

*Know Your Motherland - M.K.Raina*  
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## **Kheer Bhawani**



Known widely as Kheer Bhawani and Ragnya Asthapana, Tullamul is situated 27 Kms. north of Srinagar, in Gandherbal Tehsil. It is said that Mata Ragnya came to Kashmir during the times of Ramayana. The holy spring of Tullamul is situated on the bank of a branch of river Sindh, called, according to Nilamat Purana, Tsandara Baga. It is approachable both by road and by river.

The legend says that Lord Rama worshipped Ragnya Devi when in exile. After the exile, Lord Rama asked Hanuman to relocate the seat of Goddess to Shadipora, from where it was later shifted to present site. Another legend says that Ragnya Devi appeared in the dream of a priest named Raghunath Gadroo and asked him to shift her shrine to present place.

The main temple is in the midst of a spring, the water of which is observed to change its colour from time to time. It has often been of light green, red rosy and milky white shades. Any shade of black colour is said to be inauspicious for the inhabitants of the Valley. This colour is said to have been prominent in the year 1947 when the Pakistani raiders attacked the peaceful Valley. Many times rising

of bubbles has been observed which form the mystic Chakra on the surface of the water.

The present temple was constructed by Maharaja Partap Singh in 1912 A.D. on the foundation of an ancient temple, said to have been destroyed in 14th or 15th century. The stone image of Devi in the temple is believed to be more than 600 years old. The annual fair is held on 8th day of the lunar fortnight of Jestha. It is said that the present diety was installed on this day. The devotees usually come here on every lunar Asthami. They visit the shrine only when on vegetarian food. The Shrine is managed by Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust.

*Source : Project Zaan Archives*

