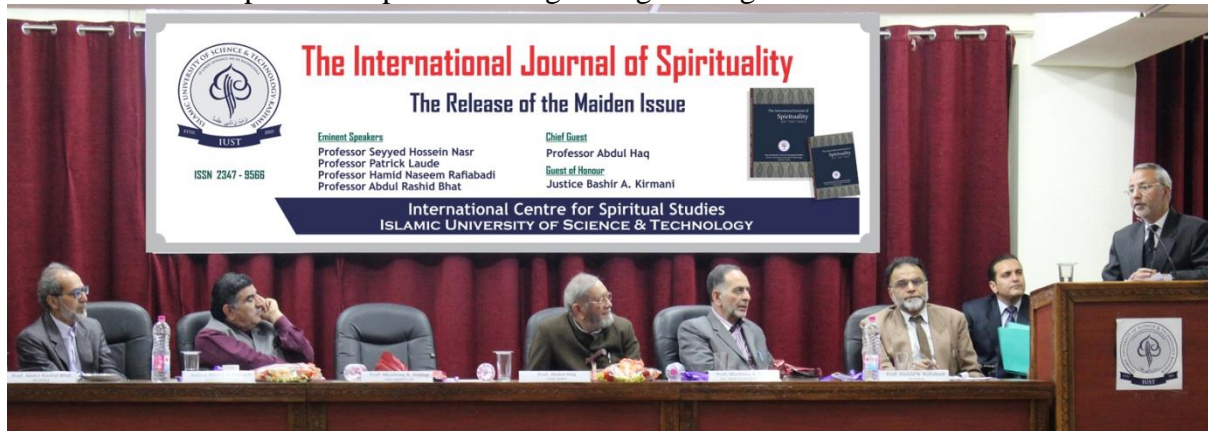




ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR

IUST'S Spiritual Studies Centre Launches International Journal

Awantipora May 02: The International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), launched the maiden issue of The International Journal of Spirituality (TIJOS), at university auditorium here on Wednesday, 2nd of May, 2018. Welcoming the guests, Head ICSS, Dr S. Iqbal Quraishi said, the journal was launched by the centre so as to promote the research culture in the university. "It aims to provide a platform to research scholars from all disciplines to highlight the spiritual heritage of various traditions," he said. He added that ICSS was established to encourage spiritual studies as well as spiritual response to the growing ideological conflict.



This is the maiden journal which has come out from IUST since the establishment of the university. The launch ceremony started off with the lecture of Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr, the only Muslim academic who has delivered the Grifford lectures, and he is also the editorial board member of the journal. Professor Nasr started off with the congratulatory note to the university and the International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS) for taking up this initiative of introducing the International Journal of Spirituality Studies. He also asserted how over the centuries this earthly paradise played a key role in spearheading the movement of internalizing the essence of Sufism and also its spiritually receptive people drew many special figures to itself. In this pretext, he highlighted the role of this journal and how it can emerge as a centre for shaping the normative ethical framework in South Asia. He also discussed the importance of reintroducing spirituality in the postmodern world where morality is altogether absent from the public discourse. Nasr talked about the importance of reintroducing spirituality in the public sphere and use it as an anchor to shape morality based education system.

Patrick Laude, Professor of Georgetown University expert on spiritual and philosophical studies talked about the importance of fostering spirituality and how Kashmir can play an important role in shaping a balance narrative of spirituality and normative ethical framework in the times of extremities and radicalism. Laude also talked about the importance of shaping an inter-religious discourse when the ideological conflicts have created discord within the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. (Dr) Mushtaq A. Siddiqi said the new generation needs to learn spirituality, as spiritual studies are nowadays as important as science and technology. “Technological education is not enough in contemporary times. We also need to address our issues of self that will be depicted by spirituality,” he said.

Prof. Abdul Haq, Professor Emeritus Delhi University, Chief Guest of the occasion while congratulating the Vice Chancellor said that the Journal has already attract the scholars from across the globe and hopefully will contribute their research on Spirituality in the future issues of the journal.

Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani guest of honour for the event said this effort by IUST shall positively bridge the dichotomous gap between the text and the context. Prof Mushtaq A. Quraishi while speaking on the occasion said that such academic activities will inspire the scholars to contribute in their respective fields. Among others, reviewers of *TIJOS*, Prof Abdul Rashid Bhat, Director Shah-e-Hamdan Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir, and Prof Hameed N Rafiabadi from Central University of Kashmir presented their Reviews about the Journal. Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof Abdul Salam Bhat, Dean School of Technology Prof. A. H. Moon, heads of the teaching departments, principals of the nursing colleges, faculty, officers, scholars and students of various departments of IUST were present on the occasion.

Later, a vote of thanks was proposed by Registrar IUST, Mr. Reyaz Rufai, wherein, he suggested to upload the journal and the lectures from the luminaries who spoke on the occasion on the university website.

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