

Iconic Week Festival celebrations at IUST

Awantipora, Oct 24: To commemorate the Iconic Week Festival being celebrated across J&K UT, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) today organized literary and cultural events at its main Campus in Awantipora and Alamdard College of Nursing and Medical Technology, Charari Sharif.

The week-long festival is honouring the works of Sufi Saints and aims at inculcating the spirit of universal brotherhood, harmony through the idea of spirituality, love and peace.

While addressing the students Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who was the Chief Guest on the event at IUST noted the importance of these type of events as they not only help students show their talent but also provide a platform to connect with our rich Sufi culture.



"We people should not limit ourselves to these weekly events, but such programs should occur regularly in our daily life so that we encourage people to explore our own Kashmiri culture and role played by Sufi saints", he added. "Promoting spiritual sayings and teachings of virtuous saints can help minimize the increasing intolerance that is witnessed all over in the society".

Prof. Romshoo said the university is committed to providing students with all possible facilities for studying and researching Kashmir's syncretic culture and traditions of Sufism and research should be promoted even for understanding and preserving Kashmiri language. "Our different Centres for Spirituality, Society and for Kashmiri will go a long way in promoting our sufi culture", he added.

Meanwhile a prominent Islamic scholar Allama Moulana Showkat Hussain Keng who was the keynote speaker talked about the life of Syed Hassan Mantaqui, who has a major contribution towards the upliftment of Awantipora Community in particular while spreading the message of harmony, enlightenment and devotion. "Syed Mantaqui was not only a Sufi but a educationist which can be seen through his contribution," he added.

Former Head, Department of Arabic (IUST) Prof. Ab. Majeed Andrabi, who delivered a special lecture on this occasion enlightened the gathering with about contribution of Sufism towards Universal Brotherhood and traced the journey of 'Sufi culture'. He said, "Sufism is synergy of soul and body and Sufi is the one whose heart is cleansed by love and purity of soul ". He said sufism not only teaches us devotion of love but companionship and character towards society. While giving remarks about the event Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar IUST said how the event is important and such events connects us with the public domain. "These events should be conducted regularly as the youth gets deviated from the Sufi culture and these activities will motivate us to learn from our revered saints," he added.

Earlier, in her welcome Address Dean of Students Dr. Anisa Jan thanked all the guest members and spoke about various themes to be covered during the event and how significant it was to know about Sufism and imbibe teachings of Sufi saints.

During the event held at Alamdard Nursing College, Principal Prof. Mehmooda Regu welcomed the participants. Dean School of Social Sciences, Central University of Kashmir Prof. Hameed Naseem Rafiabadi debilitated on spiritual legacy on Sheikh Noor Ud Din. "Sheikh Noor Ud Din is one of the greater minds of Kashmir who has contributed in the overall growth, development, prosperity of Kashmiri society", he said. He emphasized Sheiks contribution to women's education.

Eminent scholar of Sheikh Noor Ud din, Dr. G.N Adfar an presented a paper titled "The Patron Saint of Kashmir" wherein he threw light on Sheikh's relevance to people of all religions and denominations. He exclusively quoted sheikhs kalam with beautiful renditions into English translations.

Dean Academic Affairs IUST, Prof. A. H Moon while addressing the gathering encouraged the students to follow the selfless services to the society and humanity. Dean Research IUST, Prof. H R Naik highlighted the Sheikh's kalam related to issues like food security. HOD, ICSS Dr. S Iqbal Quraishi spoke on the legacy and tradition of Sheikh Noor Ud din. Regional Director, MANU Hyderabad, Dr. Aijaz Ashraf also spoke on the occasion.

During both the events, various competitions were held for students including Calligraphy, Speech and Poetry recitation. Works and Sufi poetry of great saints like Lal Ded, Nund Reshi, Shams Faqeer, Ahad Zargar, Amir Khusrau, Shiraz, and Moulana Rumi were highlighted during the events.

