

Report: Annual Economics Lecture 2025
Department of Economics, University of Kashmir
November 12, 2025

The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, successfully organized the **Annual Economics Lecture 2025** on the **12th of November 2025**, marking the first lecture of this newly instituted academic lecture series.

The program commenced with a welcome address by **Prof. Effat Yasmeen**, Head of the Department of Economics and Convener of *EconFest 2025*. In her remarks, Prof. Yasmeen highlighted the significance of the Annual Lecture series and its relevance for academic enrichment, scholarly engagement, and methodological advancement in the social sciences.

The first lecture of the series was delivered by **Prof. Farzana Afridi**, Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, on the theme “**From Jobs to Careers: Understanding Working Women’s Aspirations, Opportunities, and Barriers in South Asia.**” Her presentation offered an insightful exploration of the complex factors shaping women’s economic participation in the region, shedding light on structural barriers, evolving aspirations, and policy challenges.

The session was chaired by **Prof. Siddiq Wahid**, Former Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology and Distinguished Professor at the Department of International Relations & Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University. In his address, Prof. Wahid underscored the importance of gender empowerment in academia and emphasized how initiatives such as the Annual Lecture series help foster a culture of rigorous research and scholarly collaboration.

The event concluded with a formal **vote of thanks** delivered by **Dr. Sajjad Bhat**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Coordinator of the event. Dr. Bhat expressed gratitude to the distinguished speakers, participants, and organizing team for their contributions to the success of the program.

The proceedings of the session were conducted by **Ms. E. Mariam**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Coordinator of the event.

The Department looks forward to continuing this academic tradition through future editions of the Annual Economics Lecture and the broader initiatives under EconFest.