisms, whereby youth would be trained for national and international level competition.



## IUST'S WOMEN BADMINTON TEAM LIFTS WINNER'S TROPHY

In a badminton tournament organised by J&K Police Awantipora under the Civic Action Programme 2023-24, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) lifted the winner's trophy on March 28, 2024. Ayesha and Ameesha were key players in the winning team, which defeated their opponents by 2:0 sets.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and Registrar, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, congratulated the team and the Sports Department for their commendable performance. During the felicitation ceremony, Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer, and Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports, were also present.



## CRICKET TOURNEY HELD AT IUST

An Inter-Departmental Cricket Tournament (Men) 2024 organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports was held at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) that commenced on August 6 and concluded on August 27, 2024.

The Department of Civil Engineering emerged victorious, showcasing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship.

During the tournament, 20 teams from various departments competed against each other. The award ceremony was graced by Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer IUST as the Chief Guest. In his address, he said development of sports infrastructure was being prioritised and on the directions of Vice Chancellor, Prof Shakil A Romshoo, sports policy was being framed to give the youth a platform to participate in national and international events and bring laurels to the country.

Registrar IUST, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, who had inaugurated the tournament, appreciated the organisers and said the extra-curricular activities were important to develop a rounded personality. He said sports inculcate team spirit and foster a sense of camaraderie. The event was attended by faculty members, sports coordinators, and other dignitaries. Dr Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports, welcomed the participants and introduced the team players.



## IUST HOLDS PAINTING COMPETITION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABILITY

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a painting competition on August 12, 2024 to mark the Independence Day celebrations. The themes for the competition were social development, environmental sustainability, growth and progress.

The painting competition saw participation from a large number of students. The Registrar of IUST, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, awarded certificates to all participants and presented special awards to students with the best paintings. In his remarks, Prof Makhdoomi emphasised the importance of such competitions in fostering creativity and raising awareness about social and environmental issues.

He reiterated IUST's commitment to providing a supportive platform for students to express their artistic talents and engage with meaningful themes. The event was coordinated by Dr Asifa Baba, Dean of Students, with Dr Munejah Khan, Dr Afroze Bisati, and Dr Ruheela Hassan serving as the jury.

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