

CONSERVATION STATUS OF SHRI 1008 RAGHVENDRA JI SARRKAR DIVYA DESH MANDIR, ALLAHABAD- A SURVEY REPORT

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Lucknow

Shri 1008 Raghwendra Ji's Temple is one of the ancient temples; it is situated at village Baraon, Karchana of Allahabad district in Uttar Pradesh. The temple is devoted for Vaishnava Sampradaya. The style of temple architecture is Nagara. Shri 1008 Raghvendra Ji Sarkar Divya Desh Mandir is about six hundred years old. The temple was commissioned by Vahnaos, a well reputed royal family. The temple is situated in the premises of Palace. The Royal Palace, court house and temple are the three historical structures situated within a single boundary. Presently Shree Laxman Das Ji Badalpur,; Shree Vachspati Tripathi, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Sanskrit University, Varanasi and Kanwar Revati Raman Singh, Ex-Minister of Uttar Pradesh State are the trusties of this temple.

Cultural Significance

Cultural significance, in the context of a historic building, signifies its aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for the past, present and future generations. This cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, association, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

The temple is in the honor of "Divyadesh", which is a specific tradition of Ramanujacharya sect. There are only three temples founded in northern India as Shree Rang temple Vrindavan, Mathura, Shree Prayag Narayan Mandir, Kanpur and Shri 1008 Raghwendra Ji's Temple, Allahabad. All through the years many festivals are celebrated in a magnificent scale. People of whole district have perpetual belief for this temple.

The founder of the temple brought three immovable idols Ram, Laxman and Janki from South India on waling foot and established them in this temple. Beside these idols, other Gods and Goddesses are also established here and worship takes place in a specific manner, which is quite different from other Vaishnavite temples.

Many events are celebrated with great pomp and show in the month of "saawan" (শাবण), Jhoola festival is celebrated in which the ornamentation of God is worth seeing. In the month of March and April the Ramnavmi festival is celebrated. On this occasion a Ratha Yatra of the God is also carried out which see huge following of devotees and believers of this temple.

Structure of the Temple

The temple has been constructed with bricks, lime-mortar and local sand stone as supporting pillars, arches and wooden beam. The roof has been laid down on stone slabs supported by wooden beams with lime concrete. The temple has a double storey, it has got a basement floor and ground level. Important structural features are -



- 1-Floral Motifs on arches and wall
- 2- Araish (shiny burnished lime plaster) work on wall
- 3- Low Relief carving on wall and pillar
- 4- Stucco work
- 6- Stone, wood and lime based structure
- 7- Wooden door with glass panel
- 8- Carved stone pillar and arches.

Conservation Issues

- **1-Loss of strengthening of roof and** *chajjas* The roof of the temple is made of lime concrete and sand stone. It has been repaired many times with help of cement mortar. Due to the load created by cement mortar, several deterioration problems have surfaced like cracking, displacement of stone, breaking of wooden beams, etc. which has lead to loss of strength of the roof. During rainy season the rain water gets its way inside the temple due to damaged roof and thus causes severe loss to the walls adjoining roof.
- **2- Araish layer whitewashed and painted** The mother walls of the temple comprise of lime mortar and top layer is Araish layer. The Araish layer has been damaged at many places and at some places cement has been applied on course lime plaster layer. These walls have been whitewashed over a period of time due to unawareness due to which Araish layer is not visible.
- **3- Damaged Decorative motif** The walls of temple interior as well as exterior have been adorned with floral and geometrical motifs. These motifs are now cracked and broken at many places and also white washed.
- **4- Stone sculptures are damaged and white washed** There are many small reliefs and sculptures fixed on the wall. They are badly damaged and heavily whitewashed.
- **5- Loss of stucco work** There are beautiful stucco work on upper part of wall. These stucco work is so severely damaged at different places that only some evidences can be seen of that. These stucco work is also whitewashed.
- **6- Damage in Beams, Door and window** Beam, Doors and window are damaged due to termite attack and rain water.
- **7- Alteration and renovation** Many alterations and renovations have been made the past many years, few of which are fixing of kota stone at the flooring and erection of new walls to close exit doors.

PHILOSOPHY OF CONSERVATION-

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility. Before initiating any conservation project, there are some charters which set standards of practice for those who provide advices, make decisions about, or undertake works at places of cultural significance including owners, managers and custodians.



WHY CONSERVE

The temple has profound cultural significance, enriches lives of people, and often provides deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape to the past and to lived experiences. There are historical records that are important as tangible expression of Indian identity and experiences. The temple reflects the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Indian landscape. It is matchless & precious and must be conserved for present and future generations.

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION STRATEGY

On the basis of preliminary survey of the site, the conservation and restoration strategy has been divided in following segments –

- **1-Topographical survey of the area and preparation of site plan-** The purpose of a TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY is to gather survey data about the natural and man-made features of the land, as well as its elevations. From this information a three-dimensional map would be prepared after collecting the field data. Such work usually consists of the following steps:
 - A. Establishing horizontal and vertical control that will serve as the framework of the survey.
 - B. Determining enough horizontal location and elevation (usually called side shots) of ground points to provide enough data for plotting when the map is prepared.
 - C. Locating natural and man-made features that would be required by the purpose of the survey.
 - D. Computing distances, angles, and elevations.
 - E. Drawing the topographic map.

Topographic surveys are commonly identified with horizontal and/or vertical control of third-and lower-order accuracies.

- **2– Structural Conservation** –First of all the structure of the temple has to be established with similar material and technique which has been used originally during the construction of the temple. The main conservation issue in this temple includes the restoration of roof; the roof is badly damaged and allows rain water to flow in, which is heavily responsible for the deterioration of the structure of the temple. Walls of the temple are stable at certain level but rain water and growth of vegetation has enhanced further damage in the walls.
 - A- **Restoration of wall plaster** Wall plasters are damaged at many places due to aging, capillary action of water and rain water. It has to be restored with similar original material.
 - B- **Restoration of beams, wooden doors and window** Wooden beams, doors and windows are damaged and glasses of the doors are lost. Some doors are structurally useful but all this has to be cleaned and conserved properly.

3- Art Conservation

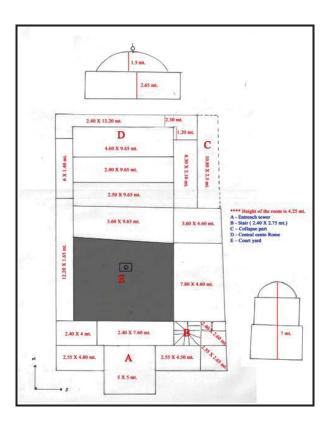
A- Basically the inside of the temple will be covered during Art Conservation besides the re-plastering of walls at certain areas.



- B- First of all the whitewash of walls shall be cleaned chemically to reach to the original Araish layer.
- C- Chemical cleaning, consolidation of carving of the stone pillars and decorative motif.
- D- Chemical cleaning of stucco work.
- E- Recreation of stucco work with original material.
- F- Recreation of Araish work with original material.
- G- Chemical cleaning and consolidation of sculptures & reliefs fixed in wall.
- H- Chemical cleaning, consolidation and application of protective coating on the brass metal pillar.

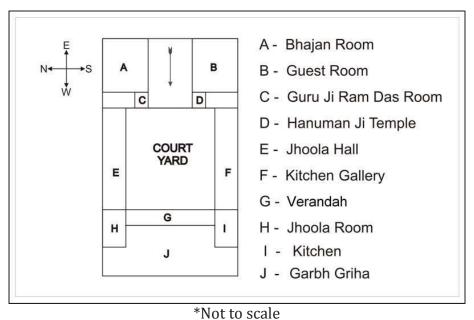
4-Surrounding Development – The temple is located in a complex which consists of a palace and ruins of a court building. The ruins of court building are abutting the temple. There are open spaces in the front and left side of the temple which may be developed properly for organizing events, celebration of festivals etc. It may also serve as an amphitheatre. The front of the temple and area to its left are open spaces.

Conceptual Layout of Roof



Conceptual Layout of the Complex*





Photographs of Roof and Terrace





Dome above sanctum-sanctorum Canopy above terrace







Enamel paint over stone

Decayed wooden beam





Vegetative growth

Growth of plant





Loss of plaster

Parapet







Loss of strength adjoining roof border

Roof repaired with cement mortar

Description of work and proposed conservation measures

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation measures
	Dome	
	 Dome above <i>Garbha-griha</i> Repaired with cement plaster. White washed Tarnishing of metal <i>Kalash</i>. 	 Dismantling cement plaster, decayed lime concrete and filling materials from doom surface. Re-plastering the dome with lime mortar Chemical cleaning consolidation and protective coating of metal "Kalash".
1.	Dome (Above Terrace): • Repaired with cement plaster, the original stone surface is painted with enamel paint • Loss of plaster at some places	 Dismantling cement plaster, decayed lime plaster. Removal of enamel paint from stone surface. Re-plastering the dome with lime mortar.
	Ventilator: Wooden beam cracked and decayed	Removal of decayed wooden part and reinstallation of new wooden beam
	Roof and Terrace	
2.	Roof:Repaired with cement plaster.Uneven surface due to bending of wooden beam.	Dismantling cement plaster and decayed lime plaster as well as filling material from roof surface to expose stone slab surface.



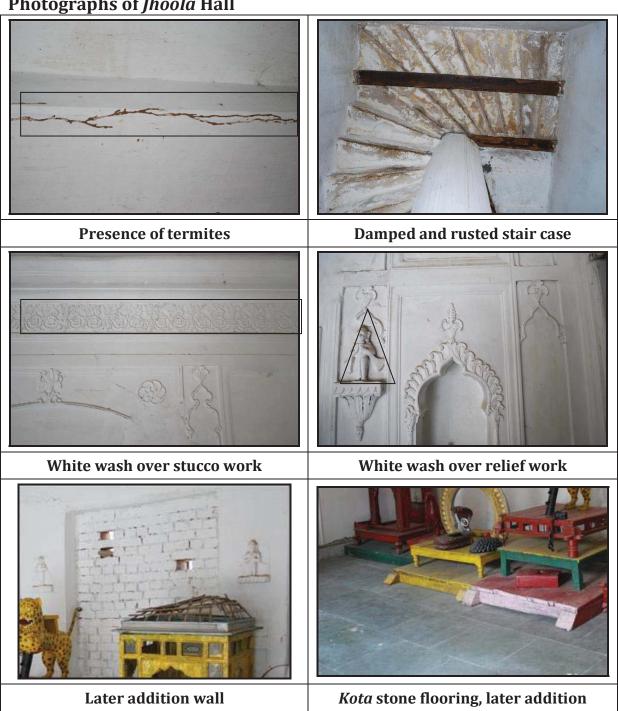
Vegetation growth	 Removal of vegetation growth. Lime concreting the roof with lime mortar. Adequate slopes for removal of water will be maintained and proper drainage solution will be provided.
Terrace:Joints open.Stone slabs lost at some places.Plaster above terrace is decayed	 Removal of decayed lime mortar and filling material from stone terrace. Resetting of stone slabs. Replacement of lost stone
Brass metal structure	Removal from the surface.
• Tarnished	 Cleaning and restoration.
 Loses at the points. 	Re-fixing at its points.

Section "E": Ihoola Hall

	Section "E": Jhoola Hall		
S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation measures	
1.	 Ceiling: Wooden beam cracked and damaged due to termite and rain water. Cornice damaged Use of iron guarder -latter addition. 	 Replacement of decayed wooden beam, Replastering of cornice with lime mortar. Replacement of iron guarder Repairing of cracks & gaps. Anti termite treatment to wooden beam. 	
2.	 Wall: White washed over old Araish plaster and stucco work. Cement plaster where lime plaster is lost. 	 Cleaning of wall up to Araish plaster layer. Cleaning of stucco work, consolidation and recreation Dismantling cement plaster Re-plastering with lime mortar and recreation of Araish layer 	
3.	Floor: Later addition of kota stone	Dismantling of stone floor and skirting to conserve the ground floor room.	
4.	Wooden door:Painted with enamel paint.Metal plate is used at the place of broken glass panel.	 Cleaning of paint. Removal of metal plate which will be replaced with glass panel. Decayed wood will be replaced with same type of wood. 	



Photographs of Jhoola Hall



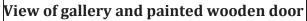
Section "F & I": Kitchen & Gallery The kitchen cum gallery has two exits outside and two inside in to two parts.



S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation measure
1.	 Ceiling: Totally damaged due to seepage of water. Decayed wooden beam due to ageing and termiteinfection. 	• Same as <i>Jhoola</i> hall
2.	Walls: Cement plaster was used in the area were lime plaster decayed or lost.	 Dismantling cement and decayed lime plaster. Cleaning of lime plaster Re-plastering with lime mortar and recreation of Araish work
3.	Floor: • Kota stone has been used as new floor surface.	Dismantling of stone floor to achieve old lime mortar layer. A necessary step because stone floor blocks moisture evaporation and is providing weight on wooden beam of the room.
4.	Door: • Deposition of smoke and painted with modern commercial paint	 Cleaning Replacement of decayed wooden pieces Providing anti- termite treatment to wooden beam.

Photographs of Kitchen & Gallery







Smoke deposit on wall







Loss of stone slab and ceiling plaster

Curved beam due to overload



Broken wooden door



Decayed wooden door plank & broken floor

Section "G": Verandah

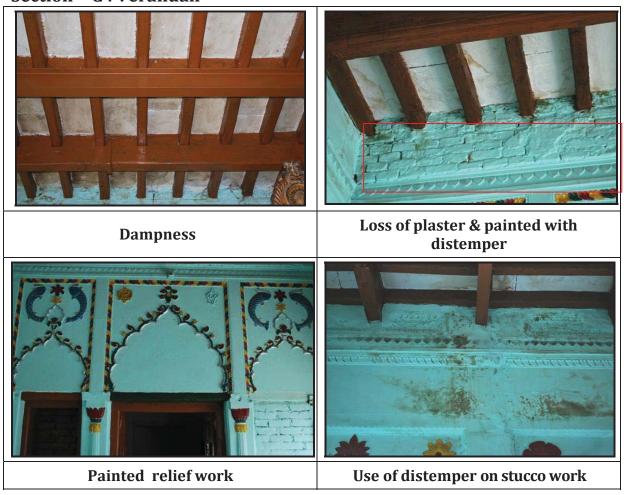
This section is fabricated with arches, stone pillars with low relief carving. There are three opening door towards Garbha-Griha, one exit towards Jhoola Room and one for kitchen Gallery.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
1.	Ceiling:Bending of wooden beam due to overload from roof.	 Cleaning of wooden beam and replacement of broken wooden beam.
2.	Walls:White washBroken plaster at some places.	 Chemical cleaning of wall Dismantling new added masonry work. Replastering the dismantled masonry work



3.	Stucco work: • Thick lime coating over stucco & damaged at many places.	Chemical Cleaning of stucco work Recreation of stucco work
4.	Window:Painted with enamel paint.Use of metal plate in place of glass in window.	 Cleaning of window and reinstallation of new broken or missing window portion with same type of material.
5.	Floor: • Kota stone flooring above lime concreting.	 Removal of kota stone to get original lime mortar floor. Lime concreting

Section - G: Verandah



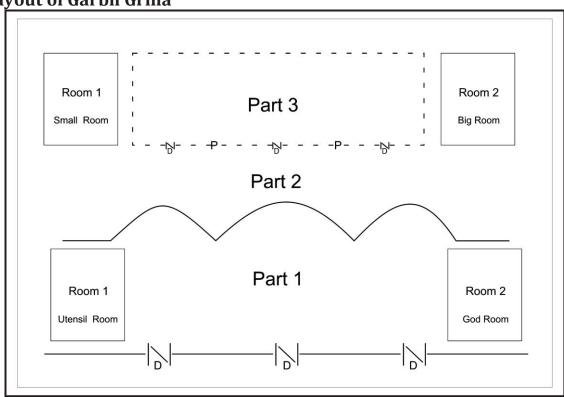






Section "J": Garbha-Griha

Layout of Garbh Griha



Section - J: Part - 1

There are three entrance doors in this section and two side rooms- one room for utensil and other for God.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation measures
1.	Ceiling: • Bending and dislocation of wooden beam.	 Cleaning and replacement of damaged wooden beam. Providing anti termite treatment to wooden parts.
2.	Stone relief work: • Painted with enamel paint.	Chemical cleaning and consolidation of relief work.
3.	WallsCement plaster used at many places.	Cleaning of Araish plaster and removal of cement mortar.



- Thick Whitewash over Araish layer .
- Dismantling of cement plaster
- Re plastering with lime mortar.
- Recreation of Araish plaster

Photograph of Garbhgriha: Part 1



Gap in stone slab and decayed wooden beam



Dampness in ceiling



Painted relief work

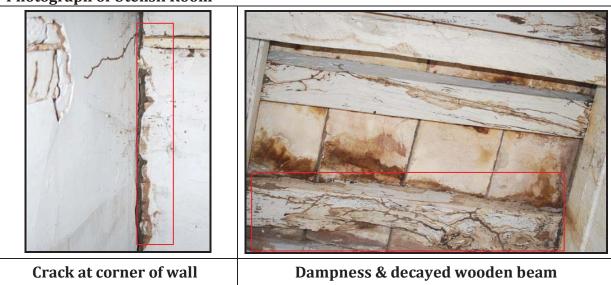
Section "J": Garbh Griha - Part 1 - Room - 1: God Utensil Room

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
1.	Ceiling: • Dampness on stone slabs. • Decaying of wooden beam.	Cleaning of beam and replacement of damaged beam and stone slabs
2.	Walls:Crack in cornersDampness on walls	Chemical cleaning of wallConsolidation of cracks.



	White washed over old plaster.	Water proofingReplastering with lime mortar.
Roo	om 2 : God Room	
1.	Ceiling: Dampness on stone slabs. Damaged wooden beam.	 Cleaning of beam and replacement of decayed beam. Resetting of stone slabs & beam
	Walls:Crack at cornersDampness on wallsWhite wash over old plaster.	 Chemical cleaning of wall Consolidation of cracks. Water proofing. Replastering with lime mortar.

Photograph of Utensil Room



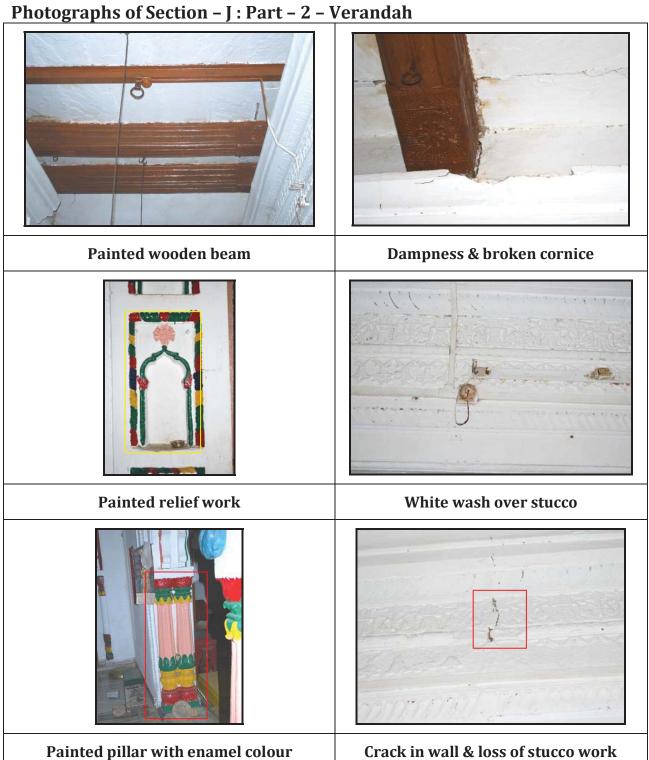
Section – J : Part – 2 – Verandah -This verandah is fabricated with 8 pillars & 3 arches along with one room.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issue	Proposed Conservation Measures
1.	Ceiling:Damaged wooden beam.Gap in stone slab.	Cleaning of beamReplacement of wooden beam and stone slabs.
2.	Walls:White washed.Paint on pillars.	Cleaning of wall and stone pillars.Protective coating of stone pillar



3.	Stucco work: • Thick white wash coating. • Loss of some portion.	Chemical cleaning of stucco.Recreation of lost stucco work.
4.	Floor: • Original floor of lime mortar is covered with <i>Kota</i> stone.	 Removal of kota stone to get original lime mortar floor. To overcome the load on the basement room. Lime concreting







Section "J": Part - 2: Room - 1 This is small in size with one entrance.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
1.	Ceiling:Gap in stone slabsBending of wooden beam.	 Chemical cleaning. Relaying /replacement of Stone slabs Replacement of wooden beam.
2.	Walls:Thick whitewash over original plaster.Cracks at corner.	Cleaning of wallConsolidation of cracksRe-plaster of wall
3.	Floor: • Original floor of lime mortar was covered with <i>kota</i> stone.	 Removal of <i>Kota</i> stone to get original lime mortar floor, to overcome the load on basement room. Re-plastering of wall and lime concreting of floor

Photograph of Section "J": Part - 2: Room - 1





Section "J": Part - 2: Room - 2 This section has one big room with two wooden and one steel door.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
1.	Ceiling: • Loss of stone. • Crack on corners. • Broken ceiling	Re integration of roofConsolidation of cracks
2.	Walls:Cracks at corners.Seepage from corners.	 Chemical Cleaning of wall Removal of decayed plaster and cement mortar plaster Consolidation of cracks.
3.	Door: • Painted with enamel paint.	Cleaning and restoration of door.

Photograph of Section "J": Part - 2: Room - 2



Painted door



Damaged ceiling

Section "J": Part - 3 This is a main God room.

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation issue
	Ceiling:The ceiling is in dome shape.Dirt and dust on ceiling.Smoke deposit.Cob web.	Chemical cleaningReplacement of wooden beam



Thick whitewash.	
Walls:DampnessWhite washedLater addition cement mortar	 Chemical Cleaning of wall Dismantling of cement mortar and replacing it with lime mortar.
 Stone relief work: Painted with enamel paint. White washed on arches an pillars. 	• (hemical (leaning

Photograph of Section "J": Part - 3





Smoke deposit on ceiling



Dampness on wall



Decayed wood beam

Rusted iron & oily stain





Enamel paint on relief work

Tiles on wall & smoke stain on almirah door





Painted beam & door

Decayed doorpost





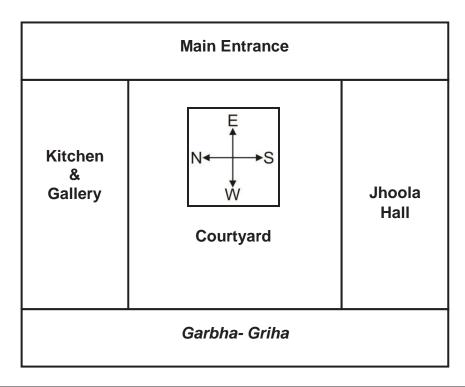
Open electric wiring

Peeling of plaster



LAYOUT OF COURTYARD

This portion has "Garun Stambh" of brass metal in the middle and various rooms serving as kitchen, Garbh Griha, Jhoola Hall & Guru Ji – Hanuman Temple room around it.



S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation measure
1.	Walls & Terrace:Repaired with Cement mortar.Gaps in terrace stone.	 Chemical Cleaning of wall and stone structure. Dismantling of cement mortar masonry work. Replacement of stone slabs . Fixing of drainage system.

Photographs of Court Yard

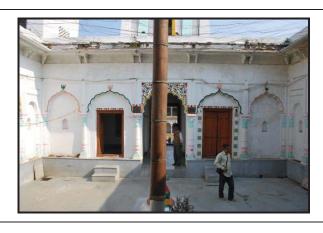






Garbha- Griha

Jhoola Hall





Main entrance

Kitchen





Dampness

Cement plaster



Guru Ji Ram Das Baba Room

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
	Ceiling:Dampness on stone slabs.Gap between stone slabs.Beam damaged due to overload.	 Chemical cleaning Replacement of decayed beam and stone slabs
	Walls: • Dampness on walls.	 Chemical Cleaning. Re-plastering the dismantled masonry work with lime mortar.
	Door: • Painted with enamel paint.	 Cleaning of wooden door and replaced damaged wooden pieces
	Floor:Original floor of lime mortar is covered with kota stone.	 Removal of <i>kota</i> stone to get original lime mortar floor, to overcome the load on basement room roof. Lime concreting on floor.

Photographs of Guru Ji Ram Das Baba Room

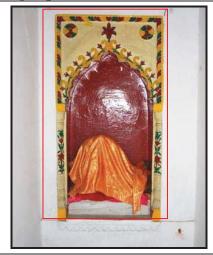


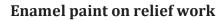


Hanuman Ji Temple Room

Hall	Hanuman ji Tempie koom		
S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measure	
	Ceiling:Dampness.Damaged wooden beamsGap between stone slabs.	Replacement of wooden beams and stone slabs.	
	Walls:DampnessWhite washed	 Chemical Cleaning of wall. Dismantling later addition cement plaster Re-plaster and reintegration of Araish layer. 	
	Door: • Painted with enamel paint.	Chemical Cleaning of wood and replacement damage wood pieces	
	Floor: • Original floor of lime mortar was covered with <i>kota</i> stone.	 Removal of kota stone to get original lime mortar floor, to overcome the load on the basement room roof. Re-plastering with lime mortar 	

Photographs of Hanuman Ji Temple Room







Dampness & decayed wooden beam

Hawan room

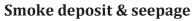
S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
	Ceiling: • Dampness.	Chemical Cleaning of wooden beam and stone slabs.



Smoke DepositionStone slab damagedGap between stone slabs.	Replacement of wooden beam and stone slabs
Walls:Dampness.White washed	Chemical cleaning of wall.Dismantling of new cement plaster work.Replastering
Floor: • Original floor of lime mortar is covered with kota stone.	 Kota stone floor to be dismantled to expose the old floor of lime plaster and reduce over load of basement room roof. Replastering the floor with lime mortar.
Door: • Painted enamel paint.	 Chemical cleaning of wooden door and replacement of damage wooden pieces

Photographs of *Hawan* room







stains on floor and wall

Path way

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
	Ceiling:Wood damaged and bendedDampness on ceiling.Gap between stone slabs.	 Chemical cleaning Replacement of wooden beam and stone slabs Resting of stone slabs.
	Walls: • White washed.	 Chemical cleaning of wall. Dismantling of cement plaster and re-plastering with lime mortar Recreation of Araish layer
	Floor: • Latter addition of kota stone.	Dismantling of stone floor and skirting.Lime concreting.



Photograph of Pathway



- Seepage on wall
- Gap in slab
- Decayed wooden beam
- Enamel paint on relief work



Bhajan Room

	ali Kuulii		
S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures	
NO.	Ceiling: Damaged due to seepage of water. Decayed wooden beam Gap between stone slabs.	Replacement and resetting of wooden beams and stone slabs	
	Walls: • White washed water stain	 Chemical cleaning of wall Dismantling the decayed plaster. Re-plastering of the wall 	
	Stucco work:Thick white wash over stucco work.Loss of stucco at many places	 Chemical cleaning of stucco work Recreation of stucco work 	
	Relief work: • Decorated arch with relief work are white washed.	Chemical cleaning of relief work and arches.Protective coating of stone work	
	Floor:Kota stone used over original lime concerting flooring.	 Removal of kota stone to expose the old original floor to over come the weight of basement roof. Lime concreting 	
	Door: • Painted with enamel paint.	Chemical cleaning of wooden door and replacement of damaged wooden pieces	

Photographs of Bhajan Room



Seepage on wall and decayed wooden beam



White wash on stucco and on relief work



Guest Room

S. No.	Description of work/ conservation issues	Proposed Conservation Measures
	Ceiling:Dampness on ceilingDamaged wooden beamsGap between stone slabs.	Replacement of wooden beams and stone slabsWater proofing.
	Walls: • White washed • Plaster damaged	Chemical cleaning of wall.Dismantling the decayed plaster.Re-plastering with lime mortar.
	Floor: • Kota stone used over lime concreting flooring.	 Removal of <i>kota</i> stone to expose the old original floor and overcome the weight of basement roof. Lime concreting.
	Door: • Painted with enamel paint.	 Chemical cleaning of wood door and replacement of damage wooden pieces



Decayed wooden beam and seepage on wall