

SACRED SPACE

# Mata Kheer Bhawani Tikkar

**Ramesh Padroo**

Tikkar village is situated at a distance of 90km from Srinagar and Mata Kheer Bhawani Tikkar is situated at a distance of just 1.5 km from Kupwara and it just takes 1:45 hrs. to reach this place through every kind of fast transport available. Village Tikkar was used as base Camp by Sharda pilgrims who used to visit Sharda Mata (Now in Muzaffarabad in POK) Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple. It falls on the right



side of Kupwara Chowkbal road and is spread over 355 kanals of land donated by Kashmiri Pandit Village Tikkar with large numbers and various kinds of popular trees, Kikar, Chinara, Nut, Apple, Cheery and Deodar trees adding to the beauty of Mata Kheer Bhawani Ashapan Temple.

The temple dedicated to Goddess Kheer Bhawani (Ragnya Bagwati) is constructed over a sacred spring. Every year on Zeshta Asthami Mela, thousands of pilgrims of all walks of life come and offer their prayers with devotion to get their wishes fulfilled by Mata Ragnya Bagwati. The worship of Mata Kheer Bhawani is universal among Hindus of Kashmir. The term Kheer refers to rice pudding that is offered to the spring to propitiate the Goddess which becomes part of the name of the temple. As is the custom with the Hindu deities, she has many names Maharagya Devi, Ragnya Devi, Rajni, Ragnya Bhagwati.

**Sacred Spring**

Aunique septagonal spring dedicated to Goddess Kheer Bhawani flows with cosmic powers where Mata is omnipotent and omnipresent and blessing the devotees. The holy spring is known

to change it colours with various hues of red, pink, orange, green, blue, white etc. A black shade of the water is believed to be inauspicious.

The devotees often chant this mantra in the morning prayers - "Namaste Sharda Devi Kashmir Purvasini Twaham Prartheye Nitam vidya Daanam Che De Hi Me" meaning "I owe my full gratitude to the great Goddess Sharda who lives in Kashmir. I request you to fill my mind with utmost power of

North Kashmir. He accepted Swami Nand Lal Ji Maharaj as his one of the disciples. Swami Lal Ji attained Nirvana in 1949.

\* Yograj Swami Nand Lal Ji Maharaj carried forward the duties assigned to him by his paramguru at Village Tikkar by constructing Nand Bhawan, Langers & Kutyya where he was performing his religious & spiritual work for betterment of mankind. Swami Ji attained the Nirvana in the year 1968. An upstairs comprising of 100 steps connects Mata Ragna Bagwati and Nand Bhawan to Swami Nand Lal Ji's Kutyya and Langer at the hill-top on the other side.

\* Swami Kralbab Ji Maharaj who was among the dearest disciples of Swami Nand Lal Ji Maharaj carried forward the spiritual work and other development works along with performing of Yagni and hawans of his Satgurus at village Tikkar. The Kutyya of Swami Kral Bab Ji Maharaj was also constructed at the hill top near Sharda Temple. After the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Valley in 1989, Swami Kral Bab Ji Maharaj constructed two new Ashrams at Garhi Udhampur and Bantlab and Jammu and carried forward the religious and spiritual work for betterment of mankind other disciples of Swami Nand Lal Ji, Swami Mast Ram Ji, Swami Vibashan Ji Maharaj, Swami Saiddbab and Swami Baitooth Ji also carried forward the teachings of their paramgurus.

\* Swami Baitooth Ji used to stay at Tikkar and created all the infrastructure existing at Kheer Bhawani Ashapan by personally taking supervision of development works along with Swami Kral Bab Ji Maharaj, Tikkar Bardhari and other devotees of guru darbar and Ashapan. Swami Baitooth Ji attained nirvana in the year 1982.

\* After nirvana of Swami Kral Bab Ji Maharaj in the year 1990, his disciples Swami Kumar Ji looks after the Ashram at Ghari & Bantlab and is carrying forward all the programmes of spirituality and religious teachings of his param gurus in the society.

A fabricated 40 Bed Hall has been constructed for the welfare of Yatis who visit the Shrine daily on Zetha Asthami.

A hawan and Bhandara is being organized by the Kashmiri Pandits of Tikkar with the help of other devotees of Ashapan for the last 3 yrs. on Zeshta Asthami so that yatis who through the shrine may feel happy and comfortable.

concentration and studies"

**Sharda Temple**

A Sharda Temple has been constructed at a hill top in the form of Shila (stone) covering the Amrit. It is believed that Sharda Bagwati came to Kashmir along with left over Amrit during Sumandar Manthan between Devtas and Demon and had a brief stay or rest at Manzgam, Tulmulla and in Tikkar and after that Mata Sharda took over the Amrit in a Kailash to its final destination at Sharda village (now in POK) in the form of Shilla (stone). There is a staircase from Mata Kheer Bhawani temple to Sharda temple of 100 steps.

**Shree Bairv Nath Temple and Ganesh Temple**

These two temples were constructed after migration by some devotees whose wishes were fulfilled by Mata Ragnya Bhagwati.

**Ashrams of Great Saints**

In addition to Kheer Bhawani Temple and Sharda Temple there exist Dharamshalas, Kutyyas, Ashrams, Hawan Kund and langers. The infrastructure was developed by the great saints who attained Sidhi and spirituality in the Tikkar Ashpan Complex.

\* Swami Lal Ji Maharaj of Chaitanya Akhara used to visit Sharda, Lolab Valley and Tikkar area of

NATURE

# Roots in Jammu, Discovery in Nottingham

**Sunny Dua**

This may sound inconceivable but a scientist having his roots embedded in old part of Jammu city has done miracle in United Kingdom (UK) by discovering a previously undetected layer in the cornea, the clear window at the front of the human eye. Academic professor Harinder Singh Dua, working as head of the Division of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Nottingham whose father, paternal uncles and aunts were all born and brought up in Tanga Wali Gali, Kachi Chawni, Jammu discovered sixth layer in the cornea which has now been named after him as "Dua's Layer". His father Inder Singh Dua after his retirement from Indian Air Force (IAF) as Air Commodore had settled in his ancestral house at Kachi Chawni from where he moved to stay in Delhi for some time and then with his children in London. Harinder's grandfather S Tek Singh had raised his children very humbly in Kachi Chawni and imparted them quality education during 1930s in the same ancestral house where his cousin brothers still live and are keeping the family legacy intact.

The discovery of Dua's Layer is likely to empower Ophthalmologists with more knowledge about the human eye which in turn will help surgeons take suitable measures during operations. Earlier the human cornea which is the clear protective lens on the front of the eye through which light enters the eye was believed to be composed of just five layers. These five layers from front to back were known to scientists as corneal epithelium, Bowman's layer, the corneal stroma, Descemet's membrane and the corneal endothelium.

Now with the discovery of sixth layer to be known as Dua's Layer located at the back of the cornea between the corneal stroma and Descemet's membrane, new vistas have been opened for the surgeons to carry out operations and save human eyes. The new layer has been termed as just 15 microns thick. This discovery is going to create miracles in the medical history and help patients with corneal disorders. In Harinder Dua's own words published in science journals, "This is a major discovery that will mean that ophthalmology textbooks will literally need to be re-written. Having identified this new and distinct layer deep in the tissue of the cornea, we can now exploit its presence to make operations much safer and simpler for patients. From a clinical perspective, there are many diseases that affect the back of the cornea which clinicians across the world are already beginning to relate to the presence, absence or tear in this layer."

Earlier Dr. Harinder Singh Dua completed his MBBS from Nagpur where his father was posted. After his graduation, he was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nagpur to travel as a member of a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team to Pennsylvania, USA way back in 1981. During his days in India, he had conducted numerous free diagnostic eye clinics through Rotary and other nongovernmental organizations. Dua himself had performed thousands of free operations on poor patients who had cataracts and glaucoma. It was only this year that he was cho-



allowing them to study them at many thousand times their actual size. Understanding the properties and location of the new Dua's layer could help surgeons to better identify where in the cornea these bubbles are occurring and take appropriate measures during the operation.

If they are able to inject a bubble next to the Dua's layer, its strength means that it is less prone to tearing, meaning a better outcome for the patient. The scientists now believe that corneal hydrops, a bulging of the cornea caused by fluid build up that occurs in patients with keratoconus (conical deformity of the cornea), is caused by a tear in the Dua layer, through which water from inside the eye rushes in and causes waterlogging, the science journal published.

Harinder Singh Dua, MBBS, DO, DO (Lond), MS, MNAMS, FRCS, FRCOphth., FEBO, MD, PhD., was earlier associate professor at the Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA when he was invited to chair in Nottingham in April 1994.

He still holds or has held many positions on various national and international councils, board of governors and advisory panels including the Royal College of Ophthalmologists as one of the vice presidents and chairman of education, Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, the Iris Fund, Fight for Sight, Medical Research Council (UK), Sight Savers International, International Ocular Surface Society, and the Eye Research Institute (Philadelphia).

He edits the British Journal of Ophthalmology and is also president of EuCornea, the European society of Cornea and Ocular surface disease specialists. He is also president of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER) Foundation (EVER) and past president of EVER.

He has over a 200 research publications, 20 published letters, and 14 book chapters to his credit. Harinder Singh Dua has also received Oxford Ophthalmological Congress Founders' Cup, the Ian Fraser prize, the Julia Duane Scholarship, Spencer Walker Prize, and 18 eponymous lectures including the Duke Elder Lecture at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists annual congress in 2005.

His recent awards include the achievement award for distinguished services, by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (October 2010); the His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Al Saud Prevention of Blindness Shield and lecture (awarded on 27 February 2011 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) and the Gold medal lecture by the Ophthalmological society of South Africa (awarded on 25 March 2011). On 13 November 2010, the Times newspaper, UK, published in its Saturday magazine a roll of Britain's top doctors. Professor Dua was one of five ophthalmologists named in this list.

Discovery of Dua's Layer while is a matter of proud for Harinder himself, his siblings, wife and children he continues to be torchbearer of Dua family, son of the soil, an ideal and an icon who has made Jammu proud by his breakthrough in the history of medical sciences.

(The writer is a freelance journalist and an engineer by profession)

CAREER COUNSELLING

# Weaving Magic through textiles

**Gauri Chhabra**

Are you awestruck by the latest fads in dress and couture? Do you dream of being able to customize your dresses to the extent of being you and not just a 'me too' product?

Do you ever wonder at bringing about a marriage between science and art? If you always tend to wander along these lines of thought, here is a perfect career option you can craft for yourself. A career that weaves magic through moods of fashion and serenity of science- Textile Engineering a rich blend of science and art.

Every day the glossy and colourful newspaper supplements and fashion magazines cry hoarse that fashion is big business and the textile trade is booming. People are increasingly being known by what they wear. However, here is a lot more to textile technology than fashion-haute or otherwise. The industry is peopled by many kinds of professionals, with many kinds of skills. The fashion designer is of course the most visible, as are the models who display a designer's products. But behind the designer, whose main tools are pen, paper, fabric and occasionally some computer software, is a large, multi-layered career... Textile Engineering.

**Curriculum and pedagogy:**

Textile engineering courses bring about an amalgam of scientific and engineering principles to the design and control of all aspects of fiber, textile, and apparel processes, products, and machinery. These include a wide array of material from natural and man-made materials, interaction of materials with machines, safety and health, energy conservation, and waste and pollution control. Besides, it also exposes you to plant design and layout, machine and wet process design and improvement, and designing and creating textile products.

It includes subjects like:  
Textile chemical technology dealing with the innovative solutions to today and tomorrow's textile wet processing opportunities.

Fiber science technology dealing with fiber and polymer research, developing new fibers, and increasing the productive capacity.

Technical textiles that are manufactured for non-aesthetic purposes, where function is the primary criterion. These include textile structures for automotive applications, medical textiles, protective clothing e.g. against heat and radiation for fire fighting, against molten metals for welders, stab protection and bulletproof vests, spacesuits and the like.

Information Systems Design dealing with use of computers for design of textiles.

Courses in accounting, economics, management, marketing and computers are coordinated with textile courses related to managing people and processes in the fiber, textile, and carpet and apparel industries. Optional courses allow you to concentrate on specific aspects of the business such as marketing or apparel manufacturing. Getting in:

For a diploma in Textile Engineering, you must clear the 10th Std. with at least 50% marks. Various polytechnics offer diploma in various disciplines of engineering.

You can pursue a degree of B.Tech or B.E in chemical or textile engineering.

To be eligible for bachelor's degree course i.e.

B.E you must clear the 12th std. Board exam with at least 50% marks (60% for IITs) in the science stream with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as compulsory subjects. Several states and IITs have an entrance exam for admission into engineering, colleges in other states grant admission based on marks scored in 12th Std. exam, particularly in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Diploma holders can also get a lateral entry into second year of engineering in the same stream. After graduating you can go in for postgraduate studies, M. E. or M. Tech. Further studies up to Ph.D. level are also an option for anyone interested in Research or Academics.

**Skill Set:**

For textile engineering you need to have a flair for clothes, colors and the ability to play with new themes and fads. Creativity and out of the box thinking is key. You should have the knack to figure things out and find out how things are made. It is this mentality that helps propels you through your college classes.

Besides, you must have problem solving ability and the orientation to view things from all perspectives. A textile engineering education teaches you how to think through a problem in order to solve it. These mental agility skills will help you solve problems for the rest of your life. The fascinating aspect about problem solving in engineering is that there is almost never a single right answer. You access several different approaches to solve a problem, and then it is up to you to show everyone how your solution meets the needs of the design.

**Institute Scope:**

- Some of the colleges offering B. E. in textile engineering are:
  - \* Calcutta University College of Textile Tech, W. Bengal
  - \* UP Textile Technology Institute
  - \* Punjab Technical University.
  - \* Government SKSJ Technological Institute, Bangalore
  - \* Jawaharlal Nehru Government Engineering College, Mandi
  - \* Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
  - \* College of Textile Technology, Murshidabad
  - \* Government Central Textile Institute Kanpur offering B. Textile Technology, Chemistry and M. Tech
  - \* Zial Singh College of Engineering & Technology, Bathinda
  - \* Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Regional Engg. College Jalandhar
  - \* Technological Institute of Textiles, Bhiwani, Haryana
  - \* MLV Textile Institute, Bhiwara offering B. Textile Chemistry and Technology
  - \* M.S. University, Department of Technology and Engineering Baroda
  - \* South Gujarat University, college of Engineering & Technology, Surat

**Career Pathways:**

Textile Industry provides a broad spectrum of career pathways. You can craft your career in departments of textile plants and companies varying from small to big scale, i.e., production, planning, quality control, sales or marketing or in agencies of domes-



tic or foreign companies for textile products and textile machinery, concentrated in different regions of the country.

In India, there are two major textile sectors- handloom sector that is an unorganized one and the mechanized sector that is considered to be an organized sector. These both have full growth potential. There are thousands of textile mills all over the country.

Graduates with textile chemistry find careers in three different areas - research, design and development, production and quality control, and customer service and sales. The profiles can be dyeing and finishing, technical services, research and development, quality control, product development, polymer science and environmental control. Most graduates of the with textile management program initially enter management trainee programs which can ultimately lead to plant or corporate management. Other career options include technical sales, industrial engineering, product development, marketing, customer relations, human resources, and cost and inventory control. So you can work as Process engineer, Quality control supervisor, Technical Sales Manager, Operations Trainee, Process Improvement Engineer and Medical Textiles Engineer.

Students are drawn by the strong job placement, the high salaries and the flexibility the textile degree offers.

"You can do just about anything with textiles," is what students have to say.

**The Road Ahead:**

Textile industry is currently poised at a very comfortable position offering opportunities for engineering graduates with skills in quality control, marketing, apparel, computers, management, chemistry, design and engineering. With the foray of many big players in the textile and apparel industry not only in India, but in global playfield as well, employment opportunities have increased manifold.

In the last decade or so, the industry has witnessed an exponential growth trajectory and is also expected to become the second largest employment generator in the times to come...

If you're interested in having an exciting career in a financially rewarding area, this is it.

For queries contact gauri\_nagpal@yahoo.com

# INNER VOICE

**MY MOTHER**

- A mother is more than just a woman
- A mother is more than just a wife
- A mother has brought to this world a new born
- A mother has brought to this world life
- A mother is one with love and honour
- A mother comforts you day and night
- A mother; a new one every hour
- A mother teaches wrong from right
- A mother knows when you are worried
- A mother knows when you are joyed
- A mother knows when you are sorry
- A mother knows just what's inside
- A mother needs your love forever
- A mother needs to see your smile
- There's no better gift for mama
- Than her very awesome little child.

Ankit Kumar Bhagat

**PARENTS**

- I AM BLESSED TO HAVE THEM
- THEY ARE THE BLISS FOR ME.
- THEY CONSOLE ME WHEN I CRY,
- THEY LAUGH WITH ME WHEN I LAUGH,
- THEY REMAIN WITH ME IN MY Ups AND Downs,
- THEY ARE LIKE ANGELS OF GOD.
- A mother teaches wrong from right
- THEY PAT ME WHEN I LOSE,
- THEY FEEL GLAD WHEN I WIN,
- THEY HELP ME TO MAINTAIN THE PACE,
- THEY HELP ME TO WORK WITH THE SAME ZEAL AND ZEST.
- THEY PROVIDE ME THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE;
- COZ THEY ARE MY PARENTS-MY ETERNAL LOVERS.....

Devyangi Koul

BSF School

**BEING HUMANE**

**FORGET AND THEN REMEMBER**

- Forget the love that you once shared
- Forget the face that had once cared
- Forget the time you spent together
- Remember now he's gone forever,
- Forget you cried the whole night through
- Forget him when they play your song
- Forget how close you two once were
- Remember now he's chosen her,
- Forget you memorized his walk
- Forget the way he used to talk
- Forget the times he was mad
- Remember he's happy instead of sad,
- Forget the thrill when he walked by
- Forget him when he made you cry
- Forget the way he spoke your name
- Remember now he's not the same,
- Forget all those sunny days
- Forget all those poems he made
- Forget those times through good and bad
- Remember he said he'd never make you sad,
- Forget the way he looked at you
- Forget you kissed the whole night through
- Forget all you dreams came true
- REMEMBER, that he doesn't love you.

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