

## **Report of Alumni Meet 2025**

The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, inaugurated the week-long ECONFEST-2025 with a grand Inaugural Ceremony and Alumni Meet at the Ibn Khaldun Auditorium, Allama Iqbal Library. The event brought together distinguished former teachers, accomplished alumni from over five decades, faculty members, and students, setting an inspiring tone for the festival scheduled from November 11–15.

The programme, hosted by Ms. Elizabeth Mariam and Dr. Rahul Kundal, began with registration and seating, followed by an engaging audiovisual presentation prepared by the EMMRC team led by Mr. Tariq Abdullah. Prof. Effat Yasmin, Head of the Department, delivered the welcome address, reflecting on the department's academic journey and emphasizing the importance of sustained alumni engagement.

The Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Dean Research, Prof. Mohd Sultan Bhat, and Dean, School of Business Studies, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, felicitated former teachers and notable alumni, acknowledging their lifelong contributions to academia and public service. Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada later delivered the Presidential Address, reaffirming the University's commitment to academic excellence, strengthened alumni networks, and forward-looking economic research.

Dignitaries on the dais shared brief remarks on the evolution of the department and its role in shaping economic discourse in the region. Dr. Javaid Iqbal Khan presented the Vote of Thanks, after which the participants gathered for tea and a group photograph.

The afternoon session, hosted by Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer of the University of Kashmir, along with Ms. Barooj Tariq and Mr. Kamran Parvez, students of the 3rd semester, featured a vibrant mix of cultural and reflective segments. Alumni-focused audiovisuals curated by Dr. Saeed Owais Mushtaq and Dr. Haider Hassan Itoo were followed by energetic student performances, including a skit and a comedy news segment. The special feature, "Echoes of the Past," brought together alumni from the 1966–2000 batches, offering heartfelt recollections of campus life and professional journeys.

Alumni artistic performances by Mr. Amin Beigh and Mr. Omer Hassan added to the day's cultural richness. Souvenirs were distributed to the guests, honouring their association with the department.

Post-lunch sessions included reflections from the 2000–2025 alumni cohort, followed by the second cultural programme featuring musical renditions, qawwali, and Kashmiri folk dance. The Department of Art, Culture, and Languages presented a beautiful and captivating musical performance, highlighted by the renowned artist Shafi Sopori, whose soulful rendition was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also joined the programme during the post-lunch session, adding to the enthusiasm of the event. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, distinguished guests, and alumni further praised the efforts of Prof. Effat Yasmin

for organizing such a large and impactful event, acknowledging her inspiring and dedicated leadership under which the department continues to excel in teaching, research, and overall academic development. The day concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, followed by a guided tour of the Old Campus and the Department of Economics.

The inaugural day of ECONFEST-2025 seamlessly blended nostalgia, academic pride, and cultural vibrancy, making it a memorable opening to the festival. The Department of Economics will continue the event series with research workshops, lectures, and academic interactions over the next four days.