



*Maa Mangala,
Kakatpur*

Kakatpur Mangala and Batamangala of Puri

Somanath Jena

On approach to Sri Mandira of Puri Dham, a devotee finds the Bata Mangala, at about 7 Kms away on the left side of the road leading from Bhubaneswar to Puri. The name of deity of that seat is Bata Mangala, on whose look on journey to Jagannath Dham, a devotee finds all blessings of the Goddess Mangala for happy and blessed journey. Many of devotees, must have visited the Vindyachal Devi, near Mirzapur seated on the hill top located on the bank of Sacred Ganges in Uttarpradesh. Many miracles are narrated concerning that deity. But Kakatpur Mangala is visible deity in full form, capable of showing Her miracle to guide the Lord Jagannath Himself even.

Kakatpur Mangala is located at Kakatpur, on the way from Bhubaneswar to Konark, via-Pipili. Pipili is 20 Kms. from Bhubaneswar and 50 kms. from Jagannath Dham Puri and is reputed for knitting work of various designs of Fancy, Luxury bags, Canopies. On the left side of Pipili from Bhubaneswar - Puri Road a diversion road leads to Konark, the seat of Sun Temple, Black Pagoda, one of seven wonders of the world once upon a time. Buses always ply on that road. The deity was powerful enough and kept

herself hidden on the bed of the river, the Prachi, underneath deep water. Once, one boatman while was sailing boat across the fully flooded river, the boat did not move an inch in the middle of river. Whole day and night was spent with the boat stranded in the middle

of river. The boatman towards the end of the night, saw in dream that he would recover Maa Mangala and establish Her in nearby Mangalpur village. She is hidden, where long oar is kept stranded. Accordingly, the boat man dived into the deep water and from inside the depth of the sand, could trace out the magnificent idol of deity, the Mangala. According to the direction of deity and indication in the dream, the boatman installed Her in a temple, in village

Mangalpur. This Mangalpur village, during passage of time, got itself known Kakatpur as the boatman, could see once a black crow diving and sinking inside the water, but could not see its coming out for hours and days together from the water of the river Prachi. "Kaka" means "Crow" and "Atak" means it remained confined and detained inside the water, near the place from where the deity was recovered from the river by the boatman.



Bata Mangala, Puri



The temple is located in a beautiful rural setting in the midst of villages, gardens, green trees. The temple is a palatial one, accommodating many other gods and deities as well. But Mangala is Arupa (formless) and has become Sarupa (took form). Throughout the year, and days the 'Niti' 'Puja' is being done in ritualistic and disciplined manner. 'Prasadams' are available. Many patients come to remain in "Dharana" in prostrate form to get themselves cured. Cure comes, many come to get their desire fulfilled, it so happens.

The most reputed festival is "Jhamu Jatra". It occurs on the first Tuesday, (Mangalbar) of the Sacred month, Vaisakh (April 14 to May 15) every year. On that occasion, the devotees possessed of the power of deity, amidst hard, disciplined life, walk barefeet on the surface of burning charcoal fire spread on a long trench, without any injury amidst loud beating of drums and singing of the musical tunes from pipe. Thousands gather to witness the Jhamu Festival.

It is said that "Daru Brahma" (sacred wood containing the life energy of Lord Jagannath), was initially found floating on water on the confluence of river and Bay of Bengal at Banki - Muhan near Jagannath Dham, Puri. King Indradyumna, desirous of constructing idols of Lord sighted the sacred wood according to search made as per the command of the Lord Jagannath to King Indradyumna but wood could not be sized, and form of Lords could not be conceived. But one offered flower, from the head of the deity, Kakatpur Mangala, on advice of sage Narada, was taken and touched on the sacred wood, Daru Brahma. It facilitated the splitting of wood, into three parts for construction of idols Lord Jagannath, Subhadra and Balabhadra according to requirement.

Nabakalebara (construction of New idols of the three Lords) is regular feature of Jagannath Dham at regular intervals. Old, worn out idols are rejected and buried under earth and in their place, new idols for 3 deities, i.e. Lord Jagannath, Subhadra and Balaram, are constructed. From that time, tradition, still remains that carpenter sevaks and priests living with discipline pray, Maa Mangala of Kakatpur remaining prostrated before the deity at Kakatpur to bless them by showing sacred trees and their location, which alone are suitable for construction of the idols in Nabakalebara. In fact, they get the indication, and exact location of the sacred trees and path leading to the location, in dream. This practice and custom and tradition have been existing for years together, without any deviation. Successful guidance, without fail, from the deity to find out the sacred tree, is evidence of the power and energy of Maa Mangala of Kakatpur. This is unchallenged evidence which stands un rebutted giving concrete proof of blessing, power of mother Mangala on their devotees. Even Lord Jagannath who is the hood of all universe is assisted by mother, who is the original power for creation, is actively guiding the carpenters and priests to find out suitable sacred wood, according to specific features, for construction of the sacred idols, what to speak of other evidence.

Devotee may visit the sacred seat of Maa Mangala of Kakatpur, as a part of their visit of Bat Mangala and Puri Jagannath Dham in a single journey plan.

Somanath Jena lives at Walliganj, Baripada, Po- Bhanjpur-757002 in the Mayurbhanj district.