



Government of India funded
Restoration of Cultural Heritage Sites
in Nepal

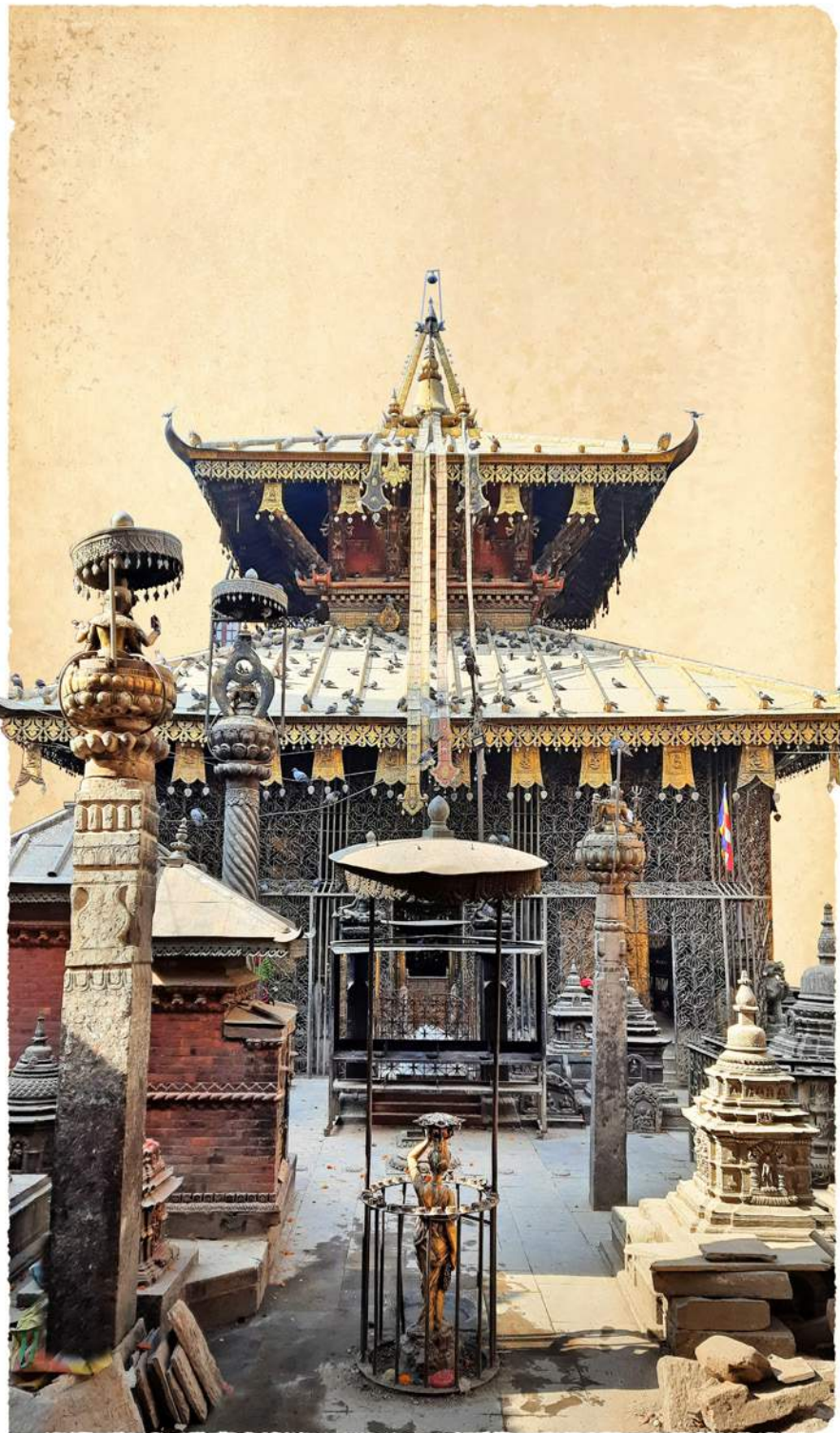


GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

Conservation and Retrofitting of *Seto Machindranath* Temple

Kathmandu, Nepal

A Government of India Funded
Post-Earthquake Reconstruction and
Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage Projects
in Nepal



भारतीय राजदूतावास
काठमांडू, नेपाल
Embassy of India
Kathmandu, Nepal

COORDINATED BY
Embassy of India
Kathmandu,
Nepal



IMPLEMENTED BY
National
Reconstruction
Authority



DESIGN &
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
BY
INTACH



| An undated archival photograph of Seto Machindranath Temple

THE INITIATIVE

Nepal suffered an earthquake in April 2015, referred to as the Gorkha earthquake. A large number of heritage structures were lost or badly damaged, especially in the Kathmandu valley. Under Nepal's post-earthquake reconstruction efforts, 28 cultural heritage sites in Nepal have been identified by the Government of Nepal to receive the Government of India's reconstruction grant assistance for post-earthquake conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation. The projects are being coordinated by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu.

INTACH has been engaged by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu to provide complete end-to-end conservation for 12 cultural heritage sites located in the Kathmandu valley, including preparation of DPRs, documentation of the building, their post-earthquake condition assessment, and development of appropriate conservation strategies for the same.



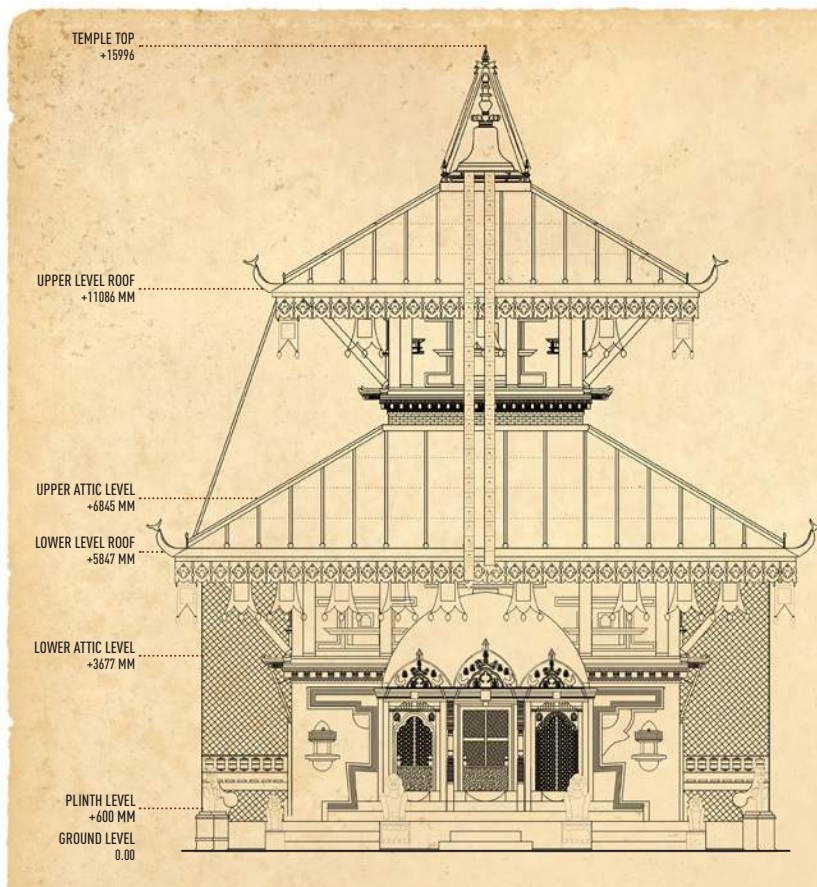
PROJECT BACKGROUND

Seto Machindranath Temple is one of the exemplary architectural marvels located in the courtyard of Kanak Mani Mahavihar, one of the 18 main Bahals (Mahavihar) of the Acharya Guthi in Jana Bahal, an old settlement area in the Kathmandu valley. The temple is believed to have been established in the 10th century CE.

The temple is dedicated to one of the protector gods of Kathmandu Valley known as *Karunamaya*, the most compassionate divinity and is worshipped by Hindus as the God of Rain and by Buddhists as Avalokitesvara. The annual chariot procession and bathing ritual of Seto Machindranath are important festivals which bring together hundreds of people. The temple is a testimony to the living heritage of the valley and is a monument of national importance in Nepal.



| Seto Machindranath Temple and surroundings just after the 2015 earthquake. PHOTO CREDIT: shutterstock



| Seto Machindranath Temple: Front Elevation



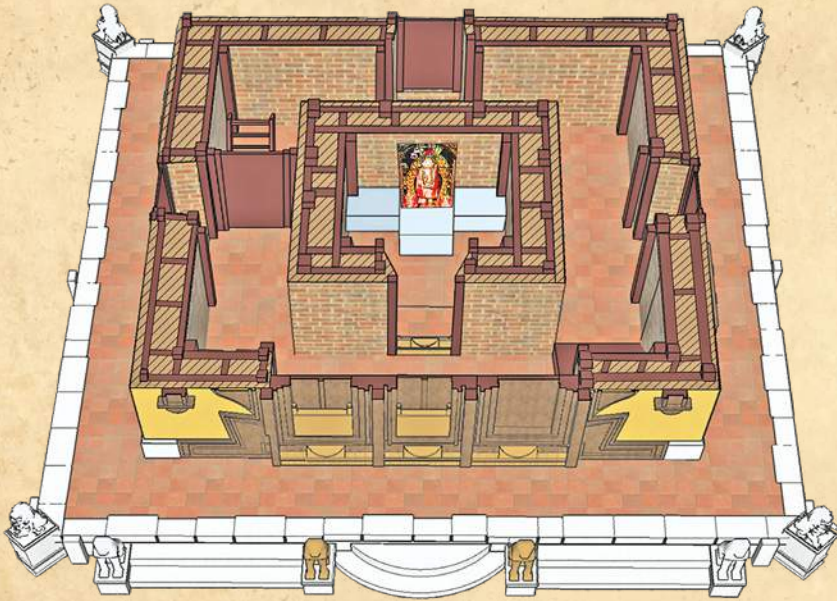
| Devotees offering prayers at Seto Machindranath Temple



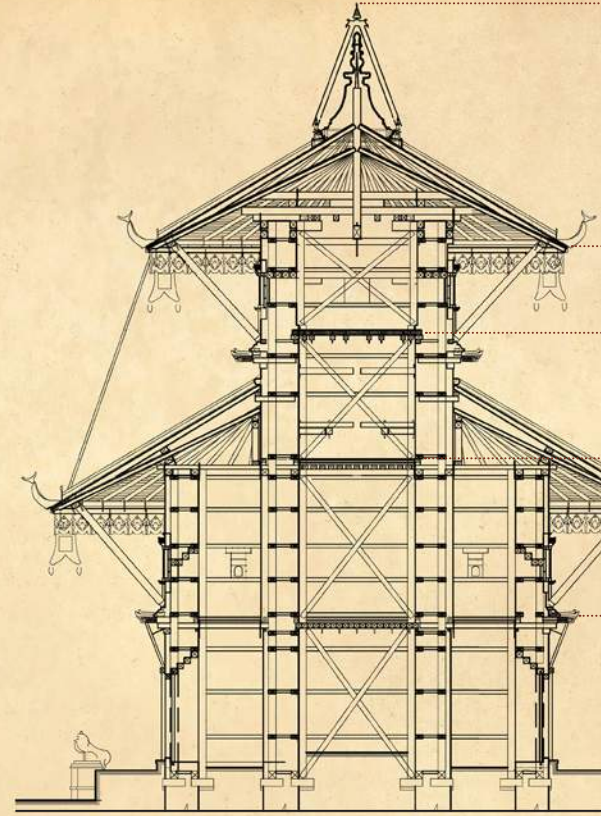
| Seto Machindranath Temple: Location & Site Plan

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AND ITS CURRENT CONDITION

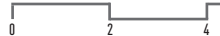
- The temple is built with locally available materials using traditional construction methods.
- The roof over the main shrine is covered with gilded copper and metal banners, carved wood work and other surface decorations adorn the temple facade.
- The surrounding courtyard of paved stone has numerous small *chaityas* and stone pillars supporting Buddhist deities.
- The temple has seen some damage after the 2015 earthquake resulting in water penetration through the roof, ground settlement, rat infestation, structural and non-structural cracks which has accelerated its dilapidation process.



| Seto Machindranath Temple: Proposed Cross-Sectional View



| Seto Machindranath Temple: Proposed Retrofitting



CONSERVATION AND RETROFITTING STRATEGY

- Seto Machindranath Temple, a significant living heritage site, will be conserved as per Nepal's Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (1956) and Department of Archaeology's Basic Guidelines and Manual for conservation and reconstruction of heritage affected by 2015 earthquake (2072) using material close to the original building material at the time of its construction as per the traditional ethos, local traditions and values that sustains and enriches such living heritage sites in Nepal.
- The main aim of restoring Seto Machindranath Temple is to preserve the living temple through renewal of its surface parts and conservation and retrofitting of the historic structure.

TEMPLE TOP
+15996

UPPER LEVEL ROOF
+11086 MM

JOIST LEVEL
+9438 MM

UPPER ATTIC LEVEL
+8845 MM

LOWER LEVEL ROOF
+5847 MM

LOWER ATTIC LEVEL
+3677 MM

PLINTH LEVEL
+600 MM
GROUND LEVEL
0.00

10 M



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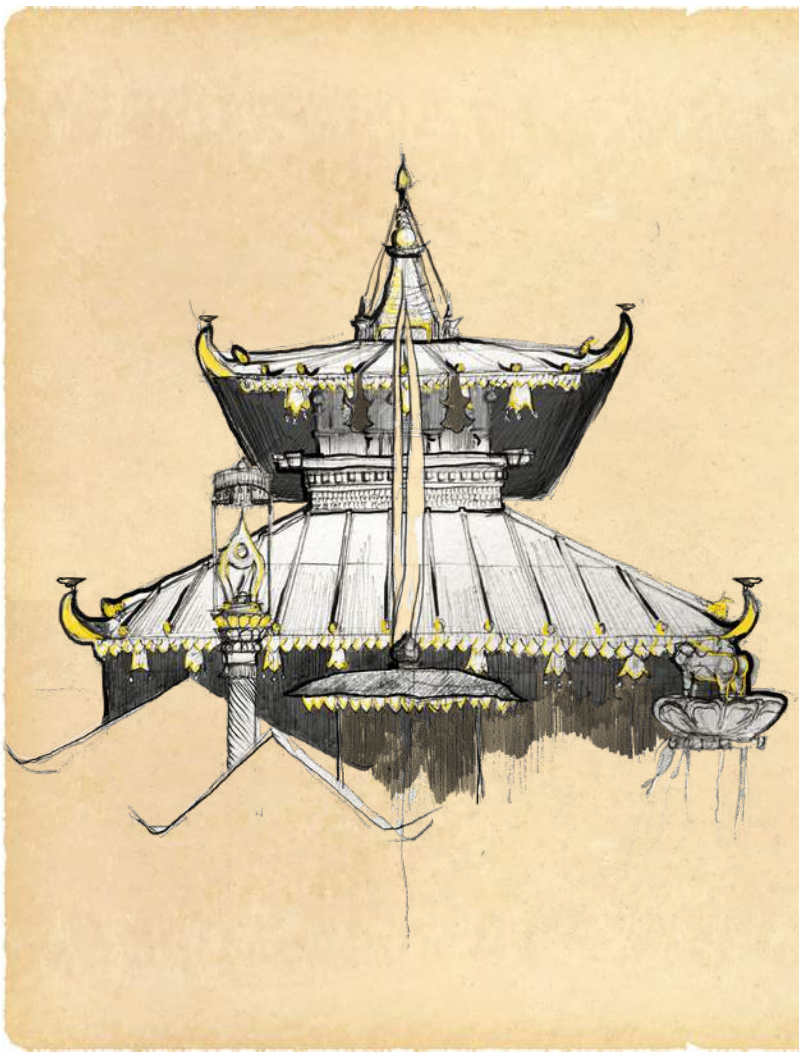
| Seto Machindranath Temple: 3D View of the Proposed Interventions

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION MEASURES

- It is proposed to carry out retrofitting of the heritage structure using timber seismic elements.
- The decorative art surfaces and features such as *repoussé* work, decorative and non-decorative woodworks including timber members with traditional polychrome arts will be documented and conserved through minimal interventions.
- Electrical services include illumination of the building and security features have been introduced carefully.

Project Cost: NPR 6.26 Crore | USD 0.53 Million

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and Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage Projects in Nepal



INTACH

The Indian National Trust for the Art and Cultural Heritage [INTACH] was founded in 1984 with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India. Today INTACH is recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organizations, with over 190 Chapters across India.

In the past 31 years INTACH has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just their natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well. Headquartered in New Delhi, it operates through various divisions such as Architectural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Material Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Heritage Education and Communication Services, Crafts and Community Cell, Chapters, INTACH Heritage Academy, Heritage Tourism, Listing Cell and Library, Archives and Documentation Centre.

INTACH has set up the INTACH Nepal Office in Kathmandu at CLPIU [Building], Babar Mahal with a core technical team comprising of Conservation Architects, Architects and Engineers. The office is led by a resident Project Manager and works closely with INTACH Headquarters at Delhi.

Architectural Heritage Division

Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage

71, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003 India

[T]: 91-11-2463-2267/ 69

[F]: 91-11-2561-1290

PROJECT OFFICE

CLPIU [Building], Babar Mahal

Kathmandu 44600 Nepal

[E]: Intachnepalktm@gmail.com

[W]: www.intach.org



SUPPORTED BY
National
Reconstruction
Authority
&
Department of
Archaeology
Government of Nepal



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DESIGN &
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
BY
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