

Report: Painting Competition on “Shrinking Wetlands and Their Reclamation Process”

Department of Economics, University of Kashmir

13 November 2025

The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, organized an insightful and creatively engaging painting competition on the theme “Shrinking Wetlands and Its Reclamation Process” on 13th November 2025. The event was coordinated by Dr. Haider Hassan Itoo and Dr. Tariq Ahad, Assistant Professors, Department of Economics, with valuable collaboration from Dr. Kirti Bhatt and Ms. Amreena Sheikh from the EIACP, Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Government of J&K.

The competition aimed to raise awareness among students regarding the alarming depletion of wetlands and the urgent need for their conservation and scientific reclamation. Wetlands, being vital ecological assets, play a crucial role in biodiversity, groundwater recharge, flood control, and climate regulation. The event therefore sought to blend environmental consciousness with artistic expression, enabling students to reflect on ecological issues through their creative lenses. A total of 30 participants from different departments showcased their artistic talent, each presenting unique interpretations of environmental degradation and possible restoration strategies. The artworks highlighted themes such as vanishing water bodies, pollution, habitat loss, community responsibility, and innovative reclamation methods. The participants successfully demonstrated how art can serve as a powerful medium for environmental advocacy.

The coordinators appreciated the enthusiasm of students and emphasized the significance of involving youth in environmental conservation. The representatives from EIACP applauded the initiative and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts between academic institutions and environmental organizations for promoting sustainability.

The event concluded with the evaluation of entries and announcement of winners, recognizing the exceptional creativity and environmental sensitivity displayed by the students. The Department of Economics expressed gratitude to all collaborators, participants, and faculty members for contributing to the success of the programme. This painting competition not only celebrated artistic talent but also reinforced the collective responsibility of protecting and restoring our precious wetlands for future generations.

On the same day, the Department of Sheep Husbandry, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, set up an informative exhibition stall outside Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir. The stall displayed cutting-edge developments in entrepreneurship, wool-processing innovations, fur-based product design, genetic engineering, and new sheep breeds developed in the region. This attracted a diverse audience of students, faculty members, and researchers.