

Curriculum Vitae

M. Saleem Beg

Profile

A planner and practitioner engaged in advocacy and initiatives that have led to evolving strategies, influencing policies, and shaping the legal framework for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Professional Experience

Jammu & Kashmir State Government (1975-2006)

- Served in various leadership roles, including:
 - Director Handlooms
 - Managing Director, Handicrafts and Handlooms
 - Director General, Tourism
- Engaged in the preservation and promotion of tourism, cultural heritage, natural heritage, arts, and crafts
- Led efforts to revive endangered crafts of Kashmir by collaborating with craft communities and stakeholders, particularly in kani shawls and other crafts

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (1986-1989)

- Served as Chief Executive Officer, Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) for the promotion of the handloom industry

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (1997-1998)

- Worked on environmental conservation and sustainability initiatives at the national level
- Member(whole time) and I/C Chairperson

National Monuments Authority, Government of India (2013-2016) , a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament.

The Authority is charged with quasi-judicial responsibility for preparing by-laws and addressing issues related to nationally protected monuments.

Convenor, INTACH J&K Chapter (Since April 2006)

- Supervised documentation and conservation projects on monuments, cultural sites, vernacular, and natural heritage
- Major projects include:
 - Conservation of the 15th-century Aali Masjid
 - Restoration of historical Mughal gardens of Kashmir
 - Conservation of prominent shrines and religious structures
 - Natural heritage preservation in Bungas and Manasbal
 - Restoration of traditional decorative arts such as papier-mâché
 - Cultural Resource Mapping of Srinagar , two volume documentation of built heritage, sites and vernacular architecture
- Led two major projects on SPS Museum Srinagar:
 - UNESCO-supported project (2008): Condition assessment of the historic building and documentation of the textile collection, primarily jamawars and shawls
 - National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (Ministry of Culture): Listing and documentation of built heritage of 15 towns of Jammu and Kashmir provinces.
 - Digitization and photo documentation of archaeological artifacts, including the digitization of a coin collection of 70,000 items through the National Institute of Numismatics, Nagpur
- Prepared the dossier for Srinagar's nomination in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, which was accepted in 2021

- Prepared documentation for declaring Srinagar as a World Craft City, accepted by the World Craft Council (WCC) in 2024
- Founder Trustee, Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCN), Delhi/Bangalore
- Involved in long-term heritage education projects, including Art Integrated Learning in 100 schools across four districts of J&K (2010-2013), supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai

Awards and Recognitions

- 2009 INTACH-Satte National Award for heritage conservation
- Honorary Fellowship & Life Membership, International Association of Ladakh Studies
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Jammu & Kashmir Government (highest State civil award, announced on Republic Day 2017)
- UNESCO South Asia award 2021 for conservation of historic Amar Singh College

Current Engagements

- Member, Expert Committee on UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- Member, WCC-World Craft City Subcommittee, World Craft Council International AISBL

Publications

- Shehar-i-Kashmir: Cultural Resource Mapping of Srinagar
 - Two-volume publication documenting heritage properties, architectural typologies, and cultural sites. Endorsed by UNESCO (2009)
- Crafts of Kashmir: Willow Crafts (2012)
- Temple Traditions of Kashmir: Naranag (2012)

Conference Participation & International Collaborations

- Mughal Gardens Conferences

- o Participated in the 2007 Conference on Three Shalimars, organized by the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois
- o Organized an International Conference on Mughal Gardens of Kashmir in 2010, supporting its World Heritage Site nomination
- Prince Claus Trust, Netherlands
 - o Project convener for conservation of an ancient shrine in Srinagar and supervised restoration/retrofitting of vernacular architecture
- International Research & Network Collaborations:
 - o University of Illinois, USA, Department of Landscape Architecture – Member, Shalimar Gardens Network
 - o University of Sydney & Asian Research Institute, Singapore – Sustaining Our Cool Heritage (SOCoolH) initiative
- Member, International Association for Ladakh Studies, Leh
- Delivered lectures and archived works at various academic institutions and conferences within and outside India

Academic & Advisory Roles

- Adjunct Faculty: Central University of Kashmir, Central University of Jammu.
- Project Advisor, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (Children's World Project: Enhancing creative skills of children in Kashmir).
- Member, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (HRD Ministry)

Contact Information

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