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Govt. Degree College Uttersoo organized Extension Lecture on Kashmir History

Under the Patronage of Worthy Principal, **Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Sohil**, Debates and Seminar Committee in Collaboration with the Department of History organized an insightful extension lecture "Kashmir History- an overviews" today on 11th June, 2025. The event was moderated by **Dr. Altaf Rasool**, Department of Education, GDC Uttersoo. The Worthy Chair presented the welcome address. **Dr. Tariq Bashir**, Head of the Department of History, shared a comprehensive narrative on the evolution of Kashmir's historical landscape. Dr. Bashir began his lecture by addressing the diverse perspectives regarding the origin of Kashmir. Drawing from Hindu mythology, he referred to the belief that Kashmir was once a vast lake known as Satisar, which was later drained by the sage Rishi Kashyapa through his mystical powers. This legend attributes the name 'Kashmir' to this sage. He further explained the etymological roots of the word 'Kashmir', noting that it is thought to derive from two Sanskrit words: 'Ka', meaning water, and 'Shimeera' (or Shamira), meaning desiccated land essentially signifying "land from which water has been removed."

The lecture then explored the depth of Kashmir's ancient past, stretching from prehistoric times through to the present day. Dr. Bashir highlighted that archaeological research has uncovered around 48 Neolithic sites across the valley, with significant excavations at Burzahom, Gufkral, and Kanspora located in the districts of Srinagar, Pulwama, and Baramulla, respectively.

A key segment of his talk focused on Rajatarangini, a monumental historical chronicle written by Kalhana. This text serves as a vital source for understanding early Kashmir, beginning with the rule of the Gonanda dynasty. Kalhana's narrative includes references to the Mauryan Empire, Central Asian influences including the Greeks, the rise of the Karkota dynasty, and the notable reign of Lalitaditya Muktapida. Dr. Bashir also mentioned the subsequent establishment of the Lohara dynasty, marking the end of the pre-Islamic period up to the 12th century CE.

Turning to the medieval period, Dr. Bashir discussed the advent of Muslim rule in the 14th century, beginning with the Shahmir dynasty. One of the most celebrated rulers from this era was Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, fondly remembered as Budshah (the Great King), under whose leadership Kashmir experienced significant economic, cultural, and social advancements. The Chak dynasty, which succeeded the Shahmirs, was the last line of indigenous rulers before Kashmir came under the control of external empires.

In 1586, during the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar, Kashmir was annexed by the Mughals. Although this marked the loss of Kashmir's political autonomy, the region flourished under Mughal patronage, especially in art, architecture, and cultural development. This was followed by Afghan (Pathan) rule, and later, Sikh dominion.

The modern political history of Kashmir took a decisive turn in 1846 when, through the Treaty of Amritsar, the British sold the territory to Maharaja Gulab Singh of the Dogra dynasty for 75 lakh Nanakshahi rupees. Gulab Singh unified the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, laying the foundation for the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

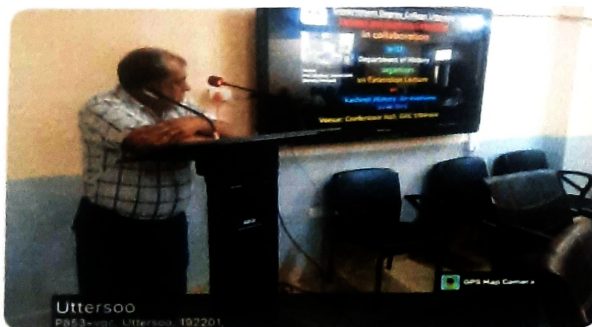
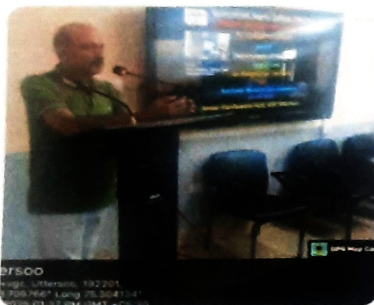
Tariq Bashir

Principal
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As Dr. Bashir outlined, during the 1947 Partition of India, Kashmir was a princely state and was allowed the choice to accede to either India or Pakistan, or to remain independent under the terms of the Mountbatten Plan. However, due to Maharaja Hari Singh's hesitation and indecision, the state was soon engulfed in crisis following a tribal invasion from Pakistan. In response, the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession to India, leading to the end of Dogra rule and the rise of a nationalist government under Sheikh Abdullah.

Dr. Tariq Bashir's lecture provided a rich and multidimensional understanding of Kashmir's long and complex historical journey — from myth and archaeology to dynastic rule and modern political transformations. His insights sparked engaging discussions and deepened the audience's appreciation for the layered history of the region.

The Programme was concluded with Vote of thanks delivered by **Prof. N.A.Wani**, Head, Department of Chemistry and Staff Secretary of the College. The esteemed Professor accorded a heartfelt gratitude to Worthy Principal for encouraging the faculty to organize the Programmes time to time, Speaker of the Day for making aware the audience, The Kashmir History and all the participants for making the event a great success.



Tariq Bashir
Dr. Tariq Bashir
 Convener, Debates and Seminars

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