



**Head Office:**

Plot No: 3, 1st Floor, PS Colony  
New Bowenpally, Secunderabad,  
Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 500011

**Ph:** 040-27955969, 09885909451

**E-mail:** mithilamanthan@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.mithilamanthan.com

## Exploration on Mandir: Ugratara sthan at Mahishi, Saharsa

**Start Date:** June 03, 2008

**Prepared By:** Sri Jyoti Prakash Lal

On behalf of Mithila - Manthan Group

[www.mithilamanthan.com](http://www.mithilamanthan.com)



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## 1 Background: How Mandir Manthan got initiated?

One fine morning dated 27th May 2008, Sri BK Karnaji put forth a brief mail on Mithila Manthan e-group. The content of mail is "We do visit Tirupati, Vaishno Devi etc. to seek blessing for better domestic, social and professional life. Almighty God is everywhere. Mandir is the place for aasha. Considering these facts, I invite all valued member to put views on "How can Mandir in Mithila get more Visitor as like Tirupati, Vaishno Mata?".

In response to this, Sri Rajeev Ranjan Lall came with his idea and suggestion. "I have been to so many temples in North and South India and first thing strike me is the facility around the temples. Below are the points, I think important to make our temples a famous one.

1. Facilities of fooding and lodging within 500 meters of temple.
2. Connectivity from the nearby city/town.
3. Details about the temple and route should be easily available over web from a reliable website, as most of the travelers plan their journey over web now.
4. E-Blogging and other means of publicity.

In response to Rajeevji, Sri Jyoti Prakash Lal put his view: "I agree with Rajivji's points. In my view, "Publicity" is of great importance, which makes everything popular. In our Mithila, there are several famous Mandir / religious places but those places are not known to mass. Here, we can take one example of Guru Govind Singh gurudwara, Patna City where lots of Punjabi are visiting entire year. This may be for various reasons but one of the prominent one is its "Popularity". So in parallel way we can think for this too. Sri Gajendra Thakurji can also put some of his thought on it."

Sri Gajendra Thakur provided a long collection of Mandir with its religious value. This provided list gave a fair knowledge of Mithila Mandir.

Once again, Sri BK Karna put his concern as: "Our running e-manthan on Mandir in Mithila will give many projections such as

- 1) What are the factors concerning to better Lodging and Fooding? Can local residents allow themselves to think for long term plan? The point always narrates - i) whether facilities are the prime concern? ii) Facilities can be improved, if such demands are felt. We should think and plan some ideas to project for better infrastructure.
- 2) Connectivity by Road & Rail is the prime concern. Air connectivity will ease the visitors.
- 3) Significance of Mandir should be projected by electronic media. E-Blogging Ideas will be very effective."

In continuation, Sri Mani Kant Thakur also praised our e-manthan: "You all must be congratulated on picking up a great spot and a topic in terrible negligence for so many centuries now. Your suggestions are life-inspiring and each one of them, without exception, should be circulated among the high officials of the area who have access to resources to keep these national monuments intact."

Last but not least, Srimati Jyoti Jha Choudhary also put her nice suggestion and a list of Mandir.

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## 2 Introduction

The main idea of this document is to explore importance and public belief for the Mandir. Same time intention is to make the presence of Mandir on national as well as international landscape so that tourism industry in Mithila will grow and flourish. In turn brings employment among local people, brings development in railways and road transportation.

### 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of document is to display the current available infrastructure at Mandir location and premises, railways and road transportation, awareness of local people towards the Mandir and other related things.

### 2.2 Scope

This initiative will be proved as a foundation stone for Mithila's Mandir exploration and establishment of tourism industry in Mithila.

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### 3 History and Belief

There is no need to mention the fame of Mahishi because everyone knows that it is the place where great philosopher Sankaracharya came from the south and had a philosophic discussion with Mandan Mishra and his wife Bharati Devi.

But most of us do not know that it is the same place where Bhagwati Ugratara temple exists. Ugratara temple is extremely rare in this part of the country. So far as it is known, there is no other temple of Bhagwati Ugratara anywhere in Bihar. Bhagwati Ugratara is also popularly known as 'Bhagwati Maha-Cina-Tara'.

In Hinduism, the Goddess Tara meaning "star" is the second of the Dasa (ten) Mahavidyas or "Great Wisdom (Goddesses)". As the star is seen as a beautiful but perpetually self-combusting thing, so Tara is perceived at core as the absolute, unquenchable hunger that propels all life.

The oral tradition gives an intriguing origin to the goddess Tara. The legend begins with the churning of the ocean between the Devas (Hindu Gods) and Asuras (Hindu Demons). Lord Shiva drank the poison that was created from the churning of the ocean (in the process turning his throat blue and earning him the epithet Nilakantha), thus saving the world from destruction, but fell unconscious under its powerful effect. Tara Ma appeared and took Shiva on her lap. She suckled him, the milk from her breasts counteracting the poison, and he recovered. This story is reminiscent of the one in which Shiva stops the rampaging Kali by becoming an infant. Seeing the child, Kali's maternal instinct comes to the fore, and she becomes quiet and nurses the infant Shiva. In both cases, Shiva assumes the position of an infant vis-à-vis the Goddess.

### 4 Land Mark

It is situated at a distance of about 16 Kms (approx. 4 miles) west of Saharsa dist.



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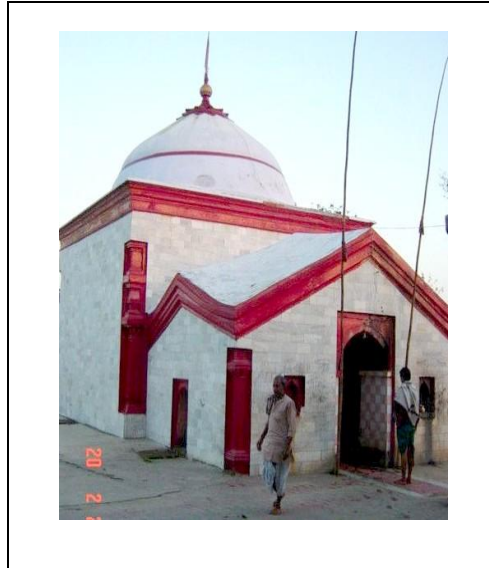
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## 5 Pictures



Mandir view from outside



Ugratara mata



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*Ugratara mata – a closure view*



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### 6 Present Railway & Transport Connection and Facility (in Map)



### 7 Population details of Mahishi as per 2001 census

| Population | Male  | Female | Literates | Panchayat | Village | Total primary school | Total middle school |
|------------|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 184252     | 95956 | 88296  | 53445     | 19        | 81      | 45                   | 34                  |

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## 8 Contact Details

| Sl No. | Person  | Contact details  |
|--------|---|--|
| 1      | DM of Saharsa, <b>Shri Garib Sahu</b>                           | 06478-224102; Cell: 06478-224102; Email: dm-saharsa.bih@nic.in |
| 2      | SP of Saharsa, <b>Shri Kunwar Singh</b>                         | 06478-224556; cell: 9431822995; Email: sp-saharsa-bih@nic.in   |
| 3      | MP, <b>Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan</b>                                  | (011) 23782617; Cell: 9910406162                               |
| 4      | DDO (District Development Office),                              | 06478-223486   |
| 5      | MLA (Mahishi), <b>Gunjeshwar Sah</b>                            |  |
| 6      | BDO,  |  |
| 7      | Mukhiya,  |  |
| 8      | Sarpanch,   |  |
| 9      | Bihar Tourism Minister, <b>Ram Pravesh Roy</b>                  |  |
| 10     | Bihar Rural Development Minister, <b>Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha</b> |  |
| 11     |   |  |