June 11, 2026

IUST Hosts Expert Lecture on Microplastics in Food and Environment

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

The keynote lecture was delivered by Mr Saurabh Jain, Application Expert, PerkinElmer India, who provided an in-depth overview of the occurrence of microplastics in food and environmental matrices, recent advancements in analytical techniques for their detection and quantification, and the challenges faced by researchers and regulatory agencies in addressing this growing concern.

The programme was attended by Mr. Jitendra Sikarwar, Country Head, PerkinElmer India, and Mr. Rohit Jaswal, Regional Manager (North India), PerkinElmer India. Distinguished participants also included Dr. Mohammad Younus from the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and Dr. Khalid Gani from NIT Srinagar. Faculty members, research scholars, and students from the Department of Food Technology, Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change, and other academic units of the university actively participated in the session. The event was also graced by the Head, Department of Food Technology; & the Head, Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine.

During the deliberations, speakers emphasized that microplastics have emerged as a global environmental and food safety concern, affecting diverse sectors including agriculture, food processing, water resources, ecosystems, and human health. The participants discussed the need for interdisciplinary research and advanced analytical tools to better understand the extent and impact of microplastic contamination.

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