

A S Chronicles NEWSLETTER 2021-2022

International Women's Day Celebrations-2021

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2021, a One-Day Seminar was organised by the College Women's Development Cell and the College Seminars and Debates Committee for the students of City Colleges of Srinagar under the global theme of "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in COVID-19 World". The day-long event was presided over by Professor Maqsood Hussain, the Vice Principal. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Khurshid A. Mir, Controller Examinations/Registrar Cluster University Srinagar. The Guests of Honour during the seminar were Dr. Mujahid Ahmad, Dean Social Sciences CUS and Dr. Deeba I. Sarmad, Dean Humanities and Liberal Arts CUS. Also, present on the occasion were the Special Guest Prof. Tariq Ashai, President College Teacher's Association and the faculty members and students of the College.

The event began with a pre-recorded welcome address, which was played via online medium, by the Worthy Principal, Professor Bashir A. Rather, who welcomed all dignitaries, faculty members and students. In his inaugural address, he mentioned that International Women's Day is celebrated globally to recognise and appreciate women achievers in the fields of science and technology, politics, economics, culture and other fields.

During the technical session of the One-Day Seminar, the participating students, Tanmeet Kaur from Gandhi Memorial College, Asma Jan from GCW Nawakadal, Mehak Fatima from(IASE) B.Ed. College Srinagar, Insha Salam from GDC Hyderpora, Danishta Zahid from Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, and Simrandeep Kaur from the host college threw light on the various dimensions of women in leadership and put forward their views on feminism and gender equality. During the seminar, Ms. Falak from 6th semester of the host college narrated a short story "Jawhar" written by Dr. Gazala Gayas, Head Department of English. At the end of the seminar, Certificates of Appreciation to the distinguished guests was presented by Professor Nighat Shafi, Convener College Women's Development Cell and the Certificates of Participation were distributed amongst the student-participants by the Worthy Chief Guest, Dr. Khurshid A. Mir.



A One Day Seminar on "Unity in Diversity" 20-03-2021



Prof. Gul Mohammad Wani, Head, Department of Political Sciences, University of Kashmir was the Chief Guest/Resource Person for the seminar who in his address stressed on the fact that we as a society have an important role to play to realise this ideal of "Unity in Diversity" and not leave it to the political system or government alone. He opined that the ideas of Pluralism, Realisation of Substantive aspects of democracy and equitable development will go a long way in helping the realisation of this much cherished ideal of "Unity in Diversity".

Prof. Arifat Jan, Head Department of Political Science deliberated upon the theme of the seminar. She argued that India is country of Unity in Diversity and is based on the concept where the individual has variations in physical qualities like Color, Caste, Creed, Culture and Traditions.

On this occasion a fusion prayer was presented by students of the college, which was hailed by one and all.

Dr. Tawseef Ahmad and Miss. Darakhshan conducted the proceedings of the seminar, while as Dr. Kousar Muzamil, Head, Department of Urdu, presented Vote of Thanks. The programme was jointly coordinated by Prof. Aarif Jan and Dr. Kousar Muzamil.

A good gathering of faculty and students with proper adherence to COVID-19 protocol attended the seminar.

Celebration of World Arbor Day

Department of Botany, Amar Singh College, Srinagar organized a one-day programme on celebration of Arbor Day on 23-03-2021. The main objective of this programme was to provide hands-on training to students and to make students aware about importance of plants in maintaining ecological balance. The occasion was graced by Honourable Principal, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather, Staff secretary, all HODs and other senior faculty members of the college. Mr. Akhter Hussain Malik working as Junior Scientist at Centre of Biodiversity and Plant Taxonomy was the resource person. Dr. Pervaiz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Professor Department of Botany presented the introductory remarks about importance of celebrating Arbor Day in this current era of global change wherein anthropogenic activities are threatening survival of all the species present on this planet earth. Dr. Nahida tun Nisa Sr. Assistant Professor Department of Botany welcomed the guests and participants. The Honourable Principal of the college officially inaugurated the programme and enlightened the guests and participants about importance of plants. He stressed upon plantation of trees under **Green Campus Initiative**. He deliberated upon the role of plants in combating pollution for better life and in this direction, he insisted that steps will be taken to make College Campus pollution free by imposing ban on polythene and smoking in college campus. A series of sessions were held throughout the day. In first session, the resource person discussed in detail the role of herbarium and technique of preparing herbarium. In second session the resource person provided hands-on training to students about the process of identifying plants and the role of diagnostic characteristics in identifying plants. In third session a plantation drive was carried out in Botanical Garden of the college in which conifers, medicinal plants, ornamental plants and fruit trees were planted.



Celebration Dr. B.R Ambedkar's 131st Birth Anniversary



The Department of Political Science, Amar Singh College, Srinagar, celebrated Dr. B.R Ambedkar's 131st Birth Anniversary on 14th of April, 2021 under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" by organising a series of lectures delivered by eminent faculty members at the Taseer Hall auditorium of the College today.

Dr. Bashir Ahmad Rather, Principal of the college, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his speech, he congratulated the Department for organising the event and impressed upon the students and faculty to follow the social and political ideas of Dr. Ambedkar. He said that Dr. B. R Ambedkar has drafted a voluminous Constitution which has immensely formulated a vision to uplift the lives of poor and marginalised sections of the society including women. He also reaffirmed that Amar Singh College always plays a lead role in celebrating all the events of national and international importance.

The programme began with a welcome address by Professor Arifat Jan, Head, Department of Political Science who presented a brief description on the life and ideas of Dr. B.R Ambedkar.

Prof. Tafazul Hussain, Assistant Professor in Political Science, delivered a detailed lecture on the life and works of Babasaheb Ambedkar and highlighted his enlightened vision and emancipatory politics for laying foundations of an egalitarian society.

Prof. Mudasir Ahmad, Assistant Professor in Political Science, also delivered a detailed lecture on the emergence of Caste System, its prevalence in the Indian culture and Babasaheb's efforts through constitution to free the society from all of its regressive elements which hamper equality and progress. The lectures stimulated a thought provoking discussion in which the participants asked several questions which were duly answered by the Speakers.

All the speakers highlighted the varied aspects of Dr. B.R Ambedkar's life journey, intellectual pursuits and his great struggle for emancipation and justice. Babasaheb's

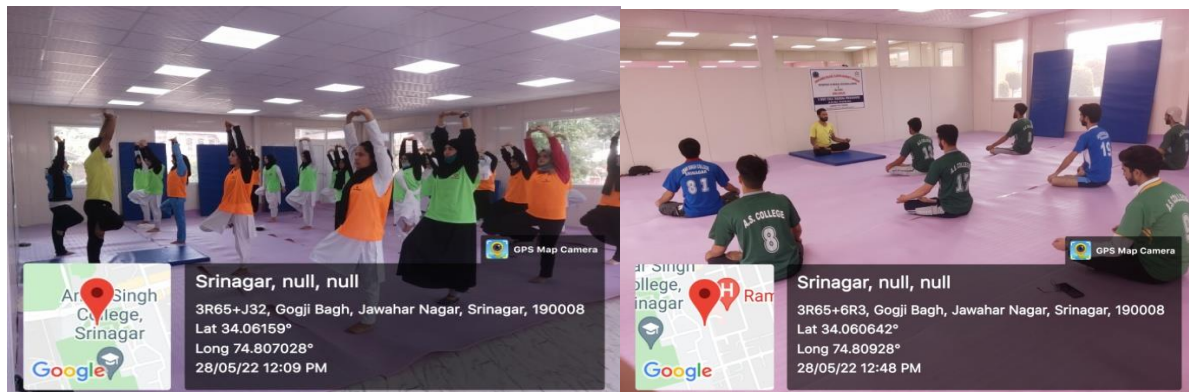
contributions as a public leader, social reformer, democrat, economist, constitution maker, jurist, intellectual leader of downtrodden etc. were lucidly articulated by the speakers.

Five Day Yoga Training Programme

Five days Yoga Training Programme was started by Department of Physical Education & NSS Units of Amar Singh College on 28-05-2022. In the Inaugural function Principal, Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Prof Bashir Ahmad Rather, Convener Sports Committee & Secretary Sports, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof Tariq Ahmad Ashai, NSS Officer, Prof Arshad Masoodi, Members of Sports Committee, Faculty members and Ms Ravinder Kour (Physical Director) were present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal, Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Prof Bashir Ahmad Rather highlighted the importance of Yoga and its importance in the development of personality of students. He also assured that college will facilitate such events in future also. On this occasion Convener Sports Committee & Secretary Sports, Cluster University Srinagar threw light on the goals of 5 Days Yoga Training Programme. Ms Ravinder Kour Physical Director presented a brief report of yoga and other sport activities organised by the college.

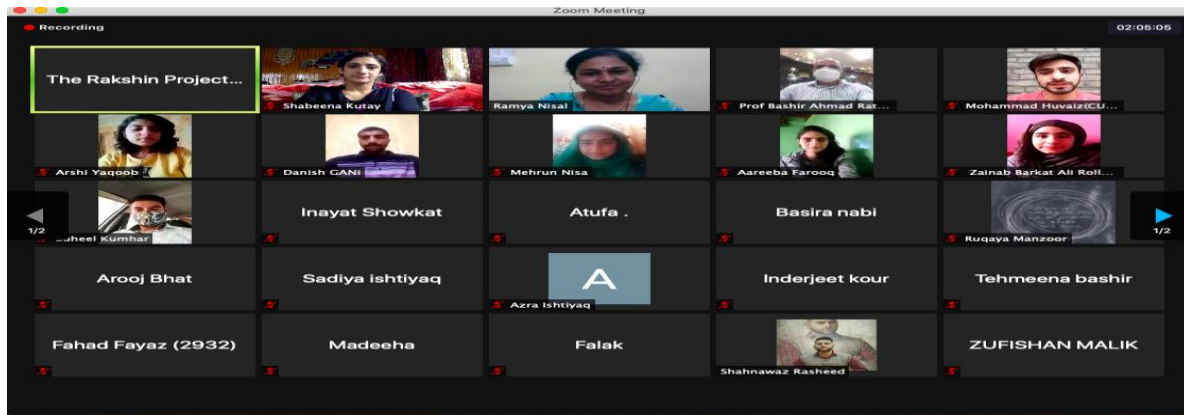
More than 60 students from different semester/streams had registered for this Yoga Training Programme , Mr Mohammad Tahir and Miss Sayima Rashid from the directorate of Youth Service Sports were invited to provide instruction and demonstration of basic yoga asanas.



ONE DAY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON POCSO Act 2012

NSS Units, Amar Singh College in collaboration with Sakshi Organisation and mandated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Regional Directorate of NSS organised a one-day online capacity building workshop and webinar on POCSO Act 2012 on the 3rd June 2021. Under the Equality Umbrella, the workshop with the NSS volunteers included Awareness Sessions on rights and responsibilities for Gender Equality, & Orientations and Capacity Building for compliance of POCSO Act 2012. The purpose of the workshop/webinar was to make the NSS Volunteers POCSOA Champions and to strengthen Youth as powerful enablers for creating a Constitutional Rights Based Enabled Environment in the context of Gender Equality with a focus on building awareness about POCSOA 2012. In the spirit of active citizenship, the NSS volunteers, were informed and sensitised about their role and responsibility as informed active citizens versus the apathy of an ignorant, passive bystander. The main objective of the workshop/webinar was to equip the NSS POCSOA Champions of Amar Singh College with the capacity to prevent, prohibit and intervene in instances of sexual offences against children for which the expert/resource person was Dr. Ramya Nisal (Sakshi Organisation). Over 100 Volunteers of Amar Singh College participated in the Webinar/Workshop and registered for the 12-Stage Rakshin Commitment towards “ending child abuse”. The Webinar/Workshop was a programme organised under the 75-week long celebrations to mark the 75th Year of India’s Independence under “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” wherein the college has pledged to bring forth the various dimensions of the past 75 years of the glorious contributions made post-Independence.

The Workshop/Webinar was formally inaugurated by worthy Principal, Professor Bashir Ahmad Rather who in his welcome address gave a brief profile of the status and achievements of Amar Singh Colleges over the past 79 years as a beacon of education and development. In his address, Professor B.A. Rather stressed upon the need to organise such sensitising workshops and webinars for addressing issues of social significance and marked his personal and professional commitment by assuring his support to such causes and campaigns. The Workshop/Webinar was jointly co-ordinated by Prof. Ovass Shafi and Dr. Tawseef Ahmad (Website Monitoring Committee and Technical Committee for the Webinar/Workshop); and Prof. Syed Ishfaq Manzoor, Dr. Shabeena Kuttay and Dr. Shabnam Ara (NSS Programme Officers Unit I, II & III respectively).



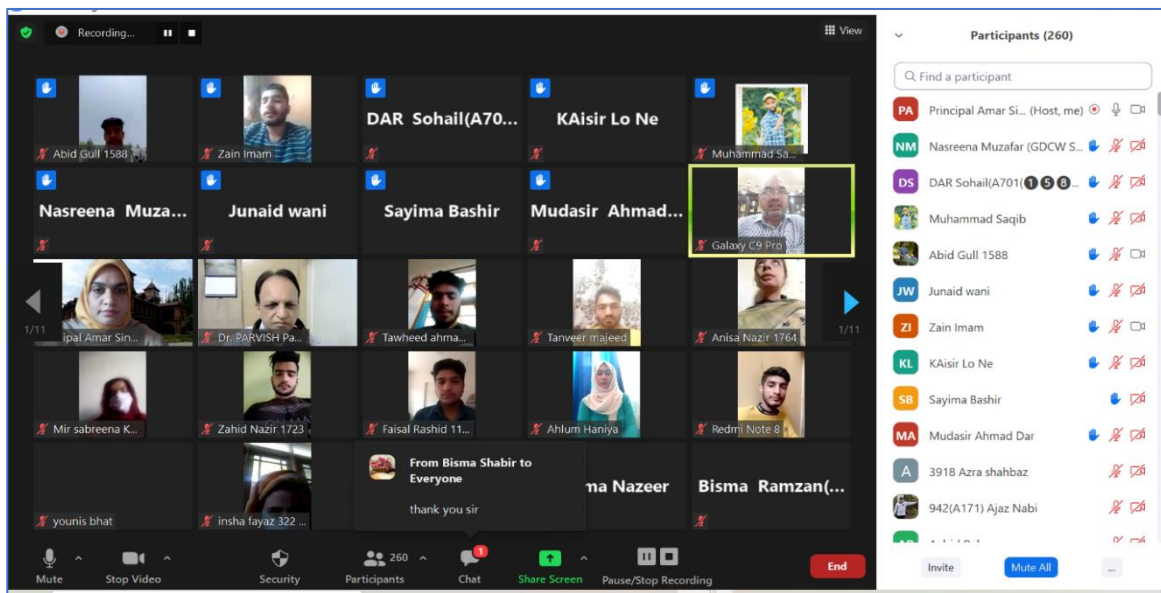
One-Day National Webinar on the theme Ecosystem Restoration

The Department of Environmental Science, Amar Singh College, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar organized a One-Day National Webinar on the theme “**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**” on **10th June, 2021** as part of the World Environment Week Celebrations-2021 (05-12th June, 2021). The webinar was attended by 282 participants including students, research scholars, faculty members belonging to different streams across India.

The lead lecture for the webinar was delivered by Dr. Pravesh Pandya, Director Science & Conservation and Consultant Sanctuary Nature Foundation. The speaker focussed on the global causes of ecosystem degradation and shared success stories of ecosystem restoration from different parts of the world including India.

The second lecture of the webinar was delivered by Mr. Majid Farooq, State Coordinator, Remote Sensing & Climate Change Centre, Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Govt. of J&K. The speaker gave an insightful and a detailed lecture about the services provided by different ecosystems. He also highlighted the use of latest technologies like remote sensing and GIS in identifying the threats faced by ecosystems and planning the restoration process.

Both the lectures were followed by interactive question and answer sessions.



A one-day webinar on “Culture and Identity: Kashmir Dimension



Marking the celebrations of the 75th Year of India’s Independence as “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav”, a one-day national webinar was organised by the **Department of Kashmiri** in collaboration with the **College Cultural Committee** on the 15th June 2021. The aim of the webinar was to celebrate and offer a glimpse of the vibrant cultural diversity of India by focusing on the Kashmir dimension amidst the varied literary currents flowing simultaneously in many languages. The keynote address during the webinar was delivered by **Ms. Nirupama Kotru**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the expert/guest speaker and resource person for the webinar was **Prof. Dr. A. R. Malik (Majrooh Rashid)** Head, Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir.

The webinar was inaugurated by **Principal, Prof. Bashir A. Rather** who in his address deliberated upon the achievements made by Amar Singh College on academic front and stressed upon the need to value cultural aspects of our society like languages, literatures, folk

traditions, etc., in a fast growing developed technological world. He reiterated his commitment to the overall development of the student community through co-curricular and extra-curricular events.

In her keynote address, **Ms. Nirupama Kotru**, expressed culture in terms of history, philosophy, art and belief. While discussing the various facets of Kashmiri culture and traditions, she gave a detailed presentation about the genealogy of literature, arts, architecture, philosophies, history and languages of Kashmir right from the ancient times.

In the technical session of the webinar, **Prof. Dr. A. R. Malik (Majrooh Rashid)**, traced the course of culture through centuries. While focussing on the Kashmiri language, Professor Malik also emphasised that in the present day globalised world Kashmiri Culture can be propagated through languages other than Kashmiri. He also deliberated upon changing shades of culture and its relevance to modern times.

A Career Counselling cum Awareness Session on CMA



A career counselling cum awareness session on CMA (Cost and Management Accountancy) programme was conducted on 13th June 2022 by Department of Commerce, Amar Singh College, Srinagar in collaboration with Srinagar Chapter, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India. Principal of the college, Professor Bashir Ahmad Rather whole heartedly supported and encouraged the Department of Commerce to conduct the said awareness programme. The aim of the session was to create awareness among the commerce students about CMA programme and its job opportunities. CMA Bashir Masudi was the speaker of the session who deliberated upon various aspects of the prestigious professional programme and encouraged students to give an edge to their career to enable them to be readily accepted by market. The session was organized to select students for Super 50 batch to be started by the Srinagar chapter from Kashmir valley.

and Shades of Performing Arts”

In commemoration of the 75 years of Indian Independence, the Seminars and Debates Committee and the College Cultural Committee of the college, organized a one-day national webinar on “Culture and Identity: Kashmir in the Lights and Shades of Performing Arts” on the 16th June 2021. The webinar was presided over by ***the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar Professor Dr. Qayyum Husain*** and the keynote speaker was ***Prof. Dr. Deeba I. Sarmad***, Dean Humanities and Liberal Arts, Cluster University Srinagar. The guest speaker and resource person for the event was ***Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan***, the eminent film maker, actor, director, producer, theatre practitioner, festival director and a cultural activist.

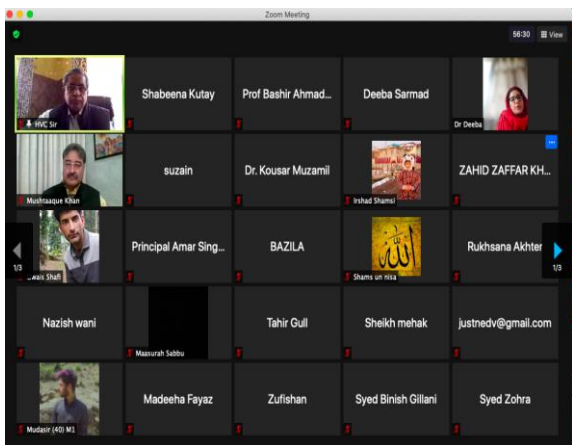
The webinar was inaugurated by Principal of the college and the programme director of the webinar, ***Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather***, who in his welcome address gave a detailed account of the past and present of Kashmiri culture in the light of the vast knowledge treasure of Kashmir particularly of arts, music, theatre, mystic writings, and historical tracts from prominent Kashmiri personages.

The presidential and chief guest’s address was delivered by ***the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Qayyum Husain***, who in his address reiterated his commitment to the establishment of a dynamic academic and education set up in the Cluster University Srinagar by turning the university and its constituent and affiliated colleges into a seat of higher education, thought and progress.

The keynote address was delivered by ***Prof. Dr. Deeba I. Sarmad***, who in her speech gave an elaborate explication of the intersection of culture, and identity.

In the technical session, the resource person ***Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan***, shared his experience and expertise on the performing arts of Kashmir particularly the various dimensions of Kashmiri theatre, which is one of the oldest surviving folk theatres of the world. The technical session was followed by an interactive session with the participants.

The programme was jointly co-ordinated by ***Dr. Deeba Shireen***, Department of English and ***Dr. Tawseef Ahmad***, Department of Computer Applications, and concluded with a formal vote of thanks by ***Prof. Suzain Rashid***, Department of Education.



Honorable Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar visits Amar Singh College,



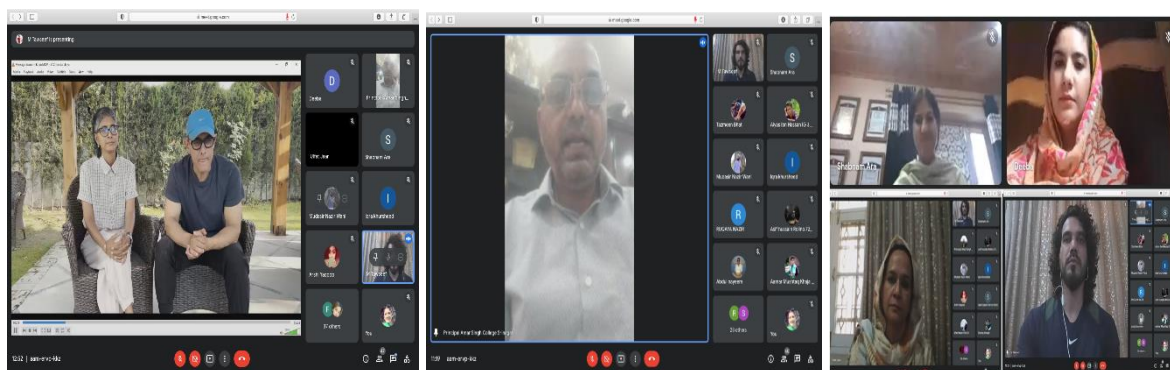
Srinagar

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, **Professor (Dr.) Qayyum Husain** visited Amar Singh College on 24th June 2021 and interacted with the Heads of various departments and the teaching faculty of the college. The day long visit was second of its kind to the constituent colleges of the Cluster University Srinagar, since he took the reins of the university as its Vice Chancellor on 12th March 2021. The main purpose and objective behind these official visits to the constituent colleges of Cluster University Srinagar is to chalk out a road map for the growth and development of Cluster University Srinagar by active involvement and support of all stakeholders including the teaching faculty from the constituent colleges.

The programme was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, **Prof. B. A. Rather**. In his inaugural cum welcome address, Prof. Rather shared a detailed profile of the college with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and also presented a brief bio data of life & works of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.

During the programme, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also released three books published by one faculty and two students of Amar Singh College, as a gesture of encouragement of scholarship, which included '*Revolutions Across the World*' by Dr. Gazala Gayas; '*The Aura of an Unsteady Hope*' & '*The Masquerade*' by Ms.Amina Shah, student of IG English, and '*The Fallen Chinar-I Refuse to Sink*' by Mashood Ahmad, student of IG English.

Renowned Bollywood actor and director Aamir Khan addresses youth.



To carry forward the observance of *Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav* – the 75 week long celebrations to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence, a one day national webinar was organised at Amar Singh College Srinagar on 31st July 2021 to fulfil its role as socially committed institution of higher education. During these 75 weeks of celebrations the

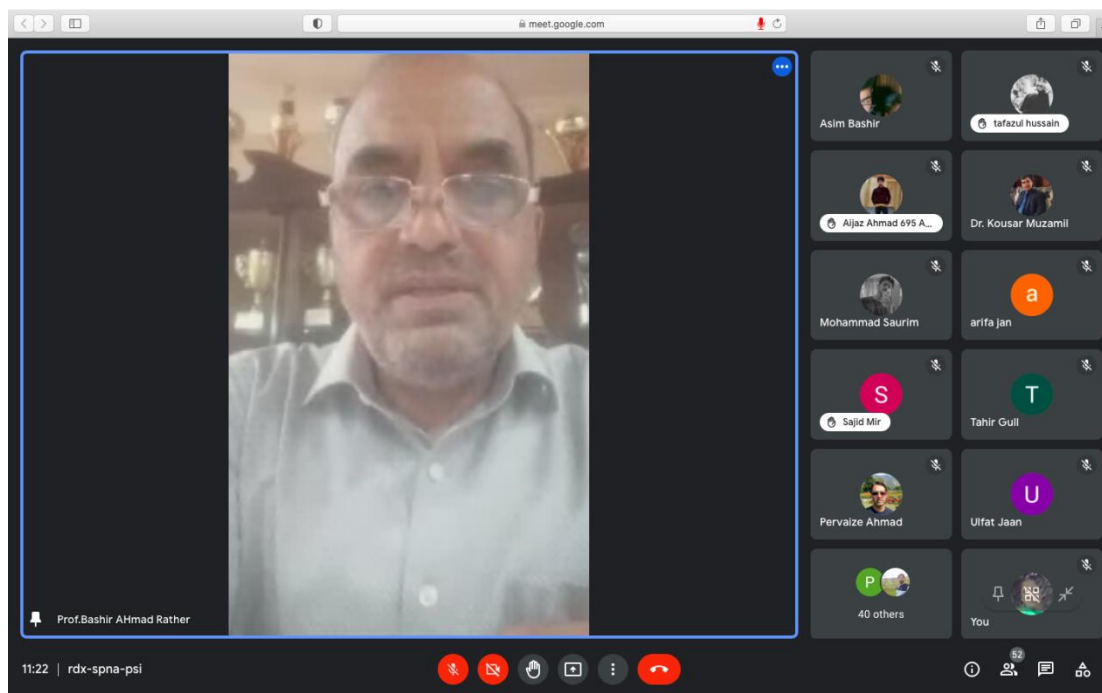
college has been taking up various facets of the nation's past, present and future-exploring the diverse dimensions of its history, polity, contributions to various fields, the society, its culture and traditions while celebrating this progressive nation.

The one day national webinar focused on one of the pressing issues of social concern- rising drug abuse amongst adolescents and teenagers. The event was formally inaugurated by the worthy principal **Professor Bashir Ahmad Rather** in which he gave a detailed overview of drugs and drug use, drug abuse, illicit trafficking and drug administration. He also presented an overview of the categories of addictive drugs, the roots of administration and the effects; both long and short term. The experts for the webinar were **Dr. Shabnam Ara**, Head Department of Sociology and NSS Programme Officer, and **Dr. Ulfat Jan** Head Department of Psychology, Amar Singh College. Dr. Shabnam in her deliberations shared with the participants the sociological dimension of drug/substance abuse with a special focus on the drug problem amongst the youth of Kashmir. Drugs are the new emerging trends in this fast growing developing world. Where knowledge and life values should be something that is inculcated in every mind, drugs are taking their place and making life itself void. Drug abuse is often accompanied by a devastating social impact upon community life. The social impacts of drug use are pervasive and its consequences for families, health, education, crime and employment are so devastating that no nation, no society can afford. Dr. Shabnam through her informative session enjoined upon each individual to take responsibility in preventing and controlling such devastating practices that hamper the growth of a nation and damage the basic social fabric of the nation.

In the second technical session, Dr. Ulfat Jan deliberated over the psychological dimension of the issue of drug/substance abuse particularly among our students. In her elaborate presentation, Dr. Ulfat focused on the proper mechanism that needs to be in place educational institutions for dealing with the issues like drug/substance abuse. She stressed on the need for counselling cells within institutions to guide and mentor our youth.

To lend voice to the efforts and fight against drug/substance abuse, and to join the commitment of the Amar Singh College fraternity in counselling the youth a very special appearance was made by the renowned celebrities who need no introduction - **Mr. Amir Khan and Ms. Kiran Rao** who joined the webinar virtually through a "Video-message" for the students and youth of Kashmir congratulating the college for such endeavours and efforts and appealing the youth to value life and choose happiness and health instead of drugs.

Special Lecture on “India at 75: Achievements and Developments” 14th August 2021



To conclude the Week-Long Independence Day Celebrations, an online Special Lecture/webinar was organised by Amar Singh College on 14th August 2021 on the theme “India at 75: Achievements and Developments”. The webinar was part of a series of events kick started at the College to observe and celebrate the 75 years of India’s Independence under the umbrella theme of “*Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav*”. The college over this week organised various activities and programmes including a Campus Swachhta Cleanliness Drive, various competitions including painting, singing, essay writing with a special focus on exploring various facets of the past 75 years of the nation. Special talks/lectures on the making of Indian nation were also organised to deliberate upon the various historical, social and political dimensions of India’s identity. During these week long celebrations, the students and faculty were actively engaged in exploring the ideas of nationalism, patriotism, communal harmony, national integration, community building, social commitments and contributions, and most important of all the development of the society and nation towards a progressive future.

The inaugural welcome address for the Special Lecture on “India at 75: Achievements and Developments” was presented by Worthy **Principal Professor Bashir Ahmad Rather** who in his elaborate and prudent speech touched upon the importance of celebrating the mahotsav as a Jan-Utsav that is people’s festival in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari that is people’s participation, to mark the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence and the milestone in the country’s history. He implored that as we approach the historic moment of India’s platinum jubilee of its freedom, the observance has to adhere to the five pillars of freedom struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at

Celebration of Sadbhavana Diwas

In observance of the Sadbhavana Diwas, a pledge taking ceremony was held at Amar Singh College Srinagar on 20th August, 2021 which was attended by the teaching faculty and the non-teaching staff of the college under the leadership of worthy Principal Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather as the pledgee. The pledge of Sadbhavana was administered by the worthy Principal who before taking the pledge spoke at length about the importance of national integration, communal harmony and role of every individual in making a developed and prosperous nation. Prof. Rather encouraged all the members of Amar Singh College fraternity, to contribute towards a peaceful and progressive future of the nation.



The pledgors took an oath to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of the nation and resolve differences through dialogue and constitutional means with principle of Ahimsa as paramount.

Sadbhavana Diwas or Goodwill Day is observed every year on 20th August, 2021 to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to encourage national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony amongst Indians. As India celebrates its 75 years of Independence as “**Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav**”, Amar Singh College is committed to celebrating every facet of Independent India including its leadership as was exemplified by such visionary leaders as Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi.



Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Mathematical Sciences (JKIMS) organized a month-long extension lecture series in its quest to popularize Mathematics amongst student community. The lecture series was conducted in virtual mode during Aug-Sep, 2021. Eminent speakers from reputed institutions delivered lectures to a keen audience comprising of students, teachers and researchers. The resource persons included Dr. Mani Mehra (Department of Mathematics, IIT Delhi, **Topic: Computational Methods for Ordinary Differential Equations**), Dr. M. A. Sofi (NBHM Visiting Professor, JKIMS Srinagar, **Topic: What Does it Take to Learn Mathematics**), Dr. Fozia Qazi (Department of Mathematics, IUST Awantipora, **Topic: Symmetry and Art**), Dr. Surinder Pal Singh Kainth (Department of Mathematics, Punjab University, Chandigarh, **Topic: An Interaction with Pi**), Dr. Fazli Ilahi (IASE, Srinagar, **Topic: New Education Policy, 2020**) and Dr. N. A. Lone (Department of Mathematics, JKIMS Srinagar, **Topic: Impossibility of Three Greek Problems**). The lecture series was coordinated by Dr. N. A. Lone.

Prof. Tariq Ahmad Shikari, Director JKIMS, appreciated efforts of the resource persons and thanked them for delivering informative lectures. He also had some praiseworthy words for the coordinator for managing modalities of the programme efficiently.

ONE DAY WEBINAR ON “GENDER DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES” ORGANISED BY

A one day webinar on “Gender Development: Issues and Challenges” was held at Amar Singh College Srinagar on the 22nd of September 2021 to highlight the importance of gender equality in progressive societies and cultures. Given the various gender based inequalities that persist in society even during the 21st century, the webinar was aimed at sensitizing and raising awareness among the youth and students regarding the crucial issue of social concern where women are not treated equally and thereby get relegated to a marginal status in society.

The treatment which arises from distinctions regarding biology, psychology, or cultural norms prevalent in the society, remains a major barrier to human development. Recognizing the significance of this barrier, the Department of Sociology invited eminent sociologists from across the country to deliberate upon the need for gender development in an equitable and equal manner to achieve a free, fair and truly advanced nation as part of the recognition of the 75th year of India's Independence as "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav".

The event was presided over by the Chief Guest and Chief Patron the webinar, **Professor Dr. Qayyum Husain**, Honorable Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar. The resource persons for the day-long event were **Prof. Peerzada Mohamad Amin**, Director, Institute of Kashmir Studies, University of Kashmir and **Dr. Shabnam Ara**, Head Department of Sociology of the host college. The keynote speaker for the webinar was **Prof.R. Indira**, Scholar in residence at Center for Women Studies, Bangalore University.



positive discussions regarding the social problems- which was the main purpose and chief aim of the day's webinar.



In the presidential address, **Professor Dr. Qayyum Husain**, Honorable Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, spoke about the need to focus on gender development and inclusion of women and girls in all spheres and aspects of social life including education, leadership, so as to define and shape the policies, structures and decisions that affect their lives and society as a whole. It is with the contribution of all members of a society and a nation, irrespective of gender, race, religion, ethnicity and colour, that we can achieve a bright and successful future.



In her keynote address, **Prof. Indira Ramarao**, the guest of honour for the webinar spoke at length at the present status of women and girls in our society. Speaking from the perspective

of an academician and a sociologist, Professor Indira gave a detailed analysis of the creation and development of gender and gender related norms in society. And in order to transform gender and power relations, and the structures, norms and values that underpin them, there needs to be more serious and committed efforts in challenging and ending inequality especially the one based on the gender stereotyping and assigning of socially constructed gender roles.

The resource person for the first technical session, **Prof. Peerzada Mohamad Amin**, while continuing the discussion initiated in the keynote, gave a more comprehensive view of the ways of fighting gender discrimination and disparity. Citing religious sources and giving innumerable references from older societies, Professor Amin opined that all religions have given an elevated status to women from times immemorial, yet the patriarchal set up has relegated them to a diminished status and continues to do so even in the most advanced and developed times. He, however, implied that education and educational institutions can serve to be the greatest challenges to such an unequal and unequitable role assigned and prescribed for women.



The resource person for the second technical session, **Dr. Shabnam Ara**, gave a detailed presentation on the sociological and theoretical dimension of Gender and Gender Roles that have been in vogue over centuries in our societies. In her elaborate address, Dr. Shabnam gave a worldwide index of the gender gap that persists today and reiterated the need to bridge the gap in order to bring women and girls to the forefront and raise the societal standards by achieving absolute equality and equity.

The programme was moderated by Prof. Shafiya Mohi ud din, Department of Sociology and the sessions ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Shamsunnisa, Assistant Professor, Deptt. Of Sociology, Amar Singh College. The technical support for the webinar was provided by Dr. Tawseef Ahmad, Department of Computer Applications, and the Rapporteur for the event was Dr. Zahid Zaffar, Department of Urdu.

Training Programme on Mutual Funds

The Department of Commerce, Amar Singh College, Srinagar organised a Counselling-cum-Training programme on “Mutual Funds” in collaboration with Bombay Stock Exchange Institute Limited, Mumbai. As per the statement, Prof Bashir Ahmad Rather, Principal of the College and Chief Guest of the event appreciated the department for organising such a pragmatic event and impressed upon the students and faculty that technological innovations have accelerated the pace of globalisation and the economy is only sustainable when such innovations are embraced. He also pointed out that the pandemic has been disastrous both for industry and education in India and responsibility lies also with academia and industry to adopt models and programmes that are in conformity with the National Education Policy-2020.

The programme comprised of two sessions were conducted by an expert from BSE Institute Limited with the assistance of Departmental faculty. Speaking on the occasion, Narendra Abrol, the programme architect and expert, deliberated with the students about course structure and content. The expert highlighted the importance of stock market investment avenues and investing strategies available for novice investors and students. Prof Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Head, Department of Commerce and Programme Coordinator, encouraged students to take up internships/fellowships/free courses sponsored by leading corporate bodies, Banks and NBFCs under CSR initiatives that can be beneficial for their career.



One Day National Seminar on the Theme “**Dastangoi- The Rediscovered Art of Storytelling**” -

A One Day National Webinar “*Dastangoi- The Rediscovered Art of Storytelling*” was organised by the Office of the Dean School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Cluster University Srinagar on 6th December 2021. The event, which focused on the exploration of the oral urdu storytelling - *Dastangoi*, was aimed at introducing the students and youth to the various cultural and traditional art forms in lieu with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020. The event was presided over the Chief Patron and Vice Chancellor of CUS **Prof. Dr. Qayyum Husain** and the resource person for the webinar was the eminent creator and director of the Dastangoi Collective New Delhi, **Shri. Mahmood Farooqui**. The event was also attended by Registrar/Controller of Examinations, **Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir**. The participants of the webinar were faculty members and students of Cluster University Srinagar from various literary backgrounds including Persian, Urdu, English, Hindi, Punjabi.

The webinar introduction was given by the Programme Director of the One Day National Webinar and Dean Humanities and Liberal Arts, CUS, **Dr. Deeba Sarmad**, who in her special address gave a detailed background to the ancient art of Dastangoi and its eventual decline and its resurrection and rise through the collective efforts of intellectuals, writers, and performers of the twenty-first century.

The chief guest during the event was the Honourable Vice Chancellor, CUS **Prof. Dr. Qayyum Husain**, who in his presidential address, stressed on the importance of creating awareness about different elements of traditional Arts and Culture particularly amongst the youth of the nation. While retrospectively to his own growing up years and the advent of modern technology, Dr. Khurshid said that the stories, tales, epics which the earlier generations were exposed to in their formative years had a lot of impact on the appropriate psycho-social development of every generation and such webinars would imbibe the same cultural ethos in our present youth as well.

The resource person for the first technical session was Mahmood Farooqui, the creator, writer and director, who has been one of the pivotal persons responsible for resurrection and revival of the art of Oral Urdu Storytelling. **Shri Mahmood Farooqui**, gave a detailed presentation on the evolution of the genre of Dastaans during ancient times, and its advent and consequent

permeation into the Indian cultural ethos. He also touched upon the relevance of archaic, often oral, arts and narratives in contemporary times.

The second technical session, was jointly carried out by **Poonam Girdhani** and **Nusrat Ansari**, the practitioners and contemporary performers of the Art of Dastangoi. During their vibrant session, the audiences were enthralled by the praxis of the renewed art of dastangoi, wherein they presented their live performance of three types of Dastaans - Traditional Dastaans, Non-traditional or Contemporary Dastaans, and Adopted Dastaans. Their visual presentation included three important examples of each of the Dastaan category including *Dastaan - e- Afra Siyaab*, *Dastaane -e- Chauboli* and *Dastaan of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"*



Botanical tour

Field studies/surveys constitute an important component of teaching-learning process in the field of natural sciences. Field studies/surveys are undertaken in order to gather authentic information on enumeration, quantification, and distribution of plant biodiversity in the study region. For this purpose students of B.Sc. 2nd Semester were taken by Department of Botany on a botanical tour/field survey to a biodiversity rich place- Fakir Gujri, Harwan on **14-12-2021**. This place is known for its scenic beauty & diversity and is located on the upper side of Dachigam National Park. The main objectives of this tour were to- 1) document the plant species occurring in the area; 2) provide brief descriptions of the plant communities found; 3) make management suggestions based upon these findings; 4) make students understand the different life forms exhibited by plants and so on.



At the beginning of the tour, the students were given instructions regarding scientific method of collection and processing of plant specimens. The students were instructed to record observations like place of collection, habitat, type of community etc. in a notebook. Special emphasis was laid on the technique of preparing herbarium specimens and the conservation of plant species.



Sports Activities of the Year 2021-2022

1. Runners up in late Manjeet Beer Singh Volleyball Inter college tournament (Women) 2021 organized by GDC Baramulla in the month of April 2021.



2. Runners up in badminton rolling trophy (Men) 2020-2021 organized by M.A Road Srinagar in the month of April 2021.



3. Participated in Women Volleyball Tournament 2021 under the auspices of AIU/VFI association Kashmir Wing organized by Govt College for Womens M.A



4. Participated in Chinar Inter-College Tournament Badminton Men organized by GDC Bijbehara



5. Participated in 1st Romush Inter College Sports Festival 2021 Volleyball Women organized by GDC Pulwama and reached up to the semi final.



6. Runners up in 1st Romush Inter College Sports Festival 2021 Badminton Men
Organized by GDC Pulwama in the month of December 2021



7. Hosted and participated in Inter College Cricket Tournament (men) organized by
Cluster University Srinagar in the month of November 2021



8. Runners up in late Manjeet Beer Singh Volleyball Inter college tournament (Women) 2021 organized by GDC Baramulla in the month of April 2021.
9. Runners up in badminton rolling trophy (Men) 2020-2021 organized by M.A Road Srinagar in the month of April 2021.