

**BRAHMAN MAHA MANDAL (REGD.), JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**A REPORT: 2016-2019**

I, as President of Brahman Maha Mandal, express my sincerest thanks to all office bearers and honourable members of Executive Committee of Brahman Maha Mandal for the help and cooperation that I received from them during my tenure. It was collective efforts of all office bearers and members of Executive Committee that the office of President, Brahman Maha Mandal was able to accomplish the tasks that needed attention of the Mandal.

The initial period of the tenure sailed through "rough sea" which consumed sufficient time to resume smooth sail of organisation. Brahman Maha Mandal during the tenure constantly addressed to the social issues of KP Samaj and tried to build up liaison with some well know social organizations on national and local platforms, such as Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Satisar, Shardha Core Group, etc.

Brahman Maha Mandal organised Pandit Shiv Ji Zroo Memorial Koshur Speaking contest in 2016 to encourage young KP generation to speak and write in Kashmiri language. A number of topics, namely Koshur Grandh, Names of historic/ religious places, Names of Kashmiri Mahapurshas/Leaders, Names of Kashmiri important festivals, Kashmiri proverbs, Laddi shah and Lalvakh or Lellas were the part of contest. The contestants were invited to participate in three different age groups from 4 years to 7 years, from 7 years to 11 years and from 11 years to 15 years. The panel of jury included Sh. P.N. Shad, a well know writer, Ms. Santosh Shah Nandan, well known poetess, Dr. Ramesh Bhat, renowned scholar, Sh. M.L. Saraf, well known stage artist, and Sh. Rajinder Tickoo, a well known artist. In all 44 young boys and girls participated in the contest. Akash Sharma, Rohit Qasba and Vaisnava Bhat were declared winners in the age group from 4 years to 7 years. Aditya Raina, Divya Bhat, Danish Dhar and Abhay Koul were declared winners in the category of age group between 7 years and 11 years. Vanshi Bhat, Himanshu Raina, Prabhat Akhoon and Himashu Bhat were declared winners in the age group of 11 years and 15 years.

A one day seminar was organised in 2017 to have public deliberation on celebration of revered Kashmiri 'Shivratri' festival. Well known scholars on Saivism were invited to speak and deliberate on various aspect of Saivism and Shivratri. The most notable speaker to shed light on the subject were Prof. T.K. Zadoo who spoke on topic "Salient features of Kashmiri Sivratri", Sh. Upender Ambardar who spoke on topic "Shivratri Rituals", Sh. Kamlesh Tufchi who spoke on the topic "What is Sanskar" , and Sh. Ramesh Saproo who spoke on the topic "Laldyad and Kashmir Saivism". Sh. Swami Kumar ji was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Late Pandit Man Mohan Jotshi, the Vice President of Brahman Maha Mandal spoke on the sanctity of performing puja on Herath. Brahman Maha Mandal was pioneer in taking up the issue of celebration of Herath on same day by all members of the KP community and distinguish Hearth from Shivratri. The need to have a public seminar was realized in the backdrop of the fact that KP community was divided on the celebration of some very pious and significant religious festivals/ occasions. The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Ambphalla recently in 2019 took this issue, of celebrating Hearth on same day by all KPs, involving several known organisations of KP including Brahman Maha Mandal to arrive at consensus to celebrate Hearth on same day by all KPs in 2020. Brahman Maha Mandal was also frontrunner in making demand to the state government for declaring holiday on the day of Kheer Bhawani Mela.



A daylong seminar was organized by Brahman Maha Mandal in coordination with Sharda Core Team in 2018 to draw the attention of KP society towards the dilapidated conditions of Sharda temple situated on the banks of Kishan Ganga river in Neelum Valley, PoK. Sh. Ravinder Pandita, Founder and Head of Save Sharda Committee was the chief guest on the occasion. A documentary on the history of Sharda temple was also screened to acquaint the jam packed hall with the present condition of the temple. Sh. Pandita also apprised the audience through the documentary the efforts being made by Save Sharda Committee in collaboration with the civil society of PoK for reopening of Sharda Peeth. Sh. Rakesh Koul, Coordinator Sharda Core Group, apprised the house about the initiatives taken by the team in developing a software on Sharda Lippi which is still under finalization and will be available in public shortly. Prof. Sushma Jatoo, Project Director and senior faculty at Indira Gandhi National Council for Arts New Delhi, informed about the geographical extent of Lippi in historical past. Prof. K.N. Pandita, Padma Shree recipient opined that Sharda script is the heritage of Kashmiri Pandits and the pristine purity of the language should be maintained. The dignitaries and invited guests also released a book titled “Vitasta ki Thirakti Urmia” written by late Sh. B.N. Kalla. It was also resolved in the seminar to appeal UNESCO to declare Sharda Temple, Neelum Valley as world heritage and declare the temple as holy pilgrimage site for J & K hindus.



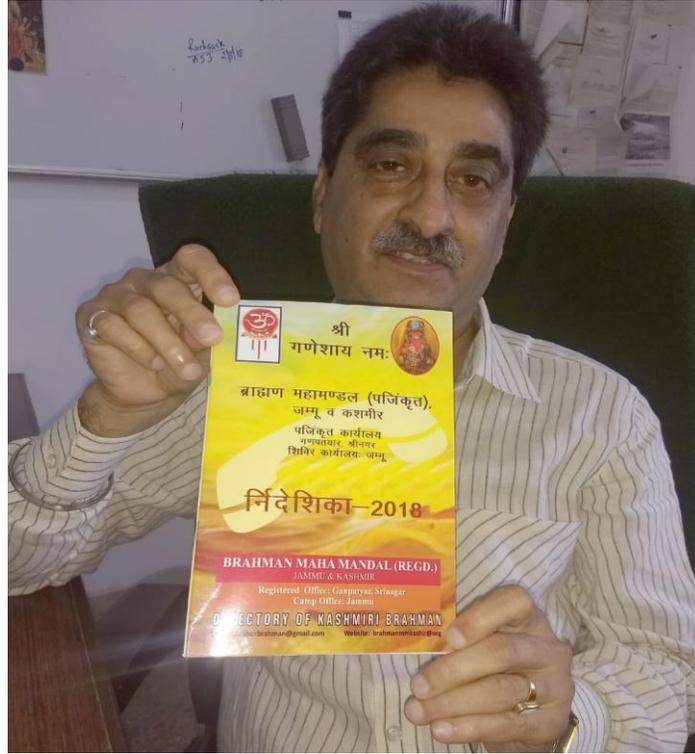
The office of President, Brahman Maha Mandal continued to have close tie with Vishwa Brahman Parishad to gain national representation of the Mandal. A few meetings were attended with representatives of Vishwa Brahman Parishad in New Delhi and issues with regard to KP Brahmans were placed before the representatives of Parishad to seek attention and redressal on national level.

The office of Brahman Maha Mandal also undertook the demand of revision of constitution of BMM under the chairmanship of Sh. U.K. Handoo. The office of BMM expresses thanks to Sh. R.L. Revoo, Sh. A.K. Braroo, Sh. H.N. Jatoo, Sh. B.L. Handoo, Sh. R.L. Handoo, Sh. S.K. Kalla, Smt. Veena Pandita Bhat, Sh. R.J. Kaw, Sh. Chandra and several other members of BMM who contributed through suggestions / critical review / opinion in the revision of the constitution of BMM in 2017.



The office of Brahman Maha Mandal very actively initiated the long pending demand of directory of the Mandal. The ground work of collecting the basic information of members was initiated during the tenure and under the supervision of Sh. B.L. Handoo, ex-President. The special thanks is to Sh.

Kakaji Qasba who worked tirelessly in collecting the basic information of members that formed huge data bank for directory. Sh. B.L. Handoo and Sh. R.J. Kaw worked hard in arranging the data for the publication of directory. The publication of first ever directory in 2018 was possible with generous sponsorship from admirers.



The family of Brahman Maha Mandal lost very learned and honourable persons of the community, namely Pt. Man Mohan Jotshi, Dr. B.N. Kalla and Dr. T.K. Ganjoo, who were torch bearers of the community for past several years. The office of BMM paid Shradhanjali to the stalwarts of community.

The office of Brahman Maha Mandal also constituted a committee to take up the recovery and renovation of property of Maha Mandal at Ganpatyar, Srinagar. Unfortunately, because of the prevailing conditions in the valley the task could not be accomplished. Another committee constituted for procurement of adequate and suitable land for the opening of the office of Maha Mandal could not deliver favourable results.

I feel honoured having served the family of Brahman Maha Mandal with all sincere efforts to make the Mandal visible and vibrant in the world today. I

convey best wishes, on my behalf and behalf of the Executive Committee, to the all the contestants participating in the ensuing elections of Maha Mandal and hope that Brahman Maha Mandal under the stewardship of newly elected committee shall take the family of Kashmiri Brahmans to a higher pedestal.

March 12, 2020

President &  
Executive Committee of  
Brahman Maha Mandal,  
J & K