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IUST HOLDS 4-DAY INT'L CONFERENCE ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

LG Inaugurates IUST Law School, Larmu Campus

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised four-day international conference on 'Nature-based Solutions for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Livelihoods in the Himalayas' on August 3-6.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, e-inaugurated the IUST Law School and IUST's Larmu campus. He also inaugurated the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Block of the University. He congratulated the Vice Chancellor of IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, for all the initiatives that the University has undertaken over the years, especially its Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Speaking during the inaugural session, the LG said, climate was changing at an alarming pace, while Himalayan region was facing several challenges because of it. "In this context, this conference and its theme are highly relevant," he said. He added that the



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/IUST

universities should not restrict nature-based solutions to Environmental Science but make it multidisciplinary.

Chief Justice, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who was Guest of Honour, said the nature-based challenges required nature-based solutions. "Since it is difficult to revive vanished natural assets, it is better to preserve them on time," he said. The Chief Justice also announced the establishment of Legal Aid Cell at IUST Law School for offering legal assistance for public. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Romshoo

said, the conference had been organised at an appropriate moment for not only Himalayas but for the entire country. He said, the natural calamities were a burning issue and if not dealt with properly, they will hamper the economic growth and national prosperity. "I believe, nature is not furious; it is trying to reclaim what belonged to it. And it is we who face the consequences of that," he said.

He added that nature was a part of development, hence "our natural assets—like forests, water, healthy soil and so on—need to be preserved," he said.

Meanwhile, Special Edition of IUST's News Magazine, Times Echo, on 'IUST's 100-day Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan,' published by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, IUST, was unveiled on the occasion. Besides, the Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Policy Brief, prepared by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, IUST, was also released. A documentary film on floods, 'Geo-Historical Journey of the Jhelum in Kashmir,' produced by IUST and directed by Prof. Romshoo was screened on the occasion.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Javed Hussain Mir, Convener of the Conference, while Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, proposed a formal vote of thanks. Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Geomatics, IUST; Dr. Jasia Bashir, Geomatics, IUST; and Dr. Irfan Maqbool, CDRR, IUST, served as Co-Convener of the conference.

IUST CELEBRATES 80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY; VC HOISTS NATIONAL FLAG

On the eve of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), hoisted the national flag at a ceremony held on the University campus. The ceremony was attended, among others, by Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Shah, Registrar, Sameer Wazir, Finance officer, Deans of schools, Heads of Departments, senior officers, and faculty and staff members.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Romshoo extended Independence Day greetings and reflected on India's remarkable

transformation into a nation of growing global consequence, driven by advances in science, technology, education and innovation, while remaining rooted in its rich civilizational heritage and values.

Emphasising the pivotal role of universities in nation-building, he said, India's greatest strength is its youth power, which must be empowered not merely as beneficiaries of development but as partners in innovation, entrepreneurship, governance and societal transformation. He observed that the journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 must also be a journey from opportunity to participation and from participation to ownership.

Prof. Romshoo said, IUST has sought to translate this philosophy into action through the implementation of NEP 2020, multidisciplinary and future-oriented academic programmes, skill development, Project-Based Learning, research and innovation infrastructure, and a vibrant incubation and start-up ecosystem. He said, the University's significant growth in start-ups and incubatees demonstrates how higher education can enable young people to move from job seekers to innovators, entrepreneurs and job creators.



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/IUST

PROF. ROMSHOO JOINS 200 LEADING GLOBAL SCIENTISTS AT PRESTIGIOUS CAMBRIDGE FORUM

Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, participated in the prestigious Science Foo Camp held at the University of Cambridge, UK on August 21-23.

Sci Foo is an invited gathering of around 200 leading and innovative global thinkers from across the world working at the frontiers of science, technology, research and innovation. The

2026 edition is being organised by the Advanced Research + Invention Agency (ARIA), O'Reilly and Digital Science, with support from Google, Nature, the Sloan Foundation and the Navigation Fund.

Prof. Romshoo has been invited to Sci Foo for the second consecutive year, reflecting continued international recognition of his contributions to academic leadership, conferencing on August 27.

The programme was organised as part of the National Sports Day 2026 celebrations by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), bringing together young people to promote awareness, participation and engagement in sports and youth development. A large number of students from various departments of IUST participated in the session and listened attentively to Prime Minister's address.

climate change, Himalayan cryosphere and water resources. He was also invited to the 2025 edition held at the Google campus in California, USA. With no predetermined agenda, Sci Foo participants collaboratively shape the programme and lead interdisciplinary discussions around emerging scientific challenges, pressing global issues, transformative ideas and opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations.

The event was attended by the Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Director DIQA, Dr. Peer Bilal and Incharge Officer, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, besides faculty members, staff and students from various departments. The session provided the students with an opportunity to connect with a national-level dialogue on the importance of sports in fostering discipline, leadership, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle among the youth.

IUST STUDENTS JOIN PM'S KHELO INDIA DIALOGUE

The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, organised a special viewing session of the Khelo India Dialogue 2026, addressed by the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, through video

IUST CONDUCTS STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAMME-2026

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) conducted its annual Student Induction Programme to welcome the fresh batch of students on August 17-20. The programme was organised by the Dean of Students in collaboration with the Dean Academic Affairs and the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), IUST, to enlighten the new students about the University's academic environment, student support system, facilities, and opportunities.

The Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, formally welcomed the students and called on them to focus on academic excellence and comprehensive learning. His talk underlined the need for a value-based development of students and how they could contribute to nation-building. In her Introductory Remarks, the Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, introduced the induction programme and outlined



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

the various student welfare and extracurricular activities and engagement initiatives of the university. The induction programme will run through the week for different Schools of

sports facilities and activities, alumni connect etc. Besides, departmental-level visits and orientation was also part of the general induction programme.

the University; School of Engineering and Technology, School of Business Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Sciences, School of Architecture and Planning.

The different sessions during the induction programme were conducted by Controller of Examinations Dr Peer Bilal, Director IT & SS, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Ganie, Dean Outreach, Ruheela Hassan, Incharge, Rumi Library Dr. Sheikh Shueb, Officer-in-Charge, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Dr. S. Iqbal Quraishi, and Alumni Connect Coordinator, Dr. Hilal A Makroo. The sessions enlightened freshers with IUST's examination procedures, academic regulations, outreach and community engagement activities, library affairs,

DJMC IUST HOSTS ENGAGING INDUCTION PROGRAM TO WELCOME FRESHERS

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted an engaging and lively Induction Programme for the fresh Master's and BA FYUGP batches of 2026 on August 19-20.

The two-day induction programme aimed at familiarising the newly admitted students with the academic environment, facilities, faculty and various practical learning opportunities available at the department.

The orientation session opened with a formal welcome address by the Head, DJMC, Dr. Rabia Noor, who introduced the department's broader vision, academic programmes, facilities and media platforms. She informed the students that the department emphasised on experiential and practical-based learning required to navigate the rapidly evolving media landscape.

Interacting with students, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach and Associate Professor, DJMC, spoke about the department's inception and highlighted the diverse roles and responsibilities



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

undertaken by its faculty members at the University.

Dr. Sayar Mir, Assistant Professor, DJMC, highlighted the vast opportunities available for the students in the field of media. Dr. Haifaa Mohammad Ahsan, Assistant Professor, DJMC, spoke about the subject's contemporary relevance, encouraging students to explore its diverse applications. Meanwhile, some current students and scholars of the department also interacted with the freshers and shared their journeys with them. Besides, copies of IUST news magazine, Times Echo, were distributed

among the freshers.

The session was followed by visits to labs and studios, including DJMC Library, Community Radio Station, Multimedia Studio and iMac Media Lab. The Departmental Profile Video, showcasing the department's academic, creative and outreach work, was also screened on the occasion.

The second day featured a series of hands-on training sessions that were designed to provide the freshers with practical exposure to various aspects

of media production. A hands-on training session on camera handling and video editing was conducted at the iMac Media Lab and outdoor locations. The session was coordinated by Mr. Zahoor Ahmad, Technical Assistant, DJMC. The students also attended a documentary screening at the Media Lab.

Later, the students participated in a hands-on training session in radio production at the Community Radio Station. The session conducted by Junaid Rahid Bhat, Programming Assistant, and RJ Najmus Saqib.

IUST HOLDS 15-DAY AADHAAR ENROLMENT, UPDATE DRIVE

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held a Special Aadhaar Enrolment and Update Drive on August 13-27 at IUST Main Campus. The drive was organised by Dean of Students, IUST, in collaboration with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The drive facilitated Aadhaar enrolment and update services for the university and local community.

Registrar, IUST, Prof. Shamim Ahmed Shah, inaugurated the drive and highlighted the institution's efforts to make essential services more accessible to its students and staff. He said, the initiative was undertaken for the well-being and convenience of the students and staff. "This drive is being extended to the local Awantipora community as well," he added. Speaking on the occasion, Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, said, "The University has collaborated with the UIDAI Project here, who have deputed a team of professional operators to IUST initially for 15 days, and based on the requirements, we may offer the services again in the future."

DIR CSIR-IMTECH VISITS CIED-IUST FOUNDATION

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted Dr. Alka Rao, Director, CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), who visited the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED-IUST Foundation) at Campus-III on August 20.

As part of the visit, Dr. Rao toured several innovation and technology laboratories established under the Foundation, including the C4i Lab, D&D Lab, Fab Lab and UltraTech Cement Lab, besides other state-of-the-art facilities. She was briefed on the facilities, ongoing activities and their role in providing an enabling ecosystem for innovation, prototyping, research and entrepreneurship.

Welcoming Dr. Rao, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation also provided an overview of the Foundation's initiatives, achievements and activities aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship among students, researchers and young professionals. Dr. Rao also visited the Department of Food Technology and Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine at IUST, where she interacted with faculty members and researchers.

IUST OBSERVES NATIONAL ANTI-RAGGING WEEK

Awantipora, August 12: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) observed National Anti-Ragging Week from August 12 to 18.

The campaign featured a series of awareness activities aimed at promoting a safe, respectful and ragging-free campus.

Organised by the Office of the Proctor in collaboration with the Dean of Students, the week-long observance included orientation session and interactive discussions on student rights and anti-ragging laws, documentary and awareness-film screenings, a campus rally, slogan and essay-writing activities and a debate.

Senior Proctor and Coordinator of Anti-Ragging Week at IUST, Dr. Mir Hashim, said, the activities were aimed at creating greater awareness among students about their rights, responsibilities and the legal provisions related to ragging, "while encouraging them to actively contribute towards a safe and inclusive campus." Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, said, the activities aimed to sensitise students about the physical and psychological impact of ragging, as well as its legal consequences. "They will also promote values of mutual respect, dignity and responsibility among students," she said.



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

DJMC IUST HOLDS INVITED LECTURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised an invited lecture on 'Higher Education: The Higher You Go, the Cooler It Is' at Rumi Library Conference Hall on August 31.

Senior Producer, Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir, Ajaz-ul-Haque, who has over three decades of experience in multimedia

production, was the resource-person for the lecture. The session began with the formal welcome address by Head, DJMC, Dr. Rabia Noor, who introduced the invited speaker and the theme of the lecture.

The session, attended by students, research scholars and faculty members of the department, focused on various aspects of higher education, its meaning and purpose. "The journey of education moves from data to information to knowledge to wisdom and finally to wonder, which are the five milestones in this journey," said Ajaz-ul-Haque, adding that one must derive depth, maturity and grace from education.

He encouraged students to look beyond conventional academic choices. Deliberating on

modern-day technology, he said, "Machines do not think like humans; it is humans who are turning into machines rather than thinking critically. So, higher education must ensure that technology strengthens critical thinking instead of replacing it."

Speaking on the occasion, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, said, "Higher education is about curiosity and the desire to keep learning, and these



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

values are deeply rooted in our religion as well."

The session concluded with an interactive exchange, where the students and scholars raised questions and shared their perspectives with the resource-person. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Haifaa Mohammad Ahsan, Assistant Professor, DJMC. Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat, Assistant Professor, DJMC, was also present on the occasion.

DJMC IUST CONVENES BOS MEETING FOR PG PROGRAMS

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), convened a Board of Studies (BoS) meeting for its post-graduate programmes on August 12.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, and convened by Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC, who extended a warm welcome to the Board members.

Among the key items on the agenda were the proposed two-year postgraduate programme under the new nomenclature, Mass Communication with AI, and the one-year M.A. programme in Journalism and Mass Communication. The proposed programmes seek to respond to the rapidly evolving media ecosystem, marked by technological advancements, digital transformation and the growing integration of Artificial Intelligence into media practices. The members deliberated upon the academic framework and curricular aspects of the department's postgraduate programmes, with a focus on strengthening and updating the programmes in line with the changing academic and professional landscape of media studies.

They also discussed the programme structures, curriculum and other academic components before making recommendations as per the prescribed

academic and statutory processes.

To mention, the Board comprised of internal as well as external members. The external experts included Prof. Aaliya Ahmad, Head, Media Education Research Centre, University of Kashmir, Dr. Suhail Ahmad, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Government College for Women, Cluster University Srinagar, and Dr. Imran Muzaffar Parray, Head, Department of Media Studies, Government Boys Degree College, Anantnag.



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

The internal members included Prof. Munejah Khan, Head, Department of English Language and Literature, IUST, and Dr. Muzaffar Ali Malla, Head, Department of Philosophy, IUST, besides faculty members of DJMC including Dr. Monisa Qadiri, Associate Professor, and Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat, Assistant Professor. The meeting was also attended by other faculty members of the department, namely Dr. Sayar Ahmad Mir and Dr. Haifaa Mohammad, besides Dr. Mohammad Jebran Khan, Assistant Registrar, Office of Dean of Academic Affairs, and Rohana Khurshid, Assistant Registrar, Examination Section, IUST.

Pertinently, this was the second BoS meeting held by the department in 2026. The last BoS meeting was held on February 10, 2026 for BA FYUCP courses offered by the department.

IUST HOLDS AWARENESS, SCREENING PROGRAM ON PMOS



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with SKIMS Soura and SKIMS MCH, Bemina, organised an awareness and screening programme on Poly Endocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) on August 11 at the University's main campus. The programme was organised by the University Health Centre in association with the Offices of the Dean of Students and Dean Outreach, IUST, with a focus on raising awareness about the condition and promoting holistic management.

Advisor to the Chief Minister of J&K, Nasir Aslam Wani, who was the Chief Guest, appreciated IUST for consistently taking up issues of public concern and called for a change in how PCOS/PMOS is perceived and discussed in society. He also expressed hope that IUST would establish a medical college in the future, acknowledging its achievements in health sciences and nursing education, and expressed the aspiration that IUST would one day emerge as 'Kashmir's Stanford.'

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, called for making health-awareness programmes a regular feature of educational institutions. Referring to the University's student clubs and expanding School of Health Sciences, including its nursing colleges and other centres, he stressed the importance of creating more platforms for health awareness and community engagement.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS Soura, highlighted key milestones in the history of research on PCOS/PMOS and emphasised the need for a stronger research base.

Prof. Shameem Ahmad Shah, Registrar, IUST, highlighted the significance of organising such programmes, particularly in view of the substantial number of female students at the University.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Monisa Qadri, Dean of Students, IUST, while Dr. Zahida Rasool, Medical Officer, IUST, presented the vote of thanks. A screening and consultation session for female students and staff was also conducted.

PHILOSOPHY DEPTT, NURSING COLLEGE HOLD BOS MEETINGS

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) convened Board of Studies (BoS) meetings for its Nursing Colleges and Department of Philosophy to review and strengthen academic programmes, curricula and related academic matters in line with emerging educational and professional requirements.

The 5th BoS meeting for Nursing Colleges, held on July 28 under the chairmanship of the Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean, Academic Affairs, deliberated on curriculum development, academic quality assurance, examination reforms, implementation of regulatory guidelines, and incorporation of emerging technologies and innovative teaching-learning practices. The meeting was attended by Ms. Mubashir Bashir, Principal, Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT) and Convener, BoS; Prof. (Dr.) Zamrooda Mushtaq, Principal, AMCN&MT; Principals of Government Colleges of Nursing at SKIMS and Anantnag; the Vice-Chancellor's Nominee; and members from affiliated nursing colleges.

The BoS meeting of the Department of Philosophy, chaired by Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, also brought together internal faculty and external experts including Prof. Pradeep Gokhale, University of Pune, Dr. Lallan S. Baghel, Panjab University Chandigarh, Prof. A Raghurama Raju, IIT Tirupati, Dr. Ibrahim Wani, University of Kashmir to deliberate on the department's academic programmes, curriculum and related matters. The Board reviewed academic requirements and made recommendations aimed at strengthening the programmes in accordance with prescribed academic and statutory processes. The meeting was convened by Dr. Muzaffar Ali, Head, Department of Philosophy. The Assistant Registrars from Academics and Examinations were also part of the meetings.

IUST ORGANISES AWARENESS PROGRAM TO MARK WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

Under the global theme 'Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works,' Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted an awareness programme at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, on August 10. The programme focussed on promoting breastfeeding practices through coordinated efforts of healthcare professionals, families and communities.

As part of the observance, nursing trainees conducted the awareness activities in the Postnatal Wards, Antenatal OPD, Paediatric Wards and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The students sensitised the mothers, caregivers and attendants using educational materials about breastfeeding techniques, its benefits, early initiation, correct positioning, complementary feeding among other things.

The campaign received an encouraging response from patients and attendants. The programme was organised by Onaisa Aalia Mushtaq, Tutor, SMMCN&MT, IUST, and coordinated by Mubashir Bashir, Senior Tutor/In-charge, SMMCN&MT.

IUST HOSTS WORKSHOP ON UDYAM JAGRITI 5.0 UNDER MISSION YUVA

The Centre for Career Counselling and Placement (CCCCP), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) under the aegis of the office of Dean Outreach, organised a workshop on 'Udyam Jagriti 5.0 – Mission Yuva' on August 25. The workshop organised in collaboration with the District Employment and Career Counselling (DE&CC) Office, Pulwama, aimed at sensitising students about entrepreneurship, innovation and the opportunities available under the Mission Yuva initiative.

The programme was attended by Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, ADC Awantipora; Prof. Parvez A. Mir, Dean, School of Business Studies, IUST; Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach, Rais Ahmad Shapoo, District Employment and Career Counselling Officer, Pulwama; Shivam Mahajan, Innovation Hub Associate, IIM Srinagar; Dr. Aamir Hussain Dar, Head,



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

CCCCP, members of the CCCC Executive Committee and a large number of students from Schools of Business Studies and Engineering and Technology.

Addressing the participants, Lone sensitised the youth about the growing importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in addressing societal challenges. Prof. Mir highlighted IUST's initiatives through the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) and other outreach programmes to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, underlining the University's commitment to providing youth with platforms to develop their ideas and entrepreneurial skills.

Speaking about IUST's outreach ecosystem, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, reiterated IUST's commitment to making meaningful contributions to society and working closely with all stakeholders to create greater opportunities for youth and contribute towards building a better society.

IUST HOSTS INTERACTION SESSION ON TOURISM, HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

The Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised an insightful industry-academia interaction session for the students of B-VoC Tourism and Hospitality Management on August 25. Khalid Nazir, Senior Consultant, Corporate Guest Relations, The Lalit New Delhi, and The Lalit Suri Hospitality School, Delhi NCR, was the distinguished guest speaker for the session.

The interaction session provided students with valuable industry perspectives on the evolving hospitality and tourism landscape, emerging career pathways, professional competencies, guest relations, and the diverse opportunities available across the sector. Through his rich professional experience and practical insights, Khalid Nazir inspired students to understand the expectations of the hospitality industry and encouraged them to pursue their careers with professionalism, adaptability and a commitment to service excellence.

MSME INCUBATOR INAUGURATED AT IUST

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) inaugurated the MSME Business Incubator at its Innovation Campus on August 5 to further boost the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem of Hammy and Kashmir. The Incubator has been sanctioned under the MSME Innovative Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

The Incubator was inaugurated by Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, and Shri A. K. Tamaria, IEDS, Joint Director and Head of Office, MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in the presence of Shri Saheel Alaqband, IEDS, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, Prof. Parvez Ahmad Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation, Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer, IUST, coordinators and members of the CIED-IUST Foundation, faculty members, and students from IUST and Government Polytechnic College.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir congratulated the CIED-IUST Foundation on its remarkable growth and described students as the "growth engines" of the University. Encouraging them to aspire high and embrace entrepreneurship as a promising career pathway, he urged students to cultivate curiosity by constantly asking why and how, identify problems encountered in everyday life, and work towards developing innovative solutions. Welcoming the distinguished guests, Prof. Mir highlighted the vision of the CIED-IUST Foundation to build a vibrant innovation ecosystem through strategic partnerships, incubation support and entrepreneurial capacity building.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tamaria said that the primary objective of the Ministry of MSME is to create entrepreneurs and appreciated the role being played by the CIED-IUST Foundation in nurturing innovation-driven enterprises.

IUST'S POLICY BRIEF SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN J&K'S RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE USE

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), through its Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA), has developed a comprehensive Policy Brief on the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Use in Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the University's commitment to addressing one of the region's most pressing social and public health challenges. The policy was released by the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha during the inaugural session of the four-day international conference on nature-based solutions for building climate resilience on August 3.

The Policy Brief advocates a coordinated, evidence-based and long-term institutional response to substance abuse. The Policy Brief emerged from the two-day workshop, 'Drug-Free Society: A Call for Collective Action,' organised by IUST as part of the 100-Day Nasha Mukt Abhiyaan launched under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha. The workshop brought together administrators, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, educators, researchers, civil society organisations and youth representatives. While representing diverse sectors, participants shared a common understanding that addressing substance use requires collective action and sustained institutional collaboration. Drawing upon these deliberations, the Policy Brief presents a practical framework to strengthen existing efforts by improving institutional coordination and integrating prevention, treatment and rehabilitation within a shared policy vision. Rather than proposing parallel structures, it seeks to reinforce ongoing initiatives through convergence, evidence-based planning and coordinated implementation.



Photo: Zahoor Ahmad/ IUST

IUST LAUNCHES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

To strengthen varsity-society connect, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has launched a Centralised Outreach and Community Engagement Programme, 'Rabt-u-Nisbat: Building Meaningful Associations for a Sustainable Society.' The initiative has been coordinated by the Dean Outreach Office.

The programme seeks to bring the University's outreach and community engagement efforts under a common framework, enabling Schools, Departments, Centres, Offices and Constituent Colleges to work together more effectively and extend the benefits of IUST's academic, research and innovation ecosystem to a wider section of society.

A key focus of Rabt-u-Nisbat is to connect with schools, colleges and communities, particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas. Through these engagements, IUST will facilitate academic interactions, career guidance, skill development, science and technology outreach, training programmes, research linkages, entrepreneurship and other activities based on the needs of communities and partner institutions. The initiative also provides external stakeholders with greater access to the University's academic and research resources through laboratory visits, expert interactions, demonstrations, workshops and other knowledge-sharing activities. The programme is aligned with the National Education Policy, 2020.

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