



June 29, 2026

IUST Hosts Workshop on Kashmiri Shaivism

Awantipora, June 24: The Department of Philosophy, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organized a one-day workshop on "Kashmiri Shaivism: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Mysticism", bringing together faculty members, research scholars, and students to explore one of Kashmir's most influential philosophical traditions.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, emphasized the role of philosophy in nurturing critical thinking, ethical values, and universal humanism. Referring to NEP 2020, he stressed the need for an education system that promotes consciousness, compassion, creativity, and independent thinking alongside scientific and technical learning. He also highlighted the responsibility of academic institutions in preserving Kashmir's rich intellectual and cultural heritage.

The keynote lecture, "From Dhvani to Pratyabhijñā: Ānandavardhana, Abhinavagupta, and the Intellectual Foundations of Kashmiri Shaivism," was delivered by Dr. Maninder Singh of Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar. He traced the evolution of Kashmiri Shaivism through the works of Ānandavardhana and Abhinavagupta, explaining concepts such as consciousness, recognition (Pratyabhijñā), and non-dualism, while highlighting their contemporary relevance.

Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, emphasized the importance of preserving Kashmir's philosophical, intellectual, and Sufi traditions. Earlier, Dr. Muzaffar Ali Malla, Head, Department of Philosophy, welcomed the participants, while students recited Vaakhs of Lal Ded, reflecting the region's rich spiritual heritage.

The workshop concluded with a reading and exposition of selected Śiva Sūtras, followed by an interactive discussion with participants. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Lakhvir Singh, while the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy.

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