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IUST Hosts Key Workshop Engaging Diverse Stakeholders for Community-Led Action and Ethical Accountability to Combat Drug Menace

Awantipora, May 05: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) reaffirmed its commitment to addressing pressing social challenges by hosting the second day of a two-day workshop on “Drug-Free Society: Call for Collective Action.” The programme, through its multiple sessions, brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders including representatives from the administration, religious leaders, NGOs, academia, and civil society, coordinating a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue on tackling substance abuse.

During a dedicated session with religious leaders, the Grand Mufti of Jammu & Kashmir called for a strong, community-driven response to curb the growing menace of substance abuse. Highlighting the alarming scale of the issue, he noted while thousands of cases have been registered, and significant arrests made the challenge of tackling the issue of drugs is staggering and needs collective efforts. He described substance abuse as a “Shaitaani act”.

Emphasizing the institutional role of IUST in promoting awareness and social responsibility, the Grand Mufti appreciated the university’s proactive efforts in creating platforms for dialogue and action on critical societal issues. He stressed that lack of parental supervision is among the primary causes of substance abuse.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. G. N. Itoo, Director, Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, who asserted that the fight against drug abuse must begin at the family level, with parents playing a central role in guiding and monitoring their children. He also called upon religious leaders to contribute meaningfully towards spreading awareness about this menace and also participate in preventive initiatives.

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