

Hari Niwas Palace of Jammu: The study on Historical tourism and development

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Jammu is full of different types of historical places, palaces and lots of tourist spots; the Hari Niwas Palace is one of them of India. It situated between the river Tawi and the Trikuta hills. From it anybody can supervises the Tawiriver on one side and on the other side the Trikuta hills. The last maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh (1895 - 1961) constructed the palace in the early 20th century and transferred here in 1925 from the older Mubarak Mandi Palace. Before going to Bombay (now Mumbai), he passed his last days of staying in Kashmir.¹ The building carries the quality of an art-deco structure. In 1990, the palace was altered into a heritage hotel by the generation of the Maharaja. On the grounds of the estate lies also The Amar Mahal Palace museum resides also on the ground of the royal estate.

Refreshment can be collected from the inner peace and soothing mild cool airs of the palace's experience. The eyes of anybody might be stuck at breathe taking spectacle of the river behind palace. The feeling of royal universe comes at the entrance from the salutation of a large amount of mango trees. The structure of the palace is very nice and nobody can close his/her eyes without seeing the entire beauties of the palace. So, it becomes a most attractive tourist spot of Jammu though its vastness which does not effect for visiting it.

Titular fees have to pay by the visitors for seeing the palace. Visitors are attracted by high class painting of inside the palace which makes up from natural colours and real gold that looks like as bright as brand new till now. The painting the palace delimitates the tales which assimilates the childhood grandmas like the king Nal and Queen Damyanti. Another attraction is The Royal gold Throne of the palace also makes the attraction of the visitors. It would be said that it was made up of 125 kg of real gold and everybody would feel the intact glories of it. Though, it is kept in the locker rooms, but glass doors offers with proper grills to everybody who can see the total thing.

This, 23th September of year is the 121st birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh who the last ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. He was given a royal title as Shriman "Indar Mahindar Rajrajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Shri Jammu Kashmir NareshTatha Tibet Deshadhipati". As the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh did the insensible task of holding together the state for a century for his own dynasty. As the Dogras rula, he was called as the creator of the state of Jammu and Kashmir which covered the different places of Jammu like Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad-Mirpur, Aksai Chin and Saksham Valley etc. These places are resemblance with the places like Hunza and Nagar of the feudatory.

Until the century of 1947, this biggest dynasty gets the enjoyment of autonomy and internal sovereignty of the state. The different features of the state like multicultural, multi-linguistic and multi-religious and its boundaries which covers more distance were proves of its desperate military prowess, incomparable in the history of Jammu as well as India. The ascending time to the throne of Maharaja Hari Singh was in 1925. During the reign of his dynasty, his complete power suppressed to a mere mortal because of different types of complex political events, conspiracies, and sweeping changes. Despite his different types inner disquietudes he stood straightly and stoically behind his kingdom and he did not heisted to some of the difficult decisions in his time that no other king had to do like before him. A dignified silence was maintained by him in the face of vicious slanderous campaigns against him. His love for of Jammu and Kashmir made a fact which could get a fair chance in an independent India and stranded as a proof of both his love for his state and his nationalist nature. His birth anniversary provides us a chance to glorify a modern king who was known as a progressive thinker and social reformer for all time.

The ruling king of a Hindu community over a Muslim communal state can be made as an experience that how he is often limitedly described, but he broke out the communal stereotyping by his own right which becomes the context of current events for seeing the matter. He remained standing on his decision by his own saying, "Justice is my religion" – became the first statement after assuming the high office in 1925. He was such a man who was not keen on religious rituals; he did not differentiate between his Hindu and Muslim subjects. Indifferent to the opinions of his fellow co-religionists, he gave To provide importance only to meritocracy and appointed the best of Muslims in his court, administration and the army because his fellow co-religionists were not agree with the opinion of the king, Maharaja. The wind of Dorga altered before drastic anti-Dogra campaign of Sheikh Abdulah and also for many an unholy nexus: the army was become a fine jumble of Dogras, Sikhs, Gorkhas, Pathans, Hindu and Muslim Rajputs from Mirpur and Poonch and now, many of them are present in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and still swear loyalty to the Dogra dynasty.

An employee of Maharaja with the name of Khusrau Jung also related to the royal family of Hyderabad in the Deccan and his ADCs were Malik and Nur Muhammad Khan of Baluchistan. Most of the employees of Maharaja Hari Singh's were belongs to the muslim community like head cook, head waiter and his secretary, Abdul Qaiyyum Khan. Even his friends were also from muslim community like his close friend was Sardar Abdul Rahman Effendi and an Afghan refugee also related to King Amanullah. Muslims could eat meat well in his kitchen because only halal meat was cooked here. Maharaja was the predecessor of all the kings of Jammu who visited to the mosque, standing respectfully throughout the prayer for his own devotion to it. He gifted Rs 500 to the Imam after the prayer for leading the prayers and a pashmina apparel. There was present a rumor about the king, Maharaja that his hindu subjects became displeasure for his progressive views on religion and it had been said as the Maharaja had converted to Islam on the sly. But, he remained unchangeable to all such saying.



Plate1:The beautiful picture of the palace of Maharaja Hari Singh. Now, it is known as the Heritage Hotel of Jammu.



Plate 2:The attractive architecture of the beautiful barandah of the Heritage Hotel of Jammu which was the Palace of the King Maharaja Hari Singh earlier.



Plate 3: The nice picture of a artistically designed structure within the area of the Heritage Hotel.



Plate 4: The beautiful designed picture of a wooden furniture inside the Hotel of Heritage which is also polished with the wooden clour.



Plate 5: The nice image of a big lamp on the ceiling of the Heritage Hotel with the proper artistic design and lights.



Plate 6: The picture of a art gallery of the king Maharaja Hari Singh which is showing the different types of pictures with different ages and different pauses and the pictures of his queen also. All the pictures are hanged and attached on the wall wooden barricades in front the walls of the Heritage Hotel.



Plate 7: The picture of a wall of the Heritage Hotel which is designed with artistic architecture and different types of designs.



Plate 8: The image of a Tulshi tree which is kept in the outside of the Hotel, Heritage on a perfect shaped alter or Tulshi- Bedhi.



Plate 9: The artistic picture of wall of the Heritage Hotel which is sculpted with different types design and brick colour.



Plate 10: The image of a outer Barandah of the Heritage Hotel with proper designs.



Plate 11: The picture of an outer building of the Hotel, Heritage with some design and the structures of windows and doors also.



Plate 12: The beautiful picture of Malika Pukhraj who was a legendary songstress of the king Maharaja Hari Singh.



Plate 13: The images of two different framed pictures on the wall of Heritage Hotel of Jammu. One of them is only sketched and other is captured image.

The legendary songstress and one of the gems of Maharaja's durbar was Malika Pukhraj who did not appointed as a court singer but she was an evidence of the Maharaja's developing thinking on religion. The works of a Muslim girl as a bhajan singer was also another sign of progressive mind in the Mandi Palace during early mornings alongside shloka-chanting Pandits. The king some time gave his opinion on the religion like "Faiths should not be so weak that they be threatened by touch. Everyone's god is the same and the differences have been fabricated by us". The Maharaja was surprised and became deeply hurt to see the riots among Hindu-Muslim and coupled with British interference lead to political mischief when came an overpowering ambitions of some individuals. He was a sign of the kings, one who shattered the glass ceiling in many more ways than other kings of the earlier. He passed legislation against Many social evils were accepted by him for regulation unlike his counterparts in rest of the subcontinent. He was became an example of a person who tried to abolish untouchability from the society. So, he dismissed the priest of Raghunathan temple when he observed that the priest had denied entry to the lower castes despite his explicit orders.

He started to drive out 'untouchables' from all public schools, colleges and wells in 1931. As a social reformer of that contemporary time who was much ahead of his times, and he was more courageous and the winner of women's emancipation. Maharaja Hari Singh tried to stop the rampant practice of child marriage and he was not also far to promote widow remarriage. Trafficking and organizations of prostitution were also made illegal by him. He made an attempt to root out the practice of sati successfully. Though the Maharaja was a great educated person, so, he attempted endeavors to promote literacy in the state were inclusive of women's education. He made free in Primary and secondary educations. Being made primary education compulsory in 1930, he settled a special department to establish for female education under a deputy director. Free conveyance was provided by him and girls were escorted by the staff of him from home to school. Maharaja became success special drive against illiteracy to achieve a lot of success with around 4,000 adult literacy centres are functioning in the state. During his reign 706 primary schools went up from to 20,728 in Jammu and Kashmir. Lots of Steps had taken by the king of Hari Singh like free education till matriculation, scholarships and grants for backward classes, minimum fees in colleges, and Urdu being added as a medium of instruction which were keeping with his vision of promoting literacy and for higher education across a broad section of the people.

The development of health care in the state was also concerned with the Maharaja as a model of real exercises side by side. Even till the date, health care in the state is in dire need of an unreliable overhaul for that was once a pioneer in health care infrastructure, under the Maharaja's controls. The Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital in Srinagar is one of the biggest hospitals in the subcontinent which is established by the King Maharaja long ago. The state is also famous for the first tuberculosis department in the subcontinent. The king Maharaja Hari Singh arranged sufficient number of apt and qualified employees in the hospitals and dispensaries, during the periods of kingdom.

A specific attention was given the Maharaja in the tourism and handicrafts industry. Having done a plan about prospers of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, he did lots of works whatever he thought about it. So, the number of tourists increased in these places from 8,604 in 1931-32 to 24,659 in 1936-37. For the development of these places, different types of local enterprises and many manufacturing units were set up for great encouragement of these areas. Many infrastructural development of the these places initiated by the king Maharaja like building roads, bridges, tunnels, hydro power stations for the addition to modern communication services like telephone, telegraph and wireless, etc. which lead to the significant rises in industrial production. The increase of business in number was beneficial to the people of Jammu, especially for the Kashmiri Muslims who were primarily craftsmen and tradesmen. All the agriculturists of Jammu got relieves from like the taxation system, land ownership and debt clauses, the abolition of beggar and forced laborer because the king shrewdly did the changes of these. To bring improvement in the lives of the people of Jammu, Maharaja Hari Singh did lots of developmental works like setting up a flood control department, price control department during the Second World War and the revolutionary Jammu and Kashmir Bank in 1938. So, he was called as the 'First king' of Jammu.

As an Indian constitutional reformer, the Maharaja in a memorable speech fearlessly asserted honour and equality for India at the Round Table Conference of London in 1931-32. British let out a conspiracy against him for his earned status on the wrath of them and it finally ended up with him being the first high profile exile of the person who had died in Mumbai, but kept far away from his beloved Jammu and Kashmir. Through counter narratives objectively gives us the skills to deal with our present better to sift with an ability for learning by inquiry into the past. Though most of the historians have wronged with the information of Maharaja Hari Singh; so, it have now arisen more to counter it and they are not in an attempt to seek a consensus, but because they believe that there are two sides to every story. One has been told through different types of descriptions and the other needs to be told by someone. We have to know and learn from the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh who was a ruler of a vast and diverse dynasty of the country for the love of his land and all the people of his kingdom.

Among the all rulers of our earliest ancient India, Maharaja Hari Singh was a distinct king from others. As a ruler, he showed his proper utilization of man and power over his own country. He never stayed backward for doing his all works for the hindrances of different types of environmental and nationally. He crossed over all the barriers of the society, nation and religion to make practical his different types of wishes whatever came in his mind. He stood against the religion of his own community. His progressive thinking and developmental mind made him as instance of that contemporary of that time.

Without the proper visit to that particular palace and knowing about the instructor of the Heritage Hotel, can be made a great mistake of the lives of the visitors who want to visit the tourist's spots of the state Jammu. The proper design of the architecture, colours, setting up of the furniture, the golden chair, the beauties of inner and outer side, beautification of the hotel Heritage and the entire environment of the Palace hotel make attraction, charm and astonished and successful in making a good visit to this Hotel Heritage in their lives.

Reference:

¹ "J&K power defaulters cocking a snook at CM". *Daily Pioneer*. 18 January 2013. Retrieved 16 February 2013