

## Key Facts about Maharani Temple

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### About Maharani Temple:

- It is situated on a small hillock in the heart of **Gulmarg town** in the Baramulla district of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

- Also known as the **Rani Temple** or **Mohineshwar Shivalaya**, the temple is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and his consort, **Parvati**.
- It was **constructed by Mohini Bai Sisodia, wife of the** former ruler of Kashmir, **Maharaja Hari Singh, in 1915**.
- This temple was **once a royal temple of the Dogra dynasty** of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It has been constructed in such a way that it can be **seen from all corners of Gulmarg**.
- The temple's intricate carvings and designs reflect a beautiful **blend of Indian and Persian styles**.
- It is an **example of religions intertwined** with a **Muslim priest performing rituals** in the temple.

The **Indian Army collaborated with local communities in 2021 to restore this 106-year-old temple**. Apart from renovating the temple structure, the Indian Army also undertook the redesigning of pathways leading to the temple.

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## Q1: Who was Maharaja Hari Singh?

Maharaja Sir Hari Singh (1895 – 1961) was the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. He signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947, joining the whole of his princely state to the Dominion of India. Pressure from Nehru and Sardar Patel Hari compelled Singh to appoint his son and heir, Yuvraj (Crown Prince) Karan Singh, as Prince Regent of Jammu and Kashmir in 1949, although he remained the titular Maharaja of the state until 1952 when the monarchy was abolished by Nehru's government.

**Source:** Gulmarg: Iconic 106-year-old Maharani Temple gutted in massive fire

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/maharani-temple/>

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