

# Visit Janakpurdham



जनकपुरधाम उप-महानगरपालिका  
Janakpurdham Sub metropolitan



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**However, in case of lapses and discrepancies, revisions and updates would be subsequently carried out in the forthcoming issues.**

**2022 Edition**

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# Table of Content

<b>Temples</b>	<b>7-53</b>		
Annapurna Mai Mandir	7	Gyan Kup Kuti	18
Baudhi Mai Temple	7	Hanuman Mandir	19
Bhairawh Mandir ( Bhairawah Chowk )	8	Jhulan Kunj	19
Bijay Raghav Kunja	8	Jaleshwor Nath Temple	20
Bhoot Nath Temple	9	Janak Mandir	21
Bin jatiya Kuti	10	Janaki Mandir	22
Bishara Mandir	10	Kali Mandir	23
Bishwokarma Mandir	11	Kapileshwor Nath Temple	23
Chireswor Mahadev Mandir	11	Kalwar Kuti	24
Dakshin Kali Mandir	12	Krishna Mandir ( Murlisar )	25
Dasrath Mandir	12	Kumhar Kuti	25
Dhanusha Dham	13	Kshireshwor Temple	26
DudhMati Mata Temple	14	Kupeshwor Nath Mandir	27
Dulha Dulhan Mandir	14	Kupeshwor Nath Mahadev Mandir (Kuwa)	28
Durga Mandir ( Murlisar)	15	Laxman Temple	28
Fuleshwari Mai Mandir	15	Laxmi Narayan Mandir	29
Ganesh Mandir Hatiya	16	Laxminiya Mai Sthan	29
Gani Nath Govinda Temple	16	Madaima Ram Janaki Mahadev Mandir	30
Gaund Kuti	17	Mahadev Math ( Murlisar)	30
Gopal Dharmashala	17	Mahabir Temple	31
		Maheshwor Nath Mahadev Mahuwa	32

Mani Mandap	32	Shri Janaki bihar Bhawan	48
Matihani Matth	33	Shrinagar Kunj Akhanada Jyoti Mandir	49
Mauni Baba Kuti	33	Siya Raghuwar Kunja	49
Mithila Bihari Temple	34	Sonar Kuti	50
Mushar Kuti	35	Sonasati Mai Temple	50
Panchamukhi Hanuman	35	Soneshwor Mahadev	51
Pidariya Mai Temple	36	Swarg Dwar	52
Purshottam Bhagwan Temple	36	Tharu Kuti	52
Radha Krishna Temple	37	Yugal binod Kunj	53
Rajdevi Mai Kapleshwornath	38	Yugal Prem Kunja	53
Rajdevi Mandir (Kuwa)	38		
Rajdevi Temple	39	<b>River &amp; Ponds</b>	<b>55-67</b>
Rajdevi Temple ( Devi chowk )	40	Agni Kunda	55
Ram Janaki Bhagwan Kuti	41	Angraj Sar	56
Rameshwor Bhagwan Shankar Mandir	41	Bidal Sar	57
Ram Janki Bibaha Mandap	42	Bihar Kunda	57
Ram Mandir	43	Bishara Sar	58
Rani Pati	44	Dhanush Sagar	59
Rasik niwas	44	Dhurva Kunda	60
Ratna Sagar Kuti	45	Ganga Sagar	60
Sani Dev Temple	45	Ganga Sagar aarti	61
Sanakat Mochan Mandir	46	Jalaid Nadi	62
Saranchiya Kutti	47	maharaj Sagar	62
Shiva temple	48	Pap mochani Sar	63

parashuram Lake	64
Ratna Sagar	65
Sita Kund	66
Doodhmati	67

### **Others Major Places      69-74**

Janak hazari Bidhya Pith	69
Naari Bikash Kendra	70
Railway Station	71
Bawan Bigha	72
Ranga bhumi	72
Saraswati High School	73
Trihutiya Gachi	73
Tulsi Smarak	74

### **CULTURAL DANCES      76-77**

### **FESTIVAL      79-81**

# Temples

# Annapurna Mai Mandir

This temple lies at the South West Corner of Dhanush Sagar. It is also called as baudhimai. It hasmata Durga Idol Inside. Lot of Devotee Comes here during Dashain.



# Baudhi-Mai Mandir

This Baudhi-Mai temple is located just south of Ram Temple, ward no.4, Janakpurdham. The temple was established in 2050 BS by Bijaya Kumar Thakur on the memory of his mother. Baudhi Mai is actually one of the sister of Rajdevi Mai. At the south of this temple there is a pond called Ram sagar. During Durga puja, devotees from all around the city comes to worship in the temple. Ram youth club is involved in the management and operation of the temple specially during festivals.



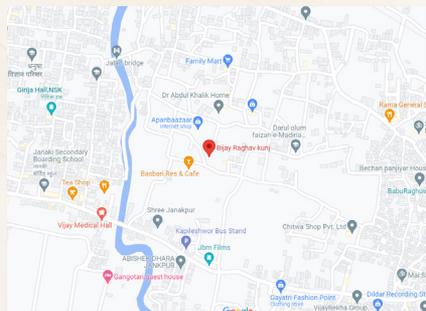
# Bhairab Mandir

Bhairab mandir is a Hindu shrine located in Janakpurdhm. It is worshipped by all the hindus around the world. It is situated beside Friday market in janakpurdhm.



# Bijay Raghav Kunja

This temple is situated on the west part of Bihar Kunda. This Temple has the idols of all four brother Ram , Laxman, Bharat and Shratrudhan.

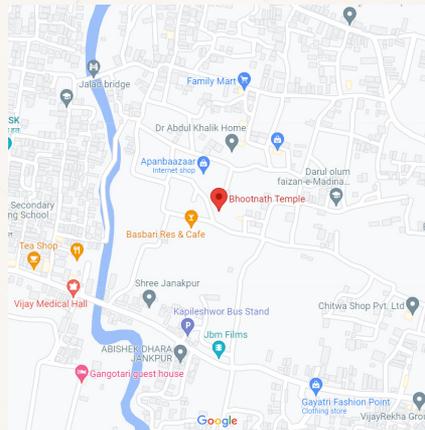


# Bhoot Nath Temple

Bhootnath Temple is located in the southern part of the Gangasagar. It is also called Swargdwar of Janakpurdham. Shiva Parvati statue, shanka ghanta, Kaal Bhairav mandir is visible in this temple. This temple is 345 ft in length and 125 ft wide. This place looks like a very beautiful garden with diversity of flowers and trees. This place is also crematorium (Samsanghat). There is arrangement of wood and other related items for use in the premises.

There is also a place for people attending funeral. On one side, a view of Lord Shiva Parvati's and Bhoot Nath temple and on the other end corpse burnt connects philosophically. The temple is constructed by Pawan Singhaniya, a local business man in 2066 BS. It is believed that after receiving "Bivhut" or flower from the priest; one become disease free. The temple is operated and managed by the Maarwaadi sewa samiti, though the land belongs to Guthi Sansthan.

Shivaratri is celebrated with pomp in the temple and is the center for tourism for most of the young couples due to its beautiful landscape and peaceful environment.



# Bin Jatiya Kuti

This kuti is situated in the east side of Dashrath Pond This kuti has idols of ram and sita . This is a temple for everyone to visit . there is pond at the back of this temple .



# Bishhara Mandir

This is a religious temple situated in bishhara chowk , It is a famous temple for god bishhara.





# Dakshin Kali Mandir

This temple is situated in the bashiya village, It is believed that kali matawill protect the village. Special puja is offered in Dashain.



# Dasharath Mandir

The Dasharath Maharaja's marble statue and metal statue of Ram and Sita are worshiped in this Dasharath temple. It is believed that, the statue of Maharaj Dasharath was brought from Jayapur (India), statue of Ram and Sita from Ayodhya. The temple was founded by Banawari Das around BS. 1958. Banawari Das baba was a scholar of the then monk/saint society. This temple is located in the north west of Maharaj Sagar (Dasarath Lake) at Janakpurdham Sub-metropolitan city Ward no – 3. The Vivaha Panchami and Jestha Shukla Dashami celebration is the special attraction. On the day of the Jestha Shukla Dashami, Ram Dola is taken to

Maharaj Dasharath temple for Tika/blessing and after spending some time in Ranga Bhumi back to Ram Mandir.

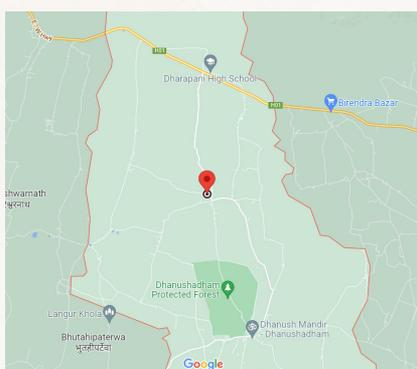


# Dhanusha Dham

This place of mythological importance lies 20 km to the north of Janakpurdham. It was here that a fragment of Shiva's divine bow fell after Lord Ram broke it into three pieces during the Bow-Breaking Ceremony held at Rangabhoomi in Janakpurdham; a condition for obtaining the hand of Sita in marriage. During the Makar Mela festival held every Sunday in the month of Magh (January-February), hundreds of thousands of devotees throng Dhanushadham to pay homage to the fossilised bow piece.

Buses leave regularly for Dhanushadham from Janakpurdham. One can also reach there from Bhiman on the East West Highway; a distance of just 6 km.

Other temples here include Shri Ram Janaki temple, Subbakutti and Shri Sitaram Dhun Ashram. Baan ganga has its own spiritual importance in this temple. The temple also has a water hole which is always filled with water, which is called Pattal Kunda. It is also called a measure of the aroma of the region. In this kunda, if the water level goes down, there is a famine, but if the water is ok then there is a popular belief that everything is ok.



# Dudhmati Mata Temple

Dudhmati Mata's Temple is in the northern part of the Dudhmati River. It was built by Jameriya Devi on Baishakh Sukla Nawami on Baishakh 26, BS 2052. The mythological connection of Dudhmati Temple is with Dudhmati river and Sita.



# Dulha Dulhan Mandir

The temple is also known as Shri Ram Nanda ashram. The idols of Ram and Sita as married couple can be found here, as the bride and groom. It is a magnificent cottage, and the foundations of the cottage were built in BS.1997. The temple was banned for people in Ramanand Chowk of Sita, Ram, Hanuman in Shukla Dwadashi, February 1998, during renovation. Later, construction of this temple was completed in the year BS.2006, the credit goes to Shri Avadh Kumar Das. A little further west south of Ramananda Chowk this mandir stands facing north. Religious festivals are celebrated here. The Bhavri Mandap built in BS. 2039 Marg in the northern part

of this Ramanand Ashram, is particularly spectacular.



# Durga Mandir ( Murlisar)

This temple is located on the south side of murlisar. This temple has idols of Mata durga. Durga Pooja is celebrated in Dashain.



# Fuleshwari Mai Mandir

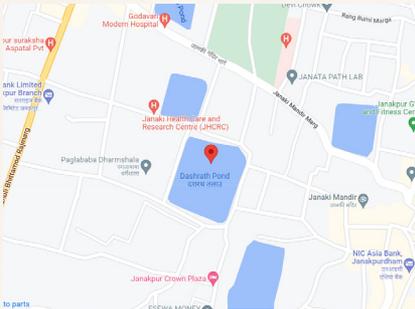
This Temple is located in near Sitaram Gaushala. Fuleshwari devi resides inside this temple. Devotee perform special puja during Dashain .





# Gaund Kuti

This kuti is situated in the south side of Dashrath Pond. This kuti has idols of ram and sita . This is a temple for everyone to visit .Special puja is offered during Dashain.



# Gopal Dharmashala

This place is used by various groups for various purpose. Mostly marriage ceremony are held here . It is the place where sasto bazar is organized in dashain in which local people can buy their needs in discount price.



## Gyan Kup Kuti / Sita Kund

This Gyan Koop Kuti is located west of Gyan koop school compound and south-west of Agni kund. In this kuti, statues of Ram Janaki, Laxman and Hanuman (made of Marble) is worshiped. Initially, puja was initiated by a devotee Mithila, a resident of Mujeliya by constructing a small thatch sheds. After her, Shyam Sundari Sharan & Yugal Kishore became Mahanta.



In this kuti, religious festivals like Bibaha Panchami, Janaki Nawami, Jhula, Falgun Purnima are being celebrated. Kuti is operated by the production of 4 Bighas of land.



Sita Kund is very small pond, located east of Gyan Koop and west of Rashik Niwas. The Satananda kuti is situated in the south ridge. The temple contains the statues of Satananda Ji, Lord Ram and Krishna. The statue of Satananda Ji is quite large and made of black stone.



According to the mythology; Jagatjanani Janaki used to bath in Sita kunda and studied with Satananda Ji Maharaj in this temple.

There is a school named Gyankup where Jyotishi, Karmakanda, literature, Darshan and culture are taught. The site is also a center for knowledge acquisition.

# Hanuman Mandir

This Manokamana Siddha Hanuman Mandir was established by Mahanta Ram Shevak Das in 1954 BS and is located near Devi chowk, in the way to Milsha area. Every day, Ramayan Kirtan is performed and every Saturday, Hanuman Aaradhna is done. During Bibaha Panchami, free food and lodging is provided to the groom procession side here.

This temple is conducted and managed by the Guthi Sansthan and local youth club called Manokaman Youth Club.



# Jhulan Kunj

The Jhulan Kunj is in the north-west part of the Agni Kund which was established by Ballabh Sharma in Bikram Sambat 1805. Ramkripal Saran was the 8th generation Mahanta of the temple who died at the age of 104 on the day of 2045 Ashwin Purnima. Currently, 9th generation Mahanta resides here.



# Jaleshwor Nath Temple

This temple lies in the Jaleshwor Municipality of Mahottari, 5km north west from Nepal-India border, Vithamore. Jaleshwor Nath Mahadev, an unique mahadev temple where shivling is below water. A small religious pond is on west of this temple, it is believed that this pond is linked with underwater Shivling of this temple. Everyday high number of pilgrims visit this temple and during Maha Shivaratri & month of Shrawan temple is filled with pilgrims.

This temple is about 18 km from Janakpurdham. Shivling in this temple is 20 meter below the surface, underwater. It is believed that; 250 to 300 years ago, Shiva Devotee Jagdish Nath Yogi while mediating under "Bar" tree (still present in premises of temple), Jaleshwor Nath Mahadev asked him to rescue the kunda below the surface.

It is one of the ancient Shiv Mandir among the 4 around Janakpurdham. This temple was built by Shah dynasty king Girwan Yuddha Bikram Shah in 1867 BS.

To reach this place, one can get Buses through out the day from Janakpur Buspark, which is near Zero mile.



# Janak Mandir

Janak Temple is located north-west corner of Dhanush Sagar; considered one of the mythical temple in Janakpur dham and is dedicated to King Janak renowned for his scholarship in that age. He was also regarded as “ Videh” or someone without a body. Nowadays, the place where this temple is located is famous by the name of Janak chowk. Mainly, in this temple King Janak, Sunenaa, Sita, Gopal and other deities are being worshipped.

This Janak temple was established in the regime of Marik Sen and was built by Amar Singh Thapa in 1839 B.S. After the massive earthquake in 1990, the temple was re-constructed by Ram Samsher in 1994, in existing Shikhar Style.

This is the place where Shiva's Bow was kept and at the same place, King Janak used to worship the Bow. Temple is faced in east direction, having small door in Southern side for entry of priest.

At the Garva Griha of temple, among the deities, the statue of King Janak is without head, hand & legs. About this fragmented statue; it is believed that, King Janak gifted his head to Goddess Sita as she was unsatisfied with the dowry given by the king. Another mythology says, “ Yawan during his attack, used to destroy temple and idols”, so it is fragmented. The temple is conducted and conserved by Guthi Sansthan.



# Mata Janaki Mandir



This magnificent temple of marble was built in 1874 A.D. by Queen Brishbhenu Kunwari, wife of king Pratap Singh of Orchha kingdom of Madhya Pradesh, India. This temple takes inspiration from Moghul architecture and is the biggest temple of Nepal, covering an area of 265\*187 square feet.

On the four corners of this temple, cupolas enhance its architectural supremacy. The middle portion of the east side is known as the "Sheesh Mahal". And at the centre of the inner part where the idols of Sita and Ram are housed is called the Janaki Mahal. Behind the Janaki Mahal is the Janak-Sunaiyana mandir, dedicated to the father and mother of Goddess Sita. The whole temple complex is also locally known as the Naulakha Temple as nine lakh rupees, or Rs. 900,000 – a colossal sum of money then – were said to have been spent in the construction of the Janaki Mandir.



# Kali Mandir

This temple lies in the south of Bishara Pond. The pond which name is derived from a snake goddess in Mithila which worshiped in the house holds of Mithila. There is idols of goddess Kali. Prayers are hold daily in this temple. There is special decoration and puja held during Dashain.



# Kapileshwor Nath Temple

According to religious texts, Janak Dynasty King Shirdwaj had established temples of Charnath (Four Naths) in all four directions of Janakpurdham. This temple is located in Jankpurdham sub-metropolitan city, ward no. 16. This temple has great religious and archeological importance as other Shivalingas of Mithila Janakpurdham. In the Garva Griha(home), Lord Shiva's Shiving, Basaha, Ganesh, Parvati, Shaligram etc. are included. The statues in the sanctuary of the temple are made of black stones. In this temple, month of Shraavan, on Shivratri, a large crowd of devotees are involved in the procession. From a tourist point of view, this place

needs to be publicized more.



# Kalwar Kuti

This Kalwar Kuti is located in ward no.7, Janaki-nagar and is also known as Gor Kuti. In this temple, statue of Ram, Janaki, Laxman, Hanuman made of marbles are being worshiped.

This temple was established in 1958 BS by Shree Lal Das as a small kuti. The metal made statues were also established by him at that time, later on, in 2047 BS marble made statues were brought from Banaras.

In front of temple in courtyard, separate statutes of Lord Shiva and Hanuman has been established. Similarly, there is Samaadhi Sthal of Mahanta Lal Das too. The temple is constructed in Shikhar Style and the construction was initiated in 2001 BS. The kutti is extended in 17 Kathas of land. Besides Garva Griha and Jagmohan, there are altogether six rooms in the temple. There is also a separate L-shaped one storey RCC building having 11 rooms, where nowadays school is operated.

Operation and maintenance of the temple are done by Jaishwal Sewa Samiti. There are six Bigahas of land in the name of Kalwar kuti in Nepal and India. During festivals, especially people belonging to kalwaar caste used to offer pray in the kutti.



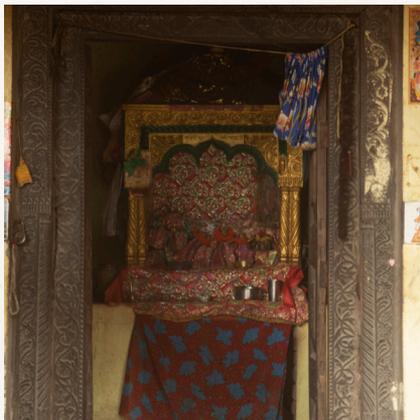
# Krishna Mandir ( Murlisar )

This temple is located on the east side of murlisar. This temple has idols of Radha Krishna. It is believed that Lord Krishna played flute on this place.



# Kumhar Kuti

This kuti is situated in Damhimarayee village of mohattari. This kuti has idols of ram and sita . This is a temple for Kumhar. There is pond on the both sides of Kuti .



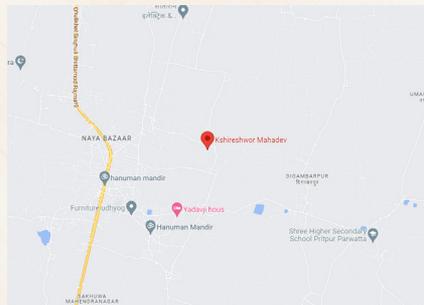
# Kshreshwor Temple

This Kshreshwor Nath Temple is located in Mahendranagar, Dhanusha. It is believed that, long time ago, there was just a field in the place, and a cow (black in color) used to come in the place (where there is temple now) and used to spray the milk by its own. Later on, people from nearby area, saw the incident and found the stone called "Linga" of Lord Shiva underneath the soil and finally, the Linga was being worshipped as Kshreshwor nath.

The temple was constructed by a business man from Janakpur, who promised to construct it, if he could get son. During Shivaratri, large numbers of devotees come to pray and worship in the temple. In fifteen days Parikarma, for half-day, saints & priests stay at this place too. During each Monday of shrawan; procession of devotees can be seen in hope of better health of their husband.

In just opposite of Kshreshwor nath temple, there is a temple of Paarwati, who is the wife of lord shiva; and is constructed by the Greater Janakpur Development Council. There is a small Mandap near by, where couples come for wedding.

The temple is surrounded by beautiful garden, which covers about 3 and ½ Bighas of land. The recent priest of the temple is Om Prakash Giri.

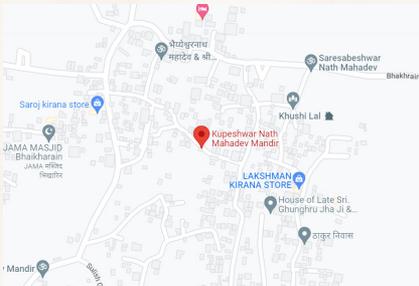


# Kupeshwor Nath Mandir

Kupeshwor Nath Temple is located in Kuwa village, ward no. 12 of Janakpurdham. In religious text, about this Kupeshwor nath has been mentioned. In the womb house of temple, Mahadev Kupeshwor Nath is situated in circular well like dipression and that is why Mahadev is called kupeshwor (Kup meaning Well) and due to same reason the village is named Kuwa.

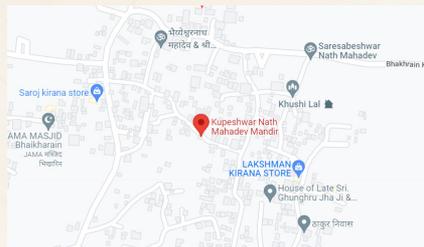
It is said that kupeshwor nath temple is built during the time of Chaturbharj Giri and is believed to be as old as Ram temple. The temple was reconstructed in 1996 B.S. Near to kupeshwor nath, another Shivling is present which was established later on. The statue of Basaha is kept east of circular ditch. There is a silver made small snake which seems offering bow to Kupeshwor nath.

Festivals like Shivratri, Maghe Sakranti & each Monday of Shrawan are celebrated in this temple. This temple comes under Guthi Sansthan. Priest and Mahanta are appointed by Guthi Sansthan.



# Kupeshwor Nath Mahadev Mandir (Kuwa)

This temple is situated in Kuwa Village. God Shiva reside in this temple as a shiva linga . Devotee comes here during Maha Shivaratri for special celebration.



# Laxman Temple

Laxman Temple is one of the oldest temples of Janakpurdham. It is located on the north east side corner of the Janaki Temple complex. There are metal idols of Sita, Ram, Laxman and Lava Kush. It is believed that Hanuman suggested Mahatma Mataram to return back to Janakpurdham and establish Laxman temple which will bring harmony. After receiving this order from Hanuman, Mataram came to Janakpurdham and by grace of Hanuman, Mataram found the idol of Laxman and started to worship. Mataram was First Mahanta of Laxman Temple. This temple is built in Shikhar style. Festivals like Vivian Panchami, Ram nawami, Jhula,

Anukut, Kojagrat Purnima are celebrated in this temple.



# Laxmi Narayan Temple

This temple is situated at, southwest from Narayan Chaur, Janaki Eye Hospital and east from Vihar Kund. Lakshminarayan, Tirupati Balaji, Tridandi Swami etc. are worshiped in this temple. The statue of Lakshminarayan is of marble. Temple of Lakshmi Narayan founded by Shri Basudev Acharya Swami is dated earlier than BS. 1905. There are 108 verse (slok) of Original Ramayan written all around the pillar in a unique way. During religious festivals, devotees write 1.5 million 'Ram Nam' on Tulsipatra and put inside the

temple. There is a belief that one round around the pillar equals to a hundred million times being to the other pilgrimage.



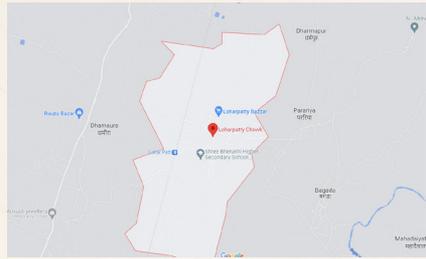
# Laxminiya Mai Sthan

Laxminiya Mai sthan is about 200 meters east of the highway on the way to Bagewa. There is no written evidence as to when it was established but public belief/confidence is strong enough to make this Gahwar a tourist attraction. People sacrifice goats on every Monday and Friday.



## Madaima Ram Janaki Mahadev Mandir

This Temple is Situated in Maidaima in loharpatti Village. This temple has idols of Ram and Sita. There is also the shiva linga in this temple. Devotee come to worship in the evening. Special puja is held during the month of shrawan.



## Mahadev Math (Murlisar)

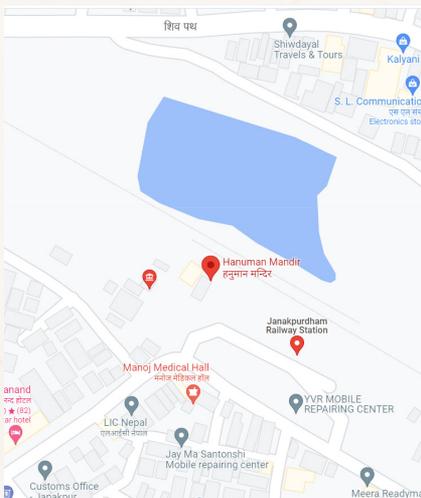
This temple is located on the west side of murlisar. This temple has idols of Mahadev.



# Mahabir Temple

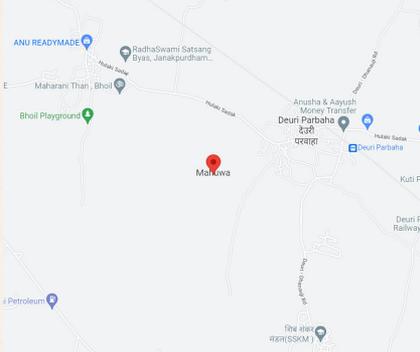
Near to Railway station, in south-west direction, Shree 108 Mahabir Temple is located. The statue of Hanuman, made of metal, cement, sand etc. is placed in the temple and looks magnificent. This temple is established in 2032 BS by Shree Ram Narayan Jha and has 6 feet tall statue of Hanuman. The temple constructed in Shikhar Style is actually in the land of Railway Station. For the operation & management of temple, "Mahabir Mandir Station Area Sanchaalan Samiti" is constituted. Fund is collected from devotees and Local residents to operate the temple.

Mahabir Youth Club, each year organize Krishna puja magnificently during Krishnaastami. This Hanuman Temple sees thousands of devotees twice a week on Tuesday and Saturday.



## Maheshwor Nath Mahadev Mahuwa

This temple is situated in Mahuwa Village. God Shiva reside in this temple as a shiva linga . Devotee comes here during Maha Shivaratri for special celebration.



## Mani Mandap

The sanctum of Ram Sita married is Mani Mandap and this temple lies about 3 km north of the main Janaki temple of Janakpurdham. This place was also known as Rani Bazar. Now this place lies within Janakpurdham Sub-metropolitan city. The saints proved that this is where Rama Sita's marriage took place. There is the altar (Mandap) to the north of Ram Janaki's wedding venue. There are some temples in the garden from the altar to the north.

This place is of great importance since Ramayana period. The religious festival such as Vivaha Panchami attracts native and foreign tourist Saints and devotees.



# Matihani Matth

Among the temples that are important to the tourist coming to Mithila, Mathihani Matth is one of them. The historic Matthiani Matth soil has been considered and utilized by the sages, rishis for the sacred site soil in the marriage of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram and Mata Janaki. This is one of the important places to visit. It is situated just 14 km south from old buspark of Janakpurdham.

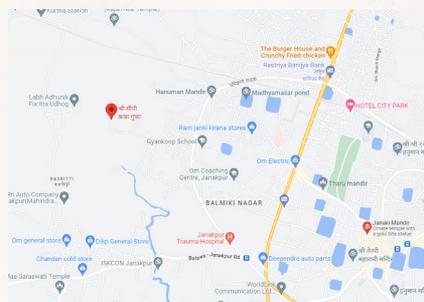


# Mauni Baba Kuti

To the west of Gyan Koop, at the bank of Doodhmati River, Mauni Baba Kutti is located. In this kutti, Saaligram of Sita Ram and Hanuman is being worshiped. Previously, at this place, kutti of Bimala Sharan was located. Later on, Pawan Kumar Sharan Mauni Baba came and used to perform Bhajan at the same place, so it is called Doodhmati Mauni Baba Kutti.



According to Mauni Baba, "It gives pleasure and peace when someone perform Bhajan at the bank of holy Doodhmati river". Mauni Baba used to perform Bhajan- Kirtan through out the day at this place. Nowadays, his follower Rameshwor Das do the same and has kept himself silent.

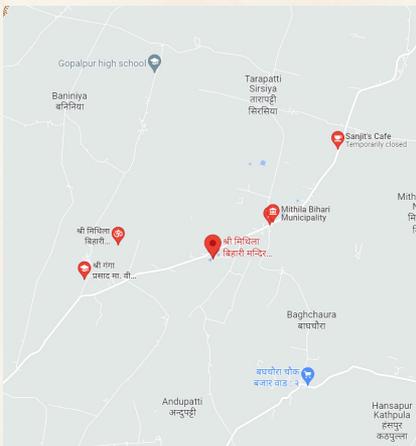


# Mithila Bihari Temple

Mithila Bihari Temple is located on the north side of Janakpurdham. This temple is ancient and religious. The first Dola for Madhya Parikarma comes from this temple for 15 days. In the Dola, Ram Janaki statue, along with saint and mahant travel to Janakurdham. Mithila Bihari temple is for antiquity and for circulation. The first Dola goes from this temple and it has an important place in Mithila. The temple in recent form was constructed by Shree 108 Ram Uchit Sharan Mahraj, some 60/70 years ago.

Besides, its importance of 15-days Parikarma, it also attract tourists during Kojaaagrat Purnima in large number, and Bibaha Panch, Ram Nawami is being celebrated too.

In the west, at back side of the temple, a pond is located which is called Mithila Sagar.



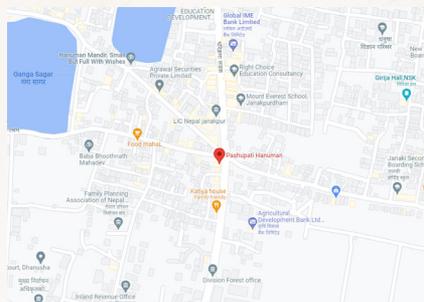
# Mushar Kuti

This kuti is situated in the south side of Dashrath Pond. This kuti has idols of ram and sita . This is a temple for everyone to visit but Mushar people hold special puja in this temple.



# Panchamukhi Hanuman

Panchamukhi Hanuman temple is located at Kadam chowk, ward no. 2 of Janakpurdham. The temple was established in 2042 B.S, with keeping statue of five-headed Hanuman (made of clay) by Shree Ram Pakaudi Das Baishnav. Later on; after one year, the statue was made with concrete.



# Pidariya Mai Temple

This Pidariya Mai temple is located in ward no. 4 of Janakpurdham, near RRM multiple campus. The temple was constructed by Shyam Prasad Adhikari of resident Belha (Sirha) in 2051 BS. It is believed that, Shyam Prasad Ahikari built this temple after his wish of becoming father was fulfilled and it was due to blessing from the Pidariya Mai. Previously, there was a huge tree of "Piraar" at the place, so due to this reason, the place is now called Pidariya Mai.

Many worshippers visit the temple during the festivals of Dashain. Every year in Dashain, goats are being sacrificed. Besides that, it is believed that, if someone do cleanliness work in the premises of temple, then their wishes are being fulfilled by the Goddess.



# Purshottam Bhagwan Temple

This temple is Situated on the west bank of Dhanush Sagar. This Temple has the idols of god ram and Sita along with Laxman and Hanuman. Lord Ram is often referred as Purshottam Bhagwan.

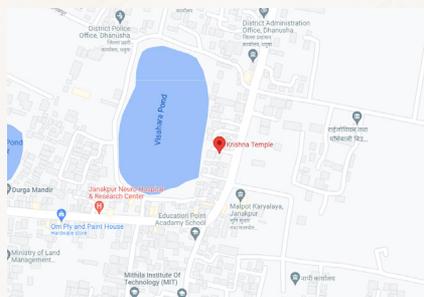


# Radha Krishna Temple

At the mid-east zone of Bisahara Lake, in ward no. 4 of Janakpurdhham, this Radha Krishna Temple is located. Previously, it was called Bisahara Yadav kutti; which was established by Shree Kamal Das in 2003 B.S. The statue of Ram Lala (of metal) and of Hanuman (of marble) was worshiped in temple. The metal made statue of the temple was brought from Keshara Kutti.

The operation and management of the kutti is done by Gopal Sewa Samiti. There is a big field where the marriage procession from groom side (Ayodhaya) stayed there. Now a days, a covered hall has been constructed here. During religious festivals, specially people from Yadav society used to worship the god.

Now, there is separate magnificent Radha Krishna temple established in 9th May 2011. There is a cow and Krishna statue on first floor and Radha Krishna on the second floor. The current Mahanta of this temple is Ganesh Das, and the first Mahanta was Kamal Das. During 15-days Madhyama Parikarma, Saints & Mahantas are provided foods by the Gopal Sewa Samiti.



# Rajdevi Mai Kapleshwornath

This temple is situated in the Kapleshwor Village . This is a temple of Rajdevi mata. Special Pooja is done in this temple during Dashain.



# Rajdevi Mandir (Kuwa)

This temple is situated in the Kuwa Village. This is a temple of Rajdevi mata. Special Pooja is done in this temple during Dashain.



# Rajdevi Temple

The temple of the patron deity of king Janak, Goddess Raj Devi or Rajeshwari, lies on the north side of Ram mandir in another compound, where during the Durga pooja, or Dashain festival, special worship is held in the morning and evening by devotees from Nepal and India. The temple having rooms in all four sides with wider courtyard is built in Shikhar style. Local organizations make arrangements for this grand worshipping ritual.

Specially in Dashain; through out nine days worship is conducted with lots of devotee visiting the place. During this period, Rajdevi temple along with other temples like Amarkhana devi, Baudhi mai are beautifully decorated by Mahavir & Ram youth clubs. According to tradition, thousands of goats are sacrificed during Ashtami-Nawami (eight and ninth day of Dashain) in the Janakpurdham area. Thereafter, no sacrifices are allowed in the area.

Rajdevi is also called by names of Maha Durga, Maha Kaali, Maha Laxmi, Maha Sarasawati, Mahamaya Chandika, Paarwati, Kaushiki, Janaki, Kishori etc. According to mythology, to get rid of famine crisis, goddess Rajdevi was established. During Saptami, in dashain "Khoicha" is filled by the women in the belief, Rajdevi will protect their child from evils.

This temple is looked after by Guthi Sansthan. All rituals/worship are conducted by Guthi from its fund. The rooms around the temples are being used by Saint and devotees.



# Rajdevi Temple ( Devi chowk )

This Rajdevi Mandir is located 400 m distance north of Janaki temple at Devi Chowk, ward no 10 of Janakpurdham. Rajdevi temple is constructed by Rajdevi Youth Club and was inaugurated in 2072 BS, Shrawan 15 by Raghurib Mahaseth, minsitr of Irrigation, however it was constructed in 2063-64 BS. According to the priest; many years ago, there was forest around this area and people didn't have any idea of devi residing in this forest. The devi used to disturb the people travelling by the forest even during day time. There was twin "Taar" tree near by, where devi was supposed to reside. So, no one dared to cut the tree.

Later on, the Mahanta of Janaki mandir at that time got an idea of the devi and after that formally puja of the goddess was initiated. It is said that, a women of age 55, bore a child after performing religious rituals at the temple. As a token of thankfulness the women offered a silver tiger sculpture to the temple.

The temple experience maximum inflow of pilgrims during dashain and chaite dashain. The temple is operated by the local Raj Devi Yuba committee and is spread in 1 Katha of land. Maheshwor Das is the recent priest of the temple.



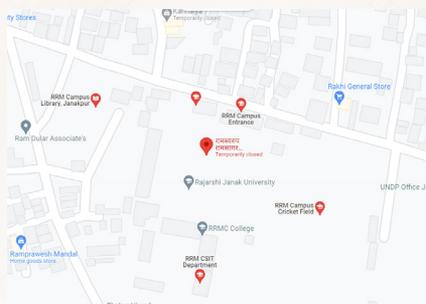
# Ram Janaki Bhagwan Kuti

This Temple is located at the north part of Dashrath Pond. This temple has idols of God Ram and Goddess Sita. North of this temple there is ranga bhoomi.



# Rameshwor Bhagwan Shankar Mandir

This temple lies inside the RRM Campus of Janakpur. This Temple has the Idols of Lord Shankar and Lord Ram. Students of this campus pray every evening in this temple.



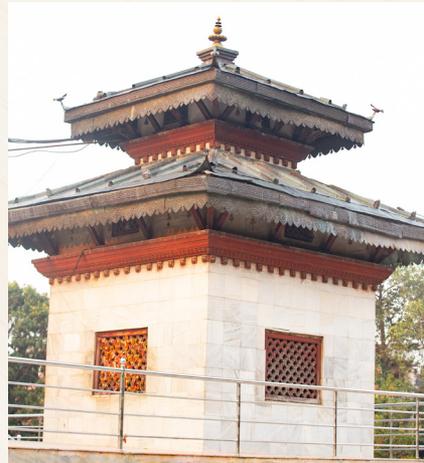
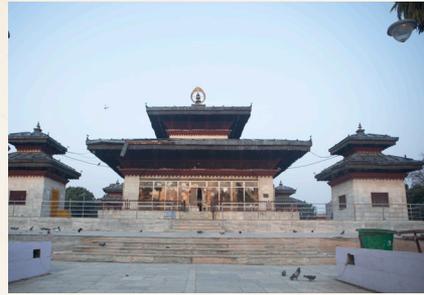
# Ram Janki Vivah Mandap

This Ram Janaki Vivah Mandap, located north of Janaki temple and south of Angraj Sar, is yet another religious and spectacular place of Janakpurdham. After the earthquake in 1990 BS, the damaged Mandap was re-constructed beautifully in recent Pagoda style to attract the tourists. It was established by Bada Guru Ji, Khagendra Raj Pandey in 2026 BS and was inaugurated by the then king Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on 18 Poush 2042 BS. For construction of the mandap, the contribution of the then Mahanta of Janaki temple, Shree Nawal Kishore Das is seen remarkable.

There are four Mandap in the four corners of the Garva Mandap. There are marble statues, including Ram Sita, four brothers and their spouses, all of which are called kohbar in Mithila. The altar is glass protected. In the center of the Garva Griha, beautiful statues of Ram Sita are placed facing east-west. This altar is under supervision of Janaki Mandir trust. People flock to Bibahna Mandap to get married because it considered to be sacred and getting married here is considered to help lead a happy married life.

In the list of oldest temples of Janakpurdham, Laxman Temple is also the one, which is located at northeast side in the premises of Janaki Temple. Mainly the statue of Ram Sita, Laxman & Lava-Kush are

being worshiped in this temple. The temple was established in seventeen century by Mahatma Shree Jay Krishna Das. Many worshippers visit the temple during the festivals of Ram Nawami, Vivaha Panchami, Dashain and Tihar.

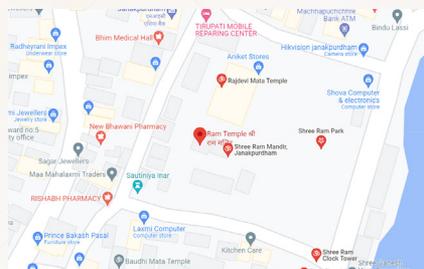


# Ram Mandir

This Ram Temple is one of the beautiful and ancient temple of Janakpudham. This temple is the center of faith to the Hindus similar to Janaki Temple. Ram temple constructed in Pagoda Style looks similar to Pasupathi Nath temple of Kathmandu. In this temple statue of Lord Ram, Laxminarayan, Bishnu, Shuryanarayan and other god/goddess are being worshipped. Those statues of god & goddess were found under the Bar tree (located behind the temple), by Shree Chaturbhuj Giri and was later on established by himself for puja. This Bar tree is called "Bat Briksha" & "Kalpa Briksha". It is believed that wishes are fulfilled if religious rituals is performed under the Bar tree. This temple was constructed by Amar Singh Thapa, Senapati of King Rana Bahadur Shah in 1839 BS, in pagoda style. During the regime of Prime minister Chandra Shumsher, in 1984 BS, the bronze roof of the temple was made gold coated and was made more attractive.

Temple is 25 feet long and 23 feet wide. Every year, specially during Bibaha Panchami, Ram Nawami, Jhula; large number of devotees and saints comes from different parts of the country and abroad (India). During such occasion, lodging and fooding of saints are managed by Guthi Sansthan with the help of local devotees. Conservation and Operation of the temple is

done by Guthi Sansthan in the leadership of Civil Society and Local Youth clubs.



## Rani Pati

This Temple was constructed in the year B.S. 1934 . This temple has idols of God Ram , Sita, Laxman and Hanuman. There is a square pillar under which savacarod name of RAM is written on.



## Rasik niwas

It is situated by the side of biharkund near balwa tole . It is one of the oldest temple of Janakpurdham. It was established by sant janak raj kishori.



# Ratna Sagar Kuti

This kuti has big temple of Ram and sita. It is situated in the south of Ratnasagar. God Shiva Reside in front of the temple with his whole family. Their is one hanuman temple in the south- east corner. The constrution of this kuti was done from yagnya .



# Sani Dev Temple

This temple lies on the south bank of Ganga Sagar. It has the idol of Sani Dev. People worship sani dev with oil. By the side of this temple there is temple of Boothnath.

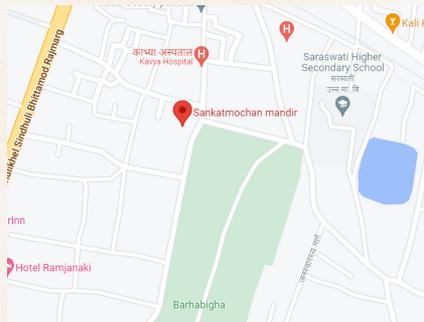


# Sankatmochan (Hanuman) Mandir

The temple is dedicated to Hanuman, the most loyal attendant of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita. The temple was established in 2020 B.S. by Paramhansa Shri Abadh Bihari Das, on 18 Kattha of land donated by Mauni Baba in the name of temple. The statue, made of marble, of Hanuman was brought from Jaipur. (Source: Janakpurdham Math Mandir, book written by Sibendra Lal)

This temple lies in the northwest corner of the mythological and called "Rangabhumi", is also known as "Barha Bigha" as it is 12 Bighas (1 Hectare=1.6 Bigha) in area. This temple is built in Shikhar Style. In the womb house of temple, the magnificent statue of Hanuman is kept attractively in marble throne in well decorated way. At the south of this statue, another small statue of Hanuman is situated which was worshiped by Shree Baikuntha Bihari Das; a famous saint of that time.

This Hanuman Temple sees thousands of devotees twice a week on Tuesday and Saturday. Festivals like Vivah Panchami, Ramnavami, Jhula, Anukut, Kojagrath-Purnima are celebrated in this temple. The Ramcharita manas poems are written in all over the wall of temple. It is believed that, Hanuman Ji protect devotees from evils when they put "Bivuti" and eat "Tushi" given by Priest of the temple.



# Saranchiya Kutti

This Saranchiya kutti was established by Shree Ram Bir Das; resident of Saranchiya (Located in Madhubani district of India) in 1945 A.D. There is a huge temple of Ram Janaki in center of the Kutti, where as Idols of Hanuman & Ganesh on left and right of entry gate respectively. This kutti is located near to Kalwar kutti in south direction. There is a small statue of Lord Ram, which is called “Laaljee Bhagwan”, offering respect to the god is very fruitful.

Every year, thousands of pilgrims from Nepal & India visit this Kuti to worship Lord Ram and Sita. Many worshippers visit the temple during the festivals of Ram Nawami, Vivaha Panchami, Dashain and Tihar. Nawaah is also performed each year with pump.

The temple was constructed by Surya Dev Thakur, resident of Bihar (India) as a token of thankfulness, as he bore a child after performing religious rituals at the temple, some 50 years ago.



# Shiva temple

Shiva Temple located in Shiva Chowk & north-west of Ganga Sagar; is one of the most spectacle temple in Janakpurdham. In 2038 B.S., the temple was established by Shree Ram Sharoop Ram Sagar religious organization. The temple was constructed in Shikhar style. Though the temple is faced in east direction but has entry gates in all four directions. The temple is conducted by Shree Shankar Dharmashala fund.

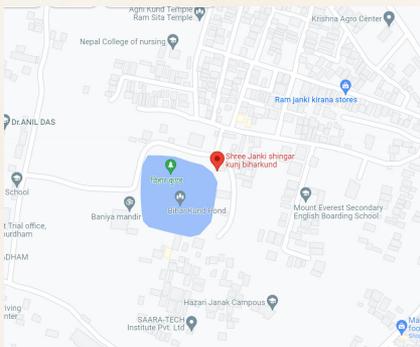
Generally, Devotee used to visit temple each day to offer pray but specially

in the occasion of festivals like Shiva-Raatri and every Monday of Shrawan large number of devotee do visit.



# Shri Janaki Bihar Bhawan

The Shri Janaki Bihar Building, built in Bikram Sambat 1929 in the southwest corner of the Bihar Kunda, is spectacular. Great tributes are celebrated in this Bhawan, building. Janaki Navami, vivah Panchami and Jhulautsab are the main festivals celebrated here.



## Shrinagar Kunj Akhanada Jyoti Mandir

It was established by Saints Ram Sharan Das, bhajaniya baba in Janakpurdhham Sub- Metropolitan city, ward No 7. In Shingar kunj Akhanda Jyoti Mandir (Kathbaniya Kutti) his pupil's Hanuman Baba, Ram Swarup Das use to worship Lord Hanuman. Since BS. 2020 Shukla Ekadashi onwards, incandescent flame is burning continuously. For Hanuman's darshan (site), thousands of pilgrims visit here every year.



## Siya Raghuwar Kunja

This Kunja is situated on the north east part of Bihar Kunda. This is a kuti for Brahmins.



# Sonar Kuti

This kuti is situated on the south side of kamal Pond and West South Corner of Ranga Bhoomi. This kuti is for sonar people. This kuti has idols of Ram and Sita .



# Sonasati Mai Temple

Sonasati Mai temple lies in north direction of airport and in ward no. 24 of Janakpurdhham. According to local people, previously there was small temple and then in 2070 BS, Sarasawati devi constructed temple of existing shape. During the time of Dashain, large number of devotees visit this temple and offer prays. Each Monday & Friday goats are been scarified in the temple.



# Soneshwor Mahadev

This Soneshwor Nath Mahadev temple is located in ward no. 24 of Janakpurdham, west of airport. The temple was constructed with the funds collected by locals . There is a huge pond just north of the temple, which is called Labaki Pokhari. There is a huge "Bhalshari" tree in front of the temple along with Pipal tree, which is being worshiped.

During Shivratri and Monday of each Shrawan a large number of devotees comes to offer pray. Besides that Indra puja is being conducted each year in the temple.

The area belong in the name of Gogal Prasad High school, which lies in Basahiya. The ritual are conducted everyday and is being operated by the locals and from donations.



# Swarg Dwari

Swarg Dwari is located in the southern part of the Gangasagar Shiva Parvati statue, shankha ghanta, Kaal Bhairav mandir is visible in this temple. This temple is 345 ft in length and 125 ft wide. This place looks like a very beautiful garden with diversity of flowers and trees. This place is also crematorium (samsanghat). There is arrangement of wood and other related items for use in the premises. There is also a place for people attending funeral. On one side, a view of Lord Shiva Parvati' and Bhoothnath Nath temple and on the other end corpse burnt connects philosophically.



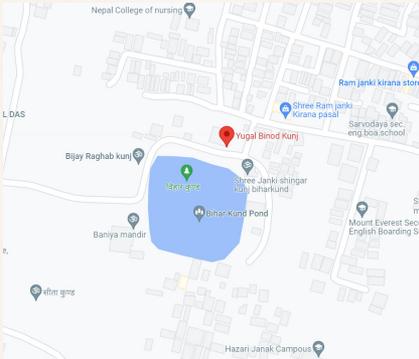
# Tharu Kuti

This kuti is situated on the south side of kamal Pond and West South Corner of Ranga Bhoomi. This kuti is for tharu people. This kuti has idols of Ram and Sita .



# Yugal binod Kunj

In the northern side of Vihar Kund, the Saint Prem Das and his disciples Ram Das place is called “Yugal Binod Kunj”. Vivah Panchami and Ram Nawami festivals are celebrated there.



# Yugal Prem Kunja

This temple is situated on the south west part of Bihar Kunda. This temple has idols of both god Ram and Sita.



# Rivers & Ponds

# Agni Kunda

This Agni kund is located  $\frac{1}{2}$  km away from Ratna Sagar in west direction. This is one of the deepest pond. According to mythological story; the pond is famous for Yagya and Havan performances during the period of Sirdhwaj Janak. At the western corner of this pond, temple of Ram Janaki is located whereas at frontal side Hanuman temple is situated. In west direction of this kund, another temple is located which is called Jhulan Kunj.

This Jhulan kunj was established in 1805 B.S. In this kunj, statue of Lord Ram and Sita is kept in "Julla", so it is named as "Jhulan Kunj". To the west of Agni Kund and behind the Jhulan kunj towards Gyan koop Shree Yugal Kishore Kunj is located. At this kunj, Sita Ram, Laxman, Hanuman and other God/Goddess are being worshiped. This Kunj was established by Shree Ram Priya Sharan.



# Angraj Sar



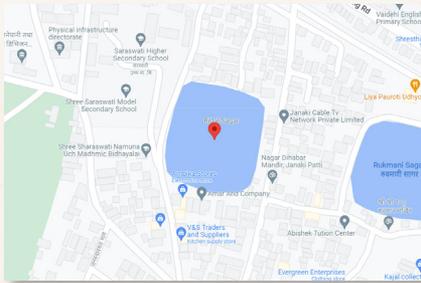
This Angraj sar, is located north of Janaki Temple. Religious believes say that Sita was offered to take a bath here during the marriage. The Brahmin deity of Kashi named Dev Dutta is believed to have been relieved of the disease after bating in this pond after having Laprosy by Shiva's curse.

Chhath parva is being celebrated on the bank of the pond. During the festival, sweet, sugarcane and fruits etc. are carried in Nanglo and bamboo basket and taken to the shore of the lake. In one day, people worship sunset and the next day the rising sun. It is believed that worshipping sun will fulfill wish and bring joy in life with blessing of God. Tourists from different places are busy to photograph the Chhath festival.



# Bidal Sar

This Pond is situated in the east of Saraswati school and west of Rukmini sar. It is believed that my taking bath in this pond ones become free from sins.



# Bishara Sar

This Pond is lies in the east of Tirahutiya gachi and west of ring road. There is a snake god in Mithila which prayed in the house holds of Mithila. The name came from the same goddess.

It is believed that if ones take bath in this pond they come out of fear of snake. There is Thakur kuti, mandal kuti in the surrounding of this pond.

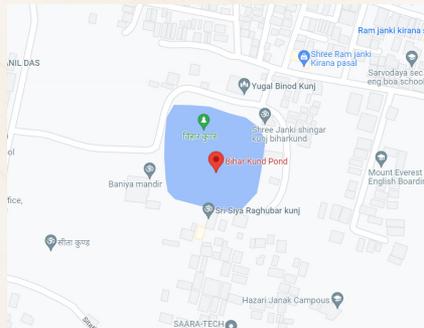


# Bihar Kunda

There are Kutti, monastery and temples all around Bihar Kund. It is believed that Sita with her friends used to bath in this pond. Special religious festivals are held here like Vivaha Panchami and Ramanavami. In the month of Bhadra, it is the practice of bathing in the pond. Many ancient statues were found during the renovation of this pond.

This kunda is in Northwest corner of Ramananda Chowk. Religious tourists and hermit saints celebrate special religious festival like Anna-kutt at this kunda. Some Shiva temples in the area have historical importance, even some of the myths, along with some newly build refined Shiva temple among which Kupeshwarnath Mahadev Temple, Kuwa etc are very historical.

Yugal Binod Kunj is located at Northeast side of Bihar Kund (which was constructed by Baba Shree Ram Das Maharaj) with Bijaya Raagav Kunj in west-north corner. Similarly, Janaki Bihar Bhawan in south-east corner, Sita Bihari Kunj in East-South side and Sita Raghunath Sadan in middle east of the pond. Besides this, Ram Bihari Kunj, Parol Kutti, Chaarusila Kunj, Yugal Jodi Sthan, Siya Raghubar Kunj & Yugal Prem Kunj are also situated around the pond at different directions.

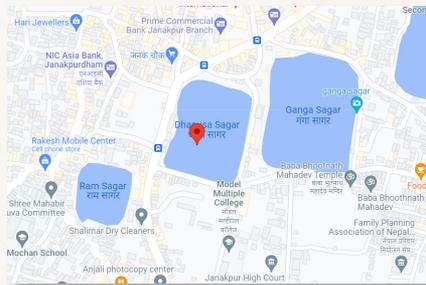


# Dhanush Sagar

This pond lies in front of Ram Mandir and west of Ganga Sagar. It is said that the bow which Lord Shiva had given to King Janak during the Treta Yug was kept at this place for safe keeping, and the pond was built in the shape of the weapon. At the south of this pond Gopal Dharmasha and at northwest corner Janak temple is located. At the eastern edge of the pond, Jhuka Ghar, Public Library and Naga Baba Samadhi spot is situated. Ganga Sagar & Dhanush Sar is connected to each other underwater.

Recently Boating facility has been brought in Dhanush Sagar by Ganesh Youth Club. Besides, that Chaath festival is worshipped in the time of October-November by the locals.

Since it is directly linked to the incident of Ramayana, it has become very important for devotees. Devotees who come to Janakpurdham for various religious festivals essentially take a bath or put water on the head.

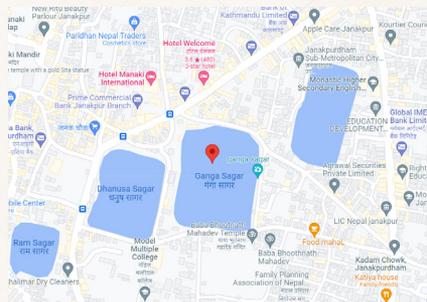




# Ganga Sagar

The huge and famous lake, Ganga Sagar in Janakpur is located east of Dhaush Sagar and south of Shiva Chowk. The lake is considered to be one of the most important pools in Janakpur along with Dhanush Sagar and carries religious value. In the late 17th century, saint Sur Kishor Das came to Janakpurdham and he said about Ganga Sagar being present. According to mythological belief; here the body of King Nimi was agitated by the Munis and then a prince was produced from it that was called Videha (Mithi). As per Vishnu Puran, bathing in the Jestha Shukla Dashami on this lake brings special result.

Ganga Sagar is famous for “Ganga Aarati”, which is performed every evening at 7:00 pm. The Ganga Aarati is a shining beacon of devotion and bliss that makes us experience the divinity in and around us. The priests in-charge of performing the Aarti wear dhoti and kurta welltied with a long gamcha (or towel). Attendees can see the aarati either by sitting on the stairs of the ghaat or on the boats. It was initiated from 8 may 2014 in Ganga Sagar. Ganga Aarati has increasing the number of religious tourists day by day. The proceeding of Aarati is held similar to Aarati’s held on Haridwar and Varanasi of India.



# Jalaid Nadi

This river is situated in the east of Janakpurdham. It is holy river. People bath during Diwali in the river to be free from all sins.



# Pap mochani Sar

This pond is located inside airport. A ritual bath in this pond absolves one of all sins, so it is called also called Paapmochani in local language. Devotees from nearby area take bath during month of Jestha. It may attract lots of tourist as it is believed Sita used to bath in this pond.



# Maharaj Sagar

This pond also called “Dasratha Talau” lies about 200m to the west of Shree Janaki Mandir and just south of Rang Bhumi ground. Sage Parshuram is said to have been absolved of his sin of matricide after taking a dip in the pond. Later Shiva, too, was pardoned for killing Parshuram after a ritual bath in this pond. The temple of King Dasharath, father of Lord Ram, lies on the west bank and the office of the Greater Janakpur Region Development Council on the north bank of this pond.

At the north and west of the pond, there was orchard of mango which was called “Saadhu Gaachi”. In north side, huge tree is present around which Chautara has been constructed, wherein, people use to stay during Summer season.

Nowadays, department of urban development & building construction has constructed “Ghaat” all around the edges and park has been developed in northern side. During, Chauth puja, people offer pray at the Ghaat of the pond.

Dashratha temple located at the westnorth corner, was established by Banwari Das in 1958 BS. The statues of King Dashratha was brought from Jaipur and of Ram Sita from Ayodhya during that time. At the south of the pond, very famous “Pagla Baba” Dharmasala is situated.



# Parashuram Lake

Parashuram Lake is named after Parashuram Rishi. The Parsuram lake is situated at north of Purandaha. In the center of this Lake, there is big Lord Shiva's statue. A bridge has been constructed for tourists to reach close to the statue. There are two ponds in this area, a new statue of lord Shiva is being constructed along with temple due to earthquake partially destroying the statue of lord Shiva.

The place is very attractive for tourists but this place is more likely suitable for the young boys and girls. It seems to be picnic spot for them. This pond is linked with Rishi Parashuram which hold religious and historical values. The visitors to Dhanushadham also visit this lake and for Lord Shiva Darshan.

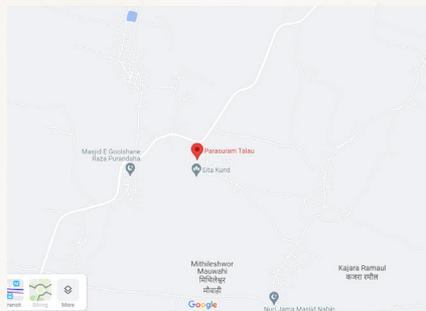


# Ratna Sagar

The magnificent pond is located north of Nepal Eye Hospital & Bhola Singh Lions School, Ramananda chowk of Janakpurdham Submetropolitan city. It is said that King Janak used to store jewels in this pond. People say that the bow turns a shining red when observed from one corner of the pond while it disappears after prayers and lighting of the ritual flame by the priests of the local temple. At the southern corner of this pond Ratnasagar temple is located.

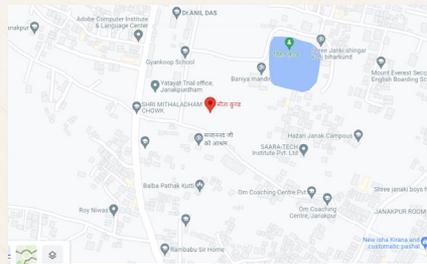
Shri Ram Janaki's statues are kept in this temple with Laxman, Radhakrishna and Hanuman. At the front of this temple, assumed to be 90 years old, there is a huge Pipal tree. It is believed that, the tree is as old as pond. It was founded by Shri Raghunath Das, was a saint who came from the banks of Ganga. This temple is built in the Gumbakar Shikhar Style. Religious festivals such as Vivah Panchami, Ramanavami, Janaki Navami, Jhula, Phagu Purnima, Anna Kutta, Kojagrat Purnima are celebrated in this temple.

During Ram Nawami, there is tradition of granting money and grains to fill the fund of King Janak. In 2038 BS, a big Yagya was conducted here, called Shree Janaki Maha-Yagya, where 11000 priests were participated. At the south-east corner of the pond; sequentially, Brahma-Sthan and Hanuman Jee temple are situated.



# Sita Kund

Sita Kund is very small pond, located east of Gyan Koop and west of Rashik Niwas. The Satananda kuti is situated in the south ridge. The temple contains the statues of Satananda Ji, Lord Ram and Krishna. The statue of Satananda Ji is quite large and made of black stone.



# Doodhmati

Sita was born from mother Earth, so there was no mother (In human form) who can feed her milk. So, mother Earth herself took the incarnation of Kamdhenu (Cow) and used to feed milk to the baby Janaki. It is believed that, the milk which was spilled out during breast feeding, took the shape of river, which is called Dudhmati. The water of this river still look like the as color of milk (Dudh). During Janaki Nawami (in Baishak), pilgrims take holy bath in this river.

Dwelling on the coast of Dudhmati, yields the fruits of Daan and Tirtha. Initially, Monks used to live at the edge of river but due to torture from thief's they escape from there. These days, only two of the monks stay at the river edge. Here, the first kutti was of Baidehi Sharan jee, where, nowadays Shrisiya Awadhesh Sharan jee live. Across the river, there is Basistha and Brahma Sar, both of which lies in Basbitti.

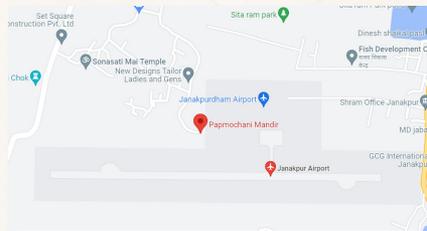
To reach towards the edge of Dhudmati, one has to go Narayan chowk from Ramananda chowk through Bihar kunda and Gyan Koop. Dudhmati Mata's temple is in the northern part of the Dudhmati River.



# Other Major Places

# Janak hazari Bidhya Pith

JanakHajari Vidyapeeth is situated in Janakpurdham, the kingdom of King Janak and birthplace of Sita. It was established in the year 2049 and in the same year Nepal Sanskrit University ,the then Mahendra Sanskrit University provided recognition as its own constituent Vidyapeeth.It has its own 6.3 Bighas of land and administrative as well as teaching building,Hostel and library. Upto 2051 only Uttar madhyama classes used to be conducted in this Vidyapeeth but from academic year 2051/052 University extended Shastri level classes.



# Naari Bikash Kendra

In 1988 Claire Burkert began documenting artists and their wall paintings and in 1989, with a grant from the Ella Lyman Cabot Trust, prepared groundwork for the JWDC with the help of professor of Maithili, Rajendra Prasad Bimal. Women who painted on the walls of their houses began to paint on paper and held their first exhibition at the American Library in Kathmandu in 1990. In 1992 the JWDC was established as an NGO and in 1994 completed construction of its Handicraft Center.

This Janakpur Women's Development Center is a women's run NGO based in Kuwa village in southeastern Nepal. Its mission is to promote Mithila arts and empower Maithil women through the generation of income from their skills in making art and crafts. The beautiful training and production complex in Kuwa village, Janakpur, Nepal is a popular destination for visitors wishing to learn about Maithil culture. To date, the center has trained hundreds of women.

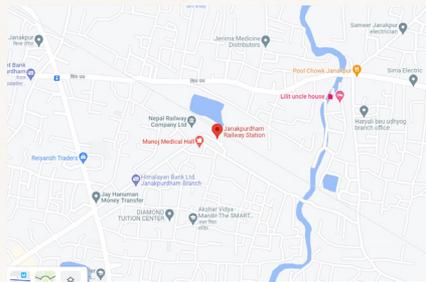
The arts and crafts produced and designed at the center have become known as "Janakpur Art." Currently the center employs 40 women who work in five sections at the center to produce fine art, textile (silkscreen and embroidery), ceramics and paper mache crafts.



# Railway Station / Museum

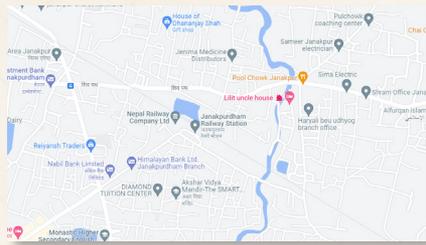
The rail line was constructed in the 1930s during Rana period by Juddha Shamsheer Rana “to facilitate the logging operations on his extensive forest holdings north of Janakpur”. The history of Janakpur to Jaynagar railway may not be pretty but the construction of new wide gauge tracks and resumption of rail services is highly anticipated by people in this region. It may or may not spur significant economic development but it will soar the hopes of thousands of families who are eagerly waiting for the new trains.

Janakpur to Jaynagar line was the only operating passenger railway in Nepal until 2014. Currently, it is closed and the tracks are under construction. The width of its tracks is being increased from 2 ft. 6 inch (popularly known as narrow gauge) to 5 ft. 6 inch (wide gauge).



# Bawan Bigha

The Bawan Bigha Zone is located on the north side of the train station and west of Shivpur. This is a large area of the Bawan bigha. Looking at the whole area, it seems that there was a palace in this place. Various construction works have been started in this temple, including the government and nongovernmental level, and the area has been called King Janak Palace.



# Ranga Bhoomi

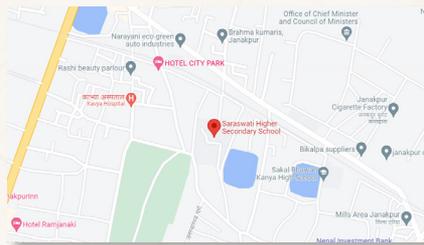
There is a huge ground near Janaki temple. According to folk belief, by breaking the pinak bow of Shankar ji among the mighty kings of the country and abroad in this field, Shri Ram fulfilled the condition of marriage to Sita ji. It is also called Rang bhoomi in Shri Ram Charit Manas.

This is a very famous ground of Nepal. Various events are held here throughout the year.



# Saraswati High School

Saraswati high school janakpur is one of the popular High School located in Dhanusha. It is one the oldest school in Janakpurdham. It has produced many scholar of Nepal.



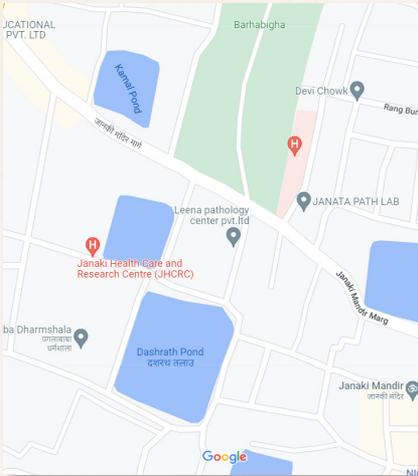
# Trihutiya Gachi

Mithila old name is Trihut and it is also famous for Trihut custom . The place is used for the custom of trihut so the trees are named as Trihutiya Gachi.



# Tulsi Smarak

This Smarak is located south of rang bhomi maidan and north of Maharaj sar. The idols of this Smarak was inaugurated in B.S 2036. This was a place for scholars to stay . This Smarak is different for other Smarak as it is inside a House. This place has lots of books on Tulsi das.



# Cultural Dances

**Unique cultural dances  
of Janakpurdham**

## JATA-JATIN

This dance is performed at night by a group of rural women in the month of Bhadra (August/September) when there is a drought. The women catch frogs and put them in small pitchers filled with a mixture of water and cow dung. The women divide themselves into two groups - one masquerading as the male, which is called 'Jata', and the other as the female and is called 'Jatin'. The women then place the pitchers on their heads and go about the village, singing a song in question-answer form. At the end, they throw the pitchers into the courtyard of a person assumed to be evil-minded, and then disperse. The cultural dance is performed with the hope that there will be rain.

## JHIJHIYA

This festival (on the 6th day of the bright lunar fortnight in Kartik) is the most auspicious festival of Mithilanchal. (Another dance worth watching is performed by a group of women every year in the month of Ashwin (September/October) during the Dashain festival from Ghatasthapana to Vijaya Dashami.)

In the Jhijhiya dance, some women place pitchers, with a burning lamp inside, on their heads. The pitcher has a large number of holes, and should anyone be able to count the exact number, it is believed that the vessel will catch fire, and the woman carrying it will die. The singing and dancing go on for hours, with groups of women taking turns to carry the pitchers.

## SAMA CHAKEBA

This is a play performed by the rural women of Mithilanchal for a fortnight, starting on Chhath in the month of Kartik (October/November) and lasting till the full moon. Through this play, women express their affection to their brothers. Every evening, women leave their homes with dolls in a bamboo basket, in the middle of which they place a burning lamp. They gather at a certain crossing and sit in a circle, singing till midnight. On the final night, they burn the moustache of 'Chugla', the evil doll. The dolls are then disposed off amidst the playing of such musical instruments as drums and the flute in the presence of their brothers.

## JHARRI

This play is performed at the time of 'Hanuman- Jhand' (celebration commemorating Lord Hanuman's flag) and 'Daha' or 'Tajiya' (Muslim rituals). About 10-15 men perform this dance with a stick that is about 18 inches long. The singing and dancing go on for hours.

## LOKA SANKIRTAN (Devotional songs)

The devotional songs teach us about morality and fraternity while creating awareness about human life. About 15 male singers sing the devotional Unique cultural dances of Janakpurdham 14 songs accompanied by such musical instruments as the harmonium, dholak (drum), gumti (onesided small drum), bastarang (musical instrument made of bamboo strips),

jhals (cymbals) and other instruments.

**There are four types of Loka Sankirtans:**

- A. General Loka Sankirtan - Sung in a group and accompanied by music.
- B. Jhanki Loka Sankirtan - Devotional songs are sung to the deities that grace a platform. During the singing, offerings are made to the deities.
- C. Bishaya Sankirtan - Team members follow the lead singer. The hymns could last hours.
- D. Jhanki Vivah Sankirtan - It enacts the scenes of the wedding ceremony of Goddess Sita with Lord Ram. Despite the difficulties, the rural women of Mithilanchal have preserved this tradition that date from the Treta Yug.

## LEELAS (episodes from the lives of gods):

Among such episodes staged, 'Ram-Leela', 'Krishna- Leela', 'Ras-Leela' and Shiva-Leela' are very popular, but 'Ram-Leela' tops the list. It lasts upto a month, and during the period, the entire episodes of the Ramayan are presented on stage by group artists.

## FOLK DANCES AND DRAMAS

Mithilanchal has been the centre of folk dances and dramas since the 5th century. It is said that in birth, life and death, music never abandons a person in Mithilanchal. Some of the ancient dances are the Badhaiya Nach, Pamariya Nach - both of which are performed within a month of birth - Chhaukarbaji Nach and Ras Nach.

Among the folk dramas, the most ancient are Salhesh, Gopichan, Bharthari (Bratihari), Saranga Sadabriksh, Mahasti Bihula, Bideshiya, Hirani Birani, Dulara Dayal, Naika-Banjara and Domakacha. These folk dramas have been handed down through word of mouth.

Besides these dramas, there are Nautankis (light dramas) which are heroic presentations. Among them are Amar Singh Rathour, Laila-Majnu and Shiri-Farhad. These Nautankis performed on stage are accompanied by music played on one big drum, three small drums along with the harmonium and other musical instruments.

## FOLK DANCES AND DRAMAS

Mithila paintings are renowned the world over. There is a painting centre at Kuwa, Janakpurdham, where nearly five dozen rural women from different villages are involved in preparing paintings of Mithila folk art for export to Western countries and other markets.

You will find Mithila paintings on the mud walls of rural homes, which are done by housewives. These mud wall paintings are done using local lime, ochre (locally called geru), and brown and black soot collected from the bottom of pots and pans.

# Festivals

**Annual Festivals of Mithilanchal  
and Janakpurdham**

## Baisakh 1

First day of the New Year according to the Bikram Sambat (Mid-April)

**SATUAIN** - People offer flour of sweet grams to deities and after that they take that as food in the day. Legendary folk hero Salhesh is worshipped at 'Salhesh Phoolbari' near Lahan in Siraha district, and visitors from different parts of Nepal and India participate in that cultural fair.

## Baisakh 2

**JUDASHEETAL** - Early in the morning, the head of the family pays homage to his forefathers by offering water in their name. They then bless the youngsters of the family by sprinkling water from a lota (vessel) on their heads. The family head also sprinkles water onto the heads of other youngsters in the village with the hope that the heat in the plains will not affect them. People clean the wells in the village and sprinkle lime so that water is fit for drinking. In the morning, the male members will not take their meal at home.

In the afternoon, the Salhesh Mela takes place at Salhesh Gahwars. In the evening, the folk drama 'Salhesh' is staged.

## Jestha (May/June)

In this month, **Ganga Dashahara** and **Batasabiri festivals** are celebrated.

## Asadh (June/July)

**Adra**, **Nagar Dihawar Poojan** or **Brahma** or **village god** are worshipped by the villagers of Mithilanchal.

## Shrawan (July/August)

**NAG PANCHAMI** - (worshipping of the snake) is marked throughout Mithilanchal by offering milk and rice to Nagdevata.

**JHOOLA** - (ritual of placing Ram and Sita on a swing) starts from the third day of the brightening lunar fortnight in the main temple of Janakpurdam amidst cultural programmes. It is performed daily till midnight and continues till the 14th day of the lunar fortnight.

**RAKSHA BANDHAN** is marked on the full moon, or Poonnima, the following day, during which sisters tie the sacred red/yellow thread on the right hand of their brothers. The people receive the sacred thread from their priests.

## Bhadra (August/September)

The **GHARI** festival is celebrated in the villages, during which sweets are offered to the people after the worshipping of deities.

**KRISHNAS TAMI** is marked with great devotion in Mithilanchal. Idols of Lord Krishna, Basudev, Yashoda and others are made and worshipped for two days. On the second day, they are disposed off in the ponds.

**HARITALIKA TEEJ** is a three-day festival observed by women for the well-being of their husbands and a happy, productive marriage. The festival ends on the fifth day of the brightening moon.

**CHAU RCHAN (CHAU THCNANDRA)** or **GANESH CHATURTHI** Festival is observed in the rural areas throughout Mithilanchal. For a whole day, people go on a fast. In the evening, different types of food items, including sweets, fruits, pudding and curd are first offered to Lord Ganesh and the moon. The people then eat the food as prasad to break their fast. The prasad is also offered to friends and neighbours.

## Ashwin (September/October)

The **PITRIPAKSHA** ritual is performed by the sons during the dark fortnight of Ashwin to pay homage to the deceased ancestors.

**JITIYA** (**JIMUTWAHAN BRATA** or fasting) is observed by all mothers for the well-being and a prosperous life of their issues.

**DURGA POOJA** or **DASHAIN** lasts for 10 days, during which the idols of Goddess Durga, Laxmi, Saraswati, Kali, Lord Ganesh, Kartikeya and Rewanta are made from clay by idol makers at the local Durga temple. Prayers are held both in the morning and evening, and after the worship, prasad (food that has been offered to a deity) is distributed to the people.

**RAJDAVI POOJAN** - In proper Janakpur, Raj Devi, the patron deity of King Janak, is worshipped with great fervour. On the night of Ashtami, or the eighth day of Durga Pooja, thousands of goats are sacrificed at this temple.

## Kartik (October/ November)

**DIYABATI** or **DEEPAWALI** is celebrated by worshipping Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth, with great devotion throughout Mithilanchal.

**GOBARDHAN POOJA** and **BHRATRIDWITIYA** are observed on the following days respectively.

**CHHATH** is celebrated six days after Deepawali with great devotion and in solemnity. During the celebrations, there is harmony in the air, and no distinction is made between rich and poor, caste, creed and color.

**DEVOTTHAN EKADASHI** is observed by the devotees on the 11th day of the bright lunar fortnight.

**SAMA CHAKEWA** is a play through which the women express their affection to their brothers.

## Mangsir (November/December)

**NAWANNA** or the festival of new harvest, is celebrated to make offerings of new grains to the deity.

**THREAD OF SURYA (SUN)** ritual is celebrated by women.

**VIVAH PANCHAMI** commemorates the wedding ceremony of Ram and Sita and is marked on the fifth day of the bright lunar fortnight of this month. A marriage procession is taken out from Ram Mandir to Janaki Mandir via Rangabhoomi, in which thousands of devotees participate.

\*\* The month of Paush (December/January) is not considered auspicious for observing any festival or ritual.\*\*

## Magh (January/ February)

At the beginning of this month, the **Tilia Sankranti**, or **MAGHE SANKRANTI**, is observed.

**MAKAR MELA** is observed on all the Sundays of this month at Dhanushadham, a tradition that dates back to the Treta Yug. Devotees from Nepal and India in their thousands come here to pay homage to the remains of the fossilised bow of Lord Shiva that Lord Ram broke to win the hand of Sita in marriage.

**SHREE PANCHAMI**, or **BASANTA PANCHAMI** and **SARASWATI POOJA**: The fifth day of the waxing moon of Magh is marked as Basanta Panchami, the advent of spring, as well as Saraswati Pooja, the celebration of the Goddess of Learning.

## Falgun (February/March)

Besides Mahashivaratri, **MITHILA MADHYA PARIKRAMA** (fortnightly circumambulation of 14 pilgrimage spots stretching 127 km) takes place every year during this month through demarcated areas of Mithilanchal. The pilgrimage includes 14 places of historical and mythological importance, including four in bordering Indian territory.

It begins with (1) Kachuri village via Janakpurdham to Hanumangadhi (2) Kalana or Kalyaneshwar (in Indian territory) (3) Girijastan, Fulhar (where Lord Ram met Sita for the first time) in Indian territory) (4) Matihani, (5) Jaleshwar, (6) Marai, (7) Dhruva kunda, (8) Kanchanban (where Lord Ram and Sita had celebrated Holi during the Vedic Treta Yug), (9) Parwatta, (10) Dhanushadham, (11) Satokhair, (12) Aurahi-Harusaha (13) Karuna (Indian territory), (14) Bishaul (Indian territory) and ending at Janakpurdham. The next day, this fortnightly pilgrimage concludes upon completion of the Antargrihi Parikrama early in the morning and celebration of Holi, or Phagua, the festival of colours.

## Chaitra (March/April)

**RAM NAWAMI** is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Ram, the protagonist of the great Hindu epic Ramayan.

## REMARKS :-

1. FOR TOURISTS, THE BEST TIME TO VISIT JANAKPURDHAM IS FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL WHEN MAJOR FESTIVALS ARE HELD.
2. THE MONTHS FROM MAY TO AUGUST TEMPERATURE RAISES UP TO 40 DEGREE CELSIUS.
3. THERE ARE REGULAR FLIGHTS TO JANAKPURDHAM FROM KATHMANDU.

4. THERE ARE REGULAR BUSES TO JANAKPURDHAM FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF NEPAL OR VISITORS FROM INDIA MAY ARRIVE HERE THROUGH JAYANAGAR AND BHITTHAMORE.
5. JANAKPURDHAM HAS STANDARD RESTAURANTS WHERE TOURISTS CAN ENJOY MITHILANCHAL FOOD.

# Visit Janakpurdham



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