



# INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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## Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR /BLS- 16

### SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

#### 1. Name

Present : Biswanath Temple Complex, Shergarh, Dist-Balasore  
 Past : ---  
 Other Name (if any): : ---

#### 2. Location

**LONGITUDE** 86°49'49" E      **LATITUDE** 21°26'13" N      **ELEVATION** 35 feet

**Address** : **Village (village code)** Shergarh  
**Post** : Shergarh      **Via**: Remuna  
**Tehsil**: Khantapada      **District**: Balasore  
**State** : Orissa      **PIN**: 756060

**Approach** : It is located at a distance of 2kms west of Phandi Chowk in Balasore, on the National Highway No.5, leading from Balasore to Bhubaneswar.

#### 3. Property Type

- Buildings**
- Palace
  - Fort
  - Citadel
  - Government building
  - Railway station
  - Defence building
  - Industrial building
  - Other public buildings
  - Residential building

- Religious structures**
- Temple
  - Mosque
  - Minar
  - Church
  - Monastery
  - Stupa
  - Tomb, Mausoleum

- Other Structures**
- Wall
  - Gateway
  - Pillar
  - Others (specify):

- Engineering structure**
- Bridge
  - Tunnel
  - Other engineering structure

- Open space and related structures**
- Public square
  - Park or garden
  - Graveyard
  - Baolis, Well
  - Tank
  - Cave

#### **Note:**

The Biswanatha temple complex has four temples of *Gaudiya* and miniature *pidha* style of later construction. These temples house the images of various cult affiliations such as Jaina, Buddhist and Brahmanical deities. Iconographically they can be dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

#### 4. Property Use

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**ABANDONED / IN USE :** In use

**Present** : In this living temple complex, one of the temples enshrines an image of Tara which is locally worshipped as *Ugratara*, and two temples enshrine Sivalinga within circular *Yonipitha*.

**Past** : Worshipped.

#### 5. Age (Source)

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**PERIOD** : The sculptures and architectural fragments, scattered and used in the temples, are of Somavamsis period.

**YEARS** : 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

**Precise date of Construction** : ---

**Completion** : ---

**Subsequent changes** : ---

**Destruction / Demolition** : ---

#### 6. Ownership / Level of Protection

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**SINGLE /MULTIPLE :** Single

**Public** : Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : ---

**Private** : Senapati family

**Any other (Please specify)** : ---

**Name** : Shesadhara Senapati

**Address** : S/o – Gangadhara Senapati, At/Po – Shergarh, Dist. – Balasore, PIN - 756060

**Phone** : ---

#### 7. Association

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• **WITH EVENTS**

**In History** : ---

**In Rituals** : *Shivaratri, Kartikapurnima, Durgapuja etc.*

**In Building Construction** : ---

**Any other (specify)** : ---

• **WITH PERSONS**

**Patron** : Originally the Somavamsis but now under the care and maintenance of Shesadhara Senapati, the former Zamindar of Shergarh.

**Architect / Engineer** : ---

**Any other (specify)** : ---

#### 8. Statement of Significance

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological	:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	:	These temples house number of images of different faiths like Buddhist, Jaina and Brahmanical, and iconographically images are assigned to the 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

## SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

### 9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

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- **Context**
  - Urban / Rural Setting** : **\* Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary) : No Urban setting
  - Surroundings** : **Stand in Isolation** Street
  - Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex** :
  
- **Quantification**
  - Area Dimension ( L x B x H)** : 10.60 mtrs x 7.15 mtrs x 5.00 mtrs (m / cm/ feet / inch)
  - Number of Blocks** : Four shrines within the complex
  - Number of Storys** : ---
  
- **Spatial Organization**
  - Orientation** : The temples are facing towards east
  - Plan** : All the temples are rectangular on plan
  - Allocation of Spaces** : 11.20 mtrs (L) x 5.00 mtrs.(W)

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

- **Ornamentation**
  - Exteriors** : Plain
  - Interiors** : Plain
  - Movable Collections** : The temples house numbers of images such as Asta Mahabhaya Tara, Trivikrama, headless image of Rishabhanatha, Visnu, Astika-jaratkaru, Ganesa, two female deities. Images are made of chlorite.
  
- \* Any Other** (specify) : The temple complex has four modern shrines of *Gaudiya* and impoverished *pidha* style architecture.

### 10. Construction Technology

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- Structural System** : Both *Gaudiya* & *pidha* style temple.
- Building Techniques** : Ashlar masonry with lime mortar
- Material of Construction** : Laterite, but the sculptures are mostly on chlorite and few are of sandstone.

### 11. Condition Assessment

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**In General**    **Good / Fair**    :    Fair

- Sign of Deterioration
- Serious Deterioration
- Danger of Disappearance

**In Brief** (Attach extra sheet if necessary):

They are in a good state of preservation.

### 12. Threats to the Property

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- Natural
- Negligence
- Vandalism
- Urban Pressures

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**SECTION III: REFERENCES**

**13. Reference Sources** (published and unpublished textual details)

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- 1.
- 2.

**14. Photographs** : **9 Nos.**  
(attach list as in page 6, in case of multiple photographs)

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Photo Reference :  
CAPTION :

**15. Audio / Video**  
(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

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Reference :  
DESCRIPTION :

**16. Maps/Plans/Drawings**

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**17. Listers**

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**NAME :** Ashis Ranjan Sahoo **NAME :**

**18. Reviewers**

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**NAME :** Dr. S. Pradhan **NAME :**  
**COMMENTS** **COMMENTS :**