

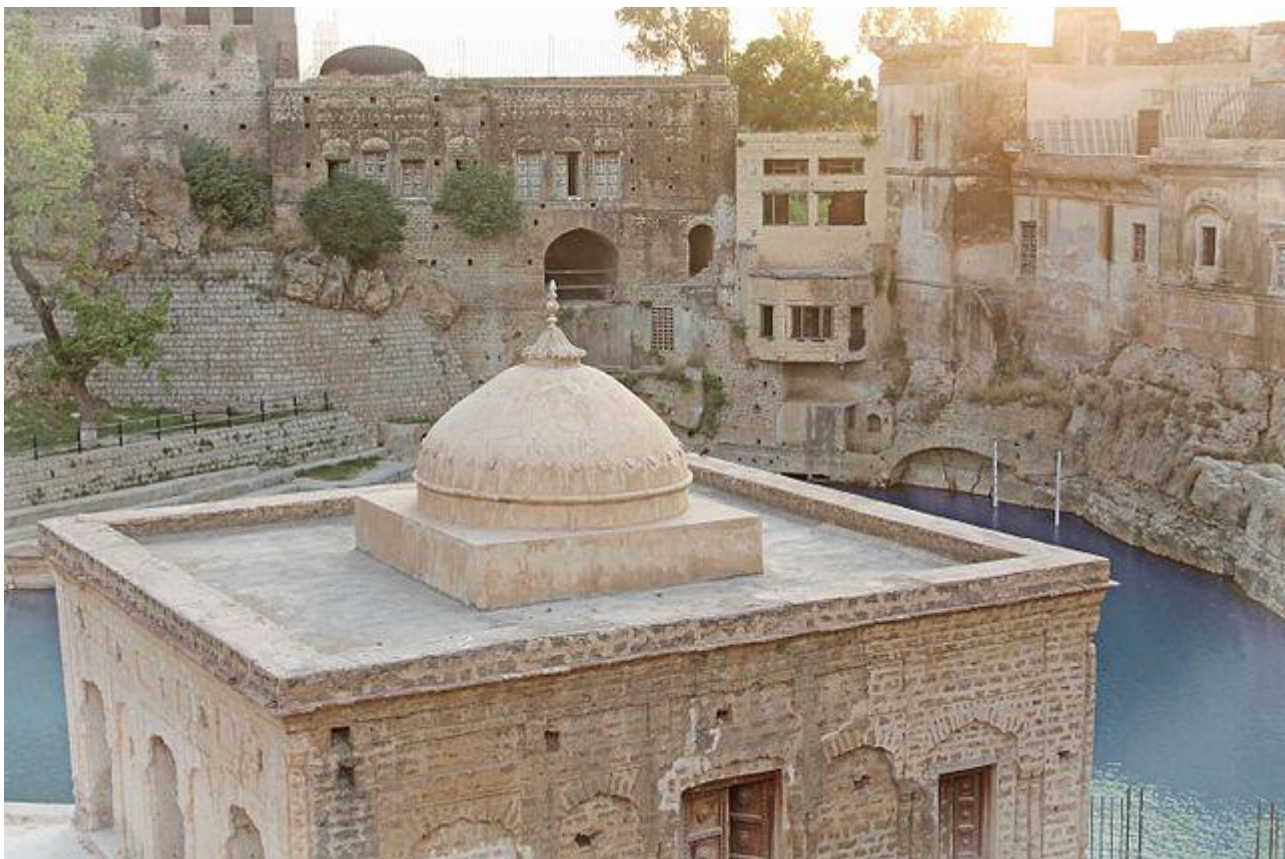
Pakistan seals Hindu deities, may renovate the temple

There are many Hindu temples in Pakistan most of them in disarray, their land under threat of encroachment from selfish commercial interests or from terrorists.

A small Krishna temple was built by Kanji Mal and Ujagar Mal Ram Rachpal in 1897 to serve people in nearby areas. However, after partition and creation of a Muslim Pakistan in 1947, the street temple in Saddar became the only place of worship for Rawalpindi's Hindus. The temple was reopened after partition in 1949; it was operated by local Hindus before being handed over to the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) in 1970.

Until the 1980s, Hindu diplomats living in Islamabad visited the temple to pray. Local Hindus have said the temple's area should be expanded. Jag Mohan Arora said the temple courtyard, which can only accommodate 100 or so people, should be expanded, and shops next to the temple that the ETPB has leased to local traders should be retrieved to expand the front of the building.

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