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3-day J&K Science Congress concludes at IUST

Awantipora, Oct 1: The three-day J&K Science Congress 2026 on 'Science, Innovations and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable and Viksit J&K' concluded at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Thursday. The valedictory session held at Nund Reshi Auditorium of IUST saw enthusiastic participation by scientists, researchers, academicians, innovators, students and experts.

In her address, Minister of School and Higher Education, Ms Sakina Itoo, emphasized that the future of Jammu and Kashmir will not be defined merely by infrastructure but by "the knowledge created and the young minds empowered."

She underlined the need to prepare youth not only to seek employment but to become "creators of employment." "While talent is everywhere, opportunity must also be made available everywhere," said Itoo, who was the chief guest on the occasion.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani, who attended the session as guest of honour, appreciated the efforts of IUST and The Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC) for providing a vibrant platform for scientists, researchers and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, said, the J&K Science Congress has brought the brightest minds to deliberate on critical issues and challenges of climate change, disaster vulnerability, sustainability and emerging technologies. "The enthusiasm of young students, scientists and researchers gives us immense hope for a sustainable and Viksit J&K driven by Science and innovation," he said.

Prof. Romshoo further said, the Congress has been a vibrant confluence of ideas, innovation and responsibility. "From climate challenges in the Upper Indus Basin to the remarkable creativity displayed by our school children, it reaffirms that Science must serve society and sustainability," he said. "Our vision for a Viksit J&K can only be realised when we empower our youth to think scientifically and act for a sustainable future," he added.

Dean Research, IUST, Dr. Aabid Hussain Shalla, presented a detailed report and outcomes of the J&K Science Congress, highlighting the participation of about 700 researchers, 4000 participants and eminent scientists over 26 technical sessions with 14 themes, five plenary sessions, and two panel discussions.

Meanwhile, the best oral and poster presenters were felicitated by the dignitaries. Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. Ajaz Bashir, delivered the formal welcome address, while Dean Outreach, IUST, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, proposed the vote of thanks.



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Earlier, the day featured Plenary Lecture-5 delivered by Prof. Romshoo on 'Climate Change, Cryosphere Depletion and Emerging Glacial Hazards in the Upper Indus Basin: Implications for Water Security and Infrastructure.' The session was chaired by Prof. Vinod Kumar Gaur, former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Besides technical sessions, a dedicated School Students' Science Programme with participation of 20 schools and over 80 students comprising poster, model and project presentations was held in collaboration with the National Children's Science Congress.

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