

the possibility of student exchange between the University of Kashmir and Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) under the DYOD programme.

20. One-Tour Workshop-cum- Tour at SAGG ECO Village, Ganderbal 29th June, 2025

As part of its emphasis on experiential and activity-based learning, the department organized a field visit to Sagg Eco Village, Ganderbal, for the 2nd Semester students of BS-DYOD on 29th May 2025. The visit was conceived under the broader pedagogical vision of the university's Wellness Basket and aligned with the Self-Improvement and Personal Effectiveness course module.

Rooted in the belief that natural ecological settings can function as powerful pedagogical spaces, this initiative sought to deepen student understanding of purpose-driven leadership and self-awareness through immersive, reflective, and embodied learning experiences.



The visit included a session titled *Activating the Regenerative Mindset Blueprint*, led by Fayaz Ahmad Dar, award-winning ecological entrepreneur and founder of Sagg. This interactive session challenged students to consider leadership as an inward journey and helped them reflect on resilience, motivation, and personal alignment. While the session served as a graded component for students formally enrolled in the Self-Improvement module, the visit also welcomed other second-semester students from the cohort. Their inclusion reflected a commitment to

inclusive educational exposure and emotional well-being, offering an opportunity to engage with nature, traditional games, and peer interaction.

The day unfolded across various dimensions of engagement — students explored traditional Kashmiri architectural techniques using bamboo and mud, interacted with handmade objects and cultural artifacts, and learned about Sagg Eco Village's nationally recognized contributions to



sustainable tourism and ecological innovation. During the afternoon's unstructured session for the students, the physical playfulness of swinging on traditional jhullas, walking through village pathways, and sharing informal moments with peers added a layer of grounding and joy that deepened the reflective tone of the experience.

The presence of four faculty members — Dr. Shahkar A. Nahvi, Dr. Asif Ali Banka, Dr. Inayat Rasool, and Mr. Taha Mughal — enabled a rich, interdisciplinary facilitation of the visit. Their combined engagement allowed themes of design, ecology, wellness, and cultural heritage to emerge not as separate elements, but as a holistic learning experience. However, the diversity of student involvement also surfaced meaningful challenges. While the mixed-group format fostered inclusivity and community, some students formally enrolled in the course expressed that the content felt repetitive and touched upon themes they already knew. This underscored the importance of differentiated pedagogical strategies within shared learning spaces and offered an opportunity to reflect on the fluid boundaries between curricular and co-curricular education.

The visit to Sagg Eco Village resonates deeply with the goals outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and contributes to global educational imperatives, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals—particularly those focused on good health and well-being, quality education, and sustainable communities. It reaffirmed the department's belief that students flourish when given the space to engage with the world beyond textbooks, and that real-world immersion strengthens not only academic understanding but also emotional and ethical maturity.

Looking ahead, the department sees value in formalizing such visits within the curriculum and exploring faculty capacity-building around activity-based and field-integrated pedagogy. The visit stands as a testament to the transformative power of thoughtful, place-based pedagogy and reflects the department's continued commitment to student-centered education through.

21. IIT Kanpur Lecture, Lal Ded Auditorium

30th June, 2025

On the occasion of National Statistics Day the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a special talk titled “Journey of Statistics to Data Science.” The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Shalabh from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, a prominent expert in statistics and data science.



Dr. Shalabh delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the evolution of traditional statistical methods into modern day data science applications. His talk emphasized the growing relevance of statistical



foundations in big data analysis, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. The session inspired students and faculty by showcasing the practical significance of statistics in today's digital age. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who actively engaged with the speaker during the interactive session. It was a memorable and enlightening experience that broadened the audience's understanding of how foundational statistical knowledge continues to shape future technologies.

22. DYOD Participates in Youth Parliament as a part of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program held at IUST

July 22, 2025

As part of the pre-events for the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program (VBYCP), a DYOD student from IUST participated in the Youth Parliament held on Tuesday, 22nd July 2025, a day prior to the VBYCP finale hosted at IUST. The session, themed around the 1975 Emergency, asked participants to debate whether the declaration was a constitutional necessity or an authoritarian overreach.

Representing the university, the DYOD student Ms Ahwar Geelani delivered arguments in favour of the motion, addressing key themes such as media censorship, political accountability, and historical memory. Demonstrating rhetorical clarity and historical insight, the student effectively countered emotionally charged attacks by reframing the discussion around lived political experiences and the responsibility of civic discourse.

This participation underscores DYOD's commitment to shaping articulate, socially aware individuals equipped to engage with the challenges and responsibilities of democratic life. The Youth Parliament formed a core part of the week-long series of civic, cultural, and intellectual activities under VBYCP, leading up to the main event on **24th July 2025**, graced by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of IUST.





(Image: Screenshot of News programme telecasted by DD Kashir dated July 22, 2025)

23. Kashmir Care Foundation

26 July, 2025

The Kashmir Care Foundation hosted a webinar titled “Art and Culture: Creating with the Community” on July 26, 2025, hosted by Altaf Lal, bringing together artists, students, and cultural leaders to explore how art can preserve local traditions, amplify voices, and foster community impact. Esteemed panelists like Masood Hussain, M.K. Raina, and Sadaf Munshi shared their journeys and discussed how creativity strengthens education and social connection. Talented students from the Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) program at IUST, showcased their stunning photography and visual artworks, earning recognition and global appreciation during the event.



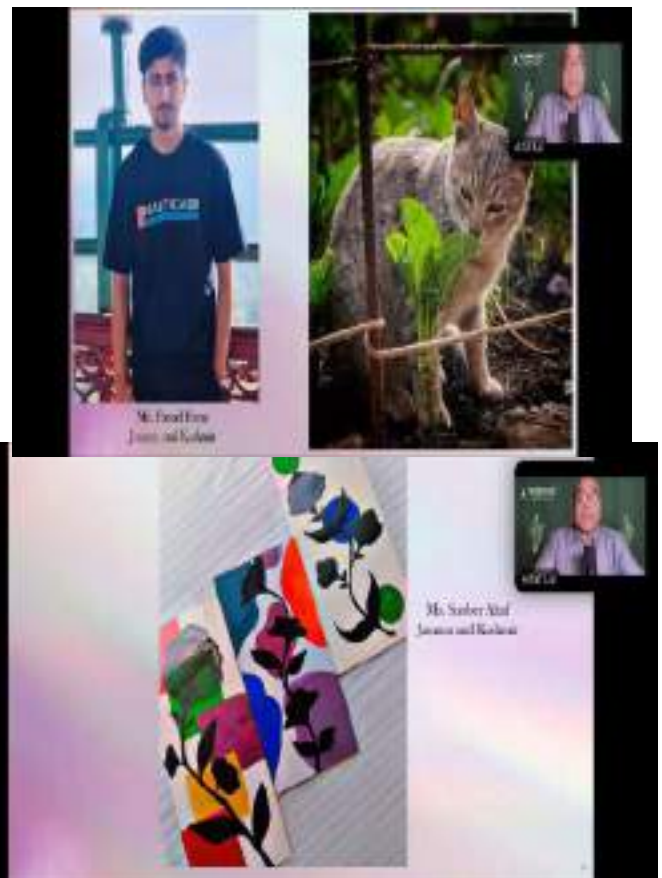
Overall this engaging conversation explored the vital role of the arts in education, cultural preservation, social change, and community building. It also discussed the importance of integrating art into educational curricula, nurturing creativity, and fostering empathy in an interconnected world.

The Art and Culture creating with the Community workshop, held on July 26, 2025, began by showcasing the artwork of selected individuals who had submitted their work through the Kashmir Care Foundation website, including many students from DYo D IUST. Renowned guests M. K. Raina (author, actor, and director in TV, film, and theatre) and Masood Hussain (multidisciplinary visual artist and art critic) shared their creative journeys, showed some of their work, and spoke about the richness of Kashmiri art and culture. The event featured a Q&A session, recognition of young talent, and updates from NGO members like Altaf Lal, Sabbah Haji, Mir Z. Gul, and Mir Mehwish Farooq. Dr. G.Q. Alaqabad also contributed by speaking about tobacco use, smoking, and its harmful effects as part of an awareness effort.

Our students actively participated by presenting their artwork, which beautifully captured themes of heritage, harmony, and the natural beauty of Kashmir. The paintings and creative pieces showcased not only their artistic skills but also their deep sense of connection with their roots. Each artwork reflected unique interpretations—some celebrating Kashmiri traditions and landscapes, others exploring modern perspectives inspired by cultural motifs. Their work was well received and appreciated by participants, reflecting the potential of young voices in keeping culture alive.

The program proved to be more than just an academic exercise; it was a meaningful experience that blended learning with creativity. It encouraged students to value their traditions while exploring new forms of artistic expression.

The exposure gained through this platform has contributed to their confidence, broadened their understanding of cultural diversity, and reinforced the idea that art is a universal language that connects communities across boundaries.





The Kashmir Care Foundation deserves appreciation for initiating such a thoughtful program, as it not only promoted art and culture but also instilled a sense of pride and belonging among the younger generation. Events like these play a crucial role in preserving heritage while inspiring innovation, making art a living tradition for the future.

24.DYod Students conduct Career Orientation Session for Government High School, Baramulla

30th July,2025



An educational tour was organized by Government Boys Higher Secondary School Wagoora for the students to the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, providing them a valuable opportunity to explore academic advancements and gain practical exposure in various fields.

A detailed presentation was delivered by the faculty and their students, introducing the guest

students to the innovative structure of the DYOD program. The presentation included:

- Overview of the DYOD program, which empowers students to tailor their degrees based on their interests and career goals.
- Curriculum structure, emphasizing flexibility, interdisciplinary learning, and student-centric design.
- Insights into collaborative projects, internships, and research opportunities available under the program.
- Testimonials and success stories of current students and alumni who have benefited from the DYOD model.



The students engaged actively during the session, asking questions and showing keen interest in the academic culture of IUST.

Overall, the tour was an enlightening experience that broadened the students' perspectives on higher education, technology, and career planning. It not only enriched their academic knowledge but also inspired them to explore emerging fields with enthusiasm and confidence.

The students of Design Your Own Destiny (DYoD) successfully conducted a Career Orientation Program at Government High School, Baramulla, with the aim of guiding young learners towards informed and purposeful career planning. This initiative was designed to create awareness among students about the wide range of opportunities available to them after completing their school education, and to encourage them to make thoughtful decisions regarding their future.



The session began with an introduction to the significance of career orientation in today's competitive and rapidly changing world. The DYoD team emphasized the importance of aligning career choices with personal interests, strengths, and aspirations, rather than simply following traditional paths. They highlighted diverse academic streams, vocational courses, and skill development programs that can open new avenues for growth. Special focus was laid on developing essential 21st-century skills such as communication, design thinking, creativity,

and adaptability, which are vital for success in any field.

The program was conducted in an interactive manner, allowing the high school students to actively participate, raise questions, and express their doubts. The DYoD students responded by sharing practical advice, personal experiences, and motivational insights to inspire confidence

among the participants. The orientation not only provided clarity on career options but also instilled a sense of motivation to pursue education with a clear goal in mind.

The initiative was highly appreciated by the school staff and students, who acknowledged its relevance and effectiveness. By conducting this program, the DYOD students demonstrated leadership, responsibility, and a strong commitment to empowering the younger generation. Overall, the event proved to be a meaningful step towards nurturing informed, confident, and future-ready students