



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Janpath, New Delhi -110 001, www.ignca.gov.in

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 **Via**: Puri Town
Tehsil: Puri Town **District**: Puri
State : Orissa **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

Buildings

Palace
Fort
Citadel
Govt. building
Railway station
Defence building
Industrial building
Other public buildings
Residential building

Engineering structure

Bridge
Tunnel
Other engineering structure

Religious structures

Temple
Mosque
Minar
Church
✓ Monastery
Stupa
Tomb, Mausoleum

Open space and related structures

Public square
Park or garden
Graveyard
Baolis, Well
Tank
Cave

Other Structures

Wall
Gateway
Pillar
Others (specify)

Note:

This double storied monastery belongs to the *Gaudiya* sect. Though it is a living monastery only 15% infrastructure is used for monastic activities and the rest are in dilapidated condition.

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 ✓ Historical
 Religious ✓ 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

• **Context** * **Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary) No
 Urban / Rural Setting : Urban setting
 Surroundings
 Stand in Isolation
 Integral part of a Landscape / Street
 Street / Complex :
 • **Quantification**
 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

2.

14. Photographs

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

Photo Reference
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
COMMENTS

NAME :
COMMENTS