(During the survey of the Temples of Bishnupur, the researcher came across Sridhara Temple and its magnificent terracotta carvings. A survey was conducted and the report presented below)

Survey of Sridhara Temple

History:
The Sridhara Temple is located on the Western side of Madana Gopala Temple and North of Yamuna Bandh. It was built during the time of Bireswar Basu, a member of the local Basu family.

Salient Features -
1. Only monument in Bishnupur which does not owe its origin to Malla family.
2. Only Nava-Ratna variety of temple at Bishnupur, i.e., there are 9 towers. There are two roofs, one having smaller dimension above the lower roof, each of which is fitted with 4 towers at 4 corners and one large tower at the centre on top.
3. The temple is almost square with each side measuring 5.3 m and height of 10.4 m and faces East.
4. It has four porches on four sides. There are three arches on each side facing South, East and North. The porch on West is like an open corridor.
5. The roof of the porches is vaulted, while the inner sanctum is topped by a roof.
6. Terracotta panels include scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata and Krishnalila episodes on Eastern side. Some panels show foreign soldiers holding guns as well as some musicians.

Material used in construction: Brick-built with terracotta carvings.

Whether temple is Abandoned / Worshipped: Temple is still worshipped every day.

Condition of Temple: Show signs of deterioration.

Visible Damages to the Temple:
1. Physical Damage:
   a) In the Southern portion, a new wall has been constructed as the old wall had fallen down.
   b) In the year 2011, due to a severe thunderstorm, one of the four towers on the upper smaller roof on the North-Eastern side had collapsed. It was repaired after almost one and half years.
c) Human vandalism: Many terracotta panels have been removed from their positions and scrapped off.

2. **Biological Damage**: Growth of vegetation and biocolonisation is prominent in some of the terracotta plaques, mostly on *Eastern* and *Northern* sides. Excretory deposits on surfaces of inner walls and towers of the temple as bats inhabit.

3. **Salt accumulation on a few terracotta panels.**
   
   It is evident from the above observation that among the other deteriorating factors affecting the *Sridhara Temple*, Bio-colonisation is the most prominent. The temple does not fall under the purview of Protected Monuments of ASI. The local people of Bishnupur also need to be sensitized on the significance of this temple so that they too come forward and assist in future preservation of the monument.

**Fig: General View of the Sridhara Temple**