



**Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
Department of Culture,
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar**

**Record Note of the meeting regarding Protection, Conservation, Restoration of
"Martand Sun Temple", situated at Anantnag, Kashmir.**

A meeting was convened by Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Culture on 01.04.2024 at 02.30 P.M in his Office Chamber at Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu with regard to Protection, Conservation, and Restoration of "**Martand Sun Temple**", situated at Anantnag, Kashmir.
The following officers attended the meeting:

1. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K.
2. Special Secretary to the Government, Department of Culture
3. Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Culture
4. Superintending Archaeologist ASI, Srinagar Circle
5. ASAE, ASI, Srinagar Circle
6. Assistant Director, AA&M, Kashmir.(through V.C.)
7. Assistant Director, AA&M, Jammu.
8. Mr. Amzi Arthur John, Advocate, J&K High Court, Jammu along with Shri Kanwar Tiku, Social worker.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Culture welcomed all the participants including Advocate Azmi Arthur John who had made a grievance with respect to the subject.

Thereafter, the issues with respect to **Protection, Conservation, Restoration of "Martand Sun Temple"** were discussed as under:

1. Protection of the heritage site Martand Sun Temple :

The issue regarding initiation of adopting protective measures in respect of Martand Sun Temple was raised by Adv. Amzi Arthur John. He said that during his last visit to the site about two years back, he found the complex littered with waste material like bottles, wrappers, syringes, plastics etc. He along with Mr. Kanwar Tiku also mentioned that an incident of cracker bursting also occurred in the premises about two years back. Sh. Rahul Bhosle, Superintending Archaeologist informed the participants that the said site is notified under the Central Act and is being looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India. He mentioned that the premises has been properly fenced and watch and ward has also been deployed. He shared the latest pictures of the premises and mentioned that presently the premises is neat and clean and no wastage material is seen there. Regarding the cracker bursting incident, he mentioned that the incident was brought into the notice of local administration and police and the proper vigil is being kept to ensure that such incident never occurs in future. He clarified that such incident was lone incident about two years back and it was not allowed to re-occur. Shri Bhosle

assured that proper protection measures are now in place and local police and administration are also helping in protection of the monument.

2. Conservation of Martand Sun Temple :


Advocate Arthur and Shri Kunwar Tiku also mentioned about improper conservation measures and said that instead of limestone, some restoration work has been done with cement. They suggested for proper conservation measures on scientific basis. While discussing about the conservation measures, Sh Rahul Bhosle, Superintending Archaeologist ASI, Srinagar Circle informed that necessary steps are being taken to conserve the monument/heritage site as per laid down protocols and guidelines for conservation of such monuments. He apprised that in the recent past no cement work is being done involving conservation work in the monument. He informed that the debris surrounding the monument is also being removed, besides resetting of Ashlar stone masonry has been undertaken. SA, ASI informed that department has reflected major works regarding conservation and restoration of site in the current year's plan i.e 2024-25 and the works shall only be started after scientific clearance and other formalities mentioned under the Act.

3. Installation of Statue of Lalitaditya Muktapida.

With regard to suggestion of Advocate Arthur and Shri Kanwar Tiku, SA, ASI clarified that installation of statue within the monument premises is not admissible under the Act, however, the same can be installed in the area, outside monument, at suitable site.

At the end, the chair assured the applicants that though the particular monument is centrally protected monument but still the Department of Culture, J&K shall work in coordination with ASI and all stakeholders for the conservation of these valuable heritage sites. It was advised that joint team of Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K Government, and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) shall visit the site soon and will invite Advocate Arthur and Shri Kanwar Tiku to accompany for on spot stock taking of ongoing conservation works and make further suggestions for protection and conservation of monument

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.



(Amar Singh)

Under Secretary to the Government
Dated: 04-04-2024

No: Cul-Adm0Grev/3/2024-01

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1. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K.
2. Sh. Rahul Bhosle, I/c Superintending Archaeologist ASI, Srinagar Circle
3. Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Culture.
4. Mr. Amzi Arthur John, Advocate, J&K High Court, Jammu.