

## The glory that is Kashmir

Who can resist the splendour, the celestial glory of Kashmir? No one can escape its spell. At the heart of its heavenly landscape are two great presences—the lakes and the gardens. *Pahad aur jheel aur bagh ke darmiyaan ek khubsoorat guftagoo hoti rehti hai.* The question is: Can you hear it? Have you tuned your ears?

For me, Shalimar Bagh, one of the most attractive jewels of Mughal architecture, is a place where you can experience real enchantment. Here, the landscape with its fields and hamlets, the canal and the terraces, is in a spirited conversation with the architecture. Shalimar Bagh has contributed in no small measure to Srinagar becoming the latest of only six Indian cities that are part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN). Extended and re-purposed by successive rulers, from Jahangir to Hari Singh, the Bagh represents India's composite culture.

The JSW Foundation is committed to the restoration of Shalimar Bagh's six pavilions, the water channel and upgrading of the garden's central avenue. Detail by detail, the buildings are coming to life and the niches are re-acquiring their lost features. It's uplifting to bear witness to this transformation.

Protecting and preserving our heritage is a noble task. Not only are we conserving the best that history has to offer but we are also making sure that younger citizens have a past they want to belong to. As Audrey Hepburn rightly said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow".

Every garden has to be tended and cherished. That is how all the plants and trees thrive and flourish.

*'Gar firdaus bar-rooe zameen ast/ hameen asto, hameen asto, hameen ast'* (If there is Paradise on Earth/ It is here! It is here! It is here!).

Lines ascribed to Amir Khusrau (1253-1325)



**Mrs Sangita Jindal**

Chairperson,  
JSW Foundation

We are contributing to the preservation and restoration of India's cultural heritage.

## Conserving architectural soul of India

Art, culture and heritage create a sense of identity, pride and belonging. Realising this, JSWF partners with organisations and institutions to establish art precincts and preserve and restore heritage structures.

The Foundation believes that to imagine and reimagine a vibrant future – it is important to stay connected to our

### Conserving and restoring the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir: Shalimar and Nishat Baghs

Government of Jammu & Kashmir and JSW Foundation have come together for the conservation, restoration and maintenance of the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir located at Shalimar Bagh

and Nishat Bagh in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. We would provide our technical expertise and help in financing the project.



### Restoring the iconic David Sassoon Library

The David Sassoon Library and Reading Room has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JSWF, to restore and conserve the iconic David Sassoon Library at Kala Ghoda in Mumbai.

JSWF is providing technical and financial assistance for the iconic library's conservation and restoration and has joined hands with Hermes, the Kala Ghoda Association, the Consulate General of Israel in Mumbai, and others, to raise additional funds for this restoration project. The restoration is slated to be completed in 2023.

During the last two decades, the David Sassoon Library has welcomed millions of people - especially during the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. This initiative is our way to reciprocate and give this iconic library its due as a primary institution of learning in the heart of Mumbai's art and heritage precinct. The library's proximity to the other educational and cultural institutions like the Elphinstone College, CSMVS Museum and other art galleries make it the fulcrum of Mumbai's educational and cultural movement.

