

SJVN - Sincerely Sustaining Religious Culture and Traditions Of Himachal Pradesh

Today Chambu Devta Mandir in Jhakri village near the power house of 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station of SJVN stands out to carve out its glory and replicates any prestigious temple of Himachal Pradesh. Spread in about five bighas of land, the temple has three main buildings besides two buildings one for storage of musical instruments and the other for bhandara, tells Vishal Mehta, Pradhan of the Mandir committee. He says that the Devta is one of the seven brothers and sisters of historical Kullu Devta. The Devta was earlier enshrined in a small temple across the hill in village Kasholi falling in Kullu district. It had been brought to the present location which was easily approachable and close to the national highway and enshrined on the left bank of river Satluj long back. Decades ago it used to be a small temple but as the works of Nathpa Jhakri Project commenced in 1988, the project contractors took to funding its renovation in small ways. Gradually the Devta started being invited to the project works often and with the blessings of Chambu Devta, the project saw its completion in 2003. Chambu Devta was always given prime importance in each and every pooja performed at the project by the company. It is also believed that with the blessings of Devta any bottleneck faced in project construction would be solved easily. Many believe that the project completion and smooth operations are due to the blessings of Chambu Devta.

Standing tall in its present shape the temple renovation work had been started a few years back with financial support of SJVN. The temple was formally inaugurated by the company Chairman & Managing Director Shri Nand Lal Sharma on 3rd January 2022. After inauguration, the key of the temple was handed over to the temple authorities. After inaugurating the temple, Shri Nand Lal Sharma said that the company had always remained committed to not only constructing its projects but also help improving the religious culture and traditions of the region. Chambu Devta, he said, had a big role in completion of this project.

Vishal Mehta says that the renovation work had been completed at a cost of about Rs.2.7 crore which was largely funded by SJVN under its CSR works. He says that for bringing the temple to its present level, a lot of efforts had been made in architecture, planning, construction, sourcing of material and involvement of stone and wood carving specialists. Most of the material used, he says, is local and from other places in Himachal Pradesh. The carving artists were engaged from the village Chiragi. He further said that the main precinct of the temple will house Chambu Devta where he resides except in the winter months when the Devtas are shifted to Kothi, another adjacent building. Normally on 22nd April every year a religious fair is organized in the temple.

Chambu Devta temple is not the only one renovated by SJVN to its present glory, but many other temples in the villages surrounding its projects have been renovated by SJVN under its CSR arm. Jagdish Negi, Gram Pradhan of Kaphor village near Chaura, falling on Hindustan Tibet highway tells that the Hiramata Mata mandir in this village was in a dilapidated condition till SJVN came forward to help its renovation. He says that the Base boundary wall of the temple as well as the community hall have been renovated at a cost of Rs.27 lac funded by SJVN. The beautiful temple stands conspicuously on the left bank of the river and is clearly visible from the national highway.

The 300 years old Koyla Devi temple in village Koyal, near 412 MW Rampur Hydro Power Station too has been renovated at a cost of Rs.24.5 lac funded by SJVN. Kuldeep Singh, an official managing the temple affairs tells that this village temple

was in a very dilapidated condition. Now with the help of SJVN the temple has a sprawling main entrance, a beautifully wooden carved outer precinct besides some other small structures. The temple also has been provided with solar lights and other facilities by SJVN.

The famous Taranda Mata mandir on National Highway to Kinnaur, the Surya Narayan Temple in Dutt Nagar, the historic Nirmand temple and many other temples in Himachal Pradesh too have been given a new lease of life, courtesy CSR arm of SJVN.

