

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR / PRI -23

SECTION I: IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Gangamata *Matha*, Bali Sahi, Puri Town,

Dist. - Puri

Past : ---

Other Name (if any): : Sachidevi Matha

2. Location

LONGITUDE 85°49'12"E LATITUDE 19°48'13"N ELEVATION 25 ft

Address : Village (village code) Bali Sahi

Post : Bali Sahi
Tehsil: Puri Town
State : Orissa
Via: Puri Town
District: Puri
PIN: 752001

Approach: The matha is located on the southern embankment of

Svetaganga tank in Bali sahi, Puri. It is on the right side of Bali Sahi road, leading from Simhadvara to Svaragadvara.

3. Property Type

Residential building

Buildings Religious structures Other Structures

PalaceTempleWallFortMosqueGatewayCitadelMinarPillarGovt. buildingChurchOthers (specify)

Railway station

✓ Monastery

Defence building Stupa

Industrial building
Other public buildings
Tomb, Mausoleum

Engineering structure Open space and related Note:

Structures
Bridge Public square

Tunnel
Other engineering structure

Park or garden
Graveyard
Baolis, Well

Total

Park or garden
Graveyard
Baolis, Well

Total

belongs to the Gaudiya sect.
Though it is a living monastery only 15% infrastructure is used for monasteric activities and the rest

Tank
Cave

And the activities and the cave are in dilapidated condition.

This double storied monastery

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN USE:

Present: It is a living monastery and enshrined the deity lord

Krisna and his consort Radha.

Past : Monastic activities and ritual purpose.

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Suryavamsi Gajapati rule

YEARS: 16th century A.D.

Precise date of Construction : --Completion : --Subsequent changes : --Destruction / Demolition : ----

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

SINGLE /MULTIPLE : Single

Public: Archaeological Survey: ---

of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other

(Please specify)

Private : ---

Any other (Please specify) : Sri Balaram Das Goswami, Mahanta of the *Matha*.

Name : --Address : --Phone : ---

7. Association

WITH EVENTS

In History : According to Matha Mahanta it was constructed

during the time of Mukundadeva.

In Rituals : Dola Purnima, Janmastami, Lalita Saptami are

observed here. During the car festival offerings

are sent to lord Jagannath.

In Building Construction : As per the *matha* legends, it is named after

Sachidevi, the princess of Patia of Bengal, who renounced the world and dedicated herself for the services of lord Jagannath. To fulfill her desire to take bath in the Ganga lord Jagannath being pleased with her devotion made Gangadevi to appear in the adjoining tank. Since the water of the tank turned milky when the river goddess appears in the tank, the tank came to be known as Svetaganga and Sahidevi as Gangamata. And

the monastery on the bank of Svataganga established by Sachidevi was later known as

Gangamata *matha* or Sashidevi *matha*.

Any other (specify)

: ---

WITH PERSONS

Patron : Matha Mahanta Sri Balaram Das Goswami

Architect / Engineer : --Any other (specify) : ---

8. Statement of Significance

Architectural Archaeological

Historical

Religious

✓ Historical

Religious

Any other (specify) : On the basis of legends, the monastery can be assigned to

the time of Mukundadeva (1560-1568 AD) i.e. the

Suryavamsi Gajapati rule in Orissa.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

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* **Drawings (**Attach extra sheet if necessary) No : Urban setting

Urban / Rural Setting Surroundings

Stand in Isolation

Integral part of a Landscape /

Street

Street / Complex:

Quantification

Context

Area Dimension (L x B x H) : 1. Courtyard – 6.85 sq. mtrs

2. Verandah – 6.85 mtrs x 3.55 mtrs (L x W)

(m / cm/ feet / inch)

Number of Blocks : Out of 80 rooms and a courtyard, 65 rooms are in

dilapidated and abandoned and the remaining 15 are used for various rituals and monastic activities.

Number of Storys : Double stories building of 7.00 mtrs in height.

Spatial Organization

Orientation : The *matha* is facing towards north.

Plan : On plan, the *matha* has a central courtyard

surrounded by pillared verandah on the eastern, southern and western sides which leads to the

living rooms.

Allocation of Spaces : 2.50 acres of land

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Ornamentation

Exteriors : Nil

Interiors

The eastern side pillared verandah of the central courtyard is decorated with wall paintings of Krisnalila scenes and other cultic deities. From right to left the pictures are Ramabhiseka, Narasimha, Gopala, Chaitanya. six-armed Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra in separate panels, Kaliyadalana, Yosada, etc. The doorjambs are carved with four sakhas- puspa, patra, naga and nara from exterior to interior; Gajalaxmi seated in padmasana in the lalatabimba and the pidhamundi niches house with vaisnavite dvarapalas at the base.

Movable Collections

Nil

* Any Other (specify)

A square *mandapa* on the north eastern corner has five-fold divisions in elevation like a temple bada, in which amorous couples are carved in all the four sides in the uparajangha. A makara torana is

placed at the center of the mandapa.

10. Construction Technology

Structural System Monastery

Building Techniques Ashlar masonry and English bond

Material of Construction Laterite and Bricks

11. Condition Assessment

In General Good / Fair:

Fair

Sign of Deterioration ✓ Serious Deterioration

Danger of Disappearance

In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary)

Except few rooms, the monastery is in a dilapidated condition due to lack of maintenance. Growth of vegetation and cracks are noticed both in the inner and outer walls of the rooms.

12. Threats to the Property

/	Natural		
~	Negligence		
	Vandalism		
	Urban Pressures		
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SECTION III: REFERENCES

13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

1. ---

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2.

14. Photographs

(attach list as in page 6, in case of multiple photographs)

Photo Reference

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CAPTION

:

15. Audio / Video

(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

Reference

:

DESCRIPTION :

16. Maps/Plans/Drawings

17. Listers

NAME: Jaya Shankar Naik

NAME:

18. Reviewers

NAME:

Dr. S. Pradhan

NAME: COMMENTS

COMMENTS