

**nepal**

“Our Art-Our Culture, Madhyapur Thimi Our Property”



## **Destination Madhyapur Thimi** *for the unique art, culture and heritages*



**Madhyapur Thimi Municipality**  
Bhaktapur, Bagmati Province, Nepal



# Message



Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, situated at the centre (or confluence) of three districts in Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur), is one of the ancient, historical and cultural cities of the valley. Linked up with the capital city, Kathmandu, this city, as much decorated with the several heritages of religious and historical importance so much is lively with its own unique art and culture. In this context, the tourism development of this area will certainly gain a new dimension if several of these heritages are exposed to serve the outer world. It is our prime objective to make the city prosperous with mass employment creation, conserving, preserving and promoting our heritages through sustainable tourism development. Primarily, it is known to all that after the election of the local government in 2017 AD, intensively, the historical heritages within the city have been appropriately preserved, promoted and renovated, and have been developed as the beautiful tourist destination, which will be continued consciously. I feel a great happiness with this opportunity of publishing this introductory booklet named, '**Destination Madhyapur Thimi**' to meet its first minimum requirement in order to propagate and publish it with pictures, which makes it a short guideline for several tourist destinations and historical heritages of the municipality. In spite of the fact that a single heritage is sufficient to write a book, this booklet is doing its best to accommodate almost all of the heritages in the area, which I believe, will certainly provide a guideline to the tourists visiting the area. Therefore, I would like to offer my hearty gratitude towards the intellectual friends including Somnath Sharma and Rita Bhattarai of '*Motherland Publication Pvt. Ltd, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality-1*' who have collected the materials, wrote and designed it attractively as well as Gyan Ram Shrestha, who worked for coordination. As it is the initial step, the minor mistakes are pardonable in order to move forward correcting them in the days to come.

*Thank you !*

*Date: 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021*

**Madan Sundar Shrestha**

**Mayor**

**Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Bhaktapur**



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# Introduction

'Madhyapur Thimi' one of the major ancient cities in Kathmandu Valley, is the municipality formed on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1997, including the previous Nilbarahi (Bode), Nagadesh, Chapacho, Balkumari and Dibyashwori VDCs of Bhaktapur District. This municipality in 17 wards previously, has been restructured into 9 wards currently, pursuant to the Constitution of Nepal (2015). The municipality has been named with the reformation of historical words known as 'Themmmring' as mentioned in archeological document of *Lichchhavi* era and 'Madhyapuristhan, Madhyadesh or Madhyapur' etc in *Malla* era. On the other hand, the significance of the name is based on its location in between three major cities of the valley: Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur.

Manamati (Manohara) *Khola* (rivulet) originated from Manichund hill flows as north-west border of the municipality. Similarly, Hanumati (Hanumante) *Khola* not only flows as its southern border, but also irrigates the municipality, situated at the altitude of average 1326 m from the sea-level. While we can still see the settlement of purely Newar Community in the ancient cities as Thimi, Nagadesh, Bode etc, there is the mixture of different castes' people in other areas. The municipality has three

## Map and basic statistical details of 'Madhyapur Thimi'

**Office Address :** Madhyapurthimi Mun.-6, Nagarpalika Chowk, Bahakha Bazaar

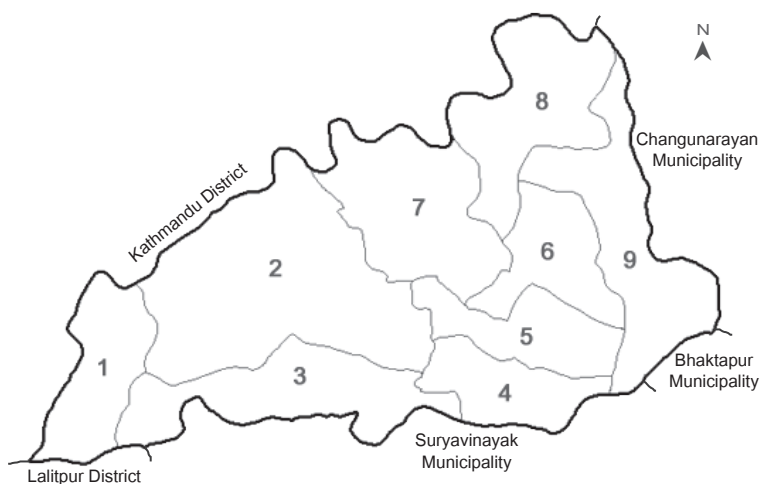
| Ward No.     | Area (Sq.km) | House-holds   | Population    |               |               | Ward Office   | Merged Prior Ward No.     |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
|              |              |               | Total         | Male          | Female        |   |                           |
| 1            | 0.86         | 3,670         | 14,260        | 7,421         | 6,839         | Lokanthali  | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 16    |
| 2            | 2.66         | 2,666         | 9,880         | 5,209         | 4,671         | Sanothimi   | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 17    |
| 3            | 1.26         | 4,889         | 18,336        | 9,445         | 8,891         | Kaushaltar  | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 15    |
| 4            | 0.68         | 1,922         | 8,567         | 4,340         | 4,227         | Balkumari   | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 12-14 |
| 5            | 0.75         | 1,417         | 6,540         | 3,268         | 3,272         | Bhulangkhel   | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 9-11  |
| 6            | 0.76         | 1,671         | 7,223         | 3,635         | 3,588         | Bahakha Bazaar  | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 7,8   |
| 7            | 1.4          | 1,579         | 6,783         | 3,440         | 3,343         | Nagadesh  | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 4-6   |
| 8            | 1.29         | 1,099         | 5,083         | 2,634         | 2,449         | Bhangutol, Bode   | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 1,2   |
| 9            | 1.42         | 1,389         | 6,364         | 3,331         | 3,033         | Krishi Talim Kendra, Bode                                     | Madhyapurthimi Mun. 3     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11.47</b> | <b>20,302</b> | <b>83,036</b> | <b>42,723</b> | <b>40,313</b> | Source : From official figures released by the Gov. of Nepal. |                           |



ancient *Layakus* (Durbars), which, though, means Durbar, were actually the administrative units in sometime in past. Similarly, the municipality has been decorated with 14 gateways (*Dhwaka*), 13 *Dabu / Dabali* (open stage), 21 ponds, 9 stupas, 48 carved stone natural fountains (*Hiti*) and about 200 *Sattalpati* (shelters), more than 100 wells, and 18 deep-wells as well as nearly 300 temples including all small and big ones and other historical heritages. Thimi which has already been renowned as unique destination for locally popular culture and tradition as well as art and crafts, has been vitalized with dozens of processions as 32 *Khat Jatra*, more than dozens of dances, musical instruments, authentic hymns and other abstract heritages. The *Jatra* (street-processions) as tongue-piercing: *Biska Jatra/Sindur Jatra*, *Nilbarahi Naach* (singing and dancing), *Layaku Bhail*, *Mahakali* dance, *Ashtamatrika* dance etc are very differently unique cultural heritages. The municipality which has been renowned as the municipality of open-defecation free, completely vaccinated, perfectly educated, has also been renowned with green vegetables, and clay-pottery. The city-area starts at the distance of 800 m east on the Araniko Highway from Koteswor Chowk, of the Capital city, Kathmandu.

**Estd. :** 1997/03/27 AD (Re-structuring : 2017/03/10 AD)

**Geographical Code :** 30703



# DESTINATION

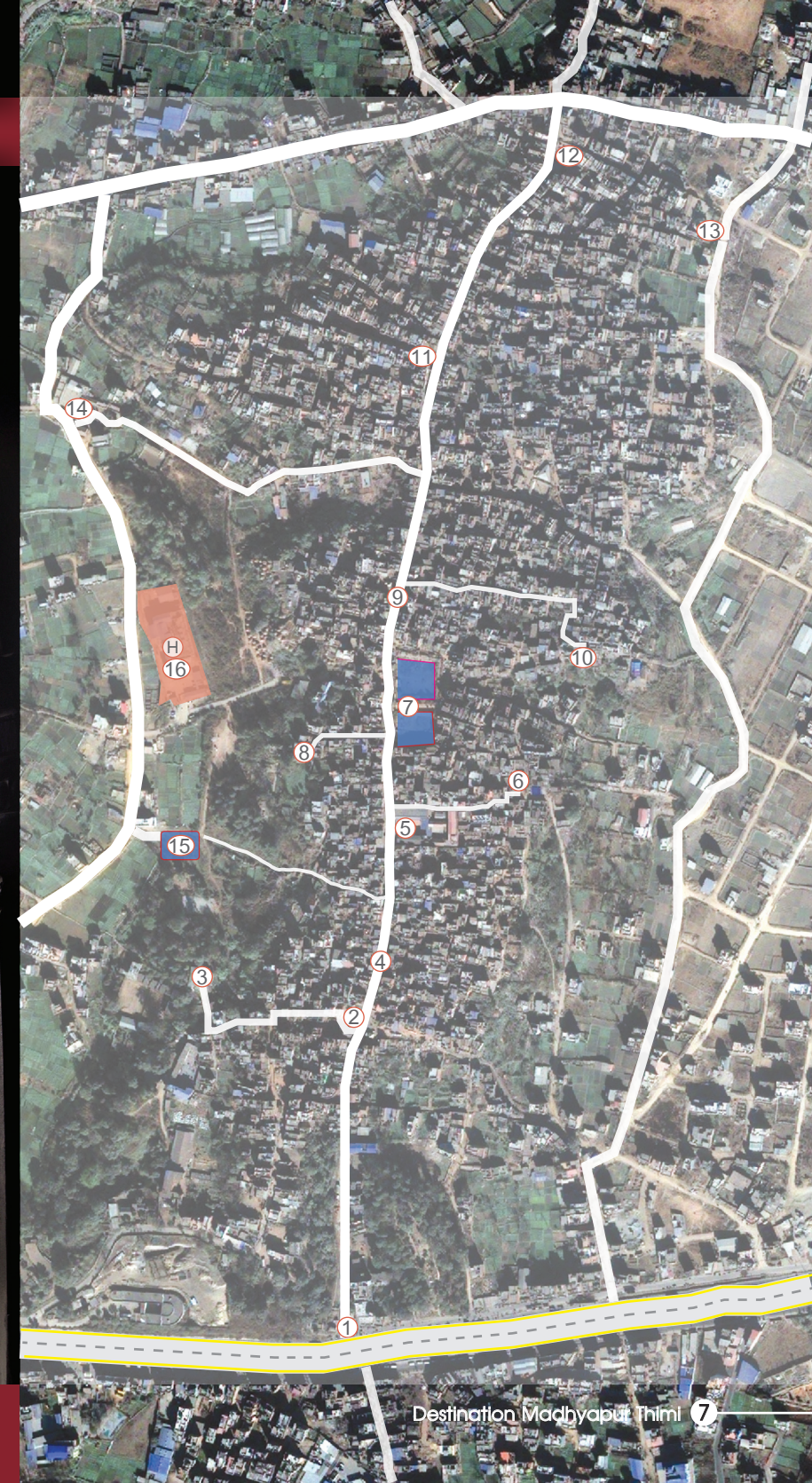
## Thimi :

The major and most ancient 'Thimi' city of historical Madhyapur Thimi municipality, lies about 8 km east from the capital city, Kathmandu and about 5 km west from Bhaktapur city. The road going straight north from Shankhadhar Chowk on Araniko Highway has linked up Bahakha Bazaar Chowk on the 'Old Road' locally known as '*Purano Bato*' (Sanothimi-Bahakha Bazaar-Bhaktapur road). The urban settlement extended left-right (east-west) for about 1 km north-south, is the main Thimi area. It is assumed that the city has been named 'Thimi' as the reformed or deviated, after long from the term 'Themmrang' as mentioned in the *Lichchhavi*-era archives; which indicates human settlement started in this city since the time before *Lichchhavi*-era (BC). It is also said that an incessant fire used to be emerged from the altar situated in front of Thimi *Layaku* main gate in the past. As it was said '*Thigu Min*' in the local language, which means 'burning fire', which later started to be called 'Thimi'. Similarly next logic says, 'Thimi' means the city situated on the raised land from three sides (east, west and south). It is similar to the raised part of the finger-ring. In the local *Newari* language 'Thide' means the part raised from other sides. Later people started to call it Thimi, where '*Thi*' means people dwelling in the city, which later evolved to be called 'Thimi'. This 'Thimi' area developed purely as the *Newari* City contains the heritages of sufficient historical, archeological and cultural significances, as under-mentioned.

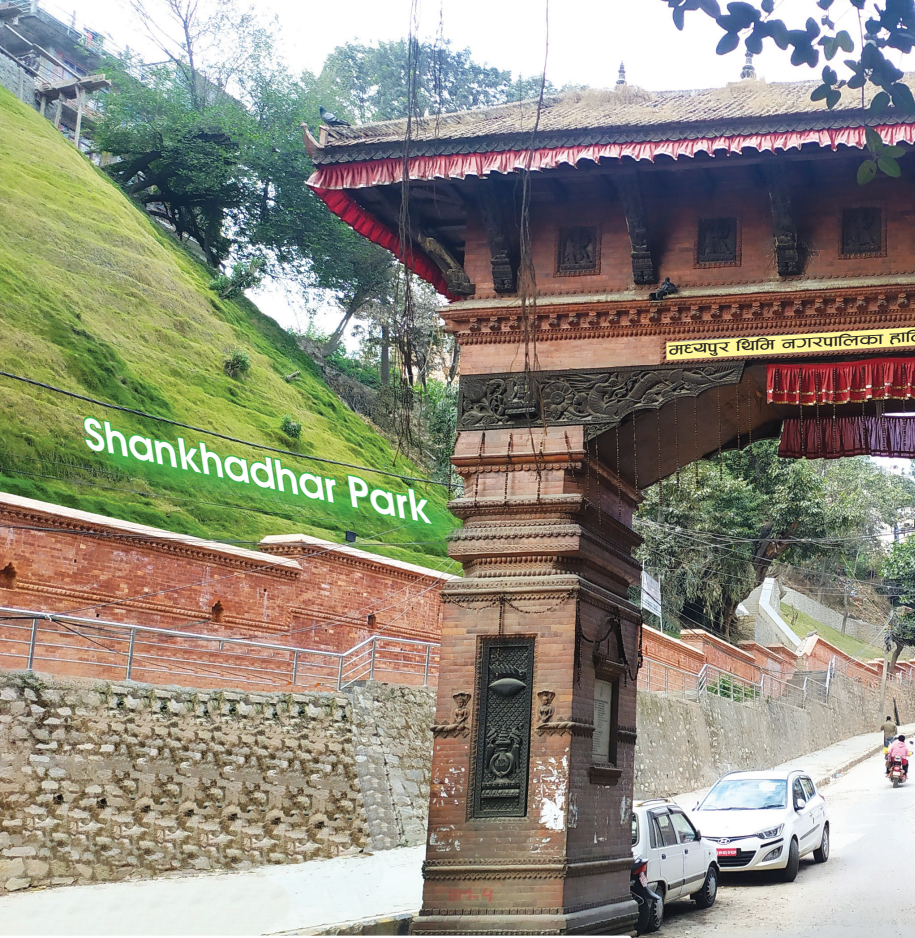
- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ① Shankhadhar Park                 | ⑨ Digu Bhairav Premise                         |
| ② Balkumari Temple Premise         | ⑩ Mahalaxmi Temple                             |
| ③ Vishnubir Temple                 | ⑪ Thimi Pottery Square                         |
| ④ Lokeshwar/Hiranyabarna Mahavihar | ⑫ Gunga Chiwa                                  |
| ⑤ Thimi Layaku (Durbar) Premise    | ⑬ Pati Vihar (Stupa)                           |
| ⑥ Bakhachhe Mahadev Temple         | ⑭ Siddhikali Temple Premise                    |
| ⑦ Nigupukhu / Duipokhari (2 ponds) | ⑮ Vishnu Kund (Pond)                           |
| ⑧ Indrayani Temple Premise         | ⑯ Nepal Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital |

(See in the map as indicated)









## Shankhadhar Park :

The sloped land extended about 17 *Ropanis* of land west from the road going to Thimi at Shankhadhar Chowk on Araniko Highway, Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4, is being developed as the attractive park with a master plan. While very beautiful carved stone stairs' vertical and horizontal walking trails, traditional stone-fountain, green-belt, etc have already been constructed, others as view-point, hanging-garden, open-stage (*Dabali*), children's park, rock-climbing, water-fall, traditional style *Falcha* (resting place) etc are under construction. '**Tourist Information Centre**' operated by municipality in order to provide the guiding information about the tourist potentialities of Madhyapur Thimi has been established at the side of entrance gate of this historical Thimi city at Shankhadhar Chowk, where full-size statue of Shankhadhar Sakhwa, the founder of *Nepal Sambat* (era), and national emblem has been installed. Similarly, there is a very beautiful small park with 'Bandevis Temple' on the raised hillock slightly east from the Chowk.











## Balkumari Temple Premise :

Balkumari Temple (*Kwalakhu Dyo*) of historical and cultural significance, situated on the main road at Kwalakhu Tole of Thimi, Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4, is one of the greatest and ancient heritages of Thimi area. The roofs of this north-faced three storeyed temple in Pagoda style are made of gold-coated copper plates. The statue of Goddess Balkumari has been installed in the *Garbhagriha* (sanctum sanctorum). South-faced statue of peacock, the *Bahan* (vehicle) of Balkumari has been installed on 14 X14 inch thick and 25 feet tall stone-pillar in the yard in front of the temple. Unnatural incident as bleeding from peacock-beak on the stone pillar in 2028 BS (1971 AD) is still matter of discussion among the local aged people. This temple which is worshipped as the main God of the local people, is also taken as the Kumari installed in the east, out of four *Kumaris* in







the Kathmandu Valley. The initiation and conclusion rituals of every festival-*Jatra* of the cultural significance celebrated in Thimi area are linked up with this temple, which was constructed before *Nepal Sambat* (NS) 600 (1480 AD). Specially, great worshipping and presence of a great number of devotees take place on the occasion of *Bada Dashain* and *Biska Jatra*. The ancient tradition of worshipping with the sacrifice of duck on each Sunday in this temple has been disappeared in the recent days. There are Batuk Bhairav, Krishna Temple, Ganesh Temple, *Shivalinga* (Ga:Mahadyo) installed in the square shaped deep ditch with 10 X10 X10 feet, artistic *Sattal*, *Pati*, *Dabali*, pond etc are there in this temple premise. This temple which has been recently renovated (in 2019/2020), lies in about 300 m north from Shankhadhar Chowk on Araniko Highway.



## Vishnubir Temple (Sunga Dyo) :

The ancient Vishnubir Temple (*Sunga Dyo*) in Sungatole of Thimi, Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4, is situated in about 175m west from famous Balkumari Temple. This 15 feet tall temple of *Gumbaj* (dome-shaped) style is located outside the urban-dwelling. Though east faced now, was west-faced and 12 cornered in the ancient time. A 3 feet tall stone-statue of *Garuda* with 'Namaste' posture has been installed just in front of the main-gate. There are imageless stone idols, at the *Garbhagriha* (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple. There is a small temple of Goddess Saraswati attached on the northern outer wall and a statue of Siddhikali on the north-west corner of the temple. *Patis* (shelters) in modern style have been constructed for the regular hymns. Out of *Astamatrika Gana* (Eight mothers) installed in Thimi Area, there is tradition of worshipping it as the *Vaishnavi* form. The *Khat* (carrier) of Vishnubir leads the *Khats* of five Ganesh from different locations at the time of *Biska Jatra* especially. Similarly, on the very last day of *Baishakh*, there is a tradition of taking the *Khat* of Vishnubir around Thimi.



A photograph of the Hiranyabarna Mahavihar / Lokeshwor Temple. The temple is a two-story structure with a traditional tiled roof and a small stupa on top. It is situated on a street in Thimi, Nepal, with a brick building visible in the background.

## Hiranyabarna Mahavihar / Lokeshwor Temple :

The Hiranyabarna *Mahavihar* / Lokeshwor Temple, on the main road at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi, is locally recognized with the names as *Ta:waha*, *Lukuna Dyo*, *Kaunamaya* etc. The inscription on the '*Tadpatra*' records that the land was offered to this *Mahavihar* / Temple in NS 685 (1565 AD) proves its ancientry. The statue of very beautiful and artistic '*Karunamaya*' has been installed as the main God of the temple. Particularly, all *Bajracharya Newar* community of Thimi have especially been associated with this *Mahavihar*, supposed as the main *Vihar* of Thimi area. This north-facing Buddha heritage constructed in two-storeyed Pagoda style is 22 ft square shaped and about 33 ft tall. This *Vihar* / temple is equally the faith centre of *Hindu* people and lies at 80m north from Balkumari temple.

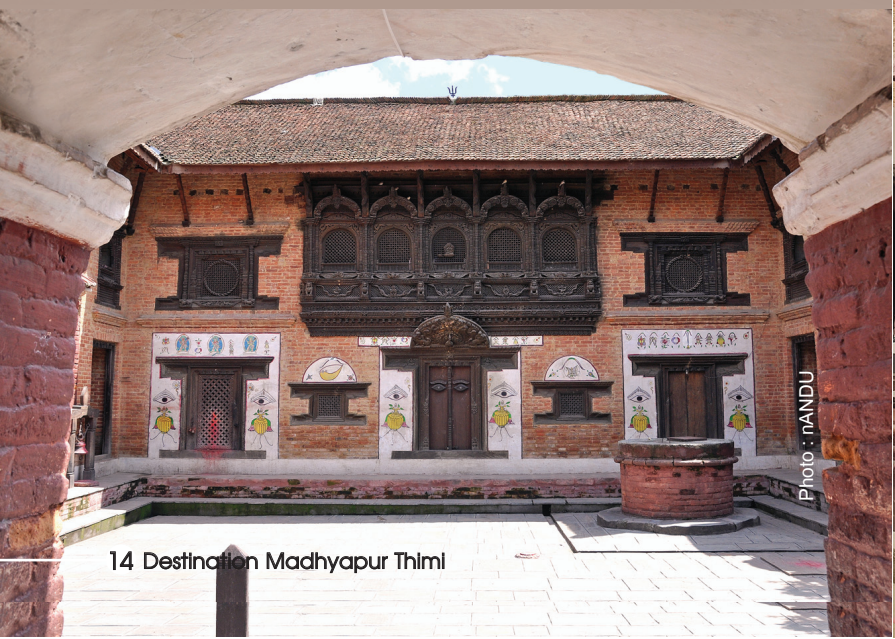
A photograph of the Guru Ganesh Temple. The temple is a two-story structure with a traditional tiled roof and a small stupa on top. It is situated on a street in Thimi, Nepal, with a brick building visible in the background.

## Guru Ganesh Temple :

Guru Ganesh Temple, on the main-road of Thimi of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4, lies at about 80-85 m. north from Lokeshwor Temple.

# The Cultural Centre of Thimi, **Thimi Layaku :**

Currently, 'Adarsha Secondary School' is running in Thimi Layaku (Durbar) premise situated at the centre of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4, Thimi. This premise extended in about 4 *Ropanies* of land, lies on the main-street of Thimi (175m north from Balkumari Temple). There is two storied Layaku Taleju building for religious and cultural activities. The statues of city-god Balkumari which are kept on the *Khat* (carrier), at the process of *Biska Jatra* (fair), are kept there. The artistic design of the Layaku Taleju building and yard / chowk in front of it, in Layaku premise, which was used as the Durbar or administrative centre in ancient Malla era, looks very attractive. As the cultural activities of Thimi city are conducted from this premise, it can also be supposed the cultural centre. Currently, it is being renovated in its original style.





A tall, white, conical temple with a golden spire, surrounded by red brick and stone carvings, situated in an urban setting with brick buildings in the background.

## Narayan Temple :

Narayan Temple (Taha Dyo) constructed in *Shikhar* Style in NS 769 (1649 AD) lies to the east of main road near *Layaku* premise of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi, has now been renovated in its original style.

# The oldest heritage of Thimi, **Bakhachhen Mahadev :**

Bakhachhen Mahadev temple at Siwatole of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi, is situated about 110m inner (east-side) from Thimi's main road at the north-east corner of Thimi *Layaku* premise. As the stone inscription mentioning that it was constructed in NS 561 (1441 AD) has been found, this temple is supposed to be the oldest heritage of Thimi area. This two storeyed temple constructed in Pagoda style is about 30 ft tall. While the roofs of this temple is of *Jhingati* (clay), the pinnacle of the temple is of the





gold-coated metal, which make it more attractive then ever. There is a *Shivalinga* installed at its *Garbhagriha*, a two storeyed temple of Shiwaganesh constructed in Pagoda style has been attached to its south side. There are several *Pati*, *Dabali*, pond, stone fountain, stupa etc including the statues of Gaurishankar, Bhairav, Siddhiganesh, *Bu Mahadyo* (self-emerged Mahadev), *Golakhu Dyo* (nine gods), and other statues of gods and goddesses of historical and cultural significances.





## Nigupukhu / Duipokhari :

Two historical ponds attached east of the main-road about 100 m north from Layaku premise at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi, is called Nigupukhu / Duipokhari (two ponds). It is said that Queen Ganga provided the source of water to the people of Madhyapur Thimi constructing these two ponds about 300 years before. There was water in these ponds up to 2054 BS (1997 AD), but later, it was converted into dry ground due to lack of preservation and promotion. However, it was reconstructed in 2077 BS (2020





Photo : nANDU

AD). As a result, a pond to the southern side (1061.45 sq.m) has been prepared, and next pond at northern side (1776.84 sq.m) is also under reconstruction. These ponds have been surrounded with traditionally artistic brick-walls. Wide circuit path has been constructed on four borders of this pond inside the walls with an attractive gate-way. Electric bulbs have been fixed in the holes constructed on the inner side of the wall, as well as modern water fountains have been installed there, which makes the destination, attractive centre of the domestic tourism. Similarly, traditional styled *Phalchha* (resting place) have also been constructed there.









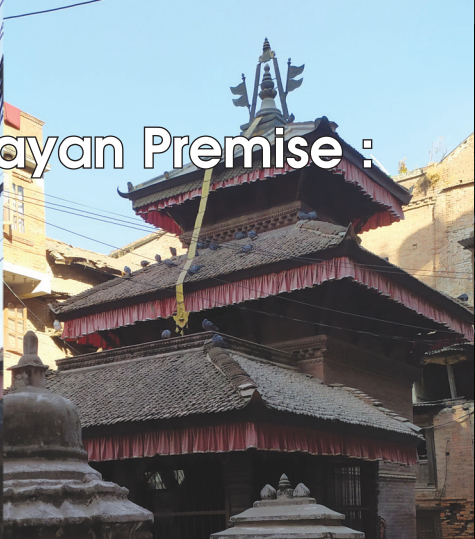
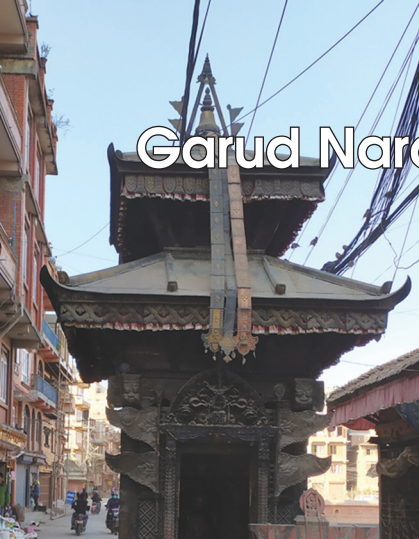
## Vishnu Kunda :

For a long period of time, historical Vishnu Kunda / Sungapukhu (pond), at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 was in the dilapidated condition though, it has been renovated very artistically and attractively in 2075 BS (2018 AD). This pond with its dimension of about 23m long, 10m wide and 1.59m deep has been surrounded with traditionally artistic 32.5m long, 19.6m wide and 1.28m high brick wall. Within the surrounded premise with attractive entrance-gate, a 3m wide circuit path has been constructed on all four side borders of the pond, within the wall. Electric bulbs have been fixed in the holes constructed on the inner-part of the wall, the modern water fountains have been installed in the pond, because of which the pond has been very attractive. In the past a fair used to take place on the day of *Ghantakarn Chaturdashi* (*Gathamugu: Charhe*); currently, activities under the planning of constructing tourist structure are continued in the jungle area at the back side of this pond (from Vishnubir Temple to Indrayani Premise). At the side of this pond there is a '**Compost Fertilizer Centre**' for converting the city-garbage into smell-free organic fertilizer using Japanese technology. People visit the place for study and observation purpose from national and international sector. This pond is situated on the road side about 600 m north from Chardobato Chowk on the Araniko Highway.






## Garud Narayan Premise :



Garud Narayan and Raj Ganesh Temple situated together on the main-road at Inayatole of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi. The regularly conducted *Bhajan* (hymn) in Garud Narayan Temple premise next to Nigupukhu / Duipokhari (2-ponds) is very popular among the local people.

## Indrayani Premise :



Historical Indrayani Temple, situated about 100m west from Nigupukhu / Duipokhari (2-ponds) on main-road of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-4 Thimi, is also one of the *Ashtamatrikas* of Thimi.



The temple of *Aalochakra* (Aakash Bhairav) in Indrayani Premise



## Gunakirti Mahavihar :

Gunakirti Mahavihar lies on the east-side of the main-road at Digutole of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-5 Thimi, is also recognized as the '*Digu Waha*' in the local levels. The safe existence of the stone inscription mentioning the renovation of the *Mahavihar* in NS 808 (1688 AD) proves the ancientry of the heritage. The *Lichchhavi*-era styled stupa and the statue of Buddhist Guru Padhmasambhav are the major attractions of this *Mahavihar* (monastery). Similarly, there are two small and large gold statue of Dipankar Buddha constructed in NS 684 (1564 AD) and NS 689 (1569 AD) installed there. On the day of *Panchadan* (*Bhadra* new-moon 13<sup>th</sup> day), a procession takes place of carrying Dipankar in the areas as Thimi, Nagadesh, Bode.

## Mahalaxmi Temple :



Mahalaxmi Temple of historical significance at Chode, about 250m east from Digu Bhairav Temple situated at the main-road of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-5 Thimi; and beautiful scenery south from this place and green hills.





## Digu Bhairav Premise :

The local *Newar* community worship this temple as their family God; the temple has been located on the main-road at Digutole of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-5 Thimi. The southern door of this temple, out of its south and east doors, remains always open. While God Bhairav can be observed from the southern door, the east-door opens only on the special occasions like *Diwali*, where the family god has been installed. In the premise of this two storeyed



Photo : nANDU

*Pagoda* style temple, which is estimated to be installed in about NS 600 (1480 AD), there are temples of Digu Ganesh, Brihaspati, Narayan, Mahadev, stupas as well as the artistic *Patis* and *Dabalīs* of cultural significance. In the *Dabali* there, a procession of famous tongue piercing fair is organized, and the piercing needle is offered in the Balkumari Temple. This temple is encircled at the process of taking the *Khats* (carrier) of gods and goddesses at the time of each and every *Jatra* (festival fair) including *Biska*.





## Siddhikali Temple Premise :

Siddhikali Temple in two storeyed pagoda style of *Malla* era is very beautiful at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-6 Thimi. Out of *Ashthamatrikas* installed for the security of Thimi, it is worshipped as *Chamunda*. The roofs of this south-faced historical temple are made of gold-coated copper-plates. At the *Garbhagriha* of temple there are the statues of different gods and goddesses including *Sidhdhikali*. This temple premise, which looks as the best model of the wooden crafts contains artistic *Sattal*, *Pati*, entrance-gate, stone-fountain, stupa including the temples of Mahadev, Saraswati, Bhimsen etc. There is a tradition of moving around the city joining *Khats* (carriers) of Ganesh of different places in the leadership of the *Khat* of *Siddhikali* at the time of famous *Biska Jatra*. This temple, situated on the road linking *Purano-Bato* (Sanothimi-Bahakha Bazaar-Bhaktapur road) about 950m inner from Chardobato Chowk on the Araniko Highway, lies at 300m west from Hattimahankal Chowk of main-road at Thimi. There is **Nepal-Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital** run by Municipality at about 200m south from this temple.











## Bhimsen Draupadi Temple :

Historical Bhimsen Draupadi Temple at Inako of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-2, lies at about 100 meter west from Siddhikali temple. There are two ancient stone fountains (*Dhwanhiti*).





## Area for making clay-pots, 'Thimi Pottery Square' :



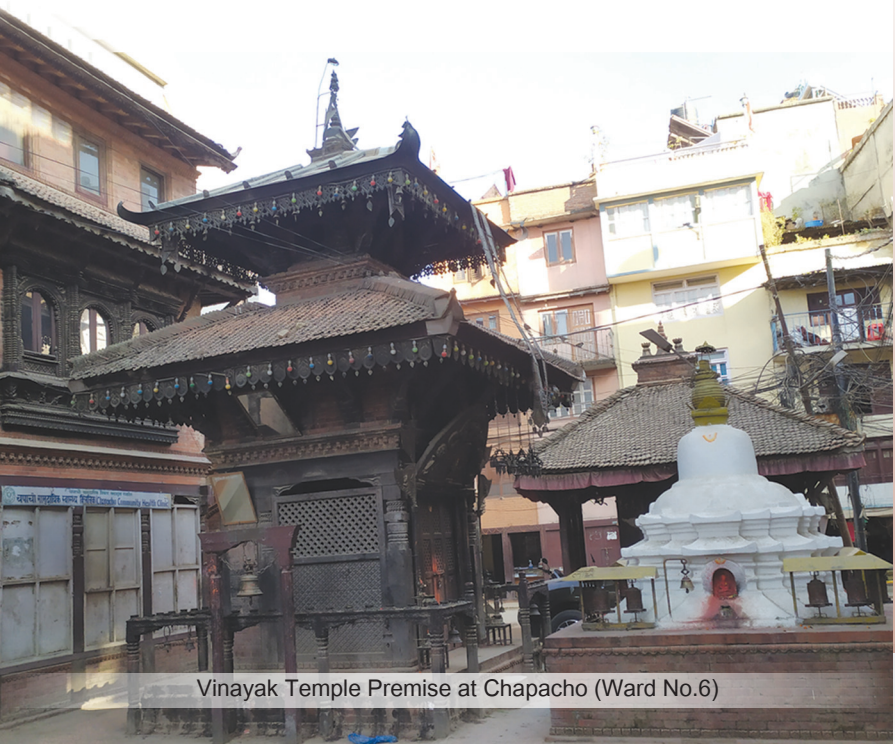
The area west from the main-road at Chapacho of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-5 Thimi, is particularly famous as the area for making clay-pots. As we can directly observe the original art of the skillful hands of the local people making different clay pots, this is specially new and different even for the tourists, visiting there. Moreover, the scenery of drying clay-pots in line also looks very attractive for any visitors. We can see the people making clay-pots elsewhere in Thimi. It lies at about 300m north from Nigupukhu / Duipokhari (two ponds).



Siddhikali Dyo Chhen at  
Chapachò







Vinayak Temple Premise at Chapacho (Ward No.6)

## Gunga Chiwa :



Gunga Chiwa (Nine stupas) lies on the east side of the main-road of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-6, Thimi, at about 40m south from Bahakha Bazaar Chowk.



## Pati Vihar :

Pati Vihar (Stupa) lies at 100 m south from Municipality-Chowk at Bahakha Bazaar (*Purano Bato*) of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-6. While excavating in 2025 BS (1968 AD), a very old unintelligible stone-inscription was found, which justifies its existence for very long ancientry. While it was just in dilapidated condition up to the time just before 2025 BS, it got the graceful *Swayambhu*-style of current time only in 2052 BS (1995 AD). There is a 13 feet tall golden Buddha Statue and a *Dhamma* Hall enough for hundreds of devotees at a time within this *Vihar*.



Photo : nANDU



# Nagadesh :

Nagadesh, an ancient city lying at north-west side near from Thimi city, is one of three ancient cities (Thimi, Nagadesh, Bode) of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality area. There is a dwelling of famous *Basuki Nag* (Snake King) to the south of this city, which is still recognized as *Basuki Phant* (plain land). As a human settlement was maintained just upper part from the plain land; as it was the *Desh* (country/city) with the dwelling of *Nagraj* (Snake King), it has been called Nagadesh. We can directly observe the agricultural activities including making small-bundle of green leaves to take them to market to sell in almost all the homes of Nagadesh, which is also recognized as *Narade*, *Nakade*, *Jayapur* etc, as well as '**Vegetable Garden**' or '**The City of Farmers**'. The major heritages of Nagadesh are:

- ❖ Siddhiganesh Temple
- ❖ Bishantaki Tirtha (Shileshwor)
- ❖ Golden Casement of Dyo Chhen
- ❖ Nagadesh Buddha Vihar
- ❖ Ancient Stupas
- ❖ Nagadesh Layaku







## Siddhiganesh Temple and Golden Casement of Dyo Chhen :

There is Siddhiganesh *Dyo Chhen* (home for Gods and Goddesses) at Nyaga: Tol of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-7 Nagadesh. 'Golden Casement' (*Lunjhya*) of *Dyo Chhen* full of wooden craft, are its major attractions. The materials needed in cultural activities including Siddhiganesh statue, *Khat* (carrier) and other needed in the *Jatra* (procession) are stored there. Therefore, this is most significant one. Before its construction people used to keep these materials at their home turn by turn. Single roofed three-storeyed *Dyo Chhen* has east-west length about 80 feet and north-south width about 13 feet and height 35 feet. There is 14 feet tall and 7 feet wide attractive gate-way in the middle has been installed in this north-faced heritage.

We can get to famous Siddhiganesh Temple premise after turning right after entering through the entrance-gate of *Dyo Chhen*, which is unique model of architecture. This three-storeyed Pagoda-styled temple of about 35 feet high is west-faced one. This temple, estimated to have been

constructed around NS 600 (1480 AD), is recognized as first son of Balkumari and also as God Kumar. Out of 32 *Khats* (carriers) brought to Balkumari of Thimi at the time of famous *Biska Jatra* (fair), it is only one *Khat* brought from Nagadesh area. There is a tradition that the *Khatyatra* (carriers procession) doesn't start from Balkumari premise until the *Khat* of Siddhiganesh is brought there. It is the ancient tradition that the Siddhiganesh *Khatyatra* started with Nagadesh *Parikarma* (circulation) in every *Baishakh* 1<sup>st</sup> evening, joins Balkumari *Khatyatra* in the *Baishakh* 2<sup>nd</sup> morning. This shrine lies at 150m north-west from Bahakha Bazaar Chowk at *Purano-Bato* (Sanothimi-Bahakha Bazaar-Bhaktapur road).







## Bishantaki Tirtha (Shileshwor) :

On the day of *Janaipurnima*, a large number of devotees are gathered at this historical Bishantaki Tirtha (Shileshwor) situated at 500 m north-west from Nagadesh of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-7, with the belief that pious water from Gosainkunda (Rasuwa) flows there. With the belief that Lord Shiva took rest on this pond after taking *Kalkut* poison for relief from burning sensation, people believe that taking holy bath in this place ensures the spiritual purification like taking holy-bath at Gosainkunda itself. Therefore, many people visit this pond on the occasion of *Sohrashraddha*. A very large stone statue of Lord Shiva in his sleeping posture has been installed in the middle of the pond in 2074 BS (2017 AD). Similarly, 64 *Jyotirlinga* of reflecting all from Nepal, including five-faced *Shivalinga* have been installed in line on the ridge of the pond in 2072 BS (2015 AD). There is a small ancient stupa of *Ashoka*-era style, west of the pond. Similarly, there are the foot-prints of *Laxmi* and *Narayan* on the stone are safe. On a bit higher part south to it, there are ancient stupas of historical significance. The people of Buddha community believe that the current term *Bishantaki Tirtha* has been named after '*Vishwabhu Tathagat*' (Buddha). A *Pati* has been constructed in this premise of about 2 *ropanis* of land. This shrine lies at 100m west after covering 650m distance of north-west road (Thimi-Nagadesh-Dhunchopakha), from Bahakha Bazaar Chowk on *Purano-Bato* (Sanothimi-Bahakha Bazaar-Bhaktapur road).







# Nagadesh Layaku :

Nagadesh *Layaku* (Durbar) is one of the three *Layakus* (Thimi, Nagadesh and Bode) of *Malla-era* in Madhyapur Thimi area. The initiation and conclusion rituals of cultural *Jatra*-festivals of Nagadesh Area have been linked up with this north-faced *Layaku*, situated at about 100 m west from Siddhiganesh Temple. There are *Kot (Maulo)*, well etc in this *Layaku*, which has not been well preserved after the devastating earth-quake of 1990 BS (1933AD). Later in 2024 BS (1967 AD), a *Pati* (resting place) was constructed at its east side and previous *Village Panchayat* building at its north-east corner. We can see a unique five-faced one and half feet tall *Hanuman* statue at the entrance gate of this *Layaku*.

## Nagadesh Buddha Vihar :

'Nagadesh Buddha Vihar' (Monastery) at Mahakhel of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-7 Nagadesh is a centre of supreme faith for the Buddhist people. This monastery installed in 2045 BS (1988 AD) has occupied the area of about 4 *Ropanies*. Because of its topographical location, this monastery looks two storeyed from east side, three-storeyed from south-side, five storeyed from west side, and seven-storeyed from north side. This east faced monastery where '*Buddha Pariyatti*' education is conducted, lies at 300m west from Siddhiganesh Temple via Bahanani Tole.



## Bode :

Bode is one of the ancient, historical and cultural cities of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality area. While it was called Bosningram at *Kirant*-era, called Dharmapur at *Malla*-era and later called Bude, and currently Bode. Because of the authentic art, culture and heritages of Bode, situated on the lap of famous Nilbarahi and northern part of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, has raised the dignity of this municipality. One of the four Mahalaxmi temples of Kathmandu Valley, lies in this city; the only one tongue-piercing procession (on 2<sup>nd</sup> *Baishakh*) in Nepal takes place there; famous Nilbarahi *Nach* (singing-dancing) (4 days after *Gaijatra*) take place there, which are unique cultural heritages of Bode. It lies 1 km north from Bahakha Bazaar Chowk of Thimi. The major heritages of Bode area are as :

- ❖ Mahalaxmi Premise
- ❖ Nilbarahi Temple Premise
- ❖ Manahara 'Mini Koshi Tappu'
- ❖ Kumari Dyo Square
- ❖ Narayan Temple Premise
- ❖ Bode *Layaku* (Durbar)

Photo : Ratna Shrestha

Currently Renovated Bode *Layaku* (Bode Durbar)



# Mahalaxmi Temple :

There is famous Mahalaxmi Temple in Bhangutole at northern border of the middle of Bode city, Madhyapur Thimi municipality-8. This west-faced two storeyed *Pagoda* style temple in 125 feet long and 50 feet wide yard in front of Ward-office building is 40 feet tall. At the inner part of the temple with the area of 10 feet long and 7 feet wide, 3 feet long two stones have been kept upside-down. Out of them the west-side one is called *Bhairav* and east-side one is called *Mahalaxmi*. As these statues took uncontrolled form and started killing people, they were kept upside-down according to local belief. Although archives say, a golden *Aankhijhyal* (casement) was offered to this temple, it has been lost due to the lack of proper preservation. The archeological record says, this temple with the highest model of architect and wooden-craft was installed before NS 749 (1629 AD). The significance of this temple as one of four famous *Mahalaxmi* of Kathmandu Valley, and involvement of the local people in their each and every cultural activities and festivals, is highly justified. *Kshyama Puja* (forgiveness-worshipping) is conducted at the process of *Biska Jatra* every year (on 2<sup>nd</sup> *Baishakh*) in this temple, which leads 8 *Khatyatra* in total of Bode area in the *Jatra*. Raising up and felling down the pole of *Biska Jatra* also take place in this temple. This shrine lies at about 350m north-west from Chardobato Chowk of Bode.









## Kumari Dyo Square :

Historical Kalika (Kumari) Temple situated lower level than the settlement outside the west main-gate of Bode city at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-8, was established in NS 763 (1643 AD) at the time of Naresh Malla and reconstructed the current form in NS 819 (1699 AD) at the time of Bhupatindra Malla. This very attractive one-story Pagoda styled temple at the middle of wide open yard in all four sides, is very artistic. There are three pinnacles kept on this temple with clay-roof. The metal statue of peacock has been installed on the 16 feet tall concrete pillar, in front of this 22 feet tall north-faced temple. An imageless smooth stone at the *Garbhagriha* (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple, has been worshipped as the Kumari. There is traditional practice of circling around the temple by seven *Khats* after piercing tongue in the *Biska Jatra* (tongue-piercing) every year. The local people must visit this temple at the time of *Bratabandha*.

Now (in 2020 AD), stone-pavement has been completed in the temple premise and artistic *Pati*, *Dabali* etc have also been constructed there. Similarly, the sloped land to the south and east from the temple has been developed into green-park with stone-paved foot-path, garden, traditional *Dhungehiti* (stone-fountain) and pond etc. Modern electric bulbs have been fixed there, which make the shrine attractive for the tourists. There is a historical *Paleswan Pukhu* (lotus-pond) to the southern side of this shrine (Dyo Square), which lies at 450m north-west from Chardobato Chowk of Bode.









## Nilbarahi :

Nilbarahi temple situated within the jungle on the hillock slightly north of historical city Tigani at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-9, is one of the famous four *Barahis* of Kathmandu Valley. This temple is supposed to have been installed with *Tantrik* method at the time of the then King Bikram Sen in *Kaligat Sambat* 2912 or about 2400 years ago. Four *Nagas* have been raised up to its center-top from four corners raising 8-feet high wall around this square shaped temple. The natural rock within this west-faced roofless temple is worshipped as the Nilbarahi. We can see other statues including *Ashtamatrika*, *Bhairav* etc. There are other different temples, *Patis*, in this temple premise, which is the centre of faith equally for Buddhist and Hindu people, while the people of Bhaktapur call it as *Dhanbarahi* too. The Nilbarahi statue is seen in the *Nilbarahi Jatra* (fair) with four-handed, three-eyed and riding on buffalo, which is kept in *Dyo Chhen* (Gods Home) at Tigani. There is a tradition for *Khat* (carrier) of this Barahi joining even the *Biska Jatra* of 32 *Khats* in Balkumari of Thimi.

Different structures like ecological study and observation centre, systematic picnic spot, etc are going to be prepared in '**Eco-Park**' to be constructed at the Temple's Jungle-area of about 400 *Ropanis* of land, which has been included as one of 100 new tourist destination announced by Government of Nepal. We can get to this temple at the distance of about 1.5 km from Chardobato Chowk of Bode via Tigani.









## Narayan Temple Premise :

Historical Narayan temple in two-storeyed *Pagoda* style of Vishnughat at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-8 Bode looks really artistic. The imageless stone-statue at the centre of this west-faced temple, constructed before 15/16<sup>th</sup> century, is worshipped as Lord Vishnu. Stone statue of *Garuda* has been installed in front of the main-gate of this temple. There is Shreekrishna temple of *Gumbaj* style constructed in NS 1025 (1905 AD) to the east of this temple decorated with different statues including Lokeshwor, Narayan, Ganesh, Garuda Narayan, Kalki Narayan etc.

There is historical Bode *Layaku* (Bode Durbar / currently Bode Secondary School Premise), near to it, at 30m west. There are different temples, *Lachhipokhari* (pond), well, *Dabali* etc heritages including very tall ancient Narayan temple of historical significance, constructed in *Shikhar*-style at Lachhitol, which is culturally significant, where almost all of *Jatras* of Bode are initiated at 100m south-east from this Narayan Temple. This shrine lies 300 m north-west from Chardobato Chowk of Bode.

## Bird Watching Centre in 'Mini Koshitappu' at wetland on the bank of Manahara Khola

As the wetland and grass-land around the bank of Manahara *Khola* (rivulet) lying west of Nilbarahi Jungle as well as north from Bode city at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-8, got popularity as the bird-watching center recently, the local people have named it 'Mini Koshitappu'. Within this small area at the distance of about 1 km from Chardobato Chowk of Bode, we can watch hundred species of local and foreign birds (including the disappearing ones).

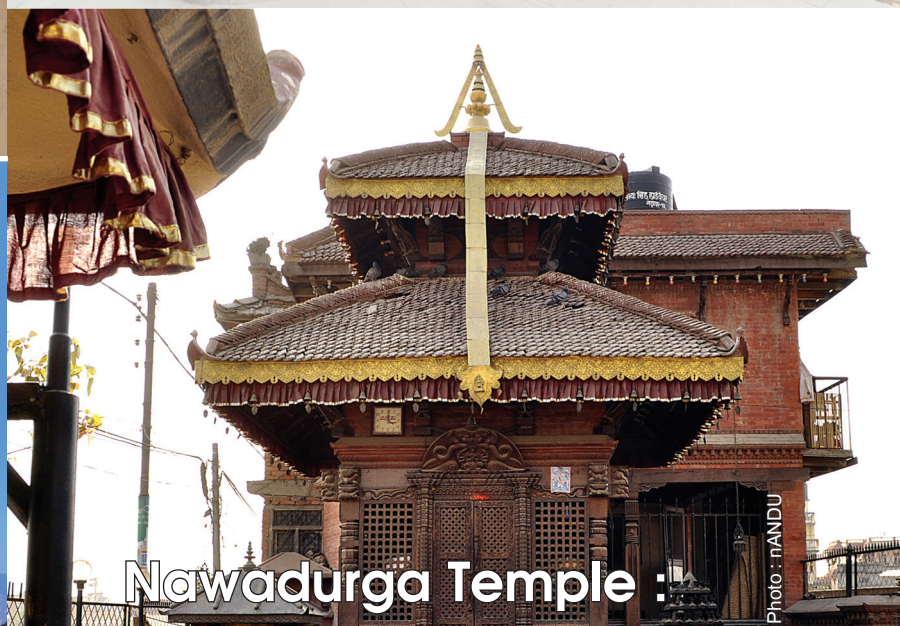






## Kushal Bhairav :

Historical Kushal Bhairav temple lies on the north side of Araniko Highway at Kaushaltar Chowk of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-3.



## Nawadurga Temple :

Nawadurga temple lies on the north side of Araniko Highway at Gaththaghar Chowk of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-3.

Photo : nANDU



## Major Heritages of Lokanthali Area

- Dibyashwori
- Lohankee
- Dakshinkali
- Ancient Shivalaya
- Ram Mandir (Temple)
- Hanuman Temple

## A Rare Style Heritage, Dibyashwori Temple :

Century's long Dibyashwori temple situated about 50m south from Araniko Highway at Lokanthali Chowk of Madhyapur Thimi municipality-1, is decorated with 13 pinnacles including 5 major ones in its very rare style of 'Shreeyantra'. There is very large stone *Shreeyantra* at the centre, after entering through the east-door of this temple, which has four doors in all four direction. The main-pinnacle of the temple is also constructed at *Shreeyantra* shape. There is very big 5 feet tall black stone statue of Goddess



Tripurasundari Dibyashwori, within this 26 feet tall temple. This very big statue with 11 heads and 108 hands, is seen encircled by the *Nag* (snakes). Regular worshipping is being conducted through *Vaidic* incantation offering pure water including coconut into this temple, installed by *Pundit* Dibyadev Pant in 1950 BS (1893 AD) through *Tantrik* Method. There are Sai *Bhajan* (Hymn) Centre and Yoga Centre running within the temple premise.



# Shyama Shyam Dham :

The structures like most attractive Radhakrishna temple, Bhakti temple, and beautiful statues of different Gods and Goddesses have been constructed in Shyama Shyam Dham (Radheradhe) extended in the area of about 14 *Ropanis* of land north from Araniko Highway at Madhyapur Thimi municipality-9.



International standard Ceramics pots (up) and Masks (down) which are made in Thimi Area and exported abroad as well.





Picture utters itself...





## Major Road Network and Distance with Area

|         |   |                        |         |
|---------|---|------------------------|---------|
|         | ① | Manahara Bridge        | 0.55 km |
| 0.40 km | ② | Lokanthali Chowk       |         |
|         | ③ | Kaushaltar Chowk       | 0.85 km |
| 0.60 km | ④ | Gaththaghar Chowk      |         |
|         | ⑤ | Chardobato Chowk       | 0.60 km |
| 1.40 km | ⑥ | Shankhadhar Chowk      |         |
|         | ⑦ | Hanumante Bridge       |         |
|         | ⑧ | Manahara Bridge        | 1.10 km |
| 1.30 km | ⑨ | Sanothimi              |         |
|         | ⑩ | Bahakha Bazaar         | 0.30 km |
|         | ⑪ | Office of Municipality |         |
|         | ⑫ | Nikosera Chowk         | 0.80 km |
|         | ⑬ | Eastern Border Bridge  |         |
|         | ⑭ | Dhunchopakha           | 0.90 km |
| 1.10 km | ⑮ | Bode Chardobato        |         |
|         | ⑯ | Neelbarahi             |         |

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| ⑨ | 1.60 km | ⑭ |
| ⑩ | 0.85 km | ⑮ |
| ⑥ | 1.10 km | ⑩ |
| ② | 1.70 km | ⑨ |
| ④ | 1.40 km | ⑨ |
| ④ | 2.00 km | ⑩ |
| ⑩ | 1.10 km | ⑭ |
| ⑩ | 1.10 km | ⑫ |
| ⑤ | 1.60 km | ⑩ |



# -wise Signal of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality







Madhyapur Thimi Municipality rewarded from '2020  
**ASIAN TOWNSCAPE AWARD**' a dignified prize  
of Asia under heritage renovation / renaissance.



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