

IUST HOLDS MEDIA CONCLAVE

Awantipora, Dec 6: A day-long media conclave was held at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Wednesday. The event titled '*Comm Con: A Conclave for Communication and Journalism Students*' was organised by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), IUST, in collaboration with PACT, an international development organisation. Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof Mushtaq A Siddiqi, said the mentorship is the most important thing required in any field and particularly for media students. He made a special mention of healthy teacher-student interactions held outside the country and stressed upon having such interactions in Kashmir as well.



Speaking on the occasion, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Mushtaq Ahmad Quraishi, IUST, said the event was an interface between the academia and media professionals to “lend value addition to media studies.”

Dedicating the event to journalists, who have sacrificed their lives for people’s sake, he said, reporters work fearlessly to gather and share information.

Renowned investigative journalist, Saikat Datta, talked about how investigative journalists can obtain information through Right to Information (RTI) Act.

“A journalist should file repeated RTIs to minimise the chances of rejection. Even if his or her plea is rejected, that too shall make a story,” said Datta, who has an experience of two decades in journalism.

Sharing his work experience, Datta said, many government officials were arrested after his series of stories. “Government is a huge body, where left hand does not know about the right hand. As journalists, you can take an advantage of that,” he said. Deliberating on Crowdfunding for individual journalists and organisations, Bilal Zaidi, Founder and Community Coordinator of *CrowdNewsing*, said, nowadays social media has an influence on the opinion making.

“A decade back, when I began working in media industry, Television was the only source to shape the public opinion. Now, however, even a *HashTag* can do the same,” Zaidi said.

While deliberating on radio as a growing career option, radio jockey at 92.7 FM, Nasir Khan, said, radio is all about creativity. “There are enormous career options in radio, like you can be a radio jockey or radio presenter, or you can work in production and post-production. This field is evolving day by day. Try to learn more and more,” Khan told students.

Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, Prof Abdul Salaam Bhat said, the aim of the media conclave was to sensitize the students about fair and objective journalism.

“Even the media-persons working in a conflict area outside have shouldered the responsibility to communicate the information based on facts to the society,” said Prof Bhat.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Head DJMC, Dr Ruheela Hassan said, the purpose of the event was to bridge the gap between the aspiring and professional journalists.

“We always try to find new ideas to provide the best platform to our students with professional journalists working in the field” she added.

Correspondent, *Press TV*, Shahana Butt, Advertising professional Jaibeer Ahmad and Jammu Bureau Chief, New Delhi Television, Zaffar Iqbal, also speak on the occasion. Among others present on the occasion were Heads, faculty and students of various departments of IUST, and media students and faculty of Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Cluster University and Government Degree College Anantnag.

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