



October 16, 2025

**IUST Concludes Workshop on “Kashmiri Language in Digital Era”
Leveraging AI and Deep Learning for Preservation and Promotion**

Awantipora, October 15: The three-day National Workshop on “Kashmiri Language in the Digital Era: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning for Preservation and Promotion,” organized under the AICTE-VAANI 2025–26 initiative, concluded at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) today. The workshop was jointly organized by the Department of Computer Science and the Habba Khatoon Centre for Kashmiri Language and Literature. The project was selected among the top 200 out of more than 3,200 national proposals.

The workshop featured twelve sessions, including ten technical sessions led by eminent experts from leading institutions. Prof. Shafi Shouq opened the academic deliberations with a lecture on “Digital Preservation of Kashmiri Language: Challenges and Opportunities.” Prof. G. S. Lehal discussed “Introduction to Natural Language Processing (NLP) and AI for Low-Resource Languages,” while Prof. Ajoy Mondal (IIIT Hyderabad) delivered sessions on “Low-Resource, High-Accuracy: Building Kashmiri OCR Under Constraints” and “Annotating and Curating Kashmiri-Language Datasets.”

Dr. Ankur Rana (Punjab University) conducted sessions on “Building a Production-Ready Mobile App for Kashmiri Language Tools” and “Fine-Tune, Evaluate, Deploy: Taking Kashmiri OCR to Production.” Dr. Rumaan Bashir, Associate Professor, IUST, presented on “Building and Evaluating Kashmiri NLP Applications,” while Prof. Lehal later led a hands-on session titled “Train Your First Kashmiri OCR: Data Preparation, Augmentations, and Baselines.” Dr. Kaisar Javeed also conducted an interactive session on “Speech Recognition and Synthesis for Kashmiri.” The workshop concluded with a panel discussion on “Bridging Linguistics and Technology for Kashmiri Language Development,” moderated by Dr. Javeed.

In the valedictory session, Dr. Afroze Bisati, Dean, School of Social Sciences, served as Guest of Honour and commended the organizers for pioneering the integration of technology with cultural preservation. Dr. Kaisar Javeed expressed gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizing members, noting that the workshop made a meaningful impact by bridging traditional linguistic heritage with modern digital technologies. The event demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning can aid in the preservation, documentation, and revitalization of endangered languages, including Kashmiri. Participants gained hands-on experience in NLP, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and Speech Synthesis, equipping them with skills to apply AI-based solutions in regional language technology development.

Issued by PR&MC, IUST