

# KOA Heritage Sites Preservation Program

## Reclaim, Restore, Revitalize

It is estimated that there are between 150 and 400 KP heritage sites in Kashmir Valley. The long-term strategy of KOA is to address most, if not all, of those sites. For execution in 2025, two strategic sites have been selected for immediate support.

### Mata Ropa Bhawani Temple (Cheshma Sahibi)



Pre-renovation status (Taposthal and Spring)



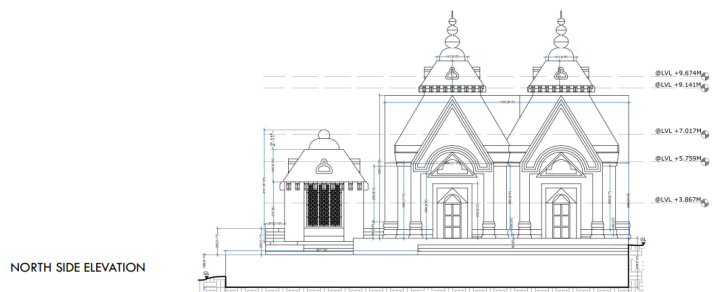
Pre-renovation status (Residential and Admin Zones)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This serene ~1 acre site, named after the spring revealed by Mata Ropa Bhawani, is located on prime land in the safe vicinity of Raj Bhawan and Chashma-Shahi garden in Srinagar. The temple's location is one of the primary sites where Mata Roop Bhawani performed her *tapasya* and other spiritual practices. Her teachings and mystic poetry have left an indelible mark on Kashmiri Pandit culture, blending elements of Kashmir Shaivism and Sufism.



**VISION & PLAN:** The Temple site is currently in a state of disrepair and at risk of possible encroachment. The project envisions a new Taposthal with Mata Roop Bhawani's hermitage, Her Amrit Kund, a Shivalay, a research center, and other facilities to enable devotee visits *at scale*. With your help and working hand-in-hand with Shri Alakh Sahiba Trust on the ground in Kashmir, KOA is committed to helping make this a reality.

**THE ASK:** To help steward this KP Heritage Site into its next chapter, the global community needs to raise ~ INR 2 Crores (~USD 230K). Fortunately, about 30% has already been raised from the community in India and the work has started. In addition, several community members in the USA have stepped up and already pledged or made generous contributions. We're on our way!



Please act now! Make a tax-deductible contribution and stake claim to your glorious heritage.

No contribution is too small!!!

[KOAUSA.ORG/DONATE-HPP](https://KOAUSA.ORG/DONATE-HPP) (Mention: Roop-Bhawani)

**Questions? Want to get involved? Want to learn more? Imagining yourself over there?**

Please contact your KOA Zonal Director or the Heritage Sites team.

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### Pokhribal Temple



**SIGNIFICANCE:** Adjacent to Hari-Parbat's Badaam-Vaer & the Nigeen lake (a km from *Kathi-Darwaza*), this temple encompasses a Kund (*Pvakhur* in Kashmiri) at the bottom of which presides an impression of Mata Tripur-Soundari's lotus feet. There have been known instances of ailing devotees being cured after taking the *amrit* from the *kund*.

Devotees would visit this shrine regularly as part of their circumambulation around Hari-parvat. Pt. Jiya Lal Saraf is believed to have composed the popular Kashmiri translation of Panchastavi here. Visits by prominent saints, *havan* & *jagrans* were the norm here.



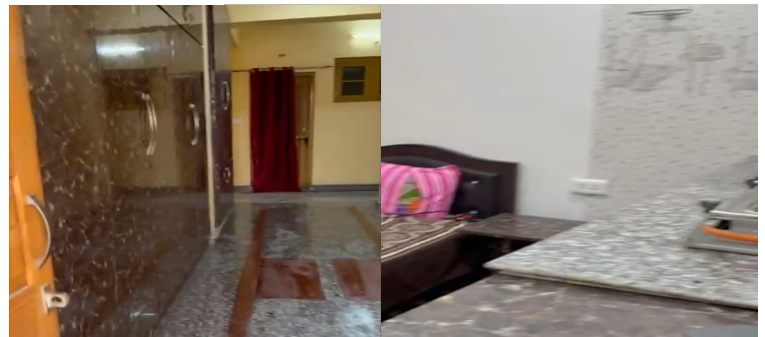
*Amrit Kund*

**THE ASK:** Dr. M.K. Razdan (TX), via his non-profit org SVS, consolidated the land adjoining the picturesque Nigeen lake and developed the first phase of facilities. To ensure & expedite the tenability of this KP Heritage Site, the global community needs to raise ~ USD 30K.

The havans & kirtans are gradually making a comeback – recently sponsored by non-KP devotees. Lets do our part to help secure the future of this site for community at large & posterity.

**VISION & PLAN:** For the past few years, Samajik Vikas Sansthan (SVS) has led the initiative to restore the temple & adjoining *Dharamshala*. Having built eight comfortable guest rooms, the next step is to construct a *Havan-shalla*, kitchen area & replicate the lodging on the second floor. Devotees yearn for the tranquil environ adjoining the waterside foliage of Chinars

With your help and working hand-in-hand with SVS & Pokhribal Amrit Kund Trust on the ground in Kashmir, KOA is committed to helping make this a reality.



*Newly constructed Yatri Bhawan – sponsored by SVS*

Please act now! Make a tax-deductible contribution and stake claim to your glorious heritage.

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