

## **Prof Sumantra Bose visits IUST, interacts with students, faculty**

Awantipora, May 3: Noted author and academic, Prof Sumantra Bose, Wednesday interacted with students and faculty of Centre of International Relations (CIR) and Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The interaction session was jointly organised by CIR and DJMC, IUST.

Bose, who serves as professor of International and Comparative Politics at London School of Economics, deliberated on nature of conflict of various kinds. Talking about Indo-Pak dispute over divided parts of Kashmir, he said there are different shades of opinion regarding the issue, “with some people supporting India or Pakistan, while the rest demanding independence”.

“A survey was carried out in 2009 by an international organisation on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC). The findings were quite interesting, that is 70 to 90 percent of people from Indian-administered Kashmir wanted independence, whereas 50 percent people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir too wanted independence,” said Prof Bose, who has written extensively about the conflicts of Indian sub-continent.

Prof Bose also compared the Kashmir conflict with that of Northern Ireland. He talked about how power sharing between two parties solved the conflict in Northern Ireland.

“Like Northern Ireland, Kashmir too holds two opposite policies in coalition government, which can prove fruitful only if the power is shared with good faith. But if that does not happen, then it is useless to have such a government,” he said.

Earlier, welcoming the guest, Head CIR, Shezana Andrabi, said every conflict is unique and the solution of Kashmir conflict lies within Kashmir only. Later, a question-answer session was held, in which students and faculty members cleared their queries.