

# One Day Seminar on Role of Kashmir in India's Freedom Struggle

Organized by  
Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change  
In collaboration with  
Government Degree College, Anantnag & Think India

## REPORT

A One-Day National Seminar was organized at the Government Degree College, Anantnag on the theme of 'The Role of Kashmir in India's Freedom Struggle' on 19-06-2023. The seminar was organized by the Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change in collaboration with Government Degree College, Anantnag and Think India.



**Shri Ashutosh Bhatnagar**, a renowned writer and a senior journalist (an expert on Jammu and Kashmir), and also Director, Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his lecture, **Shri Ashutosh Bhatnagar**, said that the Colonial rule had begun when Vasco-Da-Gama arrived in India in the year 1498. He highlighted how European looter and plunderers came to India in the guise of merchants. He said that Vasco-Da-Gama kidnapped some ten merchants and killed them during his first visit. His intention was to loot, and not to trade.



**Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat**, Principal of the Government Degree College Anantnag, presented the welcome address. In his address Prof. Bhat highlighted the role of various Kashmiri freedom fighters including Sarvanand Kaul Premi, Giridhari Lal Dogra, Maqbool Sherwani, Brig. Rajendra Singh, Prem Nath Dogra, Kanta Wazir, Ghulam Nabi Mir, Hakim Abdul Rashid, Prithvinath Kaul, and urged the audience to recognize and celebrate the role of these unsung heroes. He said that the Campaign **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** gives us a chance to remember all those people who contributed to the freedom struggle of our nation.



**Dr. Kowser Ahmad Ganai**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government Degree College Anantnag delivered a lecture on the topic – ‘Role of Kashmiris in Freedom Struggle’. In his lecture, Dr. Kowser mentioned how British colonialists were prejudiced with the notion that India may never possess a unified nationalist feeling, as it was a diverse country divided into various regions and cultures. But Indians proved them wrong. Nationalism under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi reached every part of the country. Dr. Kowser, highlighted the role Kashmiri freedom fighters (in particular from Anantnag, viz. Sarwanand Koul Premi, Dina Nath Zadoo, Kanti Chandra Zadoo, Mir Abdul Majid, Saif-ud-din Kichloo, amongst others). Dr. Kowser emphasized that in spite of the participation by Kashmiris in the freedom struggle of India, these stalwarts have not been given their due place in the context of Indian nationalism in the textbooks. Kashmiris never were politically isolated from Indian Nationalism. The Indian nationalism studies (conventional historiography) have only focused on the major figures, leaving out the smaller regions and local leaders (as in Kashmir). Dr. Kowser reiterated the importance of giving the Kashmiri freedom fighters their due place at national level, and concluded his lecture by saying that every nationalist should be celebrated and documented.

**Shri Sunil Vaishisht** of Think India, **Prof. Abdul Majid Chalkoo**, Head Department of Botany and **Prof. Farooq Ahmad Malik**, Staff Secretary, Government Degree College Anantnag, Convener of Debate and Seminar Committee and Coordinator of the programme were among the dignitaries present on the presidium.



The Chief Guest, Guest Speakers, Dignitaries/Luminaries were felicitated in the valedictory session. Token of appreciation was also presented to the **Mr. Numeer Ahmed** for moderating the programme, and to **Mr. Burhan** for his contribution. A formal vote-of-thanks was presented by **Dr. Naveen Hakhoo**, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Government Degree College Anantnag. A galaxy of experts, faculty members and students participated in the programme.



## PRINCIPAL

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