Mahavir Mandir: A Sacred Hindu Temple in Patna

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<u>Mahavir Mandir</u>, located in Patna, Bihar, India, is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to the god Hanuman. With its rich history and spiritual significance, the temple attracts millions of pilgrims from all over the country every year.

The temple has a long-standing presence, as affirmed by the Patna High Court judgment in 1948, which stated that it has existed since time immemorial. However, it gained immense popularity in 1947 when a large number of Hindu refugees sought solace in Patna after the partition of India. To accommodate the growing number of devotees, the temple was rebuilt as a concrete structure. Later, in 1987, it was further expanded and transformed into a magnificent marble temple that stands today.

At the heart of Mahavir Mandir is the idol of Sankat-Mochan, an avatar of Hanuman, revered by devotees for his ability to alleviate troubles and bestow blessings. The temple witnesses

long winding queues, especially on Saturdays and Tuesdays, which are considered the traditional worshiping days of Hanuman.

One of the most auspicious times to visit Mahavir Mandir is during the celebrations of Rama Navami and the New Year. On Rama Navami, the queues can stretch over a kilometer, as devotees flock to seek the blessings of Hanuman. It is a sight to behold, as the temple radiates with the devotion and faith of the devotees.

Since June 13, 1993, Suryavanshi Das, a person from the Dalit caste, has been serving as the priest of Mahavir Mandir. This decision was supported by three well-known priests—Ramchandra Paramahans, Mahant Avaidyanath of Baba Gorakhnath Dham, and Mahant Avadh Kishore Das. This inclusive approach reflects the temple's commitment to embracing diversity and promoting equality.

Aside from the spiritual experience, Mahavir Mandir also offers a unique service to its devotees. The temple provides free food to those who visit Ramlala at Ram Rasoi. This facility, known as the Amava temple, is located just outside the main temple of Ramlala in the Amawa Mandir Complex, Ramkot, Ayodhya. Devotees can enjoy a nourishing meal between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm every day.

To ensure an ample supply of food, the temple authorities have arranged for 60 quintals of Govind Bhog shear rice from Mokri village in Kaimur, Bihar. Initially, the free food facility caters to one thousand people daily, but as the number of Ramlala's devotees increases, arrangements will be made to accommodate more individuals.

<u>Mahavir Mandir</u> stands as a symbol of devotion, inclusivity, and service. It not only provides a sacred space for worship but also extends its support to the community through acts of charity and compassion. As you visit this renowned temple,

immerse yourself in the spiritual ambiance and witness the unity that transcends all boundaries.