



# INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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## Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR/CTC- 70

### SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

#### 1. Name

**Present** : Visnu Temple, Gramesvara Temple Complex,  
Nivarana, Dist. - Cuttack

**Past** : ---

**Other Name (if any):** : ---

#### 2. Location

**LONGITUDE** 86°09'17"E

**LATITUDE** 20°02'47"N

**ELEVATION** 22 ft

**Address** : **Village (village code)** Nivarana  
**Post** : Suhagapura **Via:** Niali  
**Tehsil:** Niali **District:** Cuttack  
**State** : Orissa **PIN:** 752107

**Approach** : The temple is located on the left bank of the river Prachi and 3 kms on the left side of Niali-Madhava road (N.H-60) branching at Nuahata chowk.

#### 3. Property Type

##### **Buildings**

- Palace
- Fort
- Citadel
- Government 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:**

The Visnu temple is located on the north-west corner of the Gramesvara temple. It consists of a *pidha vimana* and a shallow frontal porch. Both stands over a low platform measuring 0.30 mtrs in height.

#### 4. Property Use

**ABANDONED / IN USE :** In use

**Present** : It is a living temple, the presiding deity is lord Visnu.  
**Past** : Worshipped

### 5. Age (Source)

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**PERIOD** : Somavamsi rule.  
**YEARS** : 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD  
**Precise date of Construction** : 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD  
**Completion** : ---  
**Subsequent changes** : Renovated by the Orissa State Archaeology in 2002-03.  
**Destruction / Demolition** : ---

### 6. Ownership / Level of Protection

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**SINGLE /MULTIPLE :** Multiple

**Public** : Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : Protected monument of Orissa State Archaeology.  
**Private** : Nivarana Temple Committee under the chief priest Madhavananda.  
**Any other (Please specify) Name** : ---  
**Address** : Orissa State Archaeology, Paryatan Bhawan, B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswara, Orissa.  
**Phone** : 0674 2432147

### 7. Association

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• **WITH EVENTS**

**In History** : ---  
**In Rituals** : *Sivaratri, Sankranti, Rudrbhiseka, jhalabhiseka*, etc are performed here.  
**In Building Construction** : ---  
**Any other (specify)** : Thread ceremony, engagements, etc are held here.

• **WITH PERSONS**

**Patron** : Originally the Somavamsis, but now the State Archaeology, Orissa.  
**Architect / Engineer** : ---  
**Any other (specify)** : Nivarana Temple Committee.

### 8. Statement of Significance

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological	:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	:		On the basis of sculptural embellishment, the temple can be assigned to the 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

### SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

## 9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Context</b></li></ul> <b>Urban / Rural Setting</b> <b>Surroundings</b>	:	<b>* Drawings</b> (Attach extra sheet if necessary) : No Rural Setting
		<b>Stand in Isolation</b> : Complex
		<b>Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex</b> :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Quantification</b></li></ul> Area Dimension ( L x B x H)	:	3.55 mtrs x 3.55 mtrs x 5.20 mtrs (m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks	:	One
Number of Storys	:	---
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Spatial Organization</b></li></ul> Orientation	:	The temple is facing towards east.
Plan	:	The temple is square on plan.
Allocation of Spaces	:	30 mtrs (L) x 25 mtrs (W)

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ornamentation</b></li></ul> Exteriors	:	Devoid of any decoration, except the <i>parsvadevatas</i> such as Visnu (02nos) and Narasimha image.
Interiors	:	Plain
Movable Collections	:	---
<b>* Any Other</b> (specify)	:	The <i>vimana</i> is <i>pancharatha</i> on plan and <i>triangabada</i> in elevation.

## 10. Construction Technology

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<b>Structural System</b>	:	<i>Pidha vimana</i> and a shallow frontal porch of <i>Kalingan</i> order.
<b>Building Techniques</b>	:	Dry ashlar masonry & English bond technique with lime mortar.
<b>Material of Construction</b>	:	Sandstone is used in the <i>vimana</i> and bricks in the <i>jagamohana</i> and <i>natamandapa</i> . Now plaster & lime wash is applied over the temple.

## 11. Condition Assessment

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign of Deterioration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serious Deterioration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Danger of Disappearance

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

As the temple is recently renovated by Orissa State Archaeology it is in a good state of preservation.

**12. Threats to the Property**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vandalism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Pressures

X X

**SECTION III: REFERENCES**

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

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1. R. P. Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa*, Vol. - I, New Delhi.

**14. Photographs**

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

Photo Reference :  
CAPTION :

**15. Audio / Video**

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(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

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 :