

## SHAPING FUTURE OF INNOVATION

In the 21st century, technology is redefining how the world functions, and among the most promising innovations is drone technology. Initially developed for military surveillance, drones have now expanded into diverse sectors, transforming industries, economies, and daily life. Their rise highlights both the limitless potential of human innovation and the pressing need for responsible regulation.

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), are no longer confined to defense operations. Today, they are widely used in agriculture, disaster management, logistics, filmmaking, healthcare, and even environmental conservation. For farmers, drones help monitor crop health, spray fertilizers with precision, and conserve resources like water. In disaster-hit regions, they reach areas inaccessible to humans, delivering food and medical supplies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, drones were used for sanitization and delivery of medicines, proving their value in times of crisis.

One of the most revolutionary uses of drones lies in the logistics and e-commerce sector. Global giants are experimenting with drone deliveries that promise to reduce time, cost, and dependency on conventional transportation. In urban areas plagued by traffic congestion, drones provide a quicker and eco-friendly alternative. Similarly, in remote villages and hilly terrains, drones can bridge the connectivity gap by delivering essential items and even life-saving medical aid.

Moreover, drones have strengthened environmental monitoring. They are deployed to track forest fires, survey wildlife, and monitor deforestation. Their ability to capture real-time high-resolution data makes them vital for researchers and conservationists. In filmmaking and journalism too, drones have revolutionized storytelling by providing breathtaking aerial shots and live coverage from conflict or disaster zones.

However, with opportunities come challenges. The widespread use of drones raises questions of privacy, security, and misuse. Drones equipped with cameras can intrude into private spaces, leading to ethical concerns. There is also the risk of their exploitation by anti-social elements for illegal surveillance or smuggling. Furthermore, accidents due to technical failures or unskilled handling pose safety risks in crowded spaces. These concerns underline the importance of a strong regulatory framework. Governments across the globe are working to balance innovation with safety. In India, the introduction of the Drone Rules 2021 simplified permissions and encouraged startups to explore drone-based services. Yet, stricter monitoring, public awareness, and training are equally essential to ensure responsible usage. Alongside, research on battery life, range, and payload capacity must continue to make drones more efficient and sustainable.

Drone technology represents the spirit of modern innovation-fast, efficient, and transformative. Its potential to revolutionize sectors from agriculture to healthcare cannot be overlooked. If regulated wisely and integrated responsibly, drone technology can truly become a symbol of progress, sustainability, and human ingenuity, playing a vital role in shaping a smarter and more connected future.

## Kashmir continues to grow despite Pakistan’s misadventures since 1947

■ ADITYA RANGROO

As India celebrated her 78th Independence Day on 15 August, Kashmir has been showing promising signs of recovery after decades of unrest, conflicts, and border clashes between India and Pakistan.

The region, known for its picturesque valleys, placid lakes, snow-capped mountains, and spectacular vistas, has been gradually returning to its old glory, with the increased tourism, economic expansion, and new prospects for its young people.

Since 1947, Kashmir has been stoutly resisting recurring armed intrusions which Indian security forces and the state police have jointly fought against two neighbouring adversaries, namely Pakistan and China. Apart from encounters with armed infiltrators sponsored and abetted by the Pakistan army and its affiliates, Indian security forces had also to tackle internal subversion like lockdowns, protest rallies, strikes and political subterfuge. Pakistan indulged in these atrocities against Kashmir.

Soon after independence while Pakistan was all the time conspiring to grab the land of Kashmir; India was seriously interested in providing constitutional, political and economic rights to the people of Kashmir so that poverty, illiteracy and hunger are mitigated. While Pakistan was scheming for grabbing the land and its riches, India was busy planning and executing developmental projects.

Kashmir economic growth trajectory looks robust

Over the decades, the growth momentum of Kashmir is standing on a firm ground because of thorough planning and meticulous execution of plans with enormous potential for changing the destiny of the people of Kashmir. This stands in contrast to what some sections of media with vested interests have been feeding the people with, locally and globally.

According to the 2025 Economic Survey Report, presented in Jammu & Kashmir Assembly in March, 2025, the nominal GSDP is estimated to reach Rs 2.65 lakh crore, while the real GSDP is projected at Rs 1.45 lakh crore. This reflects a compound annual growth rate of 4.89% in real GSDP from 2019-20 to 2024-25, surpassing the previous period's growth rate of 4.81% from 2011-12 to 2019-20. The per capita income is expected to reach Rs 1, 54,703 in 2024-25, showing a robust

increase of 10.6%, indicating improved economic well-being for the residents of the J&K.

Each sector of production has made a significant contribution to the Gross State Value: the primary sector has contributed 20%, the secondary sector 18.3%, and the tertiary sector 61.7%. In terms of industrial development and financial inclusion, Jammu & Kashmir has taken long strides. Access to banking services has improved throughout the UT as a result of the growth in banks and other financial institutions besides popularizing the ease of banking concept among the people.

With a noticeable rise in credit flow to MSME's and agriculture, the credit-deposit ratio is currently 62.01%. In J&K, about 1,984 units with a total investment of Rs 9,606 cores have been operationalized providing employment to 6,37,10 people, the report added. Furthermore, the region has shown its commitment to economic development and empowerment by achieving notable growth in handicraft exports and financial inclusion for self-help groups.

The agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a transformative shift towards high value crops and organic farming. The holistic agriculture development plan aims to invest Rs 5,013 crore in 29 projects over the next five years, boosting the GSDP and creating significant employment opportunities. The horticulture sector in J&K has experienced significant growth in fresh fruit production, driven by improved farming techniques, better irrigation, high quality fruit varieties, expanded cold store facilities and lastly upgraded transport system. This sector now contributes significantly to the GSDP and supports a large workforce, reflecting the success of targeted interventions and investments, the report added.

Additionally, the unemployment rate improved, dropping from 6.7% in 2019-20 to 6.1% in 2023-24. This is an indication of improved employment opportunities for young people in the region. Investor interest remained high and could potentially result in direct employment for a sizable portion of the population-5.90 lakh individuals, with bids totaling Rs 1.63 lakh crore submitted by December 2024.

On similar lines, the startup ecosystem has also expanded quickly; since 2019. The number of start-ups registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has increased by an astounding

287%. Tourism increased from 34 lakh in 2020 to 2.36 crore in 2024, indicating a thriving tourism industry.

**Pakistan exhausts finances over Kashmir**

Following their independence from British colonial powers in 1947, India and Pakistan had steady growth that spurred notable advancements in health care, education, and other fields. However, it's interesting to note that throughout the first four decades or so, India lagged behind Pakistan in terms of growth rates. Pakistan's growth rate increased to almost 6% annually between 1961 and 1980, while India's growth rate was only 4%.

The main reason behind Pakistan's growth during the above mentioned time stems from the fact that Pakistan profited from significant trade from its East Pakistan region. Also, the billions of dollars in military aid by US, along with contributions from other oil-producing Islamic states in West Asia contributed to Islamabad's economic expansion.

However, something gradually began to shift in 1990s, with India and Pakistan switched roles. New Delhi's economy soared to the 5th largest in the world, and by 2028, it is expected to surpass Germany to become the 3rd largest. Pakistan, however, is striving to survive due to its deteriorating economy and massive debt. The debt-ridden nation has received multiple rescue packages from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is primarily dependent on international loans and aid.

The once economically promising country Pakistan fell from a grace and the primary reason for her downfall is that she used every resource at her disposal to conquer Kashmir and bleed J&K between 1990 to till now. The country spent millions of dollars on training terrorists and establishing terror infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Not only this, but Pakistan sent hawala money into J&K through a number of illegal channels in order to organize street violence and disrupt the daily life in Kashmir: Pakistan attempted to seize Kashmir by conventional warfare, but her army was routed because it lacked the Indian army's capabilities and experience.

With these misadventures, Pakistan, in a bid to annex Kashmir through a proxy war, lost the game at the world stage and threw her own country into economic depression. As a result of this, Pakistani currency hit a record low in 2023, medical supplies almost ran out, wheat

prices had surged, and cash reserves exhausted. In addition, diesel and petrol were on the verge of drying up.

**India vs Pakistan economic graph**

Today, the economies of India and Pakistan differ greatly from each other: India's GDP was \$4.2 trillion in 2024, while Pakistan's GDP was \$374 billion. The World Bank estimates that India's GDP in 2022 was \$3.39 trillion, more than 800% of Pakistan's \$376.53 billion GDP.

In terms of GDP per capita, India is significantly bigger than Pakistan. India's GDP per capita increased from \$1,560 in 2014 to \$2,711 in 2024. Pakistan's performance has been rather flat in contrast. It rose from \$1,424 in 2014 to just \$1,581 in 2024, representing a meager 11% gain during that time.

With regard to the inflation, India has maintained a comparatively steady inflation environment, with a rate of 4.9% in 2015 and 4.7% in 2024, according to the official data. In contrast, Pakistan saw a sharp increase in inflation. By 2024, it has risen from a meager 4.5% in 2015 to a staggering 23.4%. Foreign reserves are another important area where India and Pakistan economies differ. At the moment, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have only surpassed \$15 billion, while India's exceed \$688 billion.

Additionally, India outperforms its rival in commerce. According to official data, Pakistan's total export value in 2023 was only \$35.41 billion, while India's total export value was \$779.45 billion.

The trouble for Pakistan not only ends here. Recently, global rating agency Moody's has warned Pakistan and said, "a sustained escalation in tensions with India would likely weigh on Pakistan's growth and hamper the government's ongoing fiscal consolidation, setting back Pakistan's progress in achieving macroeconomic stability." At the same time, Moody's predicted that India's macroeconomic conditions would be stable mainly due to moderating but still high levels of growth amid strong public investment and healthy private consumption.

In a view of this, Pakistan is really on a thin ice and if the debt-ridden nation, who is surviving on bailout packages, won't stop her misadventures with India, especially threatening nuclear attack and dreaming of annexing Kashmir, it will definitely slip into oblivion with no traces found in the future.

## Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: Centenary year journey and meaningful contribution to the society ‘Unity in Diversity through Dedication, Discipline and Inclusiveness: The Centenary Journey of the Sangh’

■ DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The objective of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is not limited to the organization only.

It works to strengthen moral, cultural and social values in the society; develop discipline and dedication in each individual and contribute to nation building. The approach of the Sangh is inclusive; it is not against any religion, caste or group. The word Hindu does not mean only religion, but responsibility, devotion and commitment to society. The Sangh works to free the society from factionalism and establish unity in diversity. Shatabdi Yatra is a confirmation of this dedication and organization.

Under the guidance of organisation chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh organised a three-day lecture series at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on the occasion of its centenary year. This event was not just a programme but a live demonstration of the ideology, working methods and the journey of social construction of the Sangh. The Sangh was formed keeping India at the centre and its aim is to contribute in making the country a world leader. The prayer of the Sangh 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' is not just words but an inspiration of action and dedication. The formation of the Sangh is the result of a

slow and continuous process, which has stood the test of time.

Although the Sangh uses the word 'Hindu', its essence is not limited to religion alone. It contains a sense of inclusion, humanity and responsibility towards the nation. The aim of the Sangh is not to stand for any opposition or competition, but to maintain the unity of the country by organizing every section of the society. The work of the Sangh is carried out through volunteers, and this work provides an opportunity to train new volunteers and develop leadership and responsibility in them.

The concept of nation is not defined by power or government. In Indian tradition, the meaning of nation is associated with culture, self-reflection and social consciousness. Looking at history, it is clear that the freedom struggle of 1857 was unsuccessful, but it gave rise to new consciousness and self-awareness in Indian society. After this, Congress emerged, which paved the way for political understanding and social reform. After independence, the challenge of removing the inequalities and evils arising in the society remained. This need gave birth to the establishment of the Sangh and its role.

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and other great

men recognized the need to remove the vices of society and to organize the entire society. The Sangh was established in 1925 with the vision to strengthen the moral and cultural values of the society and ensure contribution to nation building. The word 'Hindu' is not just a religion, but a symbol of responsibility, dedication and inclusion. It does not have the feeling of separating or opposing anyone, but the objective is to unite everyone and organize the society.

India's nature is of cooperation and coordination, not conflict. Its unity lies in geography, resources and tradition of introspection. Looking inside instead of looking outside makes it clear that there is the same element in all, even if it appears in different forms. This is why Mother India and ancestors are revered by us. A person who respects Mother India and his ancestors is a true Hindu. Words may change, but the feeling of devotion and reverence connects every person in the society. Gradually people in the society have started understanding the meaning of the words Sangh and Hindu. With the improvement in the quality of life, people return to their original traditions. The Sangh does not force anyone to become a Hindu; its aim is to contribute to the overall organization of society and nation building. The Sangh is

not against any religion, caste or group, but organizes the society by connecting everyone with an inclusive approach.

Sangh's work is not limited to the organization only. Its aim is to develop moral, cultural and social values within every person of the society. Bringing awareness and discipline in the society is the main objective of the Sangh. Personal dedication and discipline have special importance in the working method of the Sangh. Every volunteer imbibes the basic spirit and working style of the Sangh and implements it in the society. The aim of the Sangh is that there should be no factionalism in the society, but everyone should be organized and unity should be maintained in the country. Unity in diversity is India's true identity. Despite different languages, religions, cultures and traditions, India's identity lies in its soul, culture and respect for ancestors. The aim of the Sangh is to maintain this unity and make every person of the society a part of it. The work of the Sangh works at all three levels of individual development, social upliftment and nation building.

Through the Sangh, moral and cultural values are being strengthened in the society. Through the Sangh workers, the Sangh instills discipline, dedica-

tion and spirit of service in the society. The aim of the Sangh is not limited to the volunteers only, but its influence is to reach every section of the society. There is a balance between individual effort and organizational vision in the working style of the Sangh. The aim of the Sangh is that every person in the society should understand his duties and contribute to nation building.

The lecture series shed light on the establishment of the Sangh, the meaning of the word Hindu, organizational vision, social service and the process of nation building. The aim of the Sangh is not to oppose anyone but to contribute to the upliftment of the society and the nation. The working style of the Sangh, personal dedication and organisational vision are a source of inspiration for the society.

Thus, this lecture series of the Sangh Centenary Year provides an important opportunity to understand the role of the Sangh in society, its functioning and purpose. It makes it clear that the purpose of the Sangh is not limited to the organization only, but to contribute to the overall upliftment of the society and nation building. The work of the Sangh is to organize the society through personal dedication, discipline and social responsibility.

## Serene and Scenic the wonder of beauty

■ GL KHAJURIA

Amidst lush green forest of deodar and other pines around 125 kms from Jammu and 19 kms from Patnitop is located Sanasar; a wonder of wonders. This picturesque spot is akin to Gulmarg of Kashmir for its enchanting beauty, grandeur and glory where tourists in thousands throng in during peak summer spells for having a sigh of relief away from soaring temperature as well as to enjoy the dazzling natural beauty of this resort. Though the road lifeline from Patnitop to Sanasar is rugged and rough and is having serpentine twists and turns, yet the tourist inflow is ever-increasing year after year. The road link calls for improvement for the convenience of tourists influx. Even during winter, the tourist's influx is undoubtedly unbridled and the visitors throng in heavy numbers to enjoy and cherish snowfall, when Kund, Patnitop, Batote and the areas in and around the vicinity is heavily snow-capped so much so that the National Highway oft-repeatedly gets blocked. 'Sanasar' is situated around 9500 feet from sea level and is termed as mini-Gulmarg of Kashmir. The picturesque spot is lapped all round with mystique of mystiques, bountiful engrossing lush greenery of pines, herbs, shrubs and abundant medicinal plants ranging from micro to macro flora coupled with the rich heritage of other flora and fauna. The natural springs yielding nectar-pious water are founheads at multihued places. Apart from scenic beauty,

the place is a sanctum sanctorum from time immemorial as the land of 'Nag Rajas' in and around the vicinity of Sanasar itself et al 'Nag Raja' of Kasal is of immensive 'Shakti' where the visitors as well go for paying obeisance and obtain divine blessing. It is believed with oozing confidence that wishes made before 'Nag Raja' are fulfilled, though the photography of the temple and that of inside is strictly prohibited. These are miracles of 'Divine Shakties' in the modern age of most advanced Science and Technology (the writer has had his own experience, though not narrate able). At the peak of Patnitop enroute Batote, there is another 'Devsthan' (Shank Paul Shakti Devta) temple and is having equilising 'Shakti'. Much water has flowed down Chenab; but ironically this picturesque spot has been least bothered for its developments. A short stretch of 19 kms that links Sanasar with Patnitop is in a very dilapidated condition. You cannot call it a pacea or a kachha road. The locals are deprived of the basic amenities, particularly when it is a heavy snowfall when the road remains cut off for days together and the electric supply creates the same sort of situation. This ever green cushioned spot is really a piece of heaven, the more you praise the less it is!! Sanasar meadow is a green carpetlike ground and cushioned by silky soft grasses that glorify the resort. Add to it the small brilliant, refreshing fragrant flowers which add to the beauty of the spot. To lay to rest on this green meadow car-

pet is too comfortable and enchanting then that of confining oneself in the adjoining rooms constructed by various departments.

'Sanasar; over the years was a marvelous lake like that of 'Surinsar' and 'Mansar' of Jammu district but ironically now stands dried almost due more to the seapage for the last around 60 years or so. However, as per estimates the lake had encompassed around 2500 kanals with its outer periphery circumference rounding some 6 kms or so. The area was and is subjected to encroachment but the forest Department associated with revenue Department and law enforcing agencies are on the high and active surveillance to thwart any attempt to have an evil eye over the picturesque spot. In the version of L.P Rai (the then Addl. Dy commissioner, Ramban) that as far as in the year 1992, he chanced upon to interact with the then, Director; Geology and Mining Department along with GREF agencies to survey the area and evolve strategy workable to restore to its pristine grandeur and glory and to analyze the root cause of its shrinkage and desilting and in their ultimate analysis opined that the subtle cause being underground water flow down below Nashri Nallah, barely 8 kms on foot through the forest linking NH-1A. Further it was established that there are as many as nine springs underneath this Sanasar Lake and at the same time, it was apprehended that lifting of silt to the extent of 20-25 feet may cause holocaustic conse-

quences to the local inhabitants together with their cultivated lands as well. The specialist further emphasized that the government should approach to the expert deptt with enough expertise for the construction of a wall around 20 feet in the length and 8 feet in width and only then the silt of the lake can be lifted to bring back this heritage to its pristine beauty and grandeur. The survey together with workable strategy remained as a hanging fire till date. There is an astonishing legend that it that the farmers of the locality were once ploughing the field in the vicinity of Sanasar lake and they took a break for the lunch leaving the oxen aside. In the meanwhile, a Sadhu appeared on the sceneand headvised the farmers to unyolk the oxen so that they may also graze and take rest. Instead, they aguishly said, "Who are you to advise us for unyoking oxen? Within moments, the Sadhu eluded and it is said that a calamitous storm with whirlwind engulfed the sky coupled with whimper cloudburst which struck the area and everything swept away along with the farmers and oxen so yoked. People of the locality and those of faraway places come to this temple for paying obeisance and obtain blessings from "Chouncer Nag Devta"- a miracle of miracles. Manzoor Ahmed Forest Guard posted at Sanasar forest has had a holy Darshan-of 'Nag Devta' while being on its routine movement in the forest- A nine feet long "Nag" with hairy skin.

The sacred temple of Nag-Devta of Sanasar is visited twice in a year in the

form of Yatra and of which one is vegetarian and is celebrated with the offerings of sweet rice, whereas the other is non-vegetarian which is celebrated by the sacrificial of goat and is offered to the 'Nag Devta'. Two Bhandaras are also held every year. Though many may not believe, but truthfulness and sanctity exists on the hilly areas of Sub-Himalayan regions like Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Dudu, Basantgarh, Kund, Patnitop, Billawar, Bani, Basohli and many of its pious areas adjoining the state of Himachal Pradesh. During Governor Rule in 1990, a nine point gulf course plan was earmarked for Sanasar which too remained in the offing and till date there is no let up.

**SOME SUGGESTIONS:**

Improvement of road: A short stretch of 19 kms linking the road with Patnitop warrants improvement. This is pertinent in view of the present scenario as the soil texture is good and metaling coupled with black topping of this rough road is the need inviting government attention and allied agencies coupled with maintenance of side drains for disciplined outflow of water during inclement weather conditions and even otherwise also this is the major bottleneck and once a healthy lifeline is established, this shall boost and ameliorate tourist influx.

Beautification of The Road Link (Patnitop-Sanasar) Plantation of ornamental trees, shrubs alongside road link on the either side at equidistance shall expurgate the beauty of spot.

**De-silting of the lake area:** This is nec-

essary and demanding too, to restore back the lake area to its pristine grandeur and glory. This is no longer a single agency show but many departments at Geological and survey forest, soil conservation and other allied agencies connected with the restoration and reclamation need to be associated with to chalk out workable strategy for the formation of lake which will not only enhance the beauty spot for the preservation of the spot which is of a National Heritage. Development of meadows and golf course: The half way left over idea warrants proper shaping now onwards for years to come and here too many agencies shall to be associated with to chalk out workable strategies so as to attract the golf enthusiasts not only from the state but from India and abroad.

**Accommodation:** The tourism, the forest and allied departments have magnificiently raised hutments to accommodate visitors, which do not demand its further exaggeration, else it would disfigure the beauty of spot .However, 'view points' on isolated spots shall further add beauty and grandeur to the area which are warranted to be constructor for the children to have an overview picture of the spot and its surroundings so may feel fascinating.

**Mini-Creation Park:** A mini re-creation park shall provide enchanting spell to the children and little kids who live in their own world. It shall as well feast and boost their excitements and merry making.

