

## HERITAGE

# Ranbireshwar Temple

## An attempt of king to convert Jammu on pattern of Kashi

**Shiv Chander Sharma**

In the city centre and just opposite to Civil Secretariat there is a triple storeyed huge temple which is visited by a large number of devotees daily while thousands of people see it daily while passing through the main Shalamar Road in Jammu city. The ground floor and first floor have the rooms while the temple stands on the top floor.

This temple built in about 1880 AD by Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857 AD-1885 AD) son of founder of then Jammu and Kashmir State with Ladakh, (Gigit Eskardu etc presently held illegally by Pakistan at present), Maharaja Gulab Singh was just a part of his attempt to convert Jammu city into the city of temples on the pattern of Kashi (Banaras). He succeeded in his attempt and that is why Jammu is also called as City of temples even in present times. He also built many other temples and shrines in and outside the Jammu city which reflects the religious approach of Ranbir Singh.

The unique feature in this temple is the fact that the main temple of Lord Shiva is situated on the second floor and a statue of Ranbir Singh with folded hands is seen praying Lord Shiva in front of the temple. The name of this temple was given specially on the name of Maharaja Ranbir Singh meaning Lord of Ranbir, Ranbir plus Ishwar-Ranbireshwar. However, the statue was installed much later, few decades ago, and not by Ranbir Singh himself.

Besides the life size idols of Lord Shiva, his consort Parvati and son Ganesha a huge single stone Shivalingam inside the main temple attracts the devotees. A huge life size metallic Nandi (Ox) made of brass sitting at the entrance of the main temple which faces the main idols.

A regular visitor to the temple Girdhari Lal says that the rare Ekadash Lingams made of Safatik, (a special transparent white stone) is rarely seen in the Shiva temples which were specially brought by Maharaja Ranbir Singh from Varanasi (Kashi). Not only this, Shaligrams in two adjoining halls of the temple were also specially brought from the bed of Narmada river. Shaligrams have special significance for Lord Shiva worshippers.

In addition to all this there are small temples having idols of



Excelsior/Rakesh

Mahakali, Lord Panchmukhi Hanuman, Shani Devta, Ganesha and Kartik, the elder son of Lord Shiva just outside the main temple. On one side of Nandi, is a huge metallic bell which weighs over a quintal (Over 100 kg).

*A Mela is held in this famous temple on every Mahashivratri in which thousands of devotees throng to pay their obeisance to Lord Shiva. A day before this pious day, a tableau of Lord Shiva depicting various phases of Lord Shiva is taken in the city from this temple.*

The place where this temple has been built was a small hill and a saint used to perform meditation at this place whose Samadhi has been built below the temple in the large open land on which stands a Shivalingam of Sindhoo on a raised platform. He is believed to have guided the Maharaja where the temple should be built on a height, another regular visitor Mandeeep said. The Shivalingam was placed at the height which was the top of that hillock on the advice of that saint. The temple has a large space for the worshippers who can sit and do meditation inside the temple which is rare in most of the temples.

A Mela is held in this famous temple on every Mahashivratri in which thousands of devotees throng to pay their obeisance to Lord Shiva. A day before this pious day, a tableau of Lord Shiva depicting various phases of Lord

Shiva is taken in the city from this temple. In addition, during the two months Amarnath Yatra large number of Sadhus and pilgrims are provided meals and served tea and snacks every day during the Yatra period, said Rajinder Sharma and Shikha Singh living in the rooms meant for the employees of the Dharmarth Trust.

Interestingly, a beautiful park within the premises of this most revered temple attracts large number of local people and devotees for daily morning and evening walk. Several species of flowers, trees including a Rudraksh tree, Bilva trees also attract pilgrims coming from outside the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory as well as locals. A fountain with the idol of Lord Shiva is an added attraction for the pilgrims and local devotees which glows in the evening hours with colourful lights, said Banarsi Dass Sharma, an employee of the Dharmarth Trust which looks after most of the ancient temples built during the Dogra royal period.

Yoga classes are held in the morning sessions inside this park, named as Yasho-Karan Park, Joint name of main Trustee and First Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State and son of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh, Dr Karan Singh and his wife late Maharani YashoRaje Lakshmi. This park was inaugurated by former Governor of Delhi Late Sheila Dixit. Large number of people can be seen in the park, which opens at 5 o'clock in the morning and closes at 8 PM every day. Beautiful Park lights have been installed in all sides of this park which also has a tiled path besides lush green grass within the path premises.

## TRIBUTE

# Recalling a cradle of harmony

**Pushp Saraf**

*A coincidence has stirred my childhood memories. All of us in the family were busy planning support for causes dear to my father Om Prakash Saraf, veteran journalist and public figure, to commemorate his approaching fifth death anniversary on November 25. The news came in of the death of veteran Hindi journalist Gopal Dass Sachar.*

It jolted us. Five years separated them in life as they did in death. Father was born in 1922 and Mr Sachar in 1927. Our families had been neighbours for long in the Sabzi Man-

political environment in which a difference in opinion is seen as a sign of personal enmity.

Father after his expulsion from the National Conference had set up the state unit of the Praja Socialist Party (PSP) on November 9, 1954. The PSP was the first national party to have a unit of its own in J&K. Mr Sachar belonged to the Praja Parishad, the foremost avator of the Bharatiya Janata Party in J&K. Mr Thakur who had come from a remote village in the Ramban hills had joined the PSP. He made his mark in the city by sheer hard work. Mr Chopra was a staunch Congress loyalist and one of the rare natives of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to have been arrested during the "Quit India" movement of 1942.

In such an environment I had an early exposure of everybody who was anybody in J&K. It was usually in the

rivals with the help of official machinery in counting halls. It is not for nothing that the era of 1950s and 1960s in particular is often associated with subversion of democratic exercises. I distinctly remember that one morning Mr Thakur asked father what he would have done had the police not moved away from his public meeting in the Amirakadal assembly constituency (Srinagar) in the 1962 polls. Father simply replied: "They would have seen". It turned out that the police had surrounded his public meeting in Lal Chowk to intimidate the audience only to withdraw after father told them to move away or face repercussions.

Mr Thakur would burn midnight oil. Whenever studying till late in night I would invariably see the lights of his office room on in the opposite flat. He became a distinguished lawyer, High Court judge, Deputy



Devi Dass Thakur

Om Parkash Saraf

Gopal Dass Sachar

Om Chopra

di mohalla in the heart of the old city. I had moved out of Jammu as a teenager but have nostalgic reminiscences of my illustrious neighbourhood as a child.

The most remarkable aspect of my locality was that although noisy and crowded with vegetable vendors competing with each other it was a cradle of harmony. This was made possible by its formidable inhabitants who never allowed their ideological perceptions to mar their personal relations. Among them were Devi Dass Thakur and Om Chopra who left behind their mortal remains on February 3, 2007 and February 28, 2015, respectively. All of them fiercely stood by what they believed. Their differences never showed in their personal relations and certainly did not percolate to families which became rather close. This is unimaginable in today's

morning that Mr Sachar would come to our home to meet father. Their discussion centred on news. At times Mr Sachar would be accompanied by the late BJP stalwart Krishan Lal Sharma, who was in charge of party affairs in the region. Last time I spoke to him was on telephone from Delhi to convey my condolences when Arun passed away. Arun, his son, was younger to me and his death came as a shock.

Some of the exchanges between Mr Thakur and father are still etched on my mind. They had stood up against the unscrupulous ruling apparatus which believed in "gun or gold" policy. On one occasion they were quite agitated as the information came in that Mr Thakur in his Ramban assembly constituency and their party colleague Acharya Nand Kumar in Nowshera had come close to victory but their supporters were outwitted by

Chief Minister (of J&K) and Governor of Assam, and has left behind a highly talented family of jurists, lawyers and academicians. His eldest son Justice Tirath Singh has been Chief Justice of India and is among top legal luminaries of the country.

Mr Chopra created history by wresting the Jammu East seat for the Congress in 1983, a feat his son-in-law Yogesh Sawhney repeated in 2002. Mr Chopra was always high on energy. In a way he was the only full-time politician in the mohalla. While Mr Thakur pursued legal profession father and Mr Sachar remained active journalists till the end. Together they showed the way to co-exist. Childhood is often described as the most beautiful part of a person's life. I treasure and recount this as a tribute to my father who had left us on November 25, 2017.

## BEAUTY TIPS

# Winter Fruits for glowing skin

**Shahnaz Husain**

With the temperature dipping across the country, the women struggle to look for an array of lotions which could face the onslaught of the winds, cold temperature, and harsh sun rays to help revive and rejuvenate tired, dull, dark and lacklustre skin.

But before you rush the market to buy costly beauty products to look smart take a flashback and check your daily diet. Remember the famous quote, "You are what you eat"?

The winter seasonal fruits not only give you the right nutrition but can also do wonders for your skin.

Vegetable markets now a days are flooded with a variety of seasonal fruits and these tasty delights are brimming with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals which keep your body and skin well hydrated.



Regular intake of seasonal raw fruits and fruit juices boost water content in the body which keeps the body and skin well hydrated even during the winter season

Nature is the best physician, giving us fruits that are needed by the body for different seasons. In winter, we get those fruits and vegetables that are beneficial to the body in cold weather. For instance, Vitamin C helps to strengthen our immune system and protects the body from colds and coughs. In winter, we get plenty of oranges and "mousambi" (sweet lime). Here are some beauty tips with winter fruits:

**Apples**

Apples have so many health benefits that it is said, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." It contains a wealth of nutrients, like Vitamins C, B6, riboflavin, potassium, copper, manganese, and magnesium. It is also packed with phytonutrients and flavonoids. Apples contain pectin, which is said to have a soothing effect on dry, sensitive skin. Apples are wonderful skin toners, helping to tighten the skin and stimulate blood circulation to the skin surface. They also have anti-oxidant properties, helping to prevent oxidation damage and thus delaying visible ageing signs on the skin. Apples also contain fruit acids, which have a powerful cleansing effect on the skin, removing dead skin cells. This helps to brighten the skin and gradually clear away blemishes, like dark spots. Raw apple pulp or apple juice can be applied on the skin daily and then washed off with plain water after 20 minutes. Grated apple can be added to face masks. Mix oats with curd, honey and apple pulp or grated apple into a paste. Apply on the face and wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes. Apple cider vinegar, which is obtained from apples, is an ideal treatment for dandruff and also adds shine to the hair. After shampoo, add two tablespoons apple cider vinegar to a mug of water and use it as a last rinse. Yes.....an apple a day also keeps beauty problems at bay!

**Lemon**

We all know that lemon is a rich source of Vitamin C, which is needed in winter. As a cosmetic ingredient, lemon can be

used in various ways, but avoid using it undiluted, as it can be harsh on the skin. However, on areas where the skin is thicker, like elbows and knees, rub lemon halves and wash off with water. Over a period of time, it cleanses and lightens skin colour. Lemon can also be used as a hand lotion. Mix it with rose water and rub it into the skin of the hands. For rough hands, rub granulated sugar and the juice of a lemon together on the hands, till the sugar dissolves. Then rinse off with water. Done regularly, it will help to improve the skin texture. Add lemon juice to "tea water" for a hair rinse, to make the hair silky and shiny. Boil used tea leaves in enough water and cool the liquid. Add the juice of one lemon and use it as a last rinse. Lemon peels can be dried and powdered and used in face packs and scrubs.

**Oranges**

Oranges may be used in hair packs. The rind of oranges are said to contribute to hair luster and nourishes the hair. It also reduces oiliness. Keep orange peels and simmer them in water over a low fire. Cool and strain. Use the water to mix hair packs. For example, a protein pack may be made using lentils and egg white. The lentils should be soaked in water overnight. Next morning, grind the lentils, add egg and the orange-peel water, to mix into a pack for the hair. It cleanses, reduces oiliness and adds body and shine. Orange juice can be used to rinse the hair after shampoo. It helps to restore the normal acid-alkaline balance and reduces oiliness. It is also rich in Vitamin C. Makes the hair shiny and silky. After your shampoo, add the juice of 2 oranges to half a mug of water and use as a last rinse. Leave on for 2 minutes and then rinse with plain water.

Neroli, which is orange flower oil, has been used in both skin and hair care. Neroli oil is used in aromatherapy due to its calming and anti-stress benefits. It can be added to carrier oils (i.e. pressed oils like olive oil, almond oil, sesame seed oil etc) to make hair oils. It has to be diluted and added in the correct proportion to the carrier oil. It is said to calm the mind and is useful in stress related hair problems, like hair loss.

**Banana**

Banana, one of the most popular fruits, packs quite a punch in terms of nutrition and health benefits. It is one of the richest sources of potassium and also contains Vitamin C and B6. Bananas are beneficial for both skin and hair treatments. Its potassium content helps to soften both dry hair and dry skin. Bananas can be made into a pulp and added to both face and hair packs. Bananas help hair that has been damaged by repeated colouring and other chemical treatments. Bananas can be made into a pulp and applied on the hair like a pack. Leave it on for 20 to 30 minutes and then wash it off. Egg yolk or curd may be added to mashed bananas and applied as a hair pack. If the hair is very dry, add one teaspoon pure glycerin or honey to the banana pack. Almond oil may also be added to the banana hair pack.

**Avocado**

Avocados are excellent for skin care, as they boost cell renewal. It contains Vitamin B and C, which help to build new cells and strengthen the immune system. It also has Vitamin A and E, which keep the skin soft and smooth. In fact, Avocado juice or oil can be very nourishing for the skin and hair. The protein and oil contents of avocado strengthen and nourish the hair. For home hair care, mash the avocado, add honey and a little lemon juice. This can be applied on the hair as a pack. In fact, it can also be applied on the face. Wash it off after half an hour.

**Pomegranate (Anaar)**

It has excellent benefits for skin care, as it helps to moisturise the skin and is a powerful antioxidant. It helps to improve the skin's moisture retention ability too. It is said to boost the process of cell renewal and thus helps to delay the formation of ageing signs on the skin. Used regularly on the face, it can remove tan, lighten skin colour and also brighten the skin.

(The author is a beauty expert)

## MOVIE-REVIEW

# A justified sequel

*DRISHYAM 2 is the story of a family in crisis. The year is 2021. 7 years have passed since the events of the first part. Vijay Salgaonkar (Ajay Devgn) has fulfilled his dream of opening a cinema hall.*

He still runs a cable network and resides in the same house at Pondelem, Goa. His elder daughter Anju (Ishita Dutta) is still traumatized over what unfolded 7 years ago and is seeking medical help. Vijay's wife Nandini (Shriya Saran) is quite concerned and fears that things can go wrong anytime. She finds a confidante in her neighbour, Jenny (Neha Joshi). Meanwhile, Tarun Ahlawat (Akshaye Khanna) is appointed as the new IG in Goa. He's a good friend of Meera Deshmukh (Tabu). She had settled in London and she and her husband Mahesh (Rajat Kapoor) return to Goa for their son's death anniversary. Tarun meets Meera; he also studies Vijay Salgaonkar's case and concludes that he's lying through his teeth. Of course, without concrete evidence, the police can't take any action. This is when Tarun chances upon an important clue. Soon, they get more information. Tarun and Meera are confident that this time, it's time for Vijay Salgaonkar and his family to go to jail. What happens next forms the rest of the film.

DRISHYAM 2 is a remake of the 2021 Malayalam movie of the same name. Jeethu Joseph's story is incredible as it does total justice and takes the story forward very well. Aamil Keeyan Khan and Abhishek Pathak's screenplay is gripping and raises tension levels considerably. However, it's too slow, especially in the initial and middle portions. Aamil Keeyan Khan's dialogues are simple but sharp. Abhishek Pathak's direction is quite good, and he has improved a lot,

compared to his last film, UJDA CHAMAN [2019]. He has added the required thrill, tension, and exhilaration in adequate doses. As a result, viewers will be glued to their seats from start to finish. He shows his brilliance in the climax.

On the flipside, the film suffers on account of the length. Nothing much happens in the first half. The intermission point comes too soon, and one might wonder if the film has anything worthwhile to offer after all. Secondly, a few cinematic liberties are hard to digest. Lastly, it's very similar to the original version though thankfully, many haven't seen it.

DRISHYAM 2 begins on an intriguing note. The problems faced by Vijay and how residents of the town believe that he is the murderer is well

restrained and very impressive. Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta, and Mrunal Jadhav (Anu) are dependable. Kamlesh Sawant (Gaitonde) and Siddharth Bodke (David) leave a huge mark. Saurabh Shukla (Murad Ali) is damn good in a cameo. Rajat Kapoor, Neha Joshi, Nishant Kulkarni (Shiv; Jenny's husband), Yogesh Soman (Inspector Vinayak), Sharad Bhutadia (Martin), Ashmita Jaggi (Mary) and others are decent.

Devi Sri Prasad's music is in sync with the film's mood. The title track is great, followed by 'Sahi Galat'. 'Saath Hum Rahein' is forgettable. Devi Sri Prasad's background score is cinematic and exciting.

Sudhir Kumar Chaudhary's cinematography is creative and neat. Tarpan Shrivastava's production



A PANORAMA STUDIOS PRODUCTION

**DRISHYAM 2**  
DIRECTED BY ABHISHEK PATHAK

depicted. A few scenes stand out in the first half like Anju's epilepsy episode, Anju confiding to Jenny, and Tarun's entry. The intermission point is unexpected and gives some indication that this film also is a roller coaster ride. Post interval, Tarun meeting Nandini and his daughters is memorable. But the best is reserved for the last 30 minutes. The turn of events is completely unpredictable and will induce claps and whistles in cinemas.

Ajay Devgn, as expected, delivers a stupendous performance. He nicely gets back into the skin of the character of Vijay and gives no reason to complain. Akshaye Khanna is a great addition to the franchise. He is a scene-stealer thanks to his characterization and performance. Tabu is

design is realistic. Navin Shetty, Sanam Ratansi, and Tanya Oak's costumes are straight out of life. Amin Khatib's action is not disturbing. Sandeep Francis's editing could have been crisper. The 142-minute-long film should have been shorter by 15-20 minutes.

On the whole, DRISHYAM 2 is a justified sequel and gives a paisavool experience thanks to the performances, script, and applause-worthy climax. At the box office, it has the potential to open in double digits due to the tremendous anticipation amongst the viewers to find out what happens next in the life of Vijay Salgaonkar. In fact, an entry into the Rs. 100 crore club cannot be ruled out. Recommended!

Courtesy : <https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/>