

## **Annamalai University**

### **Webinar on Culture and History of Jammu and Kashmir**

The Webinar on “Culture and History of Jammu and Kashmir” was organised under the RUSA - EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT CLUB, of Annamalai University with an objective to familiarise the participants with the culture, heritage and history of the paired state.

It was conducted during 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 by the Faculty of Arts, Annamalai University, 608 002. The webinar is coordinated by Dr.M.Rajeswari, Assistant professor, Department of Economics and Dr.S.Karthikeyan, Assistant professor, Department of Sociology, Annamalai University. **Shri Rajendra Pandurang Kerkar**, Environmentalist and Member National Board of Wild life of India, served as resource person and delivered the lecture on the Culture and History of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the paired state. The speaker widely covered the culture of Kashmir, and explained how it is a diversified blend, influenced by Indian, Persian as well as Central Asian cultures.

The speaker also narrated that Jammu and Kashmir has the distinction of having multifaceted, variegated and unique cultural blend, making it distinct from the rest of the country, not only from the different cultural forms and heritage, but from geographical, demographically, ethical, social entities, forming a distinct spectrum of diversity and diversions into Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, all professing diverse religion, language and culture, but continuously intermingling, making it vibrant specimens of Indian Unity amidst diversity. Its different cultural forms like art and architecture, fair and festivals, rites and rituals, seer and sagas, language and mountains, embedded in ageless period of history, speak volumes of unity and diversity with unparalleled cultural cohesion and cultural service.

The speaker explained that state of Jammu & Kashmir is part of the larger region of Kashmir, which has been the subject of dispute since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over the state – currently the territory is divided: Pakistan controls under half, India controls over half and China controls a tiny part. Jammu was historically the seat of the Dogra dynasty and more than two-thirds of the population here is Hindu which lives in the southeastern portion of the region. The Kashmir valley surrounded by the highlands of the broader Kashmir regions where the majority of the people are Muslims who speak Kashmiri or Urdu. Distinct from the rest of the country, the state has a unique cultural blend.