

Centre For International Relations IUST observes International Peace Day

Kashmiris are peace loving and share a history of tolerance and togetherness: Meenai

Awantipora, Sep 21: Centre for International Relations, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) conducted a One Day National Symposium to observe the International Day of Peace on 21st September designated by UN. The theme of the symposium was '*Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity For All*'.

Each year this event is observed throughout the world as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The guests invited for speaking on the occasion were Professor Tasneem Meenai, Director Nelson Mandela School of Peace and Conflict Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia and Mr. Nadir Ali, a policy researcher.



Welcoming the guests and the students Ms. Shazana Andrabi Head of the Centre said that we need to integrate theory with practice in terms of peace. There is a lot of cynicism attached with the idea of peace given the scenario we are living in and that prompts me to say that we are observing the Peace day and not celebrating it.", she added.

Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Mushtaq Siddiqi, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion said that nobody could better appreciate peace than Kashmiris. Further, drawing upon the global conflicts and reminiscing some personal experiences he said that what is needed is peace based on justice and dignity and we as muslims have a special responsibility towards it.

Prof. A S Bhat, Head of Department of Economics touched upon the economic aspect of conflicts and role of colonisers in sowing the seeds and fuelling the conflicts in third world countries.

Prof. Tasneem Meenai, the guest speaker for the occasion enlightened the audience with different theoretical approaches of peace. Drawing upon the ideas of Johan Galtung, the speaker said that besides direct violence we need to address the structural violence in the form of poverty, malnutrition, marginalisation and exploitation. She further emphasised the role of state, individuals and all the stakeholders in bringing about positive peace by way of conflict transformation.

Concluding her talk, Ms. Meenai said that essence of peace is that it is a process and that positive peace is something worth striving for. She further said that it's ironic that we are celebrating the Peace Day designated by UN and are criticising the same organisation for not observing its ideals. In the post lunch session Mr. Nadir Ali talked about role of youth and education in bringing about peace in Kashmir. He further said that Kashmiris are peace loving and share a history of tolerance and togetherness. The talk was followed by question and answer session. In the end, Ms. Haifa Peerzada proposed the vote of thanks.

**Issued Through
Public Relations**