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IUST and SMVDU Sign MoU to Advance Research, Innovation, and Regional Development in J&K

Awantipora, October 23: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote academic collaboration, research partnerships, joint degree programs and student exchange between the two leading universities of Jammu and Kashmir. The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation in academics, joint research, consultancy and outreach aimed at advancing knowledge for regional development. It also emphasizes cooperation in heritage conservation, urban planning, incubation and entrepreneurship, and ABC operations.

A high-level delegation from SMVDU, led by Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice Chancellor), and comprising of Prof. Balbir Singh (Dean Academic Affairs), Prof. Ananga Kumar Das (Dean, Research and Development), and Dr. Shafaq Rasool (Associate Dean, Academic Affairs) undertook a two-day visit to IUST to finalize the areas of cooperation and engage with IUST faculty and officials.

The MoU was signed between the Prof. A. H. Moon Dean Academic Affairs IUST and Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs SMVDU in the presence of Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST, and other deans and senior officials from both universities.

Prof. Romshoo hailed the signing of the MoU as “a landmark step towards promoting collaboration among universities in Jammu and Kashmir.” He stated that other universities across the region shall be invited to join this partnership to build a broad-based, J&K-wide academic and research collaboration network. Prof. Romshoo said that the initiative reflects a shared vision of strengthening research, innovation, and outreach in J&K universities to address regional and national challenges through collective academic effort.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar described the collaboration as “a significant step towards building a strong academic bridge between the two institutions” He emphasized that by pooling our expertise and resources, the universities can create impactful learning and research opportunities for students and faculty while contributing to addressing societal issues in Jammu and Kashmir.”

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the collaborative initiatives, the MoU provides for the establishment of a Joint Implementation and Coordination Team (JICT) comprising the Deans Academic Affairs and Deans Research from both institutions. The committee will meet quarterly to oversee progress, evaluate outcomes, and recommend new initiatives, thereby ensuring that the partnership remains action-oriented. Both universities reaffirmed their commitment to advancing academic excellence, regional development, and innovations through this strategic partnership.

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